



COME AND SEE

*Experience the Beauty
and
Power of Holy Week*

Palm Sunday*

Of the Passion of Our Lord

The first day of Holy Week, we recall and relive the joyful entrance of Christ into Jerusalem to accomplish the Paschal Mystery. At the entrance of the church, the palm branches are blessed* the Gospel is proclaimed, and the procession, with palms raised, and singing Hosannas, proceeds to the altar.

During the normal time of the proclamation of the Gospel, the narrative of the Lord's passion is read. (Often using readers, with the priest reading the part of Jesus and the people reading the part of the crowd).

We end the Liturgy with the somberness of His passion and death.

*Not to be confused with the 5th Sunday of Lent that had been referred to as Passion Sunday.

*Throughout ancient history palm branches have symbolized victory, hope and new life.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

Monday of Holy Week: Day of preparation: Church is cleaned

Tuesday of Holy Week: The Chrism Mass

The Bishop, joined by priests of the diocese, or their representative, gather at the cathedral to celebrate the Chrism Mass, which manifests the unity of the priests with their Bishop. The Bishop blesses three oils, Catechumens, Oil of the Infirm and the Holy Chrism. Each parish receives and takes these oils to use at Baptism, Confirmation and Anointing of the Sick.

Wednesday of Holy Week: Tenebrae Service

Tenebrae is Latin for "shadows or darkness". The purpose of this service is to remember the somber events that occurred in Jesus' life from the exuberant entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday through the night of Jesus' burial on Good Friday.

Solemn Easter Triduum Three Days One Liturgy

Holy Thursday

The Mass of the Lord's Supper signals the end of Lent and the beginning of the Solemn Triduum.

Jesus washed the feet of His disciples. The priest washes feet to show that like Christ he came not to be served, but to serve.

This Mass marks the institution of the Holy Eucharist. Jesus commands His disciples to love one another and to take bread and wine that become His body and blood, given up as the sacrificial Lamb for our salvation, and eat and drink in remembrance of Him.

The Gloria is sung, marking the beginning of the Easter Triduum.

After Communion, the Eucharist is transferred to the altar of repose. The sanctuary is stripped clear and left empty with the tabernacle door open. There is no concluding prayer or song. People are invited to spend time in quiet adoration before the Eucharist, till night prayer.

Good Friday

Traditionally on Good Friday, separate from the service, there is a communal reflection on the Stations of the Cross. This devotion offers witness to Jesus' Passion and Death through reflection on fourteen visual images and offering a prayer corresponding to that station. In this way, we use our senses and our imagination to consider prayerfully Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection and so experience Christ's love for us.

Good Friday is the day on which we commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Catholics are joined by almost all other Christians in solemn effort. It is a day of fasting in the Catholic Church.

There is no Mass on this day, as it is not a day of festive joy, but a day to remember the humiliation, suffering, and death of Jesus. The church is stripped of any decoration, the altar is bare, the door of the empty tabernacle remains open.

The service on Good Friday consists of:

Liturgy of the Word – Reading of the Passion according to John

Intercessory Prayers – for the Church and the entire world

Veneration of the Cross – The priest and congregation approach the cross one by one, offer a gesture of respect to all that it represents. This gesture may be kneeling, or bowing, or kissing the cross.

Communion – reserved hosts that were consecrated on Holy Thursday

The absence of the consecration deepens our sense of loss because Mass throughout the year reminds us of the Lord's triumph over death, the source of our joy and blessing.

Holy Saturday

A day of silence, waiting, preparation. There is no Mass, no Communion.

The church is bare, Holy Water fonts empty, tabernacle empty, the door open. The faithful gather for morning prayer. Easter food is blessed at noon. We await the Holy Easter Vigil.



Easter Vigil

On this most holy night, "the mother of all vigils" celebrates the resurrection of Jesus and awaits His return to Glory. Don't miss this dramatic and powerful liturgy that begins with the church in darkness.

The new fire is started outside. It is blessed. The Easter candle is blessed, lit with the new fire and brought into the church. The light of Christ is spread throughout the church as the candles held by the congregation are lit from the Easter candle. The Easter Proclamation is sung while the church glows in candlelight.

The Liturgy of the Word gives at least three old testament readings relating outstanding deeds of salvation history, followed by a responsorial psalm and a prayer. The Gloria is sung for the first time since Lent began. A reading from the new testament, the proclamation of the Gospel and homily follow.

The new Holy Water is blessed. We renew our Baptismal Promises and are sprinkled with Holy Water.

The celebration of Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation and reception of new members may take place.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist continues.
Mass ends with a solemn blessing. On this most sacred night darkness is shattered by the light of Life. Alleluia!

Easter Sunday

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

This is the Day the Lord Has Made

Rejoice and Be Glad

Christ is Risen from the Dead

Today we renew our Baptismal Promises and are sprinkled with Holy Water.

We who have been Baptized In Christ have risen also.



Easter Season

Easter is the greatest feast of the liturgical year. We celebrate for fifty days, beginning with the Octave of Easter* and continuing through Pentecost Sunday. This season of Paschal time includes Divine Mercy Sunday and the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord. On Pentecost we celebrate the birthday of our Church and welcome the Holy Spirit into our lives.



Come, Holy Spirit!

*Eight days of celebration starting with Easter Sunday
