

SAINT PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

APRIL 5, 2020



104 WEST FIRST STREET • MANSFIELD, OHIO 44902
419.524.2572 | MANSFIELDSTPETERS.ORG

Mass Schedule:

There will be no Masses offered at this time. Mass will be available on WMFD TV on Sunday at 10:00 A.M. and on the St. Peter's YouTube channel, website and Facebook page.

Spanish Mass:

Resurrection Parish, Lexington

All Masses are cancelled until further notice.

Parish Office Hours:

All offices are closed until at least April 6, 2020.

Pastoral Care Contacts:

Ms. Kristi Reindl 419.524.2572
*Hospital & Follow-up
Nursing Homes/Assisted Living &
Prayer Pipeline*
Deacon John Reef 419.529.3694
Shut-ins/Homebound

Sacrament of Baptism:

Please contact the Parish Center to begin plans for the baptism of your baby or child.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday: 3:00 - 4:30 P.M.
Other times by appointment.

Sacrament of Marriage:

Arrangements should always be made at the **Parish Center office at least eight months** in advance of the ceremony. A wedding date is confirmed after the initial meeting with a priest.

Bulletin Deadline:

Friday, 12:00 noon. All requests must be submitted in writing or email and must receive prior approval.

Parish Administrative Assistant:

Ms. Kristi Reindl 419.524.2572 ext.2122

Pastoral Staff:

Fr. Gregory R. Hite, *Pastor*
Fr. Austin Ammanniti, *Parochial Vicar*
Mr. Bill Johnson,
Director of Music & Liturgy
Ms. Lynne Lukach, *Pastoral Associate*
Mrs. Elizabeth Wurm, *Director of
Religious Ed. & Youth Minister*

Deacon:

Mr. John Reef

St. Peter's School:

Mr. Jonathan Cuttitta
High School, Jr. High School
Mrs. Ashley Rastorfer
Elementary School and Montessori

Parish Business Manager:

Mr. Evan Mumea

Director of Development:

Mr. Jason Crundwell

A PARISH OF THE SAINT JUAN DIEGO DEANERY, DIOCESE OF TOLEDO

ST. PETER'S PARISH HOLY WEEK AND EASTER OPTIONS

PALM SUNDAY -

CONFESSIONS ON SATURDAY APRIL 4 FROM 2:30 TO 4:30 IN CHURCH (PLEASE OBSERVE ALL RECOMMENDED SOCIAL DISTANCING PRACTICES)

BLESSED PALMS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN CHURCH DURING OPEN HOURS ONLY

THE NEWEST ISSUE OF "THE WORD AMONG US" WILL BE AVAILABLE IN CHURCH DURING OPEN HOURS ONLY

PALM SUNDAY MASS WILL BE BROADCAST ON WMFD-TV AT 10:00 A.M. AND WILL BE AVAILABLE VIA LIVESTREAMING ON THE PARISH YOUTUBE AND FACEBOOK PAGES AFTER THE TV BROADCAST IS FINISHED.

HOLY THURSDAY -

THE MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER WILL ONLY BE LIVESTREAMED BEGINNING AT 7:00 P.M. PLEASE VISIT THE PARISH YOUTUBE OR FACEBOOK PAGES TO WATCH. (IN-CHURCH ATTENDANCE IS PROHIBITED)

THERE WILL BE NO ADORATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST IN CHURCH.

GOOD FRIDAY -

THE GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY OF THE LORD'S PASSION WILL ONLY BE LIVESTREAMED BEGINNING AT 3:00 P.M. PLEASE VISIT THE PARISH YOUTUBE OR FACEBOOK PAGES TO WATCH. (IN-CHURCH ATTENDANCE IS PROHIBITED)

STATIONS OF THE CROSS WILL BE LIVESTREAMED BEGINNING AT 7:00 P.M. PLEASE VISIT THE PARISH YOUTUBE OR FACEBOOK PAGES TO WATCH. (IN-CHURCH ATTENDANCE IS PROHIBITED)

APRIL 5, 2020

ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, MANSFIELD, OHIO

HOLY SATURDAY –

MORNING PRAYER AND BLESSING OF EASTER FOODS WILL NOT BE CELEBRATED.

