

HOLY WEEK



Saint Michael the Archangel Catholic Church
2023
Lake Jackson, Texas

Holy Week Services

Passion (Palm) Sunday - April 2

Masses Sat. Vigil (4/1)

Sun.

5:30 pm

8:00 am

9:30 am

11:00 am

Monday of Holy Week - April 3

Adoration

9:00 am—6:00 pm

Confessions

4:30 pm—5:30 pm

Or by appointment

Rosary

7:00 pm

Tuesday of Holy Week - April 4

Adoration

9:00 am—6:00 pm

Daily Mass

8:30 am

Confessions

4:30 pm—5:30 pm

Or by appointment

Wednesday of Holy Week - April 5

Adoration

9:00 am—6:00 pm

Daily Mass

8:30 am

Confessions

4:30 pm—5:30 pm

Or by appointment

Holy Thursday - April 6

(No Daily Mass)

Mass of the Lord's Supper

7:00 pm

Keeping Vigil—after Mass until

until 12:00 midnight

Good Friday - April 7

Youth Stations of the Cross

12:00 noon

(soup luncheon to follow)

Celebration of Our Lord's Passion

3:00 pm

Traditional Stations of the Cross

7:00 pm

Holy Saturday - April 8

Easter Vigil

8:30 pm

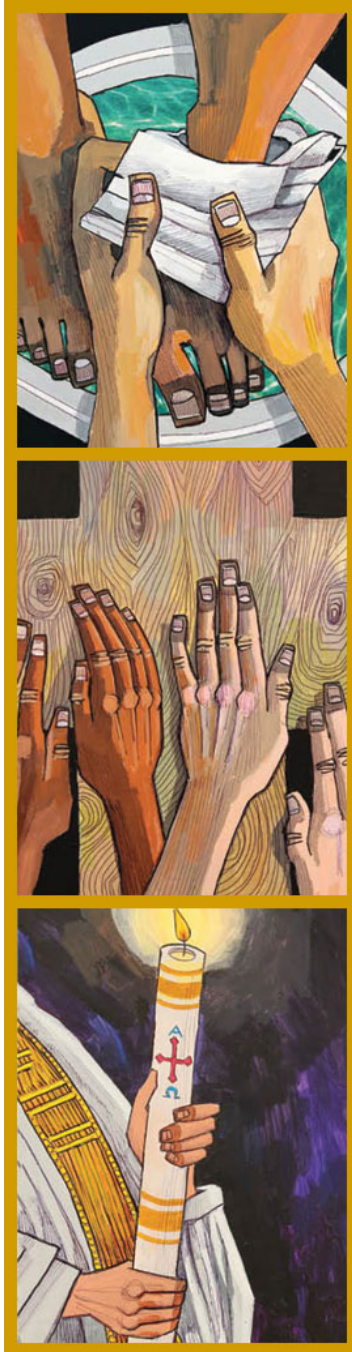
Easter Sunday - April 9

Masses

8:00 am

9:30 am

11:00 am



Holy Week in the Parish

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday and stretches to Easter Sunday. The powerful celebrations of this week are unique in the church's entire liturgical year and include rituals that do not occur at any other time in the year.

Holy Week takes us on a sacred journey beginning with Jesus' triumphant entry on Palm Sunday into Jerusalem on the back of a lowly donkey. On Holy Thursday we recall the Last Supper during which Jesus was celebrating the Jewish Passover. On this occasion, Jesus gave us his Body and Blood as a memorial of his passion, death and resurrection. This was the origin of the Mass, which we celebrate from then until today and in the future. In addition, He proceeded to give us his final instruction to serve and love one another by washing the feet of his disciples and commanding them to do the same for each other going forward. On Good Friday, we recall Christ's life-giving passion and death on the Cross, along with his burial. On the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday the Holy Week celebration culminates in the mystery of an empty tomb, and Jesus' glorious resurrection. At the Easter Vigil, all of us join in the celebration of receiving new Catholic Christians into the Church through their profession of faith, baptism, confirmation and full participation in the Eucharist, receiving First Communion. And we all recommit to the Promises we made when we became members of the Body of Christ at our Baptisms.

