# **Christian Events in the Holy Land\***

\* Partial List

- A. Prologue
- B. Glossary

## Part I – Christmas Time

- 1. Christmas Eve
- 2. Baptism of the LORD
- 3. Theophany
- 4. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

#### Part II – Holy Week

- 5. Palm Sunday
- 6. Holy Thursday
- 7. <u>Good Friday</u>
- 8. Holy Light Saturday

# Part III – Spring and Summer

- 9. Armenian Genocide Memorial Day
- 10. Procession of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Statue
- 11. Ascension Day
- 12. Procession of the Dormition Icon of Theotokos

#### Part IV – Jubilees

- 13. Camino de Luz
- 14. Benedictine Sisters Jubilee
- C. Epilogue

# Palm Sunday Jerusalem

**The Christian World** observes Palm Sunday on the Sunday preceding Easter. The Palm Sunday Procession commemorates the triumphant entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem<sup>\*</sup>.

The Catholic communities of Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, joined by many pilgrims, celebrate the event in a procession that goes from the Church of Bethphage across Mount of Olives to the Church of St. Anne. The participants will be holding Palm Fronds and singing "Hosanna" in various tunes and languages. Closing the procession will be the Franciscan Custos, Latin Patriarch and Catholic Bishops. This procession, with more than 30,000 participants, is considered the largest Christian event in Jerusalem.

#### Church of Bethphage – Special Decorations



Hosanna "written" in flowers Hosanna to the Son of David (Matthew 21, 9)



**Bronze relief decorated with Palm Fronds** Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it (John 12, 14)



Entrance decorated with Palm Fronds



Catholic Leaders of the Holy Land



## Church of Bethphage – Ceremony



Prayer led by the Latin Patriarch

## Church of Bethphage – Ceremony



Preparing the thurible with the burning incense



Blessing of the Decorated Cross by the Latin Patriarch



Leading the procession is the Decorated Cross



Students of the Latin Patriarchal Seminary



Pilgrim groups



Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre\*

5. Palm Sunday

\* Members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem



Closing the procession are the Catholic Leaders of the Holy Land

#### Palm Sunday Procession – Down Mount of Olives



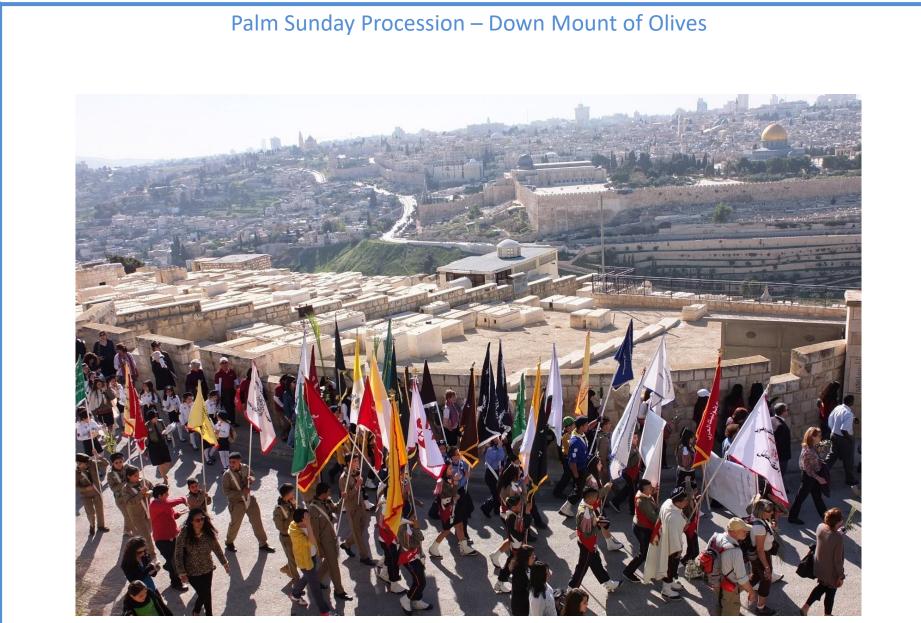
Kavas of the Latin Patriarchate in solemn uniform\*