THE EASTER VIGIL WILL NOT BE CELEBRATED. INFORMATION ABOUT HOW TO WATCH BISHOP DANIEL E. THOMAS CELEBRATE THE EASTER VIGIL AT OUR LADY, QUEEN OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY CATHEDRAL IS AVAILABLE ON OUR PARISH WEBSITE OR ON THE DIOCESAN WEBSITE AT WWW.TOLEDODIOCESE.ORG

EASTER SUNDAY –

MASS FOR EASTER SUNDAY WILL BE BROADCAST ON WMFD-TV AT 10:00 A.M. ON EASTER SUNDAY MORNING. AFTER THE BROADCAST ON TV IS FINISHED IT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE PARISH YOUTUBE AND FACEBOOK PAGES.

PLEASE PARTICIPATE IN THESE BROADCAST AND LIVESTREAM LITURGIES AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE AND JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR AN END TO COVID-19 CRISIS.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU.

THE PRIESTS, DEACON AND STAFF OF ST. PETER'S PARISH AND SCHOOL WISH YOU AT BLESSED AND JOYOUS EASTER.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH



Bill Ruhl, Jeannie Burkhalter, Aaron Blank, Cindy Lassen, Dina Riley, Eliana Nelson, MaKaya Butler, Sharon Valdry, Maria Loschinkohl, Sherry Studer, John Ziegler, Marlene Ziegler, Kim Rucker, Dorothy Trinter, Marti Selby, JoAnn Marbaugh, Baby Greyden Jack, Gwen Yockey, Mary Ann and Mel Switzer, Louise Steggall, Tammy Dudley, Keith Combs, Mady Ziegler, Elaine Johnson, Cindy Jasnek Cartier, Jeannine Klotz, Marilyn B. Williamson, Tom Powell, Chief Master Sergeant Joseph Basting, Peggy Basting Taylor, Kathy Carcione, Carol Pittenger, Charlie Henrich, Jill McMillen, Gary Caldwell, Jeffrey Davis, Willie "Frank" Williams, Catherine R. Liston, Pius Schell, Krista Marshall, Maggie Caldwell, Michael Davis, Michael Krempel, Marilyn Miller, Annette Togliatti, Rose Saul, Charlene Arthur, Alan Gallaway, Cari Pennington, Dwayne Davis, Marty Moritz, Logan Page, Maxine Shannon, Gracie Shannon.

Names will only be listed for 4 weeks. If you wish to have additional time, contact the Parish Center at 419.524.2572.

IN GOD'S ARMS...

Urban Corso Nancy Howard



ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM, O LORD.

FOR ALL OF THE CURRENT IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT ST. PETERS PARISH OPERATIONS DURING THESE TROUBLED TIMES, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

WWW.MANSFIELDSTPETERS.ORG

THERE YOU WILL ALSO FIND DEVOTIONAL MATERIALS FOR USE AT HOME FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.

ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT

ALL ADULT FAITH CLASSES ARE ON HOLD UNTIL "NORMAL" PARISH CENTER HOURS AND OPERATIONS RESUME.

RECYCLING—NEXT DATE: APRIL 10, 2020

FOOD COLLECTION: April 11 & 12

PRISON MINISTRY CORNER



All Catholic services and programming at ManCI and RiCI are suspended for now. Please keep our brothers in prayer. Fortunately, many of them are able to watch Mass on WMFD, just as we are. They expressed their gratitude and greatly enjoyed being able to see the interior of our beautiful church.

PRAYER FOR A PANDEMIC

- May we who are merely inconvenienced*
- Remember those whose lives are at stake.*
- May we who have no risk factors*
- Remember those most vulnerable.*
- May we who have the luxury of working from home*
- Remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.*
- May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close*
- Remember those who have no options.*
- May we who have to cancel our trips*
- Remember those that have no place to go.*
- May we who are losing our margin money in the tumults of the economic market*
- Remember those who have no margin at all.*
- May we who settle in for a quarantine at home*
- Remember those who have no home.*
- During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other,*
- Let us find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.*
- Amen*
- Cameron Bellm.*

SUNDAY OFFERING	<i>Year to Date</i>
	<i>February 29, 2020</i>
Sunday and Holy Day Collections	
Sunday Collection & Holy Day Collection:	\$568,042
Total Budgeted Sunday Collection To Date:	\$569,034
Sunday Collection Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$992)
School Collection	
Total School Collection To Date:	\$94,380
Total Budgeted School Collection To Date:	\$96,000
School Collection Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$1620)

SAVE THE DATE! VBS 2020!

