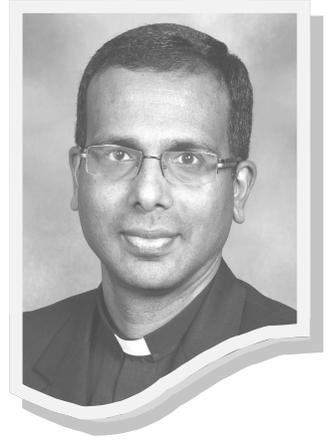




From the Pastor



Holy Week

Holy Week is the most sacred time of the liturgical year, for it commemorates and remembers the last week of Jesus' life on this earth.

These are the days leading up to the great Easter Feast. We begin Holy Week today with **Palm Sunday**, which commemorates Our Lord's triumphant entrance into Jerusalem, where he was welcomed by crowds. The palms are blessed and are then borne in procession to the church, after which the Mass is celebrated. The other notable feature of the present Palm Sunday Mass is the reading of the Gospel of the Passion by three readers.

The summit of the Liturgical Year is the Easter Triduum—from the evening of Holy Thursday to the evening of Easter Sunday. Though chronologically three days, they are liturgically one day unfolding for us the unity of Christ's Paschal Mystery. The single celebration of the Triduum marks the end of the Lenten season, and leads to the Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord at the Easter Vigil.

On **Holy Thursday**, we reenact the Lord's Last Supper, which he shared with his apostles on the night he was betrayed and arrested. This is one of the most beautiful liturgies of the entire liturgical year. At the Mass, the priest will wash the feet of 12 people—just as Jesus did. This is also the night Jesus instituted the Mass (Eucharist) and the ministerial priesthood. The celebration of the Last Supper on Holy Thursday will transition into Adoration that lasts until midnight.

On **Good Friday**, the day of the crucifixion and death of our Lord, we have the Stations of the Cross and the Veneration of the Cross. We will accompany Jesus as he makes his final journey to Mt. Calvary by walking up Pilot Butte, starting at 2 p.m., and praying the Stations of the Cross. We will also have a bilingual Stations of the Cross at the Historic Church at 12:15 p.m. for those unable to join us at Pilot Butte. The Stations will conclude with the recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Then the Liturgy of the Cross will start at 7 p.m. at the 27th Street Church.

Holy Saturday is a Vigil. We keep watch for the expectant rising of Our Savior. This was the day he went down into the netherworld in order to bring back up with him into heaven those who had died before his coming. Up to this time, the gates of heaven were closed, and no one could go there because of the original sin of Adam. Jesus changed all that. By paying the price for our sins on the Cross, he gained for us our eternal salvation—and heaven was opened once more. Also on this night, people who have spent months of preparation will be received through the Sacraments of Initiation and full Communion into the Catholic Church for the first time. It is a joyous occasion, and the Easter Vigil liturgy *is the most beautiful of all!*

The Triduum is an intense immersion in the fundamental mystery of what it is to be Christian. During these days, we suffer with Christ so that we might rise with him at his glorious Resurrection. Holy Week is a time to clear our schedules of unnecessary activities. Make it a priority to attend all the liturgies of the Holy Week. In it we celebrate the greatest events of our own salvation.

—Fr. Jose Thomas