Kavas of the Latin Patriarchate in solemn uniform\*

The procession is led by a clergyman carrying the Decorated Cross, escorted by two Kavases

#### 5. Palm Sunday

\* Embroidered blue garment, red tarboosh, sword and staff



Flags of Scouts and other Catholic organizations



Locals and pilgrim groups from various countries



**Participants holding Palm Fronds and singing "Hosanna"** So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna" (John 12, 12)

#### Palm Sunday Procession – Down Mount of Olives



Upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, I have appointed watchmen (Isaiah 62, 6)



Singing is accompanied by guitars, horns and other musical instruments

#### Palm Sunday Procession – Palm Frond Decorations



Staff decorated with a Cross-shaped Palm leaf



Palm Frond decorated with a Palestinian flag



Pendant decorated with a Cross-shaped Palm leaf

## Palm Sunday Procession – Palm Frond Decorations



**Braided Palm Fronds** 

#### Palm Sunday Procession – Olive Branches\*

\* ...and others cut branches from the trees (Matthew 21, 8)









#### Palm Sunday Procession – Banners\*

\* Many communities will emphasize their Palestinian identity on the banners



## Palm Sunday Procession – Intermezzo at Gethsemane



## Palm Sunday Procession – Intermezzo at Gethsemane



## Palm Sunday Procession – Intermezzo at Gethsemane





## Palm Sunday Procession – Uphill to Lions` Gate







## Palm Sunday Procession – Uphill to Lions` Gate



#### Palm Sunday Procession – Entering through Lions` Gate\*

\* The procession ends after a prayer at the nearby Church of St. Anne









#### Palm Sunday Procession – Entering through Lions` Gate

Archbishop Fouad Twal Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem Fr. Pierbattista Pizzaballa Franciscan Custos Archbishop Joseph Zerey Greek-Catholic Patriarchal Vicar



The last to enter are the Catholic Leaders of the Holy Land

# Holy Thursday Jerusalem

**The Christian World** observes Holy Thursday on the Thursday preceding Easter, commemorating the Washing of the Feet, the Last Supper and the Arrest of Jesus.

**Some Jerusalemite Christian communities** will conduct the Washing of the Feet ceremony in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre<sup>\*</sup>, while others, joined by many pilgrims, in their parish churches. **The Latin** ceremony will take place in the Room of the Last Supper.

In addition, three local processions will take place in Jerusalem : <u>The Franciscan procession</u> from Mt. Zion to the Armenian Quarter and the Syriac Monastery. <u>The Armenian and Latin processions</u> to the House of Caiaphas.

\* All aspects of the Holy week ceremonies in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre are regulated by the *Status Quo* 

#### Holy Thursday 2017 – Jerusalem Timetable\*

\* In 2017 the Gregorian and Julian Easter dates happened to coincide, making Holy Thursday the most busy, vibrant and interesting day in Jerusalem

When	Who	What	Where
07:00	Latin	Washing of the Feet	Church of the Holy Sepulchre
08:00	Orthodox	Washing of the Feet	Church of the Holy Sepulchre
09:00	Coptic	Washing of the Feet	St. Anthony Church
11:00	Ethiopian	Washing of the Feet	Deir al-Sultan Monastery
14:30	Armenian	Washing of the Feet	St. James Cathedral
15:10	Franciscans	Procession	From St. Savior Monastery to Mt. Zion
15:30	Latin	Washing of the Feet	The Room of the Last Supper on Mt. Zion
16:30	Franciscans	Procession	From Mt. Zion to the Armenian Quarter and the Syriac Monastery
16:30	Syriac	Washing of the Feet	St. Mark Church
17:30	Armenian	Procession	From Deir al-Zeitoun to the House of Caiaphas at the Armenian St. Savior Monastery on Mt. Zion
22:00	Latin	Holy Hour	Church of the Agony in Gethsemane
23:30	Latin	Procession	From Gethsemane to the House of Caiaphas at the St. Peter in Gallicantu Church on Mt. Zion