This miraculous sequence of events fulfilled the promised redemption for the whole world. Jesus took on human form and became one of us. Through his death and resurrection, he accomplished the redemption of the world from sin and opened for us the gates of heaven.

Holy Week is the high holy season of our Christian faith. We should plan to EXPERIENCE these special feasts by capping off our Lenten preparation by immersing ourselves into the spiritual retreat that is Holy Week. It's the final culmination of our Lenten journey. Many of our faith community attend each year during Holy Week. Others who have not been able to do so should commit to joining us this year to celebrate these graced moments.

(Adapted from "Holy Week in the Parish" by Rev. Don Neumann)

The Rite of Christian Initiation

The traditional way for adults and youth to join the Catholic Church is through our Christian Initiation process. Weekly meetings are held to learn about what it means to be Catholic and, for those interested, to consider becoming Catholic. Several steps occur during this journey, which can lead to full communion with the Catholic church.

First, those interested in learning more about the Catholic faith can discern if they want to take the next steps toward becoming Catholic.

The next steps involve the faith community welcoming them into more serious study and reflection. Those who have already been baptized are called candidates and those inquiring who have not been baptized are called catechumens. They will also be paired with Sponsors who will play a major role in the completion of their journey.

This continues until Lent, when the catechumens and candidates commit to complete their preparation to becoming Catholic through prayer, study, and self-scrutiny. At the Easter Vigil, catechumens (now called the Elect) receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. The candidates, who were baptized before the process of considering Catholicism, receive Confirmation and Eucharist. Please join us in welcoming these new converts to the Catholic Faith.

Our Elect who will be Baptized, Confirmed, and receive First Communion at the Easter Vigil:

ELECT

**Felicia Reyes
Isabella Reyes
Brielle Reyes**

Hunter Batchelor

GODPARENTS

**Juan Saldivar, Jr.
Christian Reboloso
Marissa Nava
& Rogelio Cuevas
Hunter Carline**

Our Candidates who will give a Profession of Faith, be Confirmed, and receive First Communion at the Easter Vigil:

CANDIDATES

**Evelyn Cruz
To be Named Later**

SPONSOR

**Lisa Solis
Sponsor**

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Sunday, April 2

Gospel: Matthew 21:1-11	Masses: Saturday	5:30 pm
1st Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7	Sunday	8:00 am
2nd Reading: Philippians 2:6-11		9:30 am
Passion: Matthew 26:14-27-66		11:00 am



There are two Gospels on Palm Sunday which depict the dual themes of this powerful feast. The first theme is reflected in our first Gospel reading, proclaimed in the very beginning of Mass, even before the entrance procession. In this reading we hear about Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, hailed by a large crowd who shout "Hosanna to the Son of David" and acknowledged him as the anointed descendant of King David.

The second Gospel reading is Matthew's account the final period of the life of Jesus. It begins with the story of Judas plotting with the chief priests. It progresses to the Last Supper during which Jesus gave the disciples his body and blood. It then recounts Jesus' agony in the garden, his capture, trial, scourging and journey carrying the cross to the place of his execution, Calvary. It ends with a passage about the burial of Jesus' body.

In this day of significant contrasts, we first welcome Christ as a king entering the holy city of Jerusalem, riding on the back of a lowly donkey, which helped put his true, humble nature and example into perspective, incongruent with the "hosannas" being shouted by the crowd around him.

Later in the Mass we join our voices with those asking for him to be crucified. Traveling a path no human monarch would be willing to follow, he became the ultimate servant of us all. The cross then becomes the throne from which he reigned.

Christ showed us that the only way to share in his glory is to die to self by becoming servants and disciples. He told us that to follow in his footsteps we must all bear our own crosses. Jesus embraced his death so that we may rise with him to new life.

