

Holy Week's Profound Symbolism

In our Christian sensibility, resurrection always follows death. Not only do disappointment, sorrow, and grief not have the last word, but over time such experiences deepen our conviction of God's eternal love. The sacred gestures and actions of the Holy Week liturgies bring the paschal mystery to life in particularly poignant ways, so that we more fully live as Christ's people — people who wait for and live in joyful hope.

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

Movement is integral to life. Not only physical movement but spiritual, emotional, and mental movement as well. We move from what has been and what is, to what may be — from the known to the unknown. We may get stuck for days or weeks or months. It is normal to do so, yet staying stuck is not healthy. Truly, when movement ceases, we're in trouble! On Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, we process. We move from outside the church to within it. Some process into the sanctuary, as happens each time we gather.

This day's procession is different, marked with renewed intention and awareness of the act of following the cross, the sign of our faith. We enter into the holiest of weeks

recalling that our Lord came into Jerusalem on the back of a humble beast of burden on a path strewn with palms, the acclamation of the people filling the air. We process physically and spiritually as we commence our Holy Week journey,

preparing our hearts and minds so that we may more closely walk with Jesus who shows us the way — the way of conversion. We process this day, moving from who we are to who we must become, disciples of our Lord who face trial, temptation, and darkness with the conviction that we do not walk alone.

HOLY THURSDAY: WASHING FEET

Washing oneself is basic, sometimes tedious. Bathing another is an intimate act of care, honor, and respect. Whether tending

to a child, spouse, or patient — washing the face, hands, and feet of another is an unparalleled act of service. For Catholic Christians, such service is intimately tied to our commitment to live all we celebrate in the Eucharist. Jesus knew that his hour had come.

He did not flee, nor did he deny his mission. Rather, out of love for all who are entrusted to him, he gave us a model to follow. He washed the feet of his disciples, then celebrated the sacred meal, forever tying participation in Eu-



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Continued from page 1

charist with a life of sacrifice and service. He immediately deepened the model as he willingly faced his passion and gave the ultimate sacrifice on the cross. As we begin the sacred Triduum on Holy Thursday, we ask ourselves, “How shall I make a return to the Lord for all the good he has done for me?” Jesus’s sacrifice calls us to give without counting the cost; the gift of Christ’s body and blood nourishes us to follow the model of Jesus, to wash feet, loving and serving in imitation of our Lord.

GOOD FRIDAY: VENERATION

The environment that surrounds us shouts and whispers messages that are often at odds with the stark good news of the Gospel. We are bombarded with the lie that we must be radically independent, standing firmly on our own, while at the same time attempting to convince us that we are insufficient and that some product or program is necessary for our happiness. The Sunday celebration of the Eucharist and daily moments of prayer, sacred reading, reflection, service, and sharing with others in community help to counter this unhealthy and unholy pattern. The liturgical seasons offer a rhythm that is deeper than the surrounding environment can propose or offer. And the pinnacle of the liturgical cycle is the Easter Triduum — three days set apart as one moment of prayer through which we are immersed into the truth of God’s abiding love.

On Good Friday, we kneel and pray for the needs of our broken world and bow or kiss in quiet reverence. We venerate the cross in wordless prayer and praise, with the glimmer of realization that God so loved the world that he sent his only Son who died for us and for all. We are not created for fierce independence; we are eternally tied to one another through Christ who draws us into life poured out. On Good Friday, we grasp more deeply who we are and whose we are. This day stands apart as we take to heart again the mystery of Christ’s self-emptying love and all that we are called to as Christian disciples. We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you. Because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

EASTER: SPRINKLING

Babies in the bathtub, children in a water park, even adults idling in a soothing pool — all know the joy of splashing in refreshing water. When another person joins in, splashing and giggling, pure glee erupts. Water cleanses and renews, gives needed nutrients and moisture to the ground for plants, and is an essential element of human life. We cannot live without water.

On the night of the great Vigil, we share the story of salvation, the incredible good news of Christ’s resurrection, in which we find great hope, life, and peace. We join the Elect in making and renewing promises to reject sin and profess belief in the triune God. We celebrate as they are immersed into Christ’s life in the waters of baptism. Continuing throughout the next fifty days, the Easter season is marked by resounding Alleluias and the sprinkling of baptismal water.

This is not a frivolous action. In the rite, the water is blessed, and as the weeks unfold, we understand more deeply that we are blessed people, consecrated, drawn to Christ and one another as Christ’s body. We are renewed in the conviction that Christ reigns victorious over darkness and death. While we may only feel a few drops of water as we are sprinkled, we grasp yet again that this water, too, is essential. May we be renewed in body and spirit, filled with the fullness of joy to live in the promise of eternal life.

*Written by Leisa Anslinger for GIA Quarterly Magazine, February 2024.
For more please visit GIAMusic.com*



Święconka

The Blessing of the Easter Food is a grand event during the quiet of Holy Saturday. The Creed says that Our Lord, “descended into hell” before he rose from the dead. The quiet of Holy Saturday recalls this reality. Our churches reflect the terrestrial and temporal reality that Our Lord is still not with us — the statues are still shrouded, the tabernacle doors swing open, the altar is stripped, the sanctuary light is still extinguished. Yet amidst this silence, the faithful meet the priest with their baskets of food for the Easter feast. This tradition runs deep among the Slavic peoples. Poles, Slovenes, Croats, Slovaks, Russians, Ukrainians and others celebrate this wonderful tradition — and you can too, no matter what your ethnic background!

Once blessed, these Easter foods, which are eaten on Easter morning, and throughout the rest of that holy day are considered especially salvific and healthy. According to tradition, the leftover crumbs and bones from these blessed baskets are buried in the garden so that the Earth also receives blessing from the Resurrection.

Here at St. Ambrose, the blessing of Easter baskets will take place on Holy Saturday at noon in church.

All Things Considered

How blessed we are to be a part of a Church that gives us tangible things called “sacramentals” in which God communicates through things as simple as a palm frond. So, let’s resolve to keep them out of the back seats of our car this year — instead, displaying these palms in a meaningful way.

- Form a cross out of two palms and display it on the front door of your home for the Easter season. Let all guests be received as Christ.

- Tuck it behind a crucifix or a piece of religious art. The presence of greenery reminds us that our faith is something that is alive — it’s not something limited to the days of the Bible or to the time of a conversion. God is always fresh at work in our lives.

- Display it somewhere you’ll see often. If you have a family prayer shrine or your dinner table, these are a wonderful options. But if not, opt for a spot where you could use a reminder to pray — perhaps on a kitchen window sill where you’ll see it when doing dishes, on your bedside table, or outside of your children’s bedrooms.

Blessed palms are sacramentals and as such are treated with respect when being disposed. At the end of the Easter season at Pentecost, or before Palm Sunday of next year, burn or bury these palms. Return them to the earth in a dignified way, having experienced some graces as a result of being reminded of today’s feast day of Christ’s entry into his passion, death and resurrection!



Our Catholic faith is anchored in Holy Week. Central to our belief is that without Jesus’ Passion, death and resurrection — the core mystery of our faith — we would not have a path to eternal life.

The Church has always considered the celebration of Easter as our most important holiday. We celebrate the resurrection every Sunday, but then every year, we celebrate it in a very special way during Holy Week.

To arrive at the joy of Easter, we must first travel through the suffering that preceded it. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday and continues through the Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

As we get closer to the day of Easter, the whole Church slows down,

we are almost walking through the events of Jesus’ life in real time.

The beauty, the reverence and the prayerfulness of the Holy Week liturgies can draw us closer into our relationship with Jesus.

These are the most

significant moments for Him, so why shouldn’t they be the most significant moments for us as well?

So the place to start is by attending the Triduum liturgies — Holy Thursday evening mass with its foot washing ritual; Good Friday mass of the Pre-sanctified; and the Easter Vigil or Easter day mass. All three services are meant to be seen as a single whole — so if you haven’t ever attended all three in succession, you need to do that at least once in your life.

Apart from the special liturgies observed during Holy Week, adopting some extra practices into your own family life can help drive home the unique importance of these holy days.

Set the tone by backing away from “business as usual” on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Have a simple candlelight dinner with everyone in

the family on Thursday in honor of the Supper of the Lord. If you are not going to make it to services on Good Friday, then shut down your electronics for at least three hours — from noon to three o’clock — in recognition of the time that Jesus hung on the cross. All Catholics fast from meat on that day.

Easter mass is essential. Even if you are traveling or on vacation, join a Catholic community on this most holy day-of-days. It’s an act of solidarity with your world-wide Catholic family and a profession of faith in the Resurrection. Do not lightly eliminate Easter mass from whatever you are doing.

Holy Week practices make it a totally different week from the rest of the year, and the more you put into it, the more you grow in grace.



I do not have a new report from our Archdiocesan Properties Office with the latest as to the mineral spirit contamination that was found in our ARK sump pump starting late last summer and reaching its peak in December. That environmental situation has substantially subsided — but we have called for a new round of water testing just to make sure. We are promised a report for the Easter issue of this bulletin.



Temperatures are finally warming up, and you can feel it in your bones — the urge to throw open all the windows, cleaning out the closets and downsizing your wardrobe and start loading up boxes for donation.

For many of us, the renewal of spring signals that it’s time to get into a cleaning mode. And according to clinical psychologist Dawn Potter at the Cleveland Clinic, decluttering isn’t just good for our homes — it can actually lift our moods as well. Check out her advice at <https://tinyurl.com/2sv88p4u>

It’s certainly possible to help a neighbor and yourself. Toss your junk, but box or bag the better stuff for resale at a St. Vincent dePaul Thrift Shop. We are sponsoring a Bundle Day on the weekend of May 4th and 5th when a truck from the SVdP will be here.

Lenten Observances



- Lent is the liturgical season which runs from Ash Wednesday until the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday.
- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of *total* fast and abstinence from meat.
- All the Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence from meat.
- The **Law of Abstinence** from meat binds persons from the completion of their 14th year — from the day after their 14th birthday, throughout life.
- The **Law of Abstinence** forbids the use of meat, but not eggs, milk or products or condiments made of animal fat. Permissible are soups flavored with meat, meat gravy and sauces.
- The **Law of Fasting** binds persons from the completion of their 18th year to the beginning of their 60th year, i.e., from the day after their 59th birthday.
- The **Law of Fasting** allows only one full meal a day, but does not prohibit taking some food in the morning and evening, observing as far as quantity and quality are concerned — approved local custom. The order of meals is optional; i.e. the full meal may be taken in the evening instead of at midday. Also: (1) the quantity of food taken at the two lighter meals should not exceed the quantity taken at the full meal. (2) the drinking of ordinary liquids does not break the fast.
- In keeping with the spirit and meaning of the Lenten fast, Catholics are encouraged to observe the Good Friday fast through Holy Saturday and until after the celebration of the Easter Vigil.

The Buzz

Many adults entering the Catholic Church, or those just thinking about it, follow a process known as the OCIA – the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults. Let me introduce you to the four people who will be joining the Catholic Church, and/or completing their Christian Initiation at this year's Easter Vigil. Here they are, in their own words.

Rovena Selenica

Hi! My name is Rovena Selenica. I was born in Tirana, Albania, which is a little country north of Greece on the Adriatic Sea across from Italy. I moved to the United States when I was 20 years old. I am married to my wonderful husband, and we are blessed with 2 wonderful children. Some years ago, my brother and sister-in-law participated in the RCIA process here at St. Ambrose. Now my children and I are greatly looking forward to celebrating Baptism and being fully initiated sacramentally into the Catholic Church in this Parish at the Easter Vigil and beginning this new chapter in our lives.

Aiden Selenica

Hello, my name is Aiden Selenica. I am 15 years old and attend Grosse Pointe North High School. I was born in Michigan and have lived in the Grosse Pointe area all my life. I play basketball and lacrosse; I also enjoy going to the gym as well as spending time with my family. As a kid, I always believed in God, but it wasn't until this past year that my family and I began to attend church. I am very much looking forward to getting baptized with my mother and sister this Easter.

Alexia Selenica

Hello, my name is Alexia Selenica. I have always known that God is the answer to everything. Volleyball and dance have been my twin passions for a long time. They bring me excitement and joy every day. For as long as I can remember, I have dreamed and prayed about getting baptized. Every day I feel God's presence guiding me forward with unwavering love and grace. Now that Easter is finally drawing near, I am full of excitement about being baptized with my mother and brother at St. Ambrose.

Christian Cimini

I'm Christian Cimini and I've stayed close to God throughout my life by prayer and reading. Over the last few years, I have felt drawn to attend mass. I was baptized Catholic, but later began attending different churches looking for a place that felt right. When I stepped into St. Ambrose for the first time, I knew immediately this was the right church. After attending mass here for awhile, I joined the RCIA process and am looking forward to the Easter Vigil and becoming a fully initiated member of the Catholic Church as part of the St. Ambrose community.

Help spread the word that a new group of candidates for the RCIA will be forming here at St. Ambrose. If you have not been a part of the Catholic tradition, or have been away from it for a while and would like to explore a deeper relationship to Christ, inquire about our parish O(R)CIA at any time.

Sessions are conducted in a relaxed, informal setting. Contact Fr. Tim Pelc, our pastor, or me your pastoral minister, Chuck Dropiewski, the director of this program at 313-332-5631. Follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/stambroseparish for the most up to date happenings in and around St. Ambrose parish.

Chuck Dropiewski



Join us for another John Gallagher hosted downtown tour showcasing Detroit all geared up for the NFL Draft – before the crowds arrive the following week. The extravaganza is budgeted at \$25 million, so there's a lot to take in. We'll view the artworks commissioned for the event, and then we'll move on for a look at the new UM Innovation building and the progress being made at the West Riverfront Park. Our motorcoach will leave St. Ambrose at 10 a.m. sharp and return at 2 p.m., with a stop for lunch along the way.

The cost is \$30.00 per person, with lunch extra. You can sign up for the tour by calling the parish office at 313.822.2814, visiting our website or using the QR Code provided!



Faith Formation Station

- **Today's Palm Sunday Processional:** Just a reminder that we do have class on this first Sunday of the GPPSS spring break. Families are encouraged to participate in the processional after class. Details can be found in our weekly communications.
- **Lenten Almsgiving Project:** Parents are reminded to check out the flyer in our Friday Flocknote email and support this special collection for an upcoming Walking with Moms Retreat.
- **Lenten Evangelical Charity & Service Opportunities:** Families are encouraged to participate in acts of service together this Lent and always. Be sure to check out the flyer in our Friday Flocknote emails as well as in the Merit Academy hallway.

Kelly Woolums

Holy Week Broadcasts

The CatholicTV Network is a completely unique entity in the broadcast industry: a curiosity to some, a lifeline to others, an effective “always on” tool of evangelization, the friend of many dioceses, and a source of pride for the Archdiocese of Boston. From the first suggestion by Msgr. Walter Flaherty to Archbishop Cushing up until the present moment under the leadership of Cardinal Seán O'Malley, this inspired work of the Church has existed to serve the Archdiocese and beyond in the work of evangelization, education and inspiration in the Catholic Faith. Like any television network, it is truly understood and appreciated only by those who are regular viewers and those who work within it.

For those interested in watching all of the Holy Week liturgies from the Vatican and beyond — from your living room — please follow this link for a listing of all major Catholic televised services. <https://www.catholictv.org/holy-week>

Ghirelli Rosaries

Six different custom designed rosaries were made by hand in Italy expressly for St. Ambrose Parish. The bead collection ranges from hardwoods to various semi-precious stones.

The crucifix is modeled from the Ark Plaza sculpture and the centerpiece depicts the First and Second Coming of Christ from our sanctuary. The “Pater” bead is taken from details in our stained glass windows.

A Ghirelli Rosary is a perfect Easter or Special Occasion Gift, for someone joining the Church, or for a First Communion keepsake

To order, please visit our website, use the QR code below, or visit the parish office.



The Beehive

is the parish weekly bulletin of the St. Ambrose Catholic Community Detroit/Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan

Priest in Solidum: Rev. Timothy R. Pelc

Pastoral Minister: Charles Dropiewski

Religious Education: Kelly Anne Woolums

Minister of Music: Josh Burcroff

Office Manager: Peggy O'Connor

Secretary: Mary Urbanski

Sacramental Celebrations

Masses: On the Lord's Day –

Saturday Vigil - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday - 8:30 & 11:15 a.m.

Baptism: Arrangements for both adults and infants to be made by contacting the rectory.

Penance: As announced and by appointment.

Marriage: Couples should contact the rectory office a minimum of six months in advance of the proposed date to make arrangements.

Funeral: Normally celebrated within one week after the deceased's passing.

Directory

Parish Office: 15020 Hampton

Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230

Tel: (313) 822-2814 **Fax:** (313) 822-9838

Email address: stambrose@comcast.net

Religious Education: (313) 332-5633

Pastoral Ministry: (313) 332-5631

Ark Scheduling: (313) 822-2814

Parish Website: stambrosechurch.net

Liturgy Schedule

Monday, March 25

Monday of Holy Week

Tuesday, March 26

Tuesday of Holy Week

8:30 a.m. – Mass – Robert Weikel

Wednesday, March 27

Wednesday of Holy Week

7:00 p.m. – Communal Penance

Thursday, March 28

Holy Thursday

7:00 p.m. – Mass of the Last Supper

Friday, March 29

Good Friday

12:00 p.m. – Stations of the Cross

1:30 p.m. – Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

Saturday, March 30

Holy Saturday

12:00 p.m. – Food Blessing

8:00 p.m. – Easter Vigil Mass

Sunday, March 31

Easter Sunday

8:30 a.m. – Mass – For All People

11:15 a.m. – Mass – For All People

Scriptures for Holy Week

March 25

Is 42: 1-7

Ps 27: 1-3, 13-14

Jn 12: 1-11

March 26

Is 49: 1-6

Ps 71: 1-3a, 5-6ab, 15, 17

Jn 13: 21-33, 36-38

March 27

Is 50: 4-9a

Ps 69: 8-10, 21bcd-22, 33-34

Mt 25: 14-25

March 28

Is 61: 1-3a, 6a, 8b-9

Ps 89: 21-22, 25, 27

Rv 1: 5-8

Lk 4: 16-21

March 29

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

March 30

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

Ex 14: 15-15: 1

Bar 3: 9-11

Rom 6: 3-11

Ps 118: 1-2, 16-17, 22-23

Mk 16: 1-7

March 31

Acts 10: 34a, 37-43

Ps 118: 1-2, 16-11, 22-23

Col 3: 1-4 or 1 Cor 5: 6b-8

Mk 16: 1-7

Palm Sunday

March 23rd & 24th

Reference # in our Breaking Bread Hymnal or on your iphone using the QR code.

Palm Sunday Processional: To Jesus Christ Our Sovereign King #736

Entrance: All Glory Laud and Honor #143

Responsorial: Psalm 22: My God, My God #754

Preparatory: Glory in the Cross #144

Communion: Tantum Ergo #26 (pg. 106)

Recessional: Lift High the Cross #717



To participate electronically, go to: facebook.com/stambroseparish or better yet, to

You Tube at www.youtube.com/channel/UCbymBGIQxUF6UqPct5xFg

Our Holy Thursday and Easter Vigil Services will be live streamed.

Your Envelope Speaks ... the Inside Story

To operate, each week our parish requires a *minimum* of..... \$10,100.00

On Sunday, March 17, 2024

in envelopes we received \$3,824.00

in the loose collection..... \$4,808.00

in electronic donations..... \$3,279.86

for a total of \$11,911.86

Over budget for the week..... \$1,811.86

Number of envelopes mailed 615

Number of envelopes used 65



Our Sick

Please pray for those who are seriously ill or who are hospitalized: Pat Blake, Donald Miriani, Bonnie McKenna, Matthew Elias, Mary Martin, Anna Noto Billings, Liz Linne, Donna Barnes, Charmaine Kaptur, Frank Gregory, Alex Billiu, Jackie Walkowski, Maria Simcina, Sharif Hannan, Shirley Whelan, Albina Checki, Judy Sivanov, Matthew Brown, Lily Faith, Patty Freund, Janis Ramsey, Colette Gilewicz, Al LaHood, Valerie Hudson, Angela Hansen, John Freund, Kevin O'Connor, Tiffany Saine, Ann Billiu, Tamam Tedesco, Nicole LeFevre-Wilson, Sharon Ten Hoopen, Beth Skorupski and those suffering and hospitalized worldwide with Covid.

Our Dead

Mary Ann McGregor Rice, died peacefully in January of 2024, in Royal Oak. She was born in 1955 in Windsor, Canada, before moving to Michigan and growing up in St. Clair Shores with her parents and three sisters.

Mary Ann attended St. Joan of Arc grade school, graduating in 1969, and South Lake High School, graduating in 1973. She then went to work downtown Detroit before meeting Tom Rice, whom she married in 1979. They had three children.

For years Mary Ann stayed home and poured her heart into raising her daughters. She lived every day by the golden rule, "Treat others the way you want to be treated." Teaching her girls to love God, themselves, and others.

Mary Ann joined Clintondale Community Schools where she proudly served for years. First as a member of the PTO and then as a part of the secretarial staff. She then joined New Haven Schools until retirement. She truly cared for all the students, families and colleagues that crossed her path.

Mary Ann is survived by her three daughters, Sarah, Gail, and Laura; and seven grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her parents Frederick and Dolores McGregor (Heisler), and her sister Bernadette Fisher.

Her funeral mass was held here at St. Ambrose on March 22nd.



We are promoting a program that gives you a way to support our parish: "eGiving" through ParishSOFT.

More and more parishioners of St. Ambrose are switching their donations to "eGiving" that is in line with a cultural shift away from a cash carrying society. Churches of all denominations, are steadily moving in this direction. Almost half (49%) of churchgoers give by credit card or other electronic means, while 40% give by cash. Churches that actively promoted digital giving in their messaging saw an increase in overall giving – across all age demographics.

We consider ParishSOFT to be a "win-win" program for both parishioners and our parish as it provides the critical third party security needed for this way of parish support.

Please consider using ParishSOFT, our online giving service, to support our parish. We are providing this option **in addition** to cash or check donations. You can still give through traditional methods, but now you can make recurring or one-time gifts online with a credit/debit card or electronic check.

This program is beneficial to you, in that you do not need to worry about having cash or checks on hand at Mass, and it benefits the Parish by reducing the time needed to process donations and run financial reports.

How does it work?

- You can visit giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/stambrosepp and enroll securely online, text "Give" to 313-251-4494 or scan the QR code provided to the right!
- You can elect to have your specified bank or credit card account debited on a specific day that works conveniently for your family.

There is no charge to enroll. We strongly encourage you to participate in this program today, and we are grateful for your financial and prayerful support of our parish.



Holy Week & Easter 2024 at St. Ambrose Parish

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

Penance Service - 2:00 p.m.
Palm Saturday Mass at 4:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

Palm Sunday Mass – 8:30 a.m.
Palm Procession and Mass – 11:15 a.m.
Assemble at Merit Academy for this procession.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

Penance Service - 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 28 — HOLY THURSDAY

Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7:00 p.m.
Private adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the church until midnight.

FRIDAY, MARCH 29 — GOOD FRIDAY

Stations of the Cross - 12:00 noon
Liturgy of the Lord's Passion and Death - 1:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 30 — HOLY SATURDAY

Blessing of Easter Food - 12:00 noon
THE GREAT EASTER VIGIL MASS - 8:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 31 — EASTER SUNDAY

Easter Mass at 8:30 a.m.
Easter Mass at 11:15 a.m.

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