# Washing of the Feet\*

<u>Coptic</u> <u>Ethiopian</u> <u>Latin</u>

Jesus...got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him (John 13, 4)

#### 6. Holy Thursday

\* Each ceremony will be led by the Head of the community. The Latin ceremony will be led by the Franciscan Custos

#### Coptic Washing of the Feet – St. Anthony Church



Gathering for the ceremony\*

6. Holy Thursday

\* In the last years, many Coptic pilgrims from Egypt attend the Holy Week in Jerusalem, despite an official church decree banning visits to Israel

#### Coptic Washing of the Feet – St. Anthony Church



Archbishop chair decorated in Arabic\*



Timetable for the Holy Week

#### 6. Holy Thursday

\* Nowadays, both the Coptic and Arabic languages are being used in the Coptic Church

#### Coptic Washing of the Feet – St. Anthony Church



Archbishop Anba Abraham Coptic Metropolitan of Jerusalem

6. Holy Thursday

Bowl

#### Ethiopian Washing of the Feet – Deir al-Sultan\*

\* Deir al-Sultan, located on the roof of the Armenian St. Helena Chapel, is regulated under the *Status Quo* and is further disputed between the Coptic and Ethiopian Churches



Gathering for the ceremony

## Ethiopian Washing of the Feet – Deir al-Sultan



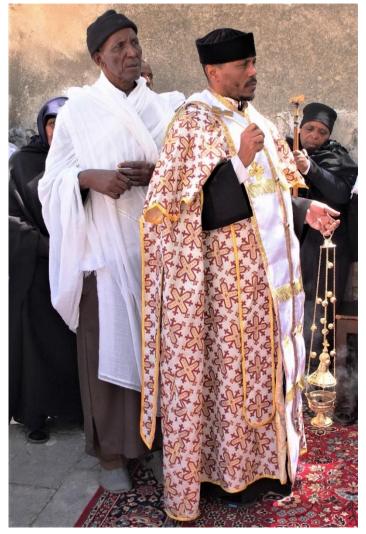
Archbishop Daniel Ilma Ethiopian Archbishop of Jerusalem





Clergymen

#### Ethiopian Washing of the Feet – Deir al-Sultan



Swinging the thurible with the burning incense



Clergyman carries the Decorated Cross

#### Ethiopian Washing of the Feet – Deir al-Sultan



Archbishop dressed in ceremonial vestment



Prayer led by the Archbishop



Embroidered parasol\*

6. Holy Thursday

\* Parasols are often used during ceremonies in the Ethiopian Church, above and beyond the daily usage of umbrellas in Ethiopia



Archbishop rolls up his sleeves before dipping his hands in the water



Archbishop washes the feet of a clergyman

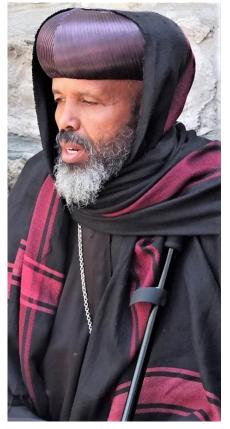


Bundles of leaves distributed to the crowd

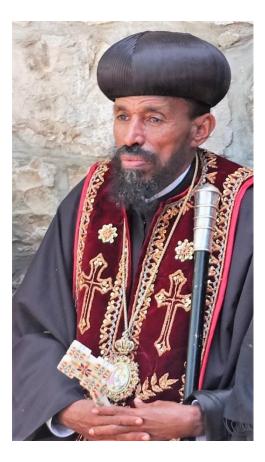


Looking at the ceremony





Clergymen of various ranks





Pilgrims



The Room of the Last Supper in its everyday look\*

6. Holy Thursday

\* In 1552, the Franciscans were ousted from Mt. Zion by the Ottomans. The Room of the Last Supper was transferred to the Muslim Waqf of Nabi Daud (a Muslim charity organization) and used as a Mosque (hence the Mihrab in the Southern wall). Ever since, Christians can visit the place but are not allowed to conduct ceremonies or have any furniture there, except on Holy Thursday (Franciscans) and Pentecost (Armenian, Latin and Orthodox). The site is not part of the *Status Quo* and is regulated nowadays by the Israeli Ministry of Interior



