



## *The Paschal Triduum or “Three Days”* **What we do from Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday?**

Holy Thursday brings the end to Lent with the celebration of the Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper. That night we begin the “Triduum” (pronounced “trid-oo-um”) or “Three Days” that are the center of our entire liturgical year. You are invited to make these Three Days different and distinct from all the rest of the days of the year.

Young or old, all of us as Catholics should know that our presence for the liturgies during the Triduum is not just by invitation or obligation. We are all needed here! All of us need to share in community together on these greatest days.

On these Three Days, we gather a number of times to celebrate various liturgies. We begin with the sign of the cross on Holy Thursday and end with the dismissal at the end of the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night. Together we hear some of the Church’s most beautiful prayers, scriptures, and music. Please look closely at our parish schedule below and make plans to take part in the various liturgies of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. Above all, plan come on Saturday night for the Easter Vigil, when we welcome the new members of our Catholic community.

### **Lent ends as the Triduum begins on Holy Thursday with the Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper.**

Thursday evening we enter into this Triduum period. After listening to the scriptures, we do something different: We wash feet. In our name and as our example, the Parish Priest goes down on his knees and washes the feet of several parishioners. We imitate Jesus, who gave us this image of what the church is supposed to look like, feel like, act like.

Afterward, we celebrate the Eucharist which is the ultimate gift of Christ’s presence, which sustains us on our earthly journeys. The evening liturgy has no ending: Whether we stay to pray awhile or leave, we are now in the quiet, peace, and glory of the Triduum.

#### **HOLY THURSDAY, April 1, 2010**

|                                         |                  |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------|
| Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper ..... | 7 p.m.           |
| Silent Eucharistic Adoration .....      | until 10:00 p.m. |

### **We continue through Good Friday.**

We gather quietly at the church on Good Friday and listen to scripture. We pray at length for all the world’s needs. Then there is another once-a-year event: The Holy Cross is held up in our midst and we adore it as a faith community. We then receive our Lord in the Eucharist to sustain us until the Solemn Easter Vigil. When the service is ended, individuals are invite to come forward one-by-one to reverence the cross, on which our Savior died, with a kiss.

We continue in fasting, prayer, and vigil, in rest and quiet, through Saturday. This Saturday for us is like God’s rest at the end of creation. It is Christ’s repose in the tomb.

#### **GOOD FRIDAY, April 2, 2009**

|                                     |           |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion ..... | 7:00 p.m. |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|

### **Until the night between Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday.**

Hungry and excited, the Church gathers in the darkness and lights a new fire and a great Pascal candle that will make this night bright for us. We listen to some of the most powerful scriptures of the Bible, then we pray to all our saints to stand with us as we go to the font and bless the waters. At these waters, our catechumens are initiated into the Church, confirmed in the Holy Spirit, and nourished by the Eucharist. Others join them in becoming members of our Church or in completing their own initiation through Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. Together as one community, we go to the table and celebrate the Easter Eucharist. Easter Sunday begins and we are ready for 50 days of rejoicing!

#### **HOLY SATURDAY, April 3, 2010**

|                    |           |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Easter Vigil ..... | 8:00 p.m. |
|--------------------|-----------|

#### **EASTER SUNDAY, April 4, 2010**

|              |                                                                                |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Masses ..... | 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m.*,<br>1:30 p.m. (Spanish); 5:00 p.m. (English) |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

\* (Liturgies upstairs and downstairs simultaneously)