

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion



News You Can Use...from Fr. Steve

Holy Week

Today we celebrate liturgically the beginning of Holy Week. The Paschal Mystery, i.e. the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, is the focus of every liturgy, every day, but during Holy Week, there is a special graced invitation to walk with Jesus through the essential, life-giving, saving mysteries of our faith. The Church encourages us to "narrow our focus" so to speak, so that we center our minds and hearts on the most important event in the history of human civilization and in our individual existence. The Church encourages us to allow all things, events, experiences, and persons in our lives to lead us to greater personal participation in the Passover of the Lord. After all, that is what our faith is all about – participation in the Paschal mystery so that we might experience personally the eternal life and love that Jesus has for us, which is manifest in His dying for us and rising.

Schedule for Easter Triduum:

Holy Thursday: April 1

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

Good Friday, April 2

3:00 pm: Celebration of the Lord's Passion [Reading of the Passion, Adoration of the Cross, Holy Communion]

7:30 pm: Celebration of the Lord's Passion [Repeat of 3pm]

Holy Saturday, April 3

7:30 pm: Easter Vigil

HOLY THURSDAY

The Mass of the Lord's Supper celebrates the institution of two Sacraments: the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ and the Sacrament of Holy Orders. The centerpiece of this Mass is the washing of the feet to symbolize the meaning of the Eucharist: the love of a servant God for us, His people, and our response of loving service to one another, which is the heart of the Eucharist. Bells are rung during the Gloria for the first time since Lent began on Ash Wednesday. Afterwards, they are silenced until the Gloria of the Easter Vigil. The Mass concludes with a procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the altar of repose to commemorate Christ's prayerful vigil on the Mount of Olives in the Garden of Gethsemane on the night before He was crucified. After Mass, the sanctuary lamp is extinguished and the altar is stripped.

GOOD FRIDAY

On Good Friday, the Church's liturgy enters into the solemn commemoration the passion and saving death of Jesus Christ on the Cross. This service has three parts:

The Liturgy of the Word and Proclamation of the Passion

The Adoration of the Cross

The Reception of Holy Communion (from hosts consecrated on Holy Thursday)

HOLY SATURDAY AND EASTER VIGIL

The Easter Vigil is the premier vigil of the liturgical year and consists of four parts:

1. The Ceremony of Fire The lighting of the Easter fire commemorates Christ's resurrection. The Paschal candle is lit from the fire and carried in procession to its place by the pulpit to symbolize the risen Christ's presence in the Church and His light illuminating our hearts and minds.

This Week at St. AJ

Saturday, March 27

9:00AM Mass Holy Souls in Purgatory

4:00PM Confessions

5:30PM Vigil Mass *Intentions of St. AJ Parishioners & Benefactors*

Sunday, March 28 Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

10:00AM Mass *Dr. Harry M. and Lucille S. Leyland*

Catholic Forum Today - March 28 - after 10:00AM Mass

11:30AM Mass *Anne and Bob Montgomery*

5:00PM Mass *Kwai-Ching Tse*

10:00PM Mass *Intentions of Students at Area Universities*

Tuesday, March 30

7:00PM Parish Lenten Penance Service (in Church)

Wednesday, March 31

12:30PM to 2:00PM Church is open today. Please ring Rectory bell.

Holy Thursday, April 1

7:30PM Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday, April 2

3:00PM Celebration of the Lord's Passion

7:30PM Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday, April 3

7:30PM Easter Vigil Mass

2. Liturgy of the Word

Significant readings are used at the Vigil to remember how God prepared His people for the revelation of His saving love made manifest and permanent through the Resurrection of His son, Jesus. The Alleluia announcing the Gospel is proclaimed for the first time since the beginning of Lent.

3. Liturgy of Baptism

Those who have been preparing for full sacramental incorporation into the Church are fully initiated through Baptism and Confirmation,

4. Liturgy of the Eucharist.



Holy Week Lenten Penance Service

Tuesday, March 30 at 7 pm

This sacrament is at the heart of what the Lenten season is all about: forgiveness-purification-renewal. By the time Lent ends on Holy Thursday afternoon, the Church presumes that all in need will have celebrated Reconciliation and are prepared to enter fully into the Paschal Triduum and the Joy and New Life of Easter.

Other Easter Triduum Services and Devotions

Holy Thursday: After the Mass of the Lord's Supper:

9 pm: Penn Newman Center: Private Prayer/Adoration at the Tabernacle

10 pm: Penn Newman Center: Night prayer and closure

Good Friday: 7:30 am: Penn Newman Center: Morning Prayer

Stations of the Cross at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary

On Good Friday, Cardinal Rigali will celebrate outdoor candlelight Stations of the Cross at St. Charles Seminary. All are welcome to attend. The devotions begin at 7:30 pm. You can park at Saint Joseph's University entrance on 54th Street below City Avenue, and board shuttle buses to the Seminary (buses will be available at 6:30 pm. No parking on Seminary grounds). Candles and protectors will be available for a suggested offering of \$2.00. If you plan to attend, it would be helpful for planning purposes to call Kathy Kelly at 215-965-8280.

Volunteers Needed: We want to keep the Church open on Wednesdays from 12:30 TO 2:00pm. Please help us to do this by volunteering one Wednesday a month. Please call the Rectory.

My God, my God, why have You abandoned me? Psalm 22