The Mihrab

6. Holy Thursday



Franciscan friar covers the Mihrab with the Franciscan banner



Franciscan banner\*\*

\* Text in Latin

\*\* The banner shows the two events Franciscans can celebrate in the Room of the Last Supper



The room is furnished with carpets, 12 stools and a foldable lectern (but no altar)



Gathering for the ceremony\*

6. Holy Thursday

\* By the time the ceremony starts, the place will be fully packed



12 boys from one of the Latin schools in Jerusalem

Decorated Stole Descent of the Holy Spirit\*

\* The stole resonates the Descent of the Holy Spirit (celebrated on Pentecost) : When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting (Acts 2,1)



Franciscan friar opens the ceremony



Making way for the Franciscan Custos

Fr. Pierbattista Pizzaballa Franciscan Custos



Prayer led by the Franciscan Custos



Franciscan friar prepares water and towels, while the boys take off their shoes



Washing

Wiping

Kissing

The Franciscan Custos will wash, wipe and kiss the feet of all 12 boys



The ceremony ends by reading Biblical text in various languages, by clergymen and laity\*

\* This tradition resonates the various languages spoken during the Descent of the Holy Spirit (celebrated on Pentecost) : All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages (Acts 2,4)



Johnny Kassabri Jerusalem Police Liaison officer to the Christian communities



Rosary sister

Franciscan friar and kavas of the Franciscan Custos in solemn uniform\*

# **Franciscan Procession**

The procession is a gratitude for the shelter the Franciscans were given by the Armenians and Syriac in 1552, following their deportation from Mount Zion by the Ottomans. The Franciscan Procession, led by the Custos, will depart from

Mount Zion immediately after the Washing of the Feet Ceremony and go through the Armenian Quarter to the Syriac Monastery.

#### Franciscan Procession – Arriving at the Armenian Quarter

Fr. Pierbattista Pizzaballa Franciscan Custos



The procession, led by the Franciscan Custos, arrives at the Armenian Quarter



Warm welcome by the hosting Armenian priest

#### Franciscan Procession – Visiting the St. James Cathedral



The Franciscan Custos and friars follow the Armenian hosting priest inside the Cathedral

Kavas of the Armenian Patriarchate



Kavases summit outside the Cathedral

### Franciscan Procession – Visiting the St. James Cathedral



Moment of contemplation



#### Franciscan Procession – Downstairs to Deir al-Zeitoun\*



Entering the convent through a narrow and low gate



\* Deir al-Zeitoun, AKA Convent of the Hoy Archangels, is an old convent and church inside the Armenian Quarter.

According to the Armenian tradition, the church is built over the house of the high priest Annas, who was involved in the arrest of Jesus : So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year (John 18, 12).

The name **Deir al-Zeitoun** (**Monastery of the Olive Tree**, in Arabic) refers to an old olive tree inside the convent, to which it is believed Jesus was tied before being taken to the house of Caiaphas.

The name **Convent of the Hoy Archangels** refers to the angles who covered their face with their wings, as they could not see Jesus being struck by the servant at the house of Annas.

Nowadays, the convent is used for residency and the church serves as the parish church for the Armenian community of Jerusalem.

