



Ignite the F.I.R.E.

Families Involved in Religious Education



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HOLY WEEK & THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Since this is the most special and important week of the Catholic Christian Church, I felt it was a good opportunity to share all that this week entails. If you have never partaken in the Holy Week services, I highly encourage you to try to make them all. It's a very different, moving experience that is sure to give you a greater appreciation of all that Christ went through in His final days here on earth and the gifts we receive from His graces in the Sacraments, particularly the ones of initiation, which are baptism, confirmation and eucharist.

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week by remembering Jesus' arrival into Jerusalem & how quickly things escalate from the people praising Him, to them shouting for His crucifixion.

Holy Thursday begins the Triduum, which in Latin means 3 days. On this night, we remember the Last Supper, where Christ instituted the Eucharistic Sacrifice of His body and blood on a night the Jews normally practiced the Passover. Christ's celebration of the first Eucharist now takes the place of the old tradition of sacrificing a lamb, because His sacrifice fulfills the prophecy that saves us from our sins and unites our eternal souls with God in heaven. Another beautiful display of Christ's love for his apostles is the washing of the feet, and for us, the priest humbly does so for members of his church. Since the Triduum lasts 3 days, we leave the church in silence to return the next day...Good Friday.

Good Friday is remembering Christ's final hours and the cruelty and hatred He endured. We recognize the significance of Christ on the cross and we take the time to really meditate on what an impact it made on the world. We participate in Holy Communion and again depart in silence.

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If you have gone to both Holy Thursday and Good Friday, you could wait until Easter Sunday to celebrate Christ's Resurrection, but the Easter Vigil on Saturday evening is one of the most unique and beautiful celebrations of the entire year. It usually begins outside, just as the sun is setting, or has gone down, and a fire is started to symbolize the light that Christ is in the world. One by one, each person holding a candle in the church, gets their candle lit and the dark church fills with the light that is Christ.

The liturgy moves into scripture readings that remind us of salvation history and how mankind's stories began and how they point to a Savior. We then celebrate and remember our baptism and confirmation and partake in the Eucharist and depart in the blessing of Christ's peace.

On Easter Sunday, the liturgy follows the regular Mass form, other than including the Renewal of Baptismal Promises, which is why it is so important that all Christians attend Mass on Easter. Easter reminds us that we are all part of something much bigger and that one man, both divine and human, showed us His great love for us all by offering the ultimate sacrifice of himself to save us all from death. It is because of the cross that we have the promise of eternal life and faith that death is not the end, but rather, a beautiful fulfillment of God's desire to be with us forever.

Hopefully you will consider taking the time for yourself to really grow in your faith this week and know that God loves you so much that He gave His only Son to save the world.

Holy Thursday Mass - 7pm at St. Edward
Good Friday Services - 3pm at St. Eloi & 7pm at St. Edward
Easter Vigil - 8:45pm at St. Eloi
Easter Sunday - 8:30am at St. Edward & 10:30am at St. Eloi

“Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire!” ~ St. Catherine of Siena