

Dear Parishioners,

With the celebration of Palm Sunday today, we solemnly enter Holy Week, when the celebrations of the passion, death and resurrection of the Lord take place. Even though the whole week is called "holy," the 3 last days of the week (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday), also called Easter Triduum, focus specifically on the celebrations of the pascal mystery, the very heart of our faith.

On this Palm Sunday, we celebrate the triumphant and celebratory entry of Jesus in Jerusalem, and at the same we are introduced to his passion, which we will be celebrating on Good Friday; this reminds us that what we celebrate during Holy Week is one and the same thing: the pascal mystery.

On Holy Thursday, we celebrate 3 things: the great commandment of love which the Lord left us as His will/testament (there will be washing of feet, symbol of humility and love), the institution of the Eucharist and the priesthood. On Holy Thursday, as we meditate on these 3 things, let us thank the Lord for the beautiful gift of the Eucharist, His real presence in our midst. As a sign of gratitude, let us always approach the Eucharist with great respect, with clean hearts and with gratitude to God who feeds us with the bread of Angels while still on earth. Let us also make it a habit to spend time with Jesus before the Blessed Sacrament in adoration. Such an opportunity is given to us every Thursday in our parish when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed all day from after the 9AM Mass until rosary and benediction at 6PM. On Holy Thursday, let us also thank God for our priests who make the eucharist possible when they celebrate mass and who administer the sacraments that sanctify us. Let us equally renew our resolution to translate love in action. At the end of the Holy Thursday mass, which begins at 7PM, there will be a solemn procession with the Eucharist to the repository (chapel) for adoration until 11PM, and at 11PM we shall have night prayer. Please, stay or come back anytime from after mass until 11PM to spend some time with the Lord; it is a Christian duty.

On Good Friday, there is no mass all over the world. It is the day of commemoration of the crucifixion and death of the Lord. At 3PM, we will have the Stations of the Cross and at 7PM we will have the Good Friday ceremonies: liturgy of the Word, the Solemn Intercessions, the adoration of the Cross and distribution of Holy Communion. Kindly note that at the end of the Good Friday celebration, we all depart in silence.

On Holy Saturday, we will gather outside at 7:30PM for the liturgy of the light followed by procession for the solemn celebration of the resurrection of the Lord. Every symbol and gesture during the Easter Triduum are rich and full of meaning; may we prepare and attend the celebrations with faith, devotion, and attention.

Welcome to the most important celebration of the year, welcome to Holy Week! May we have a fruitful celebration and take part actively in it. Kindly consider participating and volunteering in any area to make the celebration beautiful.

Blessings!
Fr. Augustin