

HOLY WEEK



MONDAY-THURSDAY *April 15-18*

Confessions, 3-5 p.m., Church

MONDAY *April 15*

Chrism Mass, 7:30 p.m., Saint Matthew's Cathedral

TUESDAY *April 16*

6 p.m. Mass, 6:45 p.m. Soup, 7:30 p.m. Tenebrae

WEDNESDAY *April 17*

Confessions, 7-9 p.m., Church

THURSDAY, *April 18*

Morning Prayer, 9 a.m., Church

THE SACRED EASTER TRIDUUM

HOLY THURSDAY *April 18*

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7:30 p.m., Church

Confessions, 9:15 p.m., Church

Night Prayer, 9:30 p.m., Church

GOOD FRIDAY *April 19*

Morning Prayer, 9 a.m., Church

Good Friday of the Passion of the Lord, 1 p.m., Church

Confessions, 3 p.m. and 7:45 p.m., Church

Stations of the Cross, 7 p.m., Church

Taize Prayer, 8 p.m., Church

Night Prayer, 9:30 p.m., Church

HOLY SATURDAY *April 20*

Morning Prayer, 9 a.m., Church

Blessing of the Easter Food, 9:45 a.m., Church

Great Vigil of Easter, 9 p.m., Church

EASTER SUNDAY *April 21*

Masses of the Resurrection of the Lord

8 a.m., 10 a.m., 12 p.m., Church

10 a.m., Main Gym

Solemn Paschal Vespers (no Mass), 5 p.m., Church

The Sacred Easter Triduum ends. The Great 50 Days of Easter begin.

Acknowledgements: *Rite Magazine*, February/March 2002, Liturgy Training Publications. *Triduum! Formation, Preparation, Celebration.*



TRIDUUM

On the evening of Holy Thursday, we enter into the "Three Days" that are the center of our year: The Sacred Easter Triduum.

**On these Three Days,
the Church is at its best.**

In song, scripture, and ritual we proclaim the heart of what we believe and celebrate throughout the year. We gather often — at church, at home — during the Triduum to reflect on the central reality of our faith, the death and resurrection of Jesus. During these Three Days, Christians renew their vows and new Christians are initiated. These are the "high holy days" of Christianity.

**You are invited to make these
Three Days different from all
the other days of the year.**

Adults in the community are invited to plan ahead so that the entire time from Holy Thursday evening until the Easter Vigil is free of social engagements, free even of work, free of entertainment, free of meals except for the simplest nourishment.

**Because of the importance of
these days, we are not merely
invited: we are all needed to be
present in the church.**

All of us need the whole community together on its greatest days, the evening of *April 18*, through the evening of *April 21* in this year of our Lord, 2019.

**Begin plans now to celebrate with
your community, the three most
important days in our year.**

HOLY THURSDAY

This is the day when Christians everywhere celebrate the gift of the Eucharist as our nourishment and our salvation. The Mass of the Lord's Supper begins with this proclamation: "We should glory in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection, through whom we are saved and delivered."

These are important words, basic to our belief that glory and suffering, cross and resurrection go hand in hand.



Three stories weave together this evening: the Passover, St. Paul's account of the Last Supper, and John's account of Jesus washing the feet of the disciples. The Gospel makes startlingly clear what the other readings imply: we are to hand ourselves over to

others. To help us live out this Gospel call, each year we wash feet in this ceremony and celebrate the Eucharist with renewed commitment to serve one another. We sing the *Gloria* this evening. The church bells and the handbells ring during the hymn. The bells remain silent until the *Gloria* at the Easter Vigil.

While blessings and dismissals normally close our liturgies, tonight is notably different. After his supper with his disciples, Jesus went to Gethsemane to pray. He struggled with what was to come: "Acceptance of God's will" was his prayer. After communion, a solemn procession leads from the sanctuary to the chapel of reservation, but no closing prayer exists. All are welcome to remain and pray for a while as we, too, struggle with our own wants and needs and what God would have us do. We do not end on Thursday night, but rather, break for a time to gather to tell more of the story of salvation on Friday.

GOOD FRIDAY

The celebration of the Lord's Passion picks up where the Mass of the Lord's Supper left off. We begin in silence, and the presider leads us in the



humble act of prostration before the altar. The first two readings are powerful texts, followed by John's account of the Passion. The Passion is a hard story to hear each year, yet its retelling helps us focus on Jesus' love and sacrifice for us and how great the victory and triumph. The cross is an instrument of torture and death: yet we claim it, in light of the resurrection, as a symbol of glory. After the reading of the Passion, we venerate the cross—often a truly tender moment. As we reverence the wood of the cross with a touch or a kiss, we also express gratitude, awe, wonder, and a recommitment of our own lives to self-emptying service.

Today we know triumphant destiny in the midst of tragedy. We remember a humiliating death that leads to the glorious victory of life. We claim the cross as the wood of salvation rather than a means of torture. Good Friday is truly a good day.



EASTER VIGIL

This longing for new life is fulfilled at the Easter Vigil celebration, in which we begin in darkness and retell the story of salvation from creation to the resurrection. We light the Easter candle from the new fire, lit and blessed in our midst. We sing of our salvation in the Exsultet and then retell the story of salvation from creation, to the Exodus of the Israelites through the Red Sea, to the words of the prophets. We hear Paul's words to us, reassuring us of our share in salvation and sing, for the first time in forty days, our "Alleluias." We tell the amazing story of Christ's rising from the dead. We bless water, baptize adults and children, receive new members into our midst, and call the Holy Spirit to confirm them in faith. We bless and break bread with our newest members and celebrate with the most joyous music we can muster.

The Vigil is the holiest night of the year! Hear the entire story, in one powerful evening. All the ministers involved, from choir to presider to servers to Elect, have prepared for weeks to celebrate. If you've never attended or it's been several years since you attended a Vigil Mass, plan to come this year.

EASTER SUNDAY

At last, our "Alleluias" burst forth like the spring flowers that surround us!

After forty days of fasting, we begin our fifty days of feasting! We hear the



Gospel account of Christ's resurrection and recognize Him risen in our midst. Baptismal water touch us after recommitting ourselves to our baptismal promises. We feast at the table of the Lord. We welcome guests of our parish as we scoot closer together in the pews to make room for all who wish to come.

PASCHAL VESPERS

We bring the Easter Triduum to a close by gathering for evening prayer. After a three-day journey of prayer, remembrance, and ritual, we gather with our new Catholics to reflect on the events of the past three days. Clear your mind to enter fully into the fifty days of Easter, during which we come to a fuller understanding of the meaning of our three-day journey. We gather at the paschal candle, still burning from its first lighting at the Easter Vigil, and give thanks for the light of Christ. We touch the refreshing waters of the baptismal font and listen to the word of God. Although this has been a busy few days, this lovely end to the paschal celebration provides a fitting close to the three days.