



ST PETER THE FISHERMAN

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Day 1 of the Paschal Triduum



The Last Supper is a late 15th-century [mural](#) painting by Italian artist [Leonardo da Vinci](#). It is one of the Western world's most recognizable paintings. This iteration is the work of Baroque artist Philippe de Champaigne, painted in 1648.

*This painting truly captures the beautiful words in the First Eucharistic Prayer,
"On the day before he was to suffer, for our salvation and the salvation of
all, that is today, he took bread in his holy and venerable hands,
and with eyes raised to heaven, to you O God, his almighty Father,
giving you thanks, he said the blessing.."*

Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14

Psalm 115 (116): 12-13, 15-18

1 Corinthians 11: 23-26

John 13:1-15

Today is Maundy Thursday, also known as Holy Thursday, the first day of the Paschal Triduum (the holy three days preceding Easter Sunday). The word "Maundy" is derived from the Latin word "mandatum," which means "command." It refers to Jesus' commandment to the Apostles to love one another as He had loved them. In tonight's celebration of the Mass of the Lord's Supper, we hear the account of the first Passover from Exodus, as well as St. Paul's account to the Corinthians of the Last Supper, the first Mass celebrated by our Lord Jesus as He is about to also institute the ministerial priesthood. Finally, in today's Gospel, we hear St. John's account of Jesus washing the feet of the Apostles and giving them the mandate to serve and to love one another as He had loved them. In this one night, Jesus alludes not only to the Paschal Mystery of His life, death, and resurrection, but also to our participation in the Christian life by loving and serving each other. From this starting point, the remainder of the Paschal Mystery will unfold in great detail over the next couple of days.

As we anxiously await the unfolding, St. Melito of Sardis, a second century theologian and saint, gives us a great overview of what we are about to experience...

There was much proclaimed by the prophets about the mystery of the Passover: that mystery is Christ, and to him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

For the sake of suffering humanity he came down from heaven to earth, clothed himself in that humanity in the Virgin's womb, and was born a man. Having then a body capable of suffering, he took the pain of fallen man upon himself; he triumphed over the diseases of soul and body that were its cause, and by his Spirit, which was incapable of dying, he dealt man's destroyer, death, a fatal blow.

He was led forth like a lamb; he was slaughtered like a sheep. He ransomed us from our servitude to the world, as he had

ransomed Israel from the hand of Egypt; he freed us from our slavery to the devil, as he had freed Israel from the hand of Pharaoh. He sealed our souls with his own Spirit, and the members of our body with his own blood.

He is the One who covered death with shame and cast the devil into mourning, as Moses cast Pharaoh into mourning. He is the One who smote sin and robbed iniquity of offspring, as Moses robbed the Egyptians of their offspring. He is the One who brought us out of slavery into freedom, out of darkness into light, out of death into life, out of tyranny into an eternal kingdom; who made us a new priesthood, a people chosen to be his own for ever. He is the Passover that is our salvation.

It is he who endured every kind of suffering in all those who foreshadowed him. In Abel he was slain, in Isaac bound, in Jacob exiled, in Joseph sold, in Moses exposed to die. He was sacrificed in the Passover lamb, persecuted in David, dishonored in the prophets.

It is he who was made man of the Virgin, he who was hung on the tree; it is he who was buried in the earth, raised from the dead, and taken up to the heights of heaven. He is the mute lamb, the slain lamb, the lamb born of Mary, the fair ewe. He was seized from the flock, dragged off to be slaughtered, sacrificed in the evening, and buried at night. On the tree no bone of his was broken; in the earth his body knew no decay. He is the One who rose from the dead, and who raised man from the depths of the tomb.

So now the scene is set, the table is prepared, the basin is filled, and the price is bought. The mystery of love is set in motion. As you lie down to sleep tonight, rest well knowing that the peaceful slumber you are able to enjoy is only present because of what will occur tomorrow on the altar of Sacrifice, on the Cross of salvation, on the tree of Life . . . and give quiet thanksgiving!

As I celebrate the Holy Sacrifice tonight, as I give thanks for my gift of the priesthood on this day when we remember the institution of the sacrament of Holy Orders, the Mass will be offered for your intentions and for a quick return to our normal way of life. My personal intention, however, will be that we return with a new vigor and deeper love for the Mass, with a new heart of thanksgiving for the eternal sacrifice of the Cross, with a new desire to readily confess our sins, and with an ardent love for Jesus in the sacrament of the Eucharist.

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

Fr. Philip Clement

Pastor

If you missed in the last email the series of home prayers adapted for the Paschal Triduum, click the button below to download them

[Click for Prayer Resource](#)
