



Our Holiest Week (Part I)

The liturgical services on Passion (Palm) Sunday and the Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil) are among the very best things we do in the Church. Everyone is encouraged to come and participate in these extraordinary celebrations.

“Entrance” seems to be the key to understanding the liturgy of Passion (Palm) Sunday. On this day the Church celebrates Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem to accomplish His Paschal Mystery. We go with Christ into Jerusalem. This is one of our most joyful and triumphant processions of the entire year. When we gather, we receive a palm. The Passion is read and we find ourselves going with Christ to Calvary and standing at the foot of the cross. The whole assembly is invited to proclaim the words of the crowds in the story, reminding us that this indeed is our story. We find ourselves calling out “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!” Only a short time earlier we were singing “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!” The contrast is striking. One moment we are full of good resolutions and promises to God to follow Jesus and yet, when the times become difficult, we often are among those who “crucify” Jesus by our sins.

By entering in a more reflective way into the liturgies of Holy Week, we take steps toward becoming better, more consistent disciples of Jesus. The Triduum begins with the Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper. The Mass begins with the tabernacle entirely empty for we receive Holy Communion this evening from the bread and wine consecrated at this Mass and not from a previous Mass. The Gospel presented tells the story of Jesus washing the feet of His disciples, as well as experiencing it. Twelve members of the parish have their feet washed by the celebrant. We understand that our love for Jesus must be displayed in loving acts of service toward one another. Hence, we have the washing of the feet. Adoring the Lord in the Holy Eucharist is certainly highlighted when the “Prayer After Communion” is concluded. A procession with the Eucharist to the altar of repose begins a period of adoration that will conclude at midnight.

The church is then prepared for Good Friday. The altar is stripped, and crosses are removed or covered.

Next week: Good Friday and Holy Saturday

Father David

Thank You

I wish to sincerely thank all those who helped put together our St. Joseph’s Table recently. Our Knights of Columbus and their family members, Art and Environment Committee members and others joined in to make this a great event. The food was delicious and a donation was made to our St. Vincent de Paul Society from the free will offering.

Father David