

The Liturgies of Holy Week and Easter



Holy Week

Holy Week is the most solemn period of the Church year. It is a week which recalls events in the life of Christ that are central to our Christian faith: the entry into Jerusalem, the Last Supper, the Crucifixion, and the Resurrection.

Palm Sunday

The distinctive feature of Palm Sunday is the dual nature of the liturgy and its music. The shouts of 'Hosanna' to our King soon change to shouts of 'Crucify him.' The liturgy paradoxically gains strength from its 'schizophrenic' nature. As the liturgy begins in triumph, so should it end in contemplation as we prepare to recall the Passion of Our Lord. Our services on this day consist of the Blessing of Palms and Holy Eucharist. Our 9:00 am and 11:00 am services include a procession.

Saturday, March 27: 5:00pm Gather in Church

Sunday, March 28: 7:45am Gather in Church

9:00am Gather in the Courtyard.

Procession along Camino del Mar.

11:00am Gather in the Courtyard.

Procession into the Church.

The Triduum or Three Great Days

The liturgies of these days are tied together as one single liturgical act. This is the time where we pass over with Christ from death to life, commemorating each event in the drama of our salvation.

Maundy Thursday

The name *Maundy Thursday* derives from a linguistic corruption of the Gospel words in Latin, 'Mandatum novum.' I give you a 'new commandment.' The Liturgy of this day emphasizes the institution of the Holy Eucharist and 'the new commandment' to love one another. It also marks the beginning of the commemoration of the Passion and Death of Our Lord signified visually by the stripping and washing of the altar as the liturgy concludes in silence.

Thursday, April 1, 7:00pm

Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar, Taizé Vigil

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one god, for ever and ever. Amen.

Good Friday

Unlike on all other days of the year, the Eucharist is not celebrated on this day nor is Communion distributed. This is a poignant reminder of Christ's death and departure from this world. The Veneration of the Holy Cross will form part of our Liturgy this year in conjunction with the singing of the ancient and haunting *Reproaches* at the evening service.

Friday, April 2:

12:00pm Good Friday Liturgy with
Veneration of the Cross (said)

1:00pm The Stations of the Cross

7:00pm Good Friday Liturgy with
Veneration of the Cross (sung)

The Great Vigil of Easter

The Easter Vigil, a remnant of prayerful watches through the night hours common in the early Church, can present a challenge in the fast-paced world of today. Yet, Holy Week is not complete without the Easter Vigil, as it is the culmination of our sacred observances and the beginning of the celebration of Our Lord's Resurrection.

The Vigil is four liturgies combined: The Lighting of the New Fire, the Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of Baptism and Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows, and the first Eucharist of Easter. Throughout the week, we have anticipated the darkness of death and the tomb. Now at the Vigil this process is reversed as the Liturgy moves with austere solemnity, and we watch and wait for Our Lord's Resurrection. We begin with the Lighting of the New Fire at sunset on our courtyard. We move into church for the triumphant singing of the *Exsultet* (Rejoice now, heavenly hosts). All this preparation then leads to the joyous acclamation, *Gloria in excelsis*, immediately followed by the organ fanfare and the bells that introduce the Eucharist. This service will last approximately two hours. Note that there is *no* 5:00 pm Saturday service this day.

Saturday, April 11 7:18pm (Sunset)

Gather on the North Campus courtyard.

Easter Day

Easter Day is the greatest feast of the Christian Year, and it should be celebrated with all possible splendor and solemnity. This is a time of great celebration and rejoicing in our redemption. Because of the Easter Vigil sunset service, there will be no 5:00 pm Saturday service. The early Easter Day service begins at 7:30 am, *not* 7:45 am.

Sunday, April 4

7:30am Rite I Holy Eucharist

9:00am Rite II Festal Holy Eucharist

9:00am Family and Children's Eucharist in
Parish Hall "Joyful Noise" Ensemble

11:00am Rite II Festal Holy Eucharist