

HOLY WEEK 2020

As the Lenten Journey merges into, the unfolding of the glory of Easter, the readings provide a rich array of images inviting us into the deepest mysteries of our redemption.

The Passion of Our Lord presents the inexorable result of the Gospels we have been hearing for the last several weeks. In conversing with a Samaritan woman and staying in her town, Jesus traded in his ritual purity as a Jew to give her living water. In curing the man born blind on the Sabbath, Jesus traded his status as a law-abiding Jew and a respected prophet in order to give him the light to see. In going back to Judea to raise Lazarus, Jesus risked his life to bring Lazarus back to life. Now, in the Passion, Jesus exchanges his life for the redemption of the world.

During the Holy Week the Church asks us to immerse ourselves in the celebration of the events leading to Easter. These days made holy by the "Self-emptying" of our Lord brings us a wonderful opportunity of gaining grace to replenish our souls. The services are designed to relive the Redemption: to meditate on the agony our savior suffered so that our souls might live. We accompany our Lord to the Last supper, to the Garden of Gethsemane, to Calvary and to the tomb by faithfully attending the services during the Holy Week.

The Church urges us to prepare to fulfill our Easter Duty:

celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, receive Holy Communion worthily on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and on Easter Sunday.

PALM SUNDAY - PASSION SUNDAY

The solemn procession of this Sunday recalls Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

He comes as a king. He enters humbly riding a donkey. He comes as a man of peace.

We gather to bless our palms and proclaim Jesus as our King.

This moment of triumph opens the door to Holy Week. The echoes of our song of glory and honor fade as we ponder the long narration of Jesus' passion, death and burial.

The readings from Isaiah and the letter to the Philippians help us retain prayerfully some balance and seek comfort as we consider death and its relationship to life, the crucifixion and its relationship to the Resurrection.

THE HOLY TRIDUUM

With the setting of the sun on Thursday evening, our forty-day Lenten journey of conversion will draw to a close. The Church reminds us that these days are set before us a reminder of the wonders God accomplished through Jesus Christ.

HOLY THURSDAY

9 April 2020

THE MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

We remember the Passover: How Jesus washed the feet of his apostles, and ponder on Jesus. The symbolic act of foot washing signifies far more than a simple act of hospitality or of humble service. It is a parabolic enactment of the meaning of Jesus' death: his willing relinquishment of his life for those he loves. The willingness to go to calamity's depths for another is not dependent on that one reciprocating the love, as is evident from Jesus' washing of Judas' feet as well as those of Peter.

It is in this context, that we recall and experience Jesus institute the Eucharist. The celebration of Holy Thursday today brings to mind the words of the institution of the Eucharist. *...And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In The same way, after the supper He took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." Do this in memory of me.* (Lk 22:19-20). We give thanks and praise to God for mercy and redemption. The New Covenant is forged at the Last Supper and fulfilled with Jesus' Resurrection.

The Mass of the Lord's Supper will be live streamed

GOOD FRIDAY

10 April 2020

THE CELEBRATION OF THE PASSION OF OUR LORD

This is a day of Universal fast and abstinence.

A Day of prayerful silence and penance.

Today we are invited to witness the glory of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. The refrain is *'Behold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the savior of the world'* and we come to worship Him.

On this day, the Cross became a tangible symbol with which we interact. We were marked for Christ at the time of our Baptism and we continue to mark ourselves with this sign of our salvation.

Each time we make the sign of the Cross, we proclaim our willingness to take up our cross and follow Christ, as he challenged those who wished to be his disciples. Through this Cross we are redeemed and are given the grace of new life in Christ.

We encourage you to make your own Schedule of Good Friday Services (we shall try and streamline the service)

12:00 pm: Stations of the Cross:

1:00 pm: The Seven Last Words of Jesus: You may go on line and look for more related resources

2:00 pm: The Liturgy of the Passion of Our Lord

EASTER VIGIL Service: and Easter SUNDAY MASSES will continue to be celebrated privately