Mass of the Lord's Supper

Holy Thursday, April 6 - 7:00 PM

1st Reading: Exodus 12:1-8,11-14

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Gospel: John 13:1-15

The Mass of the Lord's Supper, on Holy Thursday evening, commemorates this major highlight of the Triduum. As Jesus and his disciples celebrated the Jewish Passover meal, he introduced two special new rituals which changed the traditional Jewish Passover meal forever, showing us both a new way of worshiping and a new way of living.

First, departing from the traditional ritual of the Passover meal, Jesus gave us a new sacrifice of his body and blood to nourish and strengthen us. He instructed the disciples to "Do this in memory of me." This memorial of his suffering, death and resurrection, is celebrated at every Mass, since that First Eucharist and for time eternal.



Second, after supper Jesus knelt down before his disciples and washed their feet. In biblical times, this task was usually performed by a servant or slave. When Peter objected over how this reversed Jesus' role, from Jesus as leader, to Jesus as servant, Jesus drove home his point by commanding the disciples to follow this example. This was to be a new commandment: that his disciples must serve others to be his

followers. This showed us that love means there is no task too menial for even the greatest to undertake for the good of others. Likewise, it calls all of us to a lifetime of loving, a lifetime of service. To share in Christ's inheritance, we must conform ourselves to him.

Celebration of Our Lord's Passion

Good Friday, April 7 - 3:00 PM
1st Reading: Isaiah 52:13-53:12
2nd Reading: Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
Passion: John 18:1-19:42



At the Celebration of Our Lord's Passion on Good Friday, God's mercy for us is made clear through the sacrifice of His only begotten Son, Jesus. This sacrifice was accomplished by crucifixion, death on a cross, which was a notorious and torturous form of execution used in biblical times.

Our primary reading today is the evangelist John's account of Jesus' passion and death. It shows Jesus taking a fully participative role in cooperating with the Jewish

leaders who wanted Him dead. Several opportunities arose which could have allowed Jesus to avoid this horrific end, but Jesus knew that he had to undergo this sacrifice to accomplish the redemption of the world. He went along with the plan that the Jewish leaders had in store for him. He knew that it was for this end he had become one of us and he cooperated with the Jewish leaders who wanted to kill him.

The Sanhedrin could not prove the case against Jesus through the testimony of inept witnesses in their accusations against Jesus. Then Jesus, himself, provided the necessary evidence to be convicted, by admitting that He was the son of God. When he was brought to Pilate, instead of cooperating with Pilate's desire to set him free, Jesus cooperated with the will of the Jewish leaders who sought his execution. Knowing that dying for our redemption was his duty and that the salvation of all humankind rested on his shoulders, Jesus did not give Pilate a way to prevent his crucifixion. Instead, he went to his death quietly, like a lamb to the slaughter, completely loyal to his mission that he had to die so that we might have eternal life.

In the ultimate paradox, the cross is not only an instrument of torture and death, but also the instrument of our salvation. Jesus, by being lifted up on the cross, is lifted up in glory, and through this journey, Jesus gained the salvation of the world.

Easter Vigil

Holy Saturday, April 8 - 8:30 PM

1st: Genesis 1:1—2:2

2nd: Gen 22:1-18

3rd: Exodus 14:15-15:1

Epistle: Romans 6:3-11

Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10

During this evening's celebration of the Easter Vigil, Matthew's Gospel depicts the visit of the women to Jesus' tomb to complete the unfinished anointing of Jesus' body.

When the women approached the tomb, they found an angel of the Lord present and he spoke to the women, saying "Do not be afraid!" He told the women that he knew they were seeking Jesus and told them that he was not there, that he had been raised, just as he had promised he would.

They invited the women to see the tomb where Jesus had been buried. The angel told the women that Jesus had gone before them to Galilee and that the women would see him there. They left the tomb both fearful and also overjoyed.

They ran to announce all of this to the other disciples. They were surprised that Jesus met them on the way and greeted them. Jesus told them not to be afraid and to go tell the disciples to go to Galilee where they will see Jesus.

