

ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

in the heart of the Historic Stockade District

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

LENT 3A - 8 MARCH 2026

SUNG MASS - RITE I, 10AM

The Reverend Thomas J. Pettigrew, *Rector*
The Reverend Abigail Bee, *Parish Deacon*
Dr. Brian J. Taylor, AAGO, *Director of Music*

MASS SETTING

First Communion Service

John Merbecke (1515-1585)

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Liturgical Prelude no. 3

George Oldroyd (1886-1956)

THE PREPARATION OF SACRED MINISTERS IN THE LADY CHAPEL

The Sacred Ministers, Servers & Choir offer Preparatory Prayers prior to the Entrance Procession

THE OPENING HYMN, HYMN 658

As longs the deer for cooling streams

Martyrdom

THE INTROIT

Sung by the Cantor & Choir

Mine eyes are ever-looking unto the Lord; for he shall pluck my feet out of the net: look thou upon me and have mercy upon me; for I am desolate and in misery. Ps. Unto thee O Lord do I lift up my soul: my God in thee have I trusted; let me not be confounded. Glory be.

THE EXHORTATION

Beloved in the Lord: Our Savior Christ, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood as a sign and pledge of his love, for the continual remembrance of the sacrifice of his death, and for a spiritual sharing in his risen life. For in these holy Mysteries we are made one with Christ, and Christ with us; we are made one body in him, and members one of another.

Having in mind, therefore, his great love for us, and in obedience to his command, his Church renders to Almighty God our heavenly Father never-ending thanks for the creation of the world, for his continual providence over us, for his love for all mankind, and for the redemption of the world by our Savior Christ, who took upon himself our flesh, and humbled himself even to death on the cross, that he might make us the children of God by the power of the Holy Spirit, and exalt us to everlasting life.

But if we are to share rightly in the celebration of those holy Mysteries, and be nourished by that spiritual Food, we must remember the dignity of that holy Sacrament. I therefore call upon you to consider how Saint Paul exhorts all persons to prepare themselves carefully before eating of that Bread and drinking of that Cup.

For, as the benefit is great, if with penitent hearts and living faith we receive the holy Sacrament, so is the danger great, if we receive it improperly, not recognizing the Lord's Body. Judge yourselves, therefore, lest you be judged by the Lord.

Examine your lives and conduct by the rule of God's commandments, that you may perceive wherein you have offended in what you have done or left undone, whether in thought, word, or deed. And acknowledge your sins before Almighty God, with full purpose of amendment of life, being ready to make restitution for all injuries and wrongs done by you to others; and also being ready to forgive those who have offended you, in order that you yourselves may be forgiven. And then, being reconciled with one another, come to the banquet of that most heavenly Food.

And if, in your preparation, you need help and counsel, then go and open your grief to a discreet and understanding priest, and confess your sins, that you may receive the benefit of absolution, and spiritual counsel and advice; to the removal of scruple and doubt, the assurance of pardon, and the strengthening of your faith.

To Christ our Lord who loves us, and washed us in his own blood, and made us a kingdom of priests to serve his God and Father, to him be glory in the Church evermore. Through him let us offer continually the sacrifice of praise, which is our bounden duty and service, and, with faith in him, come boldly before the throne of grace and humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

The Deacon then says

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Minister and People

Almighty and most merciful father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, we have offended against thy holy laws, we have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, spare thou those who confess their faults, restore thou those who are penitent, according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord; and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

The Priest, stands and says

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

THE KYRIE ELEISON, HYMNAL S-90

Sung by all

(people kneel)

Lord, have mercy upon us. (3x)

Christ, have mercy upon us. (3x)

Lord, have mercy upon us. (3x)

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

LENT 3

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with thy spirit.

V. Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY GOD, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, who hatest nothing that thou hast made and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSON

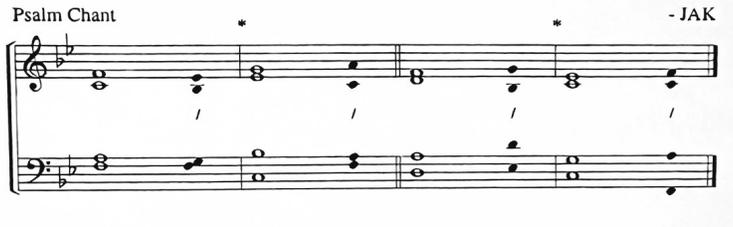
Exodus 17:1-7

A READING from the Book of Exodus.

