



From the Deacon's Desk

The holiest time of the year is the conclusion of Lent. It's called the Triduum. It begins Holy Thursday and continues until the Easter Vigil Mass. Triduum is Latin for three days. It's unique because it is a single liturgy that spans three days.

It begins on Holy Thursday. During this Mass the oils used in our sacraments [the Oil of the Catechumens, Oil of the Sick, and Holy Chrism] are presented to the parish. The liturgy commemorates the establishment of the Sacrament of the Eucharist. The Sacrament of Holy Orders was also initiated by Christ on Holy Thursday; the apostles were commissioned through Christ's example of the washing of the feet. Our liturgy includes washing of the feet. The entire community is invited to participate. The process is simple. We have several stations around the church. Each person washes the feet of the person in front of them. At the conclusion of the liturgy, the Blessed Sacrament is taken in procession to the Altar of Repose in the community room. It remains there until midnight for public adoration.

The liturgy continues on Good Friday. Since Mass was celebrated on Holy Thursday, and Good Friday is a continuation of that liturgy, there is no Mass on Good Friday; there is a Liturgy of the Word so there is the opportunity to receive communion. When entering the building, you will notice a big difference in the appearance of the gathering space; everything is gone. You will observe the same thing in the worship space; for example, there are no altar cloths. The emptiness of the space is a reminder of our life would be like without Christ. Our Gospel on Good Friday is the Passion of the Lord. As a remembrance of His sacrifice on the cross, there will be an opportunity to venerate the cross.

Holy Thursday and Good Friday are solemn days as we reflect on Christ's suffering and death. The Easter Vigil celebrates His resurrection. His triumph over death makes possible our salvation. The adults and children over seven have dedicated themselves for the last year to learning about the Catholic Church. They will be received into the church through their Baptism and Confirmation. It is the traditional celebration of the reception of adults into the church. While the liturgy is longer than a regular Sunday Mass [and not a place for young children], it's a deeply moving liturgy from the entrance into a darkened church in procession with the Paschal Candle, the singing of the Gloria and the final dismissal, It's a truly special liturgy.

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