

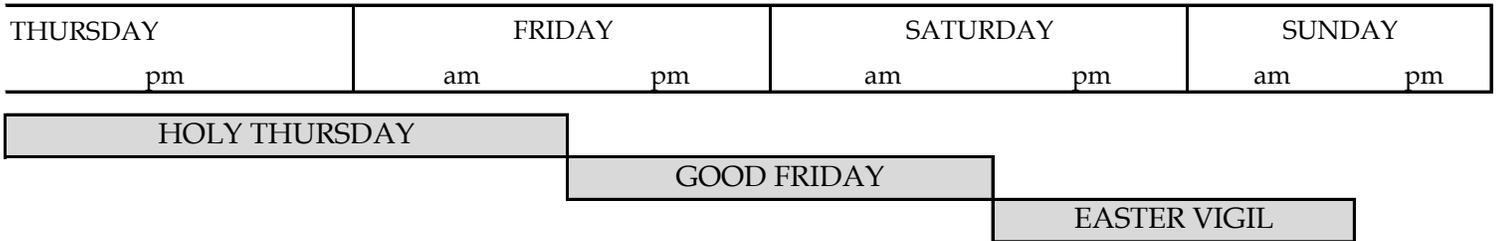
TRIDUUM

The Easter Triduum (or Paschal Triduum) is the proper name for the liturgical season that concludes Lent and introduces us to the joy of the Easter season.

It only contains 3 days and yet it is the most solemn season of the Liturgical Church Year. During these 3 days, we journey with Christ from death to new life.

Holy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper of the Lord.
 Good Friday commemorates the Passion and Death of the Lord.
 Easter Vigil commemorates the Resurrection of the Lord.

The 3 days of the Triduum are counted using the Jewish way of keeping time: from sunset to sunset.



Lent ends quietly on Thursday afternoon.

On Thursday night the church enters the Triduum ("three days") - a time of prayer and fasting, a time of keeping watch, which lasts into the great Vigil between Saturday and Sunday.

Each of the Gospels recount the days of the Triduum:

	<u>Matthew</u>	<u>Mark</u>	<u>Luke</u>	<u>John</u>
Palm Sunday	21:1-11	11:1-11	19:28-44	12:12-19
The Last Supper	26:17-30 26:31- 27:61	14:12-26	22:7-38	13:1-17:26
The Passion & Death		14:27-15:47	22:39 - 23:56	18:1 -19:42
The Resurrection	28:1-10	16:1-8	24:1-12	20:1-9

The 3 Days are not seen as 3 distinct liturgies, but as 1 movement.

The 3 days are the center, the core, of the mystery around which our entire lives are played out. You are invited to plan ahead, so that the whole time from Thursday night until Easter Sunday is free of social engagements, free of entertainment, and free of meals except for the simplest nourishment.

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You should anticipate the Triduum with concentration and vigor.

Your presence for the liturgies of the Triduum is not just an invitation - EVERYONE is NEEDED.

We pull out all the stops for these days.

We lead the new members into new life in this community of faith.

# TRIDUUM

## Holy Thursday



**The LORD'S SUPPER:** Holy Thursday is the day on which Christ celebrated the Last Supper with His disciples. It is the oldest of the celebrations of Holy Week.

During the Last Supper, Christ blessed the bread and wine with the very words the priests use today to consecrate the Body and Blood of Christ during the Mass. In telling His disciples to "Do this in remembrance of Me," He instituted the Mass and made them the first priests.



The Mass of the Lord's Supper contains several unusual events:

1. **WASHING of the FEET:** After the homily, the priest reenacts Christ washing the feet of his apostles - John 13:1-17. Christ gave his disciples a new commandment - to do as I have done for you. The Latin word for "commandment," *mandatum* became the source for another name for Holy Thursday: Maundy Thursday.

2. **TRANSFER of the HOLY EUCHARIST:** At the end of the service, the Body of Christ is removed from the tabernacle and carried in procession to another place where it is kept overnight, to be distributed on Good Friday.

3. **STRIPPING the ALTAR:** After the procession, the altar is stripped bare, and all bells in the church are silent until the Gloria at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday.

4. **ADORATION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT:** Just as the disciples stayed with the Lord during His agony on the Mount of Olives before the betrayal by Judas, the faithful are encouraged to Adore the Blessed Sacrament during the night.



No Mass is celebrated again in the Church until the Easter Vigil proclaims the Resurrection.

## Good Friday



**The LORD's PASSION & DEATH:** This is a day of strict fasting & abstinence.

From the earliest days of Christianity, no Mass has been celebrated on Good Friday.

Instead, the Church celebrates a special liturgy in which:

1. the account of the Passion according to the Gospel of John is read,
2. a series of intercessory prayers (prayers for special intentions) are offered,
3. the faithful venerate the Cross by coming forward and kissing it, and
4. Holy Communion (reserved from Holy Thursday) is distributed.

## Holy Saturday



**BLESSING of the FOOD:** Many parishes still participate in the ancient Slavic custom of the blessing of the Easter food or baskets. A basket filled with foods to be used on Easter is taken to the church in the afternoon where the priest blesses it. The food is then taken home and eaten on Easter Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday.



**EASTER VIGIL:** Holy Saturday is the final day of Holy Week and of the Easter Triduum. On this day we commemorate the Passion & Death of Jesus Christ & prepare for His Resurrection.

The Easter Vigil liturgy, the most beautiful liturgy in the entire year, is divided into 4 parts:

1. **service of light:** The service begins outside the church. A new fire is lit & blessed. A Paschal Candle is lit from the new fire, & then processed through the darkened church.
2. **liturgy of the Word:** 9 readings, 7 Old Testament and 2 New Testament, are provided.
3. **liturgy of Baptism:** during this time the Easter water is blessed, new members are brought into the Church through baptism, and the faithful are blessed with water and renew their baptismal promises.
4. **liturgy of the Eucharist:** The whole church joins at the sacrificial table that Christ prepared for us through his death and resurrection.



Christian Initiation of Adults