

HOLY WEEK 2022

Holy Week is the heart of the Church year. The word “holy” in the descriptive title “Holy Week” highlights this week as unique and most holy in the annual cycle of time for Christians. Official Church rituals and other traditions observed during this week remember and make present the passing of Jesus from life to death to new life and all of creation along with him.

HOLY WEEK IS FOR EVERYONE ~ Children are Welcome

We are approaching the “high holy days” of our Christian Faith. Beginning with Palm Sunday, our celebration of Holy Week is a time of remembering and savoring God’s infinite love and mercy toward us, in giving his only Son so that we might live a new life in him. This celebration is for ALL of us, even the youngest among us. All of us, baptized in Christ Jesus, are recipients of God’s love and so need to celebrate this together.

In that spirit, we encourage parents to consider bringing the “little ones” to all of the Holy Week services. There are many interactive symbols and rituals during this week and the stories of our salvation history recounted in the scripture readings. Some might think these liturgies are not “family friendly” because of their length, but all of them can engage the children and be opportunities for families to reflect together on our Faith and the goodness and mercy of God.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME to all or part of our services! They can be long for children, so come when you can and leave when you need, making your children comfortable in God’s house at a later time than normal (perhaps pajamas). Talk to them before you come about what they will experience (the cross, fire, darkness, incense, light, water), and reflect afterward on how God’s love was experienced in these symbol and rituals.

PALM SUNDAY - April 10

Palm Sunday is a day for marching in processions. The Gospels tell us that the people waved branches to welcome Jesus into Jerusalem. So today, we too, wave branches. The 40 days of Lent have been a time to travel in spirit to the holy city of Jerusalem. Today, we enter the city. The palm will be blessed at the beginning of Mass.



THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Lent ends during the day on Holy Thursday. Triduum means “three days,” and the Paschal Triduum is the three-day season counted sunset to sunset, from Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday. During these three days, we keep one festival, our Passover, our Easter. We join with all the people of our Parish, and in spirit, with all Christians, to fast, pray and keep watch.

HOLY THURSDAY ~ April 14

On this night, we follow the Lord's command. On this night, we collect the Lenten alms, which we have been putting aside throughout Lent. On this night, we celebrate the Lord's Supper and keep watch with Christ.



Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7:30 PM

Adoration following Mass in Church until 10:00 PM.

GOOD FRIDAY ~ April 15

Good Friday remembers the death of Jesus on the cross just outside the walls of Jerusalem. This moment will be completed the following day as the Saturday night hours change into Sunday and death turns into resurrection. The origin of the term "Good" in the title of this day is unknown, but probably emphasizes the saving value of the historical event of the crucifixion of Jesus. Another theory is that it is a corruption of "God's" Friday. The theme of this day throughout history has been one of quiet sadness and mourning for the crucified and dead Jesus.



The Way of the Cross - Walking Stations - 12:00 PM

The Way of the Cross represents the sorrowful journey that Jesus made with his cross to die on Calvary for love of us. We should, therefore, practice this devotion with the greatest possible fervor, placing ourselves in spirit beside Christ as He walked this sorrowful way, uniting our tears with His, and offering to Him both our compassion and our gratitude.

Visual Meditation on the Way of the Cross - 12:15 PM

A visual guided meditation in the Church.

The Celebration of the Passion of the Lord - 7:30 PM ***Mass of the Pre-Sanctified***

During the Middle Ages, the simple communion service of the Good Friday Liturgy evolved into the Mass of the Pre-Sanctified ("Mass" with bread consecrated the day before). The ritual began to imitate a regular Mass without the Eucharistic Prayer. Early in its history, the laity stopped receiving Communion, just as they had at any Mass. The priest alone, therefore, received Communion on Good Friday. In 1955, the traditional ritual was restored: the Liturgy of the Word, the Veneration of the Cross, and Communion by the people.

HOLY SATURDAY ~ April 16

On Holy Saturday the Church waits at the Lord's tomb, meditating on his suffering and death. The altar is left bare, and the sacrifice of the Mass is not celebrated. Only after the solemn Vigil during the night, held in anticipation of the resurrection, does the Easter celebration begin, with a spirit of joy that overflows into the following period of fifty days.

The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night ~ 7:30 PM

In the midst of the early dark of night a fire begins to flicker outside the church. The Easter Candle is lit from the new fire and carried prominently into the midst of the people. A cantor sings an ancient and beautiful Exultet, salvation history is proclaimed through the Scripture, the Easter water is blessed, bells ring out, and flowers decorate the sanctuary. Alleluias are sung for the first time in six weeks. Jesus Christ is risen from the dead!! No other moment of the Church year is as rich in powerful and earthy symbolism as the Easter Vigil. It is the night of all nights. It is the heart of Christianity. It is Easter!!



EASTER SEASON

Easter time is the 50-day celebration that flows from the Triduum. It is the Church's most ancient and most beautiful season. These are springtime days of blossoming orchards, of open windows, of the great gladness of the awakening earth.

In times past, another word for Easter time was "Pentecost." Now we use that word to mean the last day of Easter time, but "Pentecost" can mean "fifty days" or "fiftieth day." The ascension of the Lord and the sending of the Holy Spirit are celebrated on two solemnities of the Season, but they also are celebrated throughout Easter time. We can't really separate these wonders. The Lord's incarnation, epiphany, passion, death, burial, resurrection, ascension and the gift of the Spirit are one mystery, called the "Paschal Mystery."