Although all involved may not have realized at that time their lives and indeed, the history of the whole world, was changed forever. Now their new mission was to announce the Good News of resurrection. They went from preparing to anoint a dead body to proclaiming their Lord having risen back to life.

Just like the implications for the disciples of Jesus' day, these same implications speak to us today: we are called to leave the past behind and rise with Christ to new life. On this Easter Vigil night, around the whole world, many new Catholics will be baptized, confirmed and receive Eucharist for the first time. For them and for all of us, this is a Passover from the old to the new. At this Vigil Mass, we all renew our baptismal promises and are sprinkled with baptismal water. The paschal mystery is our new way of life: Alleluia !



Easter Sunday

April 9

1st Reading: Acts 10:34a,37-43	Masses: Sunday	8:00 am
2nd Reading: Colossians 3:1-4		9:30 am
Gospel: John 20:1-9		11:00 am

Coming to the tomb early in the morning, Mary Magdalene finds that the stone has been rolled away and that Jesus' body was gone. She went to Simon Peter and the other disciples and told them what she observed. Peter and other disciples come running to the tomb, each with their own expectations, and do not find Jesus' body but find only the burial cloths. The small cloth which had covered Jesus' head when he was buried was found neatly folded. They finally began to grasp the true outcome of Jesus' passion and death, that Christ, the Paschal Victim, has been raised from the dead and this great mystery was beginning to be revealed.

Over the next 40 days, Jesus appeared several times to his disciples allowing them to embrace the reality of his resurrection. Through these encounters and with Jesus' help, they finally were able to comprehend the full scope of Jesus' life of public ministry.

The first Easter was an opportunity for the disciples to begin anew, and in our own time, this Easter is an opportunity for all of us for renewal. The joy of the Resurrection should be alive within us. Christ has removed our burial cloths, and we celebrate this today in community of the assembly of the faithful. The whole church shouts for joy: Alleluia! We should celebrate that which has died within us has been changed into new life.

Mass today announces it firmly: Christ is risen from the dead and through this resurrection he has given us new life. Christ, who is our hope, our Redeemer, and our life, is with us. Sing Alleluia!



Anatomy of The Great Ninety Days

Seasons of the Church

The church divides the calendar year into times and seasons. Early in the church's growth, different seasons developed and these were later organized into logical groups and an interconnected timing. For example, the early church celebrated Easter for many years before it celebrated Lent. Gradually the church came to the realization that the cross and the crown recall the same mystery, and cannot be separated.

The Forty Days—Lent

During the approximate forty days of Lent we examine ourselves as do those who are preparing for baptism and full communion with the Catholic Church. We ask ourselves: "What are we doing to reform our lives so as to be the people of God? How can we announce Jesus' message that God's kingdom is at hand?"

Holy Week

The celebrations of Holy Week reflect the unity of cross and crown. It encompasses the time from Palm Sunday and continues through Easter Sunday. The multiple feasts which are situated in this Holy Week celebrate God's plan to effect our redemption through Christ's saving death and resurrection. Please refer to page 4 of this brochure for more depth on Holy Week.

The Fifty Days—Easter Season

The Season of Easter is fifty days in duration, beginning with Easter Sunday and ending on Pentecost Sunday. It includes the feast of The Ascension of Our Lord, which is now celebrated on a Sunday, and also contains 5 other Sundays in the season. During the fifty days of Easter we ask ourselves: "How can we announce the good news of Christ's saving work? How can we live our lives in praise and thanksgiving to God?" On Pentecost we ask: "What vision of God's kingdom is the Spirit giving us? How can we put it into action?" The Spirit says: "Go and do it!" Pentecost is not the last act in a drama. Our lives in Christ are a continuous journey of unfolding mystery.

The 90 Day Season

Together, the Lenten and Easter seasons comprise a powerful 90-day journey through our most sacred and holy liturgical time. This path, from repentance and conversion, through death and resurrection, and on to celebration of new life among us is an immense store of treasure that Mother Church provides to us.



EASTERTIME