

FATHER STEVE'S HOLY THURSDAY REFLECTION

A Towel, a Basin, and a Priest

Mass begins at 7:00 p.m.



In the Gospel of John (13:1–15), we hear how Jesus rose from supper, took a towel, and knelt to wash the feet of his disciples, and in that moment he not only showed us how to serve, he gave us the priesthood itself; and I feel that deeply every time I read it. Jesus knew who he was and still chose to kneel, to serve, to love to the end, and that is the life I have been called to live with you. I am grateful to be your priest, grateful to stand at the altar, to bring you the Eucharist, and to walk with you in the real moments of life, both joyful and difficult. I see your faith, your sacrifices, and your love for one another, and it strengthens me more than you know. It is a privilege to serve you, to be with you, and to kneel beside you in faith.

KEEPING WATCH WITH JESUS: A HOLY THURSDAY VIGIL OF PRAYER

Following the Holy Thursday Mass, we remain in quiet adoration, keeping watch with Jesus as He enters His Passion. Just as He invited His disciples to stay and pray with Him in the garden, we, too, are invited to spend this time in His presence—listening, watching, and offering our hearts in love. This is a night of intimacy and sorrow, a night when love was poured out in the washing of feet, the sharing of the Eucharist, and the beginning of Christ's journey to the Cross. Let us enter into this holy silence with reverence, offering our prayers as a sign of our faith and devotion.

- Lord Jesus, help me to remain faithful to You, even in times of trial. When fear and doubt creep into my heart, remind me of Your steadfast love. Give me the courage to walk with You, even when the path is difficult, just as You walked the road to Calvary for me.
- Teach me to love and serve others as You have loved and served me. You knelt to wash the feet of Your disciples—may I never consider any act of kindness beneath me. Help me to see Your face in the poor, the forgotten, and those most in need of compassion.
- Stay with me, Lord, and never let me be separated from You. In the silence of this night, I long to be near You. Let my heart rest in Your presence, and when I feel distant, draw me back with Your mercy.
- Thank You for the gift of the Eucharist, Your Body and Blood given for my salvation. Each time I receive You, may it renew my soul, strengthen my faith, and deepen my love. Let me never take this mystery for granted but approach the altar with awe and gratitude.
- Strengthen all priests in their ministry, especially those who feel weary or alone. On this night when You instituted the priesthood, bless those who serve Your people with devotion. Renew their hearts with the joy of their vocation, and surround them with support, encouragement, and grace.
- Jesus, in the Garden you felt sorrow and fear—help me to bring You my own. When I feel overwhelmed or anxious, remind me that You, too, wept and were afraid. Help me to trust in the Father's will, even when I do not understand it.
- Lord, forgive me for the times I have fallen asleep in my faith. Just as the disciples could not stay awake with You one hour, I too have failed to watch and pray. Wake my heart to Your presence and stir within me a desire to remain close.
- Grant me a spirit of gratitude for all You have done for me. You gave everything, even Your very life—may I never grow indifferent to that gift. Let each day begin and end with thanksgiving to You, my Savior and Friend.
- Heal those who are suffering, alone, or burdened tonight. As You prayed in agony, so many carry their own crosses—be near to them, Lord. Use me as Your hands and heart in this world to bring comfort and peace.
- Mary, Mother of Sorrows, stay with me as I keep watch with your Son. You stood faithfully at the foot of the Cross—teach me to stay near Jesus with the same love and strength. Pray for me, that I may walk with Him all the way to Easter morning.