

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

The week between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, Holy Week, is the most sacred time of year for Catholic Christians. During this special time, we enter into the passion of Christ — his crucifixion, death, and resurrection — through liturgical celebration and personal conversion. While the season of Lent is a very important time in the Church, it is helpful to remember that our Lenten practices (prayer, fasting, and almsgiving) are meant as preparation for the three days of the Triduum. This entire time is considered by most to be a great journey, to follow the liturgical road of the Lenten celebrations that lead and prepare us to die and rise with Jesus Christ through the liturgies of Holy Week.

Many people are asking how we will observe Easter this year in these difficult times.

CONFESSION

As we approach our most important week of the year – Holy Week – the way we follow Christ – from his triumphant entrance into Jerusalem, to the foot of the Cross, to an empty tomb – will be completely different this year. In preparation, many would have availed themselves of the Sacrament of Reconciliation – Confession – to prepare for a fresh start at Easter. But what does it mean for our spiritual well-being and salvation if we can't fulfil our "Easter Duties"?

A special Decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary on the Granting of Special Indulgences to the Faithful in the Current Pandemic has been issued by Rome.

You can view the entire document on our website under CURRENT NEWS.

Rome has granted Plenary Indulgence "Where the individual faithful find themselves in the painful impossibility of receiving sacramental absolution, it should be remembered that perfect contrition, coming from the love of God, beloved above all things, expressed by a sincere request for forgiveness (that which the penitent is at present able to express) and accompanied by *votum confessionis*, that is, by the firm resolution to have recourse, as soon as possible, to sacramental confession, obtains forgiveness of sins, even mortal ones (cf. CCC, no. 1452)."

The penitent can unite spiritually through the media to the celebration of Holy Mass, the recitation of the Holy Rosary, to the pious practice of the Way of the Cross or other forms of devotion, or if at least they will recite the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and a pious invocation to the Blessed Virgin Mary, offering this trial in a spirit of faith in God and charity towards their brothers and sisters, with the will to fulfil the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer according to the Holy Father's intentions), as soon as possible.

This can be "just another Lent and Holy Week," or you can choose to enter into this journey more fully. There is no better way to start the journey than with the reminder that we should "turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel."

STATIONS

You can pray the Stations of the Cross by clicking on the link on our Homepage under Current News. We also have links to EWTN, Salt and Light, Catholic TV, etc. who are also broadcasting Stations of the Cross at various times on Good Friday.



PALM SUNDAY & THE TRIDUUM

Prayerfully celebrate the Triduum – the '3 days in 1' – which begins the evening of Holy Thursday and ends the evening of Easter Sunday. The solemn celebrations of *Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper, Good Friday of the Passion of the Lord, and Easter Vigil* are the most sacred in the Church. Participating in them is a faith experience like no other.

Our Bishop, Most Rev. Marcel Damphousse, who traditionally celebrates liturgies at the Cathedral, will celebrate the Holy Days (Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday) from Christ the King Parish in Sudbury, where he resides. Live-streaming of celebrations will be available at www.christthekinglive.com.

Please see the following page for celebration schedule.

At 11:00 AM on Easter Sunday morning, the bells will ring joyously from the Cathedral to let our community know that, despite our closed churches, we celebrate in faith the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Msgr. Dave and Fr. Rex will be celebrating private liturgies at an alternate time (see below in blue) as they want to join our community in participating with the bishops live-streamed celebrations.

Throughout this journey may you come to know the peace and comfort that only God can give.

“Look with compassion on the afflicted, grant eternal rest to the dead, comfort to mourners, healing to the sick, peace to the dying, strength to health care workers, wisdom to our leaders and the courage to reach out to all in love, so that together we may give glory to your holy name.”



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE 2020

Presented by Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie

With Main Celebrant & Homilist

Most Rev. Marcel Damphousse, Bishop of Sault Ste. Marie

LIVE-STREAMED FROM CHRIST THE KING CHURCH - SUDBURY, ONTARIO



Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion: 05 April

10:15 AM

During the mass, a Special Blessing will be conferred upon Fr. Raymond Akor on the occasion of his 10 year Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood.

