

Dear Parish Family,

Today as we begin Holy Week with the liturgies of Palm Sunday, we begin the celebrations of the most solemn, most ancient, and most sacred liturgies in the Church's tradition. They are filled with beautiful, age-old symbolism. One week a year is designated as *Holy*, and nothing should detract us from entering fully into the celebration of these beautiful days which commemorate and make present the Paschal Mystery, the Central Mystery of our Faith ~ that is, the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. As Scripture says, if Christ is not raised from the dead, then our faith is in vain. The Holy Week Liturgies are truly moving and deeply grace-filled encounters with the Lord.

On Thursday evening we begin *The Easter Triduum*: A single liturgy lasting three days, the Easter Triduum is at the center of the Church's liturgical year — hence the name *Triduum*, from the Latin for “three” days. It consists of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. In keeping with ancient tradition, Mass is not celebrated on Holy Thursday morning; instead, Morning Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours is prayed at 7:00 am in church. Likewise, out of profound sorrow and reverence for the death of Christ, on Good Friday Mass is not celebrated at all. Instead, the Evening Service of the Lord's Passion is celebrated at 7:00 pm. Morning Prayer is prayed at 7:00 am on Good Friday and 8:00 am Holy Saturday. *The Mass* of the year is celebrated Holy Saturday evening at 7:30 p.m., The Easter Vigil. This is the celebration of Easter.

Consider your celebration of this most Holy Week. Join us as we prepare to celebrate the central liturgy of our Faith. Make the effort to join us for as many of the Holy Week Services as possible. Please check the front cover of the bulletin for a complete listing of the Triduum and Easter Liturgies.

I hope to see all of you this week. Your sacrifice of time and effort would please Jesus, so much. May you grow in holiness, and in your hope of the Resurrection! Remember to keep the week *HOLY!*

Give Jesus your heart, and He will give you Heaven!

Peace,