

April 10, 2022

Dear Parishioners,

BLESSED HOLY WEEK!! Today with the celebration of Palm Sunday we enter into the most sacred days of the Christian life. During Holy Week we have the opportunity to travel with Jesus in his triumphal entry into Jerusalem to the Upper Room for the last Supper, to the Garden of Gethsemane, to the Crucifixion on the Mt. of Olives, to the tomb for his burial. We have the chance to reflect on the many people who encountered Jesus through this journey -- the crowds, the Apostles, the Jewish and Roman leaders, the women (including Mary his mother and Mary Magdalen), and those present at his death and burial.

The Parish will have events each evening to draw us into this solemn week: Monday, the PREP children will recall the Stations of the Cross, Tuesday will have Exposition in church all day, and Evening Prayer and Benediction at 7 pm. On Wednesday St. Luke School children will hold Living Stations at 1:30 pm, and we will hold our Lenten Penance Service at 7 pm with additional priests to help with confessions. All this before we enter the Sacred Triduum.

Holy Thursday begins with the Mass of the Chrism in the morning at the Cathedral with the Archbishop and all the priests, and the Blessing of the Oils -- the Catechuminate, the Sick, and the Sacred Chrism. In this liturgy we renew our commitment to priestly service of you, the Church of Jesus Christ. After 39 years for me, this is a great reminder of why I became a priest. The Sacrament of Holy Orders, so important in the Catholic Church, is celebrated at this liturgy. After 2 years of not being able to have this large gathering, it will be good to be together with the priests again.

Thursday evening we begin the Sacred Triduum (one liturgy that extends through 3 days). At the Mass of the Lord's Supper we will present the newly blessed oils, we will once again have the Washing of Feet, reminding us that the Eucharist is about love and charity, we will have collections for the poor, the celebration of the Eucharist and the Solemn Procession to the Repository. Night Prayer will be celebrated at 10:45 pm before church closes.

Good Friday is a quiet day recalling the Passion, Death, and Burial of Jesus. I invite you to join in the Ecumenical Walk through Glenside at 12 noon with our other Christian neighbors beginning in St. Paul's Lutheran Church parking lot. At 3 pm we will have the Solemn Celebration of the Passion with the Reading of the Passion of St. John, Veneration of the Cross, Collection for the Holy Land, and Holy Communion. Stations of the Cross will be held at 7 pm.

Holy Saturday continues the silence and stillness of Good Friday. We will have confessions from 12 noon until 1 pm. Take special note that there is NO 5 pm Saturday Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday.

Morning Prayer with Office of Readings will be celebrated Good Friday and Holy Saturday mornings at 10 am.

Good Friday is a day of FAST and abstinence from meat for those whose age and health allow it.

As you can see there is much going on during these sacred days. Even if you can't make any of the scheduled public services, plan to visit church yourself for a little quiet and private prayer. Church will be open throughout the day -- all week. Make the Stations of the Cross, Pray the Rosary. Make use of another source of prayer or meditation.

This is a week for all of us to enter into the journey with Jesus and pray for each other. Be assured of my prayers, as I depend on yours.

St. Luke, pray for us.

*Father Joe Brandt*