We hope that you can join us for VBS this year with "God's Wild Adventure!" VBS will be taking place July 6- 9 at St. Peter's and 3-10 year olds are welcome to join us! It will be taking place from 9:00-11: 30 A.M. daily! We are also looking for adult volunteers to help with this week!

We do have a wish list again this year and appreciate any donations that are given. Our wish list helps us keep the cost down for all of our participants! Although we ask for a \$5 donation from those participating, it is our hope that all can participate regardless of their ability to pay.

If you could prayerfully consider donating one of the items below it would be much appreciated!

- 320 Juice boxes (any flavor)
- Three large boxes of goldfish crackers
- Four large bags of animal crackers
- 5 bags of apples
- Tubes from packages of aluminum foil (or any cardboard tube that is thicker)
- 2 large packages of pipe cleaners
- Four large boxes of minute rice
- Two large packages of clothes pins (with the springs)
- Black and Blue permanent markers (we would need ten of each)
- One package of coffee filters
- One package of brown lunch bags (50 count)
- One large bag of rubber bands
- 12 pool noodles (can be purchased at the dollar store)
- 1 package of Popsicle sticks (the thinner variety not the jumbo)

If you are able to provide any of these items, it would be appreciated if they could be dropped off to the parish office by April 1. Monetary donations are always accepted and welcome to sponsor children who are unable to pay to attend. We thank you for your help as we prepare to go on "God's Wild Adventures!" If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Elizabeth Wurm at the parish office or at wurm.elizabeth@myspartans.org. Thank you in advance for your kindness!

**ST. PETER'S POURFEST
CHANGE OF DATE!**

The St. Peter's PourFest will now take place on Saturday, September 12 and not on Saturday, June 6 at the St. Peter's Franciscan Activity Center. This exciting new fundraising event will be a memorable evening of entertainment, food and tastings of some of the best beer, wine and seltzers.

Mark your calendar with this new date and stay tuned for more information!

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL UPDATE

The 2020 Annual Catholic Appeal Campaign is underway with a campaign goal of \$3 million. We can assure the continued existence of many important programs that help tens of thousands in our Diocese each year; education of our seminary students, care of the sick and needy are among them. We ask you once again for your help; we have to work together. Please respond generously when you are asked to make your pledge. Thank you for your attention and thank you for being my parish family. For more information, visit the Diocesan website at Toledodiocese.org/ACA.

Our parish goal is \$55,000, so far we are at \$27,470.60 with pledges from 174 households or 49.95%. Thank you for your support of our diocesan ministries and the help you provide to our seminarians and deacons who are in formation to serve our parish's future.



HOSANNA!

"Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest," (Matthew 21:9). With these words the Church enters the holiest of weeks, commemorating the passion, death, and resurrection of Christ. When the people of Jerusalem cried out with their "hosannas," they were using an ancient Hebrew shout of acclamation that meant "Save us, we pray." The king to whom they were shouting eventually would save them, but in a way that would be far from what they expected. Salvation would come from the wood of the cross as Jesus hung there to bring freedom from sin and to bring life through death, opening the gates of heaven for all who put their faith and trust in him.

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HOLY WEEK AND THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Sunday, March 28 - Sunday, April 4, 2010

"The days of Jesus' life-giving death and glorious resurrection are approaching, the hour he triumphed over Satan's pride, the time we celebrate the great event of our redemption," (Preface of the Lord's Passion II, Roman Missal). Thus the Church begins the one week of the year that we formally designate as "Holy." Simple rituals can link the domestic church to parish church and Church universal. Enthroned Sunday's palms where you pray, behind the family crucifix, even as part of front door decorations: "Christ reigns here," they proclaim; "all are welcome!" During the first three days of Holy Week, ready Easter clothes, prepare festal foods, clean the house, beautify the yard. Late Holy Thursday afternoon, share Lent's final meal before the Lord's Supper Mass. Pitcher, bowl, and towel make a fitting centerpiece. On Good Friday, observe the paschal fast from food—from TV and computer, too! Then watch Holy Saturday's Vigil with mind clear, stomach empty, and heart full of "holy anticipation" that bursts into living flame when the new fire is kindled.

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

TODAY'S READINGS

Gospel at the Procession with Palms — Jesus' entry into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-11).

First Reading — In spite of my sufferings I am not disgraced. I am not put to shame (Isaiah 50:4-7).

Psalm — My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? (Psalm 22).

