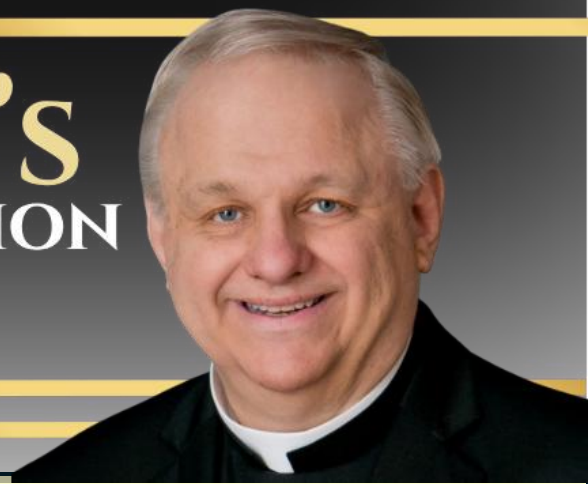


FATHER STEVE'S HOLY SATURDAY REFLECTION

From Fire in the Darkness
to the Joy of the Empty Tomb!



On Holy Saturday night, we gather in darkness, and then a single flame breaks it open, the Easter fire rising against the night, and something shifts deep within us. We have walked the long road of Lent, we have stood at the cross, we have kept watch in silence, and now we see light again. In that sacred moment, as new members are welcomed into the Church and step into the life of Christ, there is a quiet fulfillment that settles in, the sense that what we have lived has led us here. The Gospel tells us that at dawn the women came to the tomb, and the angel said, “Do not be afraid... He has been raised just as he said,” and they ran, fearful yet overjoyed, to share the news. That is where we stand. Not at the tomb, but beyond it. Saint Paul gives words to what fills the heart in this moment, “I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith” (2 Timothy 4:7). The darkness gives way, the stone is rolled back, and what once felt heavy is now lifted. We do not leave this night empty. We leave changed, carrying the light, knowing the journey was worth it, and that Christ is alive.

Holy Week Meditation: Keeping Watch at the Tomb
Holy Saturday Reflection & Invitation to Prayer
“They laid Jesus there.” — John 19:42

Today the Church is quiet. The Cross stands empty. The tomb is sealed. The voices that cried out yesterday have faded, and now there is only stillness. This is a day without words, a day of waiting. The work of suffering is complete, yet the promise has not been seen. We stand in between.

Pause here. Stay in the silence.
What in your life feels unfinished or uncertain?

Holy Saturday does not offer answers. It asks for trust. The disciples scattered. Hope seemed buried. Yet beneath the weight of the stone, God was already at work. This day teaches us to remain when nothing seems to be happening, to believe when there is no sign, to stay near even when the heart feels empty.

A Call to Trust

- Stay with God in the quiet, even when you feel nothing.
- Resist the urge to fill every moment with noise or distraction.
- Hold on to hope, even when you cannot see what God is doing.

“Be still, and know that I am God.” — Psalm 46:10

A Prayer for Holy Saturday

Lord Jesus,
Today I wait with You in the silence of the tomb.
When I am restless, teach me stillness.
When I am uncertain, give me trust.
When I feel alone, remind me that You are near.
Prepare my heart for the joy to come,
and strengthen my faith in what I cannot yet see.
Amen.

Quiet Suggestions for the Day

- Sit in silence for a few moments. No words. Simply remain.
- Visit the Church and spend time near the altar, even in stillness.
- Reflect on where God has been present in hidden ways in your life.

This is the day of waiting. The story is not over.
The silence will break. The light will come.