

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, and saving mysteries of our faith. The Church encourages us to "narrow our focus" so to speak, so that our minds and hearts will be primarily centered 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. The Paschal mystery of Christ sheds the light of truth on the ultimate meaning of our lives, a truth we cannot afford to miss.

Schedule for the Triduum

Holy Thursday: April 9

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

Good Friday, April 10

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 the 3 pm service]
[Reading of the Passion, Adoration of the Cross, Holy Communion]

Holy Saturday, April 11

7:30 pm - Easter Vigil

Holy Week Lenten Penance Service

Our Holy Week Lenten Penance Service is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7 at 7 pm. Don't let your Lenten observance pass without celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This Sacrament is at the heart of what the Lenten season is all about: forgiveness-purification-starting over. When Lent ends on Holy Thursday afternoon, all in need should have celebrated Reconciliation to be prepared to enter fully into the Paschal Triduum and the Joy and New Life of Easter.

HOLY THURSDAY

During the Mass of the [Lord's Supper](#), bells are rung during the Gloria, for the first time since Lent began on Ash Wednesday. Afterwards, they are silent until the Gloria of the Easter Vigil. The Mass of the Lord's Supper celebrates the institution of two Sacraments: the Sacrament of the Institution of Body and Blood of Christ and the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Intrinsic to 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. 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. (Please see [This Week at St. AJ](#) for Holy Thursday.)

This Week at St. AJ

Saturday, April 4

4:00PM Confessions in Church

5:30PM Vigil Mass *David J. DiNinni*

Sunday, April 5 **Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion**

10:00AM Mass *People of the Parish*

11:30AM Mass *In Memory of John and Alice Casey*

5:00PM Mass *Intentions of Annie Louis*

10:00PM Mass *Intentions of our Catechumens and Candidates*

Monday, April 6

1:00PM Mass *Louise Molieri*

Tuesday, April 7

7:00PM Parish Lenten Penance Service in Church

Wednesday, April 8

12:30PM to 2:00PM Church will be open today.

Holy Thursday, April 9

7:30PM Mass of the Lord's Supper

9:00PM Prayer/Adoration (Repository in Penn Newman)

10:00PM Night Prayer (Repository in Penn Newman)

Good Friday, April 10

3:00PM Celebration of the Lord's Passion and Death

7:30PM Celebration of the Lord's Passion and Death

Holy Saturday, April 11

No Confessions Today

7:30PM Easter Vigil Mass

GOOD FRIDAY

On [Good Friday](#), the priest and ministers wear red vestments to symbolize Christ's blood. The Church's liturgy enters into the solemn commemoration of 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
-Reception of Holy Communion [from hosts consecrated on Holy Thursday]

HOLY SATURDAY AND EASTER VIGIL

The empty, bare Church of Holy Saturday morning and afternoon commemorates the time Jesus lay in the Tomb. The Easter Vigil begins anytime after nightfall on Holy Saturday in anticipation of the celebration of the [resurrection of Jesus](#). 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 which commemorates Christ's resurrection from which the Paschal candle is lighted and carried in procession to its place by the pulpit to symbolize the risen Christ's presence in the Church and His light illuminating the hearts and minds of all believers. The Exsultet is intoned in the darkened Church to symbolize Christ's light infusing new life to a world once dead in sin.

2. **Liturgy of the Word**

Significant Readings are used at the Vigil to remember how, throughout Salvation History, God prepared His people for the revelation of His saving love made manifest and permanent through the resurrection of His son, Jesus. During the [Gloria](#) of the Mass, the Church bells are rung in the liturgy for the first time in two days and "[Alleluia](#)" 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, while the entire assembly of believers re-affirms their own baptismal vows.

4. **Liturgy of the Eucharist**