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

The Word of the Lord

R. Thanks be to God



- 1 Come let us sing to the **LORD**; * let us shout for joy to the Rock of our sal-**vation**.
 2 Let us come before his presence with thanks-**giving** * and raise a loud shout to him with **psalms**.
 3 For the LORD is a great **God**, * and a great King above all **gods**.
 4 In his hand are the caverns of the **earth**, * and the heights of the hills are his **also**.
 5 The sea is his for he **made it**, * and his hands have molded the dry **land**.
 6 Come let us bow down and bend the **knee**, * and kneel before the LORD our **Maker**.
 7 For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his **hand**. *
 Oh that today you would hearken to his **voice!**
 8 Harden not your hearts as your forebears did in the **wilderness**, *
 at Meribah and on that day at Massah when they **tempted me**.
 9 They put me to the **test**, * though they had seen my **works**.
 10 Forty years long I detested that generation and **said**, *
 "This people are wayward in their hearts; they do not know my **ways**."
 11 So I swore in my **wrath**, * "They shall not enter into my **rest**."

THE EPISTLE*Romans 5.1-11*

A READING from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person-- though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God

THE TRACT*Sung by cantor and choir*

Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks: so longeth my soul after thee O God.
 My soul is athirst for God; yea even for the living God: when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?
 My tears have been my meat day and night: while they daily say unto me: Where now is thy God?
 O put thy trust in God: for I will yet thank him; which is the help of my countenance and my God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO SAINT JOHN

R. Glory be to thee, O Lord.

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

V. The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise be to thee, O Christ.

THE SERMON

Deacon Abigail Bee

THE NICENE CREED

(people stand)

I BELIEVE IN ONE GOD, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible; And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to Judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father (and the Son); who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church; I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead ✠ and the life of the world to come. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & GREETINGS

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Prayer for the Whole State of Christ’s Church, The Book of Common Prayer, page 328

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Sung by the Cantor & Choir

(people sit)

With joy ye shall draw water from the wells of salvation: and ye shall say in that day: “Give thanks unto the Lord and call upon his name.”

THE OFFERTORY, HYMN 692

I heard the voice of Jesus say

(people stand)

The Third Tune

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy ✠ grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Sung by All

Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed
be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our
dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,
as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead
us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us
from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,
and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

THE FRACTION

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **R. And with thy spirit.**

THE AGNUS DEI, HYMNAL S-157

Sung by All

(people kneel)

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

Said by All

(people kneel)

WE DO NOT PRESUME to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

THE INVITATION

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

All baptized Christians may receive communion. If you wish to not receive, you are invited to come forward and cross your arms, indicating that you wish to receive a blessing. Gluten-free hosts are available.

THE COMMUNION SENTENCE

Sung by the Cantor & Choir

And he showed me a pure river of water of life: clear as crystal; proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts

Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Said by All

(people kneel)

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

THE BLESSING

people kneel)

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE RETIRING PROCESSION HYMN 690

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah

Cwm Rhondda

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Prelude and Fugue in E minor (BWV 533) *Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)*

MINISTERS OF TODAY'S LITURGY

Celebrant:	The Reverend Thomas J. Pettigrew
Deacon & Preacher:	The Reverend Abigail Bee
Master of Ceremonies:	Kevin Decker
Organist:	Dr. Brian J. Taylor
Cantor:	Starrla Lares
Acolytes:	Paul Smigelski, Daniel Miess
Crucifer:	J. J. Moran
Greeters:	Jean Greenspan, Meg Hughes
Lector:	Bob Lemmerman
Counters:	Kim Polner, Rich Unger
Altar Guild:	Carole Gaige, Natasha Bassant
Sacristans:	David & Anne Kennison

YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR:

The Sick and those in need: Jamie, Pat, Gabriella Rose, Katie, Chase, Pedro, Isabella, Dan Bornt, Dinorah Jimenez, Nancy, Karen Perretta, Sharon A. Wemtle, Lorna, Mike T., Richard, Abigail, Suzanne, Ann, Josh, Den, Sherrie, Ann-Marie, Lynn Paska, Larry, Robbie, Aubrey, Tamara, Mtr. Lisa Schoonmaker, Anne, Fred, Anna, James, Suzie, Dennis, Warren Crow, Ruth, Simon, Shannon, Robert, Diane, Chelsea, and Casey.

The prayer list will be reset every 3 months. Did we miss an important date for our birthday and faithful departed intentions? If you would like a name included on the prayer list or on the annual rota of intentions, send an email to rector@stgeorgesschenectady.org

The Departed: George Brown (2)

Birthdays:

Baptismal Anniversaries: William Thiessen (2)

Wedding Anniversaries: Christian Reed & Rachel Maher (6)

SERVICES THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 8 — 8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

10:00 a.m. — Solemn High Mass— Lent 3 – Cranmer House

Coffee Hour and Forum follow in the Great Hall.

5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer

Monday, March 9, Tuesday, March 10, Wednesday, March 11, Thursday, March 12

8:30 a.m. — Morning Prayer & Low Mass — Lady Chapel

Bible Study follows in Cranmer House on Tuesday.

5:30 p.m. — Evening Prayer — Lady Chapel

NO EVENING MASS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 12TH.