Second Reading — Christ emptied himself, and God filled this emptiness with exaltation (Philippians 2:6-11).

Gospel — The account of Christ's passion according to Matthew (Matthew 26:14 — 27:66 [27:11-54]).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 42:1-7; Ps 27:1-3, 13-14; Jn 12:1-11

Tuesday: Is 49:1-6; Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a; Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34; Mt 26:14-25

Thursday: Chrism Mass: Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9; Ps 89:21-22, 25, 27; Rv 1:5-8; Lk 4:16-21

Lord's Supper: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14; Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15

Friday: Is 52:13 — 53:12; Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-17, 25; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1 — 19:42

Saturday: a) Gn 1:1 — 2:2 [1:1, 26-31a]; Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35; or Ps 33:4-7, 12-13, 20-22;

b) Gn 22:1-18 [1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18]; Ps 16: 5, 8-11;

c) Ex 14:15 — 15:1; Ex 15:1-6, 17-18;

d) Is 54:5-14; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13;

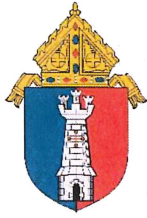
e) Is 55:1-11; Is 12:2-6;

f) Bar 3:9-15, 32 — 4:4; Ps 19:8-11;

g) Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28; Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3-4 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 or Ps 51:12-15, 18-19;

h) Rom 6:3-11; i) Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Mt 28:1-10

Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8; Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10 or (at an afternoon or evening Mass) Lk 24:13-35



Diocese
of Toledo

Radio Broadcast Daily & Sunday Catholic Mass

Daily Catholic Mass from Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral – Toledo, can be heard on **Annunciation Radio stations at 3:15 p.m.**

Sunday Catholic Mass from EWTN in Irondale, Alabama, airs at **8:00 am** on **Annunciation Radio stations: WNOC 89.7 FM** –Bowling Green/Toledo, **WHRQ 88.1** Sandusky, **WRRO 89.9** Bryan, **WFOT 90.9** Mansfield and **WSHB 90.9** Willard.

Televised Sunday Catholic Mass

EWTN Sunday Mass Nationally broadcast at **8 a.m. and Noon** on **Buckeye Cable Channels 179 and 592.**

WNWO-TV Sunday Mass Locally broadcast at **6:30 a.m.** on **Channel 24, Buckeye Cable Channels 10 and 624.**

WTVG-TV2 Sunday Mass Locally broadcast at **8:30 a.m.** on **Channel 13.2, Buckeye Cable Channels 5 and 605.**

WFFT-TV Fort Wayne Sunday Mass Broadcast at **10:30 a.m. on Channel 55.** - Can be seen in Defiance, Paulding, Williams and Van Wert counties.

WJW-TV Cleveland Sunday Mass Broadcast at **6:00 a.m. on Fox Channel 8** - Can be seen in Crawford, Erie, Huron, Richland, Seneca and Sandusky counties.

WKBK-TV Detroit Sunday Mass Broadcast at **6:00 a.m. on WJBK Fox 2** - Can be seen in Crawford, Erie, Huron, Richland, Seneca and Sandusky counties.

WLAJ-TV Lansing Sunday Mass Broadcast at **6:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.** on **Lansing's Channel 53.**

WWHO-TV Columbus Sunday Mass Broadcast at **7:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.** on **Columbus Channel 53** and can be seen in Crawford County.

www.toledodiocese.org

Diocese of Toledo Parishes Offering Live Streamed Masses

All Saints Parish – New Riegel

Saturday 5pm Mass, Sunday 10 am Mass, Holy Days also

Livestream link: allsaints-parish.com

Christ the King Parish - Toledo

Daily Mass: Monday-Saturday, 8:00 a.m.

Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, 8:30 and 10:00 a.m., 12:00 noon, and 6:00 p.m.

Livestream link: www.cktoledo.org or on our parish app.

Holy Family Parish – North Baltimore

Sunday morning Mass at 8:30 am.

Livestream link: www.hfccnb.net

Most Blessed Sacrament Parish – Toledo

Monday, Communion service at 5:30pm

Tuesday and Thursday, Mass at 5:30pm

Wednesday and Friday, Mass at 8:30am

Sunday Mass at 11:00am

<http://blessedsacramenttoledo.com/> and click on live streaming.