#### Franciscan Procession – Church of the Holy Archangels



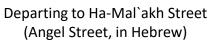
Moment of contemplation



A Franciscan friar tells the 16<sup>th</sup> century history, of how the Armenians invited the Franciscans to temporarily reside in Deir al-Zeitoun

#### Franciscan Procession – Departing from the Armenian Quarter







Kavas of the Armenian Patriarchate leading the way outside



Farewell greetings

#### Franciscan Procession – Arriving at the Syriac Monastery



Kavases of the Franciscan Custos waiting outside the Syriac Monastery



Warm welcome by a Syriac clergyman

#### Franciscan Procession – Visiting St. Mark Church\*



A Franciscan friar tells the 16<sup>th</sup> century history, of how the Franciscans were given a shelter by the Syriac (...being interrupted by a warm handshake between the Franciscan Custos and a Syriac clergyman)

6. Holy Thursday

\* The St. Mark Church is inside the Syriac monastery. According to the Syriac tradition, the church is built over the house of Mark the Evangelist and the place of the Last Supper (different to the view of their Franciscan guests, who believe the place is the Room of the Last Supper in Mount Zion)

## Franciscan Procession – Visiting St. Mark Church



Moment of contemplation

#### Franciscan Procession – Departing from the Syriac Monastery\* \* The procession ends at the Syriac Monastery



**The Franciscan Custos** Heading back to St. Savior Monastery



**Missionary Sisters of Charity** Heading back to their convent

## **Procession to the House of Caiaphas**

## <u>Armenian</u>\* <u>Latin</u>\*\*

So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year....Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest (John 18, 12-24)

- \* According to the Armenian tradition, the Armenian St. Savior Monastery in Mount Zion is built over the House of Caiaphas. The procession goes in the afternoon from Deir al-Zeitoun inside the Armenian quarter through Zion Gate to Mount Zion
- \*\* According to the Latin tradition, the St. Peter in Gallicantu Church on Mt. Zion is built over the House of Caiaphas. The procession goes at night from Church of the Agony in Gethsemane through Kidron Valley to Mount Zion

## Armenian Procession – Deir al-Zeitoun\*

\* More about Deir al-Zeitoun can be found <u>here</u>



Armenian priest holds a decorated staff, as he is leading the ceremony

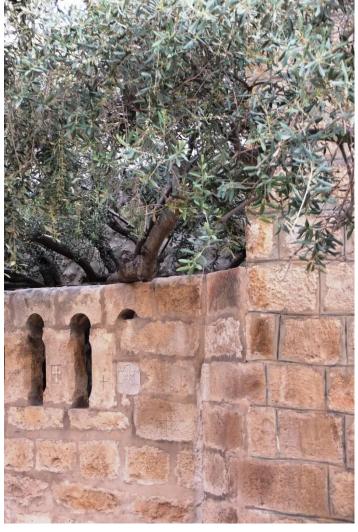


Kavases of the Armenian Patriarchate leading the procession, followed by the Decorated Cross

#### Armenian Procession – Deir al-Zeitoun



Stopping for a prayer by the sacred olive tree



The sacred olive tree safeguarded behind a wall\*

## 6. Holy Thursday

\* According to the Armenian tradition, Jesus was tied to this tree before being taken to the house of Caiaphas

#### Armenian Procession – Departing from the Armenian Quarter



Kavas of the Armenian Patriarchate in solemn uniform\*

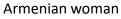


Students of the Armenian Theological Seminary Singing along the way

#### Armenian Procession – Departing through Zion Gate







**Decorated Cross** 



Armenian priest in decorated mantle

#### Armenian Procession – St. Savior Monastery\*

Dormition



Members of the Armenian community

6. Holy Thursday



Gate to the monastery



Clergymen entering the monastery

\* The Armenian St. Savior Monastery on Mt. Zion is situated between Zion Gate and Dormition Abbey. The compound includes the cloister, the Church of Caiaphas, a newly built (yet unfinished) church and the Armenian cemetery. According to the Armenian tradition, the church is built over the House of Caiaphas



Getting ready for the ceremony



Armenian cowl



Women of the Armenian community





**Reding Biblical text** 

Praying



End of the ceremony\*



\* Following the ceremony, many participants will visit the tombs of their family members in the nearby cemetery

## Latin Procession – Church of the Agony\*

\* AKA Gethsemane or Church of all Nations



Western façade\*\*

- \*\* The participants will first gather inside the church for a Holy Hour, commemorating three moments of the Passion :
  - Jesus' foretelling of Peter's denial
  - The agony of Jesus and his prayer in the Garden of Olives
  - The arrest of Jesus

The Holy Hour ceremony begins with the Franciscan Custos sprinkling red rose petals on the bare rock, followed by reading Biblical text aloud in various languages and ends with a prayer. Thereafter, the torchlight procession will go from the church down the Kidron valley and uphill to Mt. Zion. Uniformed Scouts are not taking part in this procession, but it is highly popular amongst youngsters.