Pro-Cathedral of the Assumption: 9:30 AM

Monday, 06 April; Tuesday, 07 April; and Wednesday, 08 April

11:30 AM Rosary, Adoration and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

12:05 PM Mass

The Mass of the Lord's Supper: Holy Thursday, 19 April

7:00 PM

With Homilist Fr. Raymond Akor

Pro-Cathedral of the Assumption: 4:00 PM

The Celebration of the Lord's Passion: Good Friday, 10 April

3:00 PM

With Celebrant: Bishop Marcel Damphousse and Homilist: Deacon Roland Muzzatti

Pro-Cathedral of the Assumption: 10:30 AM

The Resurrection of the Lord, Easter Vigil: Saturday, 11 April

7:00 PM

With Celebrant and Homilist, Bishop Marcel Damphousse

Pro-Cathedral of the Assumption: In communio with the Bishop, 7:00 PM

The Resurrection of the Lord: Easter Sunday, 12 April

10:15 AM

With Celebrant and Homilist, Bishop Marcel Damphousse

Pro-Cathedral of the Assumption: 9:30 AM

The Triduum

The three days of the Triduum are counted as the Hebrews counted their days, from dusk to dusk. Lent officially ends and the Triduum begins at dusk on Holy Thursday and continues through dusk on Easter Sunday. Because we cannot separate Jesus' death from his resurrection, the Church teaches that the Triduum is really one celebration that lasts for three days.



Holy Thursday

When he had washed their feet, and taken his garments, and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?" — John 13: 12

On this night, we remember the Last Supper and celebrate the institution of the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Holy Orders. At the end of the liturgy we would have stripped clean the sanctuary in preparation for the most somber of feasts, Good Friday. The spirituality of the Triduum is centered on the accounts of the Paschal mystery in the Gospel of John. In John's Gospel, the Last Supper is not the Passover meal; rather, Jesus is crucified at the same time the lambs are being slaughtered for Passover, as a sign that he is the Lamb of God, sacrificed for all of humanity. The last meal Jesus shares with his apostles in the Gospel of John is marked by the washing of feet. Jesus gets down in the dirt and washes the feet of his disciples and in this way connects the Holy Eucharist with service to others. This washing of the feet of his apostles is a powerful example of how we are called to serve and care for one another. Holy Thursday is also referred to as Maundy Thursday, meaning "a new mandate." It refers to the mandate put forth by Jesus in John 13:34, "Love one another as I have loved you."

QUESTION: Do I take Christ's call to service seriously? What are some ways that I "wash the feet" of others in my daily life?

Good Friday

[Jesus said,] "It is finished"; and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. — John 19: 30

Good Friday is a somber remembrance of Jesus's crucifixion and death on the cross. It is a day of fasting and penance and a time to examine all of the places in our lives where we fail to follow Christ and fall into sin. Good Friday is not only a commemoration of a historical event; rather, Christ's sacrificial death on the cross, along with his glorious resurrection, comprise the heart of the Christian faith. At the Cathedral, you would find the altar stripped of ornamentation and the tabernacle left open and empty. Good Friday is a day of mourning and is not a Mass. Today, praying devotions like the rosary, Stations of the Cross, the Divine Mercy Devotions, and meditative reading and prayers on the passion of Christ is appropriate.



QUESTION: What crosses do I bear in my own life? Am I strong enough to carry my cross as Jesus did?



Easter Vigil

Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, where no one had ever been laid . . . they laid Jesus there. — John 19: 41-42

The Easter Vigil is the restoration of the early Church's tradition as the great celebration of adult baptism and confirmation. It is the high point in the Church liturgical year. The Vigil begins in darkness and the long procession of candlelight that enlivens the church reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world who has conquered all darkness and death. The Paschal candle that is lit at the Easter Vigil will remain in the church throughout the year as a sign of Christ's death and resurrection.

Those who are coming into full communion with the Church receive the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil, and we, as the community of believers, participate in this initiation by renewing our own baptismal promises. We recommit ourselves to Christ by once again rejecting sin and accepting the freedom that comes from living as children of God. We pray and welcome the newly initiated as they receive the oil of chrism and "share in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit" at confirmation. As the newly confirmed receive the final Sacrament of Initiation, the Body and Blood of Jesus, we are ready to celebrate Easter. The tomb is empty. There is light in the darkness. Alleluia, Christ has risen!

QUESTION: Do I take my baptism seriously? What are some ways I feel called to live up to fulfill my baptismal promises?

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The Triduum is the culmination of the entire liturgical year and the three most sacred days in the lives of Catholic Christians. The single celebration that comprises the Triduum commemorates the fullness of the Paschal mystery — the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Because Jesus was willing to die for our sins and was resurrected, death is no longer the end of life for us. It is the beginning of new life. We remember the saving act of Jesus and celebrate the miracle of his resurrection. We embrace his promise of eternal life. And then we celebrate EASTER - the greatest feast day of the year!