

## **HOLY WEEK AND EASTER EVENTS AT SAINT PATRICK'S**

### **PALM SUNDAY                      Sunday, March 29                      8:30 & 10:30 am**

The liturgy on Palm Sunday remembers Jesus' triumphant entry into the city of Jerusalem during the last week of his earthly life. At the 10:30 a.m. service, we will gather outside the church for the reading of this story and for the blessing of the palms. We then go in procession into the church for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. During the liturgy, the Passion will be read from the Gospel of Mark.

### **TAIZE TENEBRAE                      Wednesday, April 1                      7:00 pm**

Apart from the rhythm of psalms, lessons and meditative music, the most conspicuous feature of the service is the gradual extinguishing of candles and other lights in the church until only a single candle, considered a symbol of Christ, remains. Toward the end of the service this candle is hidden, typifying the apparent victory of the forces of evil. At the very end, the sanctus bells are rung, symbolizing the resurrection, the hidden candle is restored to its place, and by its light all depart in silence.

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY                      Thursday, April 2                      7:00 pm**

The service for Maundy Thursday begins at 7:00 pm on Thursday, April 2nd. It is the commemoration of the Last Supper, the final Passover meal that Jesus ate with his disciples. The name "Maundy" comes from the Latin word "mandatum" which means "commandment," for it was at the Last Supper that Jesus provided his disciples with the new commandment: "that you love one another as I have loved you (John 13:34). At the conclusion of the service, the consecrated bread and wine that remain are reserved and will be placed at the Altar of Repose (see more on this under "Nightwatch"). After the Sacrament has been reserved, the altar is stripped and all ornaments are removed from the Sanctuary, thereby symbolizing the segue into Good Friday. The congregation departs this service in silence.

### **FOOTWASHING                      Conclusion of Maundy Thursday service**

At the Last Supper Jesus washed his disciples' feet as a sign of his deep love for them. Reenacting this display of devotion and service with one another can be an empowering Holy Week practice. Persons desiring to participate in the ritual of foot washing are asked to remain seated in the Sanctuary following the Maundy Thursday service. The foot washing will commence after a ten minute period of silent reflection.

**NIGHTWATCH****Thursday, April 2****8:30 pm**

The Nightwatch begins immediately after the stripping of the Altar on Maundy Thursday. The background of the Nighwatch is this: following the Last Supper, Jesus went with his disciples over to the Mount of Olives to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. Jesus said to his disciples, *“I am deeply grieved, even to death, remain here and stay awake to pray with me.”* At Saint Patrick’s, our “Garden of Gethsemane” will be held in the Sanctuary. We bring the reserved sacrament there and put it in a place of honor, in order to help us focus on the presence of Christ with us. People may sign up (please look for the sign up sheet in the Narthex) to stay away for a half hour or an hour at a time, keeping an unbroken watch throughout the night. Usually, at any time, there are several persons keeping watch together. You are invited to come and be present with the Prince of Peace as we pray for peace and reconciliation among all the people of the world.

**GOOD FRIDAY****Friday, April 3****Noon**

On Good Friday the liturgy will begin at Noon. This tone, including music, will be sober. After a silent entrance, there are readings from Isaiah and from the Letter to the Hebrews, culminating in the solemn reading of the Passion Gospel according to John. Following the reading, the congregation will enter into a prolonged period of holy silence that will be interrupted three times by sounds of the cross. A full form of Good Friday prayers will prepare us to depart as we arrived, in quiet reflection.

**EASTER SUNDAY****Sunday, April 5****8:30 & 10:30 am**

We will gather as a community of faith to share with each other our joy that Christ is indeed risen and that we share in his resurrection! Services will be held at 8:30 and 10:30 am. There will be no Christian Education classes for children, youth or adults that morning.

**FLOWERING OF THE CROSS****Sunday, April 5****10:30 am**

On Easter Sunday, all persons are invited to help flower the cross prior to the 10:30 a.m. service. We have a large white wooden cross and makes it very simple to decorate with beautiful flowers. Please make a note to remember to bring a few fresh flowers with you to Church on Easter morning.

**EASTER EGG HUNT****Sunday, April 5****11:45 am**

An Easter Egg Hunt for children will be held Easter Sunday morning immediately following the 10:30 am service. If you are planning to bring children, please bring one dozen treat-filled plastic eggs per child to the Church by Friday, April 3rd. There will be a designated container in the hallway.