Friday, March 13 — 8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer — Lady Chapel

12:00 p.m. — Low Mass — Lady Chapel

5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer — Lady Chapel

6:00 p.m. — Soup Supper & Stations of the Cross — Cranmer House

Saturday, March 14 — 8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer & Low Mass — Lady Chapel

5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer — Lady Chapel

Sunday, March 15 — 8:30 a.m. — Morning Prayer — Lady Chapel

9:00 a.m.— Church School — Library

9:15 a.m. — The Rosary — Lady Chapel

10:00 a.m. — Solemn High Mass — Lent 3 — Cranmer House

3:00 p.m. — Choral Evensong — First Reformed Church

Evensong replaces 5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer this week.

WELCOME VISITORS! We'd like to extend a warm welcome to our visitors today. Whether you live in our area and decided to worship with us today or if you are visiting from out of town, we offer you a warm Georgian welcome! There are visitor cards in most of the pews and we ask that you fill one out and give it to the Greeters at the door or simply drop it in the offering plate. We'd love to see you again. Our website, www.stgeorgesschenectady.com.

Parish Life

CORNISH CREAM TEA AND FORUM — Today after Mass Dr. Taylor will be hosting a Cornish Cream Tea in the Great Hall in honor of St. Piran's Day (March 5th). Scones, clotted cream and jam will be offered with hot tea. Dr. Taylor will also be giving a forum on the writings of the Apostolic Fathers, the earliest church fathers and first interpreters of scripture.

EASTER FLOWERS — Memorial contributions for Easter Flowers are now being received. You may place a check in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. Also please email the church office if you wish to make your contribution in honor or memory of someone. These will be listed in the Easter bulletins. secretary@stgeorgesschenectady.org

Next Sunday

CHURCH SCHOOL for children in 1st through 6th grades will be offered in the Library at 9:00 a.m.

THE ROSARY will be prayed by the Society of Mary just before Mass in the Lady Chapel at 9:15 a.m. All are invited to join in this devotion in honor of the Blessed Virgin.

A DOUBLE INGATHERING will be collected. First, it is our monthly "Little Red Wagon Sunday" when we collect non-perishable food for the Sycamore Collaborative Food Pantry. Second, it is our quarterly ingathering for the YWCA Women's Shelter. The shelter is seeking hygiene and sanitary products as well as NEW children's underwear in any size. Please bring your contributions any time between now and then and leave them on the table in the breezeway entrance to Cranmer House. The items will be blessed at Mass on March 15th and then taken to the respective organizations for distribution to their clients.

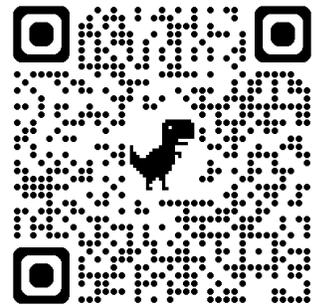
NEXT SUNDAY'S COFFEE HOUR will include an expanded menu provided by Kevin Decker and Jean Greenspan in honor of St. Patrick's Day.

ALL ON THE SAME PAGE BOOK CLUB — All are invited to read *The Snow Child* by Eowyn Ivey. This memorable Pulitzer-nominated novel will give you chills and keep you guessing. A middle-aged couple, barely surviving a frigid Alaskan winter, catch glimpses of a child roaming alone in the forest. Are they losing their minds or witnessing a miracle: Both things may be true! Read it to find out and join in the book club discussion after Mass on March 15th.

LENTEN EVENSONG — The St. Cecilia Choir will offer Choral Evensong for Lent on Sunday, March 15th at First Reformed Church, 8 N Church St., Schenectady, beginning at 3:00 p.m. The music will included the *Evening Service in A minor* by John Blow and the anthem, *Set me as a seal* by local musician and friend of St. George's Church, Mr. Aidan Daft.

PRAYER LIST — If you have a name that you would like added to the prayer list please email the church office at office@StGeorgesSchenectady.org and we will insure that this person will be remembered in the prayers.

ONLINE GIVING — If you would prefer to make a donation or your regular offering electronically, please use the QR code provided. You will also find a link to PayPal on our parish website, www.StGeorgesSchenectady.com. St. George's is currently considering other means for online and electronic giving. We would like to hear your feedback about having this as an additional option for giving to St. George's Church. Please send your thoughts to Rector@StGeorgesSchenectady.org



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

March 29th — Palm Sunday: The Sunday of the Passion

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

10:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Palms and Solemn High Mass

5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer

March 30th, March 31st, April 1st — Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday, Holy Wednesday

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer & Low Mass

5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer

April 2nd — Maundy Thursday

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m. Solemn High Mass

April 3rd — Good Friday

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

12:00 p.m. Liturgy for Good Friday

5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer

April 4th — Holy Saturday

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer & Proanaphora for Holy Saturday

5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer

7:00 p.m. The Great Vigil and First Mass of Easter

April 5th — Easter Day

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

10:00 a.m. Solemn High Choral Mass

5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer

