

## Holy Thursday 2025

Each Holy Thursday we celebrate what Jesus gave us on this night. Jesus Christ as the Supreme High Priest gave us the ordained priesthood and the Holy Eucharist. These gifts enable all the baptized to live lives of priestly service, to offer ourselves as Christ offered himself to us. When we were baptized, we were anointed as Christ was anointed, priest, prophet and king. We do what Jesus did in John's gospel with the washing of the feet. Notice that the feet are washed with the hands. Everyone has a hand of the heart, a heart that can learn what it means to lend a hand for service.

The tradition of our faith is something that handed on. Moses hands on what he received from God, he gives the people the instructions of how to celebrate the Passover feast, the annual tradition of faith for the Jewish people to remember what God did for them, how God set them free from the oppression of Pharaoh how he led them to the Promised Land.

The tradition of the Jewish faith was handed on to Jesus who handed to his disciples what Father instructed him to do. The meaning of the Passover and the offering of the sacrificial lamb is fulfilled in Jesus. the Passover meal was a symbol of the Eucharist. We hear how St. Paul hands on what he received from the Lord, with the words, "For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes." (I Cor. 11:26).

The tradition of celebrating the Eucharist that the Church has done faithfully for over 2000 years is handed on to us. The love that we receive from the hands of Christ, we hand on to others. When we come forward for communion and reverence the presence of the Lord with a holy bow, and then we walk, we carrying in our bodies the very body of

the Lord. Our feet will take us to our pews to reflect deeply on the mystery of his love and at the same time our feet are ready to rush out the door, strength by the Lord's Body, washed clean by his Blood anxious to wash the feet of the tired, the forgotten, the weak, the hungry. As the base of the Statue of Liberty says, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

Holy Thursday teaches us through the ceremony of the washing of the feet that our Eucharistic faith that is lived in action, with our hands, our feet, with our whole selves. Our feet carry us so that we can carry Christ into the world. Our feet take us to where the Lord leads, Jesus whose true presence in Eucharist helps us to see his true presence in our daily experiences and the people that we meet. As we read in prophet Isaiah, "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news." (Is. 52:7)