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# ST PETER THE FISHERMAN

## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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ST. MICHAEL - HOLY NAME OF JESUS - SACRED HEART - ST. TIMOTHY  
CHERRYFIELD MACHIAS LUBEC CAMPOBELLO ISLAND

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# SPY WEDNESDAY

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*"Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What will you give me if I deliver him to you?" And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him." (Matthew 26:14-16)*

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Dear Parishioners,

Palm Sunday marked the beginning of Holy Week, and today we arrive at Wednesday of Holy Week. Tomorrow begins the Holy Triduum, consisting of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, all culminating in the Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

If you have been keeping up with the readings, you know that we are slowly walking toward the Cross, and things are now beginning to intensify. These events will directly lead to what will take place on Good Friday. One of the important events that served as a catalyst was Jesus' fateful betrayal by His apostle Judas Iscariot. This betrayal earned Judas the title of "spy" by medieval Christians, a word that means "one who keeps secret watch on a person or thing to obtain information."

From Wednesday onward, Judas secretly watched for an opportunity to turn Jesus over to the chief priests. This day was labeled by former Christians as "Spy Wednesday" Wednesday's events usher in the final days of Jesus' life and directly lead us to Good Friday. Spy Wednesday begins the somber mood that will take us into the Holy Triduum which begins tomorrow with Holy Thursday, also known as Maundy Thursday.

The word "Maundy" is of Anglo-French origin and is derived from the Latin word "mandatum." Mandatum means "commandment" and in the context of Maundy Thursday, it refers to the commandment given by Jesus to the Apostles at the Last Supper when He said, "A new commandment I give you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another." (John 13:34)

This commandment is illustrated by our Lord in the Washing of the Feet, which is usually performed at the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Thursday evening. In addition to the Washing of the Feet, the Mass of the Lord's Supper commemorates the Last Supper that Jesus shared with the Apostles where He consecrated the bread and wine into His body and blood. It was also at this meal that Jesus instituted the ministerial priesthood by ordaining the Apostles the first priests.

While unfortunately we are not able to come together to celebrate the Holy Triduum this year, I have included on our website an adaptation of the Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday rituals for family prayer in your homes.

This resource is given to us by Liturgical Press to help the faithful better pray through these holy days during this period of exile. As stated by Liturgical Press in their disclaimer, *these prayers are not intended to replace the liturgies of Holy Week. Rather, they are a sincere effort to cultivate some of the rituals and spirit of Holy Week in our own homes when public celebration might not be possible.* You can find a link to this resource by clicking the button below.

As we enter these holiest of days, let us be aware that we have spent weeks being concerned about ourselves and the recent changes to our lives, our lifestyles, and our habits of worship. As we enter these holiest of days, let us follow along with the readings and forget ourselves and intimately observe how Jesus' life abruptly changed, changes He willingly accepted for love of us. Let us quiet and prepare our hearts to observe the betrayal by a friend, the

sadness of the final meal, the agony of the garden, the injustice of the condemnation, the pain of the flagellation, the weight of the cross, the anguish of the crucifixion, the loneliness of abandonment, the reality of His death, and the quietness of the tomb. If we fully accept His love expressed in this way, then on Sunday we will not only observe, but we will experience the Joy of the Resurrection.

With prayers for your health and God's abundant blessings,

Fr. Philip Clement  
Pastor

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[Click for Triduum Prayer Resource](#)

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