Sacred Heart Parish – Fremont

Sat 4pm ; Sun 8am and 11am; Tue 8:10am; Wed 6:30pm; Thur 9am; Fri 8:10am

www.sacredheart-fremont.org and click on Live Stream Mass

St. Alphonsus / St. Joseph – Norwalk

24/7-Daily and Weekend Mass: Saturday at 5 pm (St. Joseph) and Sunday at 8:00 am

__(St. Joseph) and Sunday at 9:30 at St. Alphonsus

Livestream link: www.stalphonsus-stjoseph.org

St. Charles Parish – Lima

All masses live streamed

<http://nationalwebcasts.com/nationalwebcasts/webcasts/stcharleslima/>

St. Gerard Parish - Lima

Monday-Saturday 8:30 a.m./ Saturday 5 p.m./ Sunday 8:30 am and 11 a.m

Livestream link: <http://www.nationalwebcasts.com/nationalwebcasts/webcasts/stgerard/>

St. Joan of Arc Parish – Toledo

8:30 a.m., Mon-Fri, Sat. at 5:00 p.m./ Sun. at 9:30 a.m.

Livestream link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrxq6LERIJa00cezHetv3jQ?>

St. John the Baptist Parish – (Landeck) Delphos

All masses live streamed 24 hrs. day

<http://www.nationalwebcasts.com/nationalwebcasts/webcasts/stjohnsdelphos/>

St. John the Evangelist Parish – Delphos

All masses live streamed 24 hrs. day

www.delphosstjohnparish.org. Click on RESOURCES, Click on CHURCH WEBCAM.

St. John XXIII Parish – Perrysburg

All masses live streamed 24 hrs. day

<http://www.stjohn23.org/watch-live>

St. Joseph Parish – Sylvania

Sunday Masses

Livestream via website: <https://www.stjoesylvania.org/>

click on “live” link below picture: WATCH LIVE!

St. Mary Church - Vermilion

10:30 am Mass each Sunday morning.

Livestream link: <https://www.stmaryvermilion.org/live-stream>

St. Michael the Archangel Parish - Findlay

10:30 am Mass each Sunday morning.

Livestream link: <https://www.stmaryvermilion.org/live-stream>

St. Patrick of Heatherdowns – Toledo

All masses are live-streamed

Livestream link: [https://youtu.be/E3- he0UQzk \[1\]](https://youtu.be/E3-he0UQzk [1])

St. Paul the Apostle Parish – Norwalk

7am, 9am, 11 am and 5 pm Sunday

1:30 pm *in Spanish* Sunday

4:30 Saturday

<http://67.213.217.204:1935/8048/8048/playlist.m3u8>

St. Peter - Mansfield

Sunday Mass at 10:00 A.M. on WMFD TV

Livestream link: www.mansfieldstpeters.org

St. Rose Parish - Perrysburg

8, 10, noon, 5 p.m. Sat and / 5 p.m. Sun.

Livestream link: <http://saintroseonline.org/about/live-stream>

Scriptures We Will Hear during the Triduum

The scriptures proclaimed during the Triduum liturgies provide rich food for reflection and prayer.

Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lord's Supper

Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14

Ancient instructions for the meal of the Passover.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Eat the bread and drink the cup until the return of the Lord.

John 13:1-15

Jesus washes the feet of the disciples.

Good Friday of the Lord's Passion

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

The servant of the Lord was crushed for our sins.

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

The Son of God learned obedience through his suffering.

John 18:1-19:42

The Passion of Jesus Christ.

Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil

Genesis 1:1-2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a

Creation of the world.

Genesis 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

The sacrifice of Isaac.

Exodus 14:15-15:1

The crossing of the Red Sea.

Isaiah 54:5-14

You will not be afraid.

Isaiah 55:1-11

Come, come to the water.

Baruch 3:9-15, 32-4:4

The shining light.

Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28

The Lord says: I will sprinkle water.

Romans 6:3-11

United with him in death.

Matthew 28:1-10 (Year A); Mark 16:17-7 (Year B);

Luke 24:13-35 (Year C)

Jesus has been raised up.

THE THREE DAYS TO SAVE

WHAT WE DO FROM HOLY THURSDAY TO EASTER SUNDAY



From mid-winter to the end of springtime, the Church keeps the great Paschal Season. It has three parts:

40 The Forty Days are not literally forty; this number evokes all the other uses of "forty" in the scriptures. These are the days of Lent, from Ash Wednesday to Holy Thursday. They are days of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. In these ways we try to become as fully as possible the baptized people we are, living by the Gospel—and so we prepare to baptize the elect.