The church is brightly lit inside (unlike its usual dark atmosphere)

#### Latin Procession – Church of the Agony



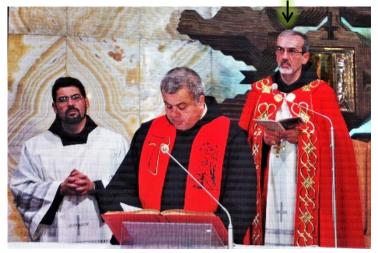
\* Tau-Cross (AKA T-shaped cross) was used by St. Francis as his signature

6. Holy Thursday

\*\* Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done" (Luke 22, 41)

#### Latin Procession – Church of the Agony

Fr. Pierbattista Pizzaballa Franciscan Custos



Reading Biblical text in various languages

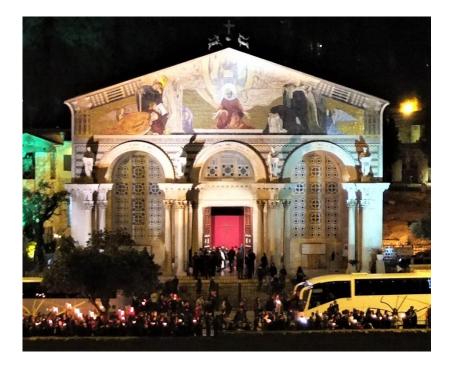


Kneeling around the bare rock The rock commemorates Jesus' agony



**Red rose petals sprinkled on the bare rock** The petals recall the drops of blood that Jesus sweated on that night

#### Latin Procession – Gethsemane







Waiting outside the church with flags and lit candles

#### Latin Procession – Gethsemane



Lit candles in paper candle holders



Candle holders donated by the Palestinian Authority\*



\* Officially, the Palestinian Authority is not allowed to act in Jerusalem, but it finds various ways to show presence in major Christian and cultural events

## Latin Procession – Kidron Valley



Torchlight procession

## Latin Procession – Uphill to Mount Zion



"Walking lights"



Singing along the way

#### Latin Procession – Uphill to Mount Zion



Carrying the flag of the Custody of the Holy Land\*

6. Holy Thursday

\* The flag has the Jerusalem Cross in red on a white background. The Jerusalem Cross consists of a Greek Cross, with four smaller crosses, one in each quadrant

#### Latin Procession – Uphill to Mount Zion\* \* The procession ends at the St. Peter in Gallicantu Church



Mixed crowd – young and old alike



Mixed crowd - laity and nuns, locals and pilgrims

# Good Friday Jerusalem

**The Christian World** observes Good Friday on the Friday preceding Easter, commemorating the crucifixion and burial of Jesus\*.

**Various Christian communities**, as well as pilgrim groups, will conduct processions along the Way of the Cross (Via Dolorosa Street), carrying large wooden crosses and praying at each of the nine stations along the way<sup>\*\*</sup>.

