

**PREPARING FOR PASCHA**

**There is nothing that compares with the observance of PASSION WEEK. Both Church and home unite to reflect on the events that stir the soul. During these seven days, we re-live the suffering and death of our Lord.**

**PALM SUNDAY is a day of rejoicing. We proclaim that Jesus is King and welcome Him with the first flowers of Spring.**

**WEDNESDAY is the day Judas betrayed the Lord for 30 pieces of silver. What was the reason for this betrayal? No doubt Judas lost his faith in Christ and gave into his greed. Beyond this, the enemies of the Lord had a need to get to Him when He was alone.**

**HOLY THURSDAY is the day of the institution of the Last Supper. Most of the attention at the church is focused on the evening service with the Reading of the Twelve Gospels. These contain the prayer of parting and the final address of Jesus to His apostles. It also contains the story of our Lord's arrest and trial, death and burial.**

**GOOD FRIDAY is a day of mourning. There is an aura of sadness, when little is eaten. Common joys are avoided. In church, black covering are on the altar. Sweet-smelling ointments are used. The winding-sheet, bearing the icon of the body replica of our Lord's tomb is set up. The service of Good Friday is a repetition of Christ's funeral. It is a burial service. Jesus has died. His body is taken from the cross and carried in procession round the church. It is finally placed in the tomb.**

**Lastly, SATURDAY is a day of anticipation and preparation. The faithful come to church to pray at the grave of our Lord, not unlike the visit they might make to a loved one who has died. They come to bid farewell, looking forward to the approaching brightness of Christ's Resurrection.**