3 The Three Days are between the Forty and the Fifty. The Triduum (Latin for "three days") begins Holy Thursday night and continues through Good Friday and Holy Saturday. The climax of the Church's whole year is in darkness between Saturday night and Sunday morning. The Church keeps vigil, baptizes the elect, and celebrates the Eucharist. The Three Days conclude on Sunday afternoon.

50 The Fifty Days are the days of Easter season, from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday. They are the time of birth, marriage, festival, and feasting. They are like the wedding of earth and heaven, Christ and the Church. The early Church allowed no kneeling and no fasting and sang "alleluia" constantly.

Holy Thursday brings the end to Lent. That night we begin the three days that are the center of our year. Please take a few moments to read this pamphlet. It asks: Why are these three days so important? What do they mean for you? It invites us all to make these three days different from all the days of the year.



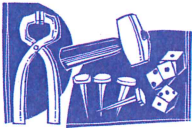
WE BEGIN AS HOLY THURSDAY ENDS

Thursday evening we enter into this Triduum together. After listening to the scriptures, we witness the washing of the feet. The priest-celebrant goes down on his knees with a pitcher of water, a basin, and towels. Jesus gave us this image of what the Church is supposed to look like, feel like, act like.

Next we take up a collection, but not the usual collection (which is for the Church and

the poor). The liturgy makes it clear that tonight's collection is only for the poor. So bring the money you have saved with Lenten fasting. Like the washing of feet, this is a rehearsal for Christian life. Then we celebrate the Eucharist. The evening liturgy has no ending: Whether we stay to pray awhile or leave, we are now in the quiet and peace and glory of the Triduum.

AND WE CONTINUE THROUGH GOOD FRIDAY AND HOLY SATURDAY



We gather quietly on Friday and listen to Scripture, including the Passion from the Gospel according to John. We pray at length for all the world's needs.

Then there is another once-a-year

event: The holy cross is held up in our midst and we come forward one by one to do reverence with a kiss or a bow or a genuflection. All the while we sing, not only of sorrow but of the glory of the cross.

We continue in fasting and prayer and vigil, in rest and quiet through Saturday. This Saturday for us is like God's rest at the end of creation. It is Christ's repose in the tomb.

The Three Days, this Easter Triduum, is the center, the core of the year for Christians. These are days to save and to savor.

Adults in the community are invited to plan ahead so that the whole time from Thursday night until the Easter Vigil is free of social engagements, free even of work, free of entertainment, free of meals except for the simplest nourishment. We are asked to fast during Good Friday and to continue fasting, if possible, all through Holy Saturday as strictly as we can, so that we come hungry and full of excitement to the Easter Vigil. We make Good Friday and Holy Saturday free for prayer and reflection and preparation and silence. The Church is getting ready.

Whether you are young or old, currently active in the parish or not, please set these days aside. All of us should know that our presence for the liturgies is not just by invitation. We are all needed here. All of us need this whole community together on its greatest days.

On these three days, we gather a number of times with each other. Together we hear some of the Church's most beautiful prayers and scriptures and we make some of our finest music. Please look closely at the parish schedule and make plans to take part in the various liturgies and other gatherings of Holy Thursday night, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. Above all, come on Saturday night for the Vigil.



UNTIL THE NIGHT BETWEEN SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

Hungry now and full of excitement, the Church gathers in the darkness and lights a new fire and a great candle that will make this night bright for us. We listen to some of the most powerful scriptures in our Bible: stories of creation, Abraham and Isaac, Moses and Miriam and the crossing of the sea, poems of promise and rejoicing, the Gospel of the Resurrection.

Then we pray to all our saints to stand with us and we go to the font

and bless the waters. There the elect renounce evil, profess the faith of the Church, are baptized, and anointed. All of us renew our Baptismal promises. For us, these are the moments when death and life meet, when we reject evil and give our promises to God. All of this is in the communion we call the Church. So together we go to the table and celebrate the Easter Eucharist. Easter day begins and we are ready for Fifty Days of rejoicing.

AND THEN ON EASTER SUNDAY ALLELUIA IS OUR SONG



LTP THE THREE DAYS TO SAVE ©1991, 2009 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 3949 South Racine Avenue, Chicago IL 60609. Web site: www.LTP.org. Adapted from original text written by Gabe Huck. Clip art art by Martin Eirspamer, OSB (formerly known as Steve Eirspamer, SM). All rights reserved.