\* See John 19, 17 and John 19, 38 respectively

\*\* The last five stations are inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and therefore regulated by the Status Quo

#### Pilgrim Procession – Carrying Large Wooden Crosses



Pilgrims from Spain led by a Franciscan friar



Nuns from Africa

## Latin Procession – Gathering from all Directions\*

\* The Latin procession attracts many nuns and priests from Jerusalem and the vicinity



Latin Procession – Entering Station No. I\*

\* According to the local tradition, the Umariya school is built over the Antonia Fortress



Carrying a large wooden cross\*\*

#### 7. Good Friday

\*\* Carrying the cross is considered an honor and pride

#### Latin Procession – Prayer at Station No. I



**Prayer booklet in Arabic** Specially prepared for the local community



Latin scouts

#### Latin Procession – Along the Via Dolorosa Street



Carrying the cross - shoulders and hands alike



The street becomes fully packed

#### Reenactment Procession – Along the Via Dolorosa Street\*

\* Reenactment Processions and Passion Plays are popular in many Christian communities around the world



Participants of the procession all dressed in "Roman times" style\*\*

#### 7. Good Friday

\*\* The organizer of the group is unknown

#### Reenactment Procession – Along the Via Dolorosa Street



Carrying the cross and wearing a crown of thorns



Escorted by Roman soldiers and Jerusalemite women

## Reenactment Procession – Along the Via Dolorosa Street





Participants in various costumes



## Reenactment Procession – Along the Via Dolorosa Street



Onward to the next station

#### Franciscan Regular Procession – Station No. III\*



The Franciscan regular procession stops for Biblical text reading

\* The Franciscans conduct a regular procession throughout the year, departing every Friday afternoon (except Good Friday) from Station No. I (inside Umariya school). The procession goes along the Via Dolorosa Street and stops at each of the nine stations for Biblical text reading and singing. The procession is escorted by a Kavas of the Franciscan Custos, dressed in daily uniform (red tarboosh and a whip)

7. Good Friday

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# Holy Light Saturday\* Haifa

**The Orthodox World** celebrates the ceremony of the Holy Light<sup>\*\*</sup> on Easter Eve. The ceremony takes place inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre at midday. The Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem enters the Edicule over the Tomb, in which for this one occasion all lamps are extinguished, and the "Miracle" of the descent of the Holy Light occurs. The Holy Light is then distributed by clergymen to the crowd inside the church<sup>\*\*\*</sup>. Following the ceremony, lit lanterns will be transported by cars and private jets to Christian communities in the Holy Land and abroad.

**The Christian Communities** of Haifa will have an Ecumenical procession visiting parish churches of various denominations downtown\*\*\*\*. This procession is the largest Christian event in Haifa.

- \* AKA Holy Fire Saturday
- \*\* The ceremony symbolizes the triumph of the Christian Faith and is first mentioned by Bernard the Wise in the 9<sup>th</sup> century
- \*\*\* The Armenians, Copts and Syriac, also observing the Holy Light tradition, attend the ceremony as well. All aspects of the Holy Light ceremony in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre are regulated by the *Status Quo*
- \*\*\*\* The procession goes in the afternoon from Ben Gurion Avenue to the Orthodox St. John the Baptist Church, passing by the Latin St. Joseph Church, the Greek-Catholic St. Elias Cathedral and the Anglican St. Luke Church

#### Holy Light Procession – Scout Leaders\*

\* Various Scout groups and marching bands participate in the procession





All lanterns and candles were lit by the Holy Light arriving from Jerusalem

## Holy Light Procession – Visiting the Latin St. Joseph Church



Carmelite Scouts



Blessing of the Holy Light

#### Holy Light Procession – Welcome by the Clergy



Scout Leader and Rosary Sisters



Archbishop Elias Chacour Greek-Catholic Archbishop of Acre, Haifa, Nazareth and all Galilee

#### Holy Light Procession – Marching Bands



Drummer Arab Schools` Scouts



Bagpipe Players Orthodox Scouts

## Holy Light Procession – Marching Scouts



Arab Schools Scouts



Orthodox Scouts



**Catholic Scouts** 



**Carmelite Scouts** 

## Holy Light Procession – Flagbearers



Flags of the various Scout groups



Arriving at the Orthodox St. John the Baptist Church

## Holy Light Procession – Closing ceremony\*

\* The ceremony takes place inside the Orthodox St. John the Baptist Church



Joint prayer by the religious leaders

## Holy Light Procession – Taking Home the Holy Light













8. Holy Light Saturday

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