

# ***The King Calls us to Himself and to Mission!***

## **Our Response – Week 15 – Experience Holy Week!**

**The Objective:** To plunge ourselves fully and completely into the holiest week of our entire year!

**Background:** We call the week leading into Easter Sunday “Holy Week.” But do we really understand what this week is all about? Do we understand that in the events remembered during this week, our chance for salvation was actually realized? Yet too many of us just coast into Easter Sunday as if this week is not much different than the other 51 weeks of the year. How sad. This week’s activity is an opportunity to truly experience in our heart of hearts what a precious gift we were given as Jesus suffered, died and rose in victory; victory for all; victory that we cannot attain for ourselves.

**What to Do:** This week should be unlike any other week we experience. Our whole week, both at home and in the liturgies and events of this week, the passion of our Lord should dominate our minds and hearts. That means other activities need to take a back seat for this week so that we can fully accompany Jesus as He fulfills His mission, His life’s work of rescuing us from our slavery to sin and death. Let’s look at the major events of the week and what you can expect when you participate in them.

- **Tuesday: Chrism Mass (Cathedral – 10:30 AM)** – It’s at this Mass, that Bishop John Stowe OFM Conv. consecrates all the oils that will be used in the sacraments at all churches of our diocese over the next year, beginning with the Easter Vigil. Representatives from every parish will be present to receive a set of the newly consecrated oils that will be taken back to their parishes.
- **Wednesday: Tenebrae w/Bishop John (Cathedral – 8:00 PM)** – This is a haunting and deeply reverent service of light that provides an environment of deep meditation upon the passion of Jesus. It’s hard to not be deeply moved by this service.
- **Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lord’s Supper (Cathedral – 7:30 PM)** – This mass marks the beginning of the Paschal Triduum; the beginning of our Lord’s passion. It’s a Mass that begins this night but does not conclude until the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night. Bishop John will celebrate this Mass which is probably best known for the washing of the feet of a number of individuals selected from the assembly – recalling Jesus’ washing of the feet of His Apostles at the Last Supper. At the end of this Mass, the altar is stripped bare and will remain so until the Easter Vigil.
- **Good Friday: Veneration/Communion (Cathedral – 3:00 PM & 7:30 PM)** – We reflect on the Lord’s suffering and death. In this somber, reverent liturgy, the assembly hears the Passion narrative proclaimed, is invited to venerate the Crucifix and receive Holy Communion (for Catholics in a state of grace).
- **Holy Saturday: “In stillness earth awaits the resurrection”** – The end of the Triduum is marked by the Easter Vigil (9:00 PM) Mass, the most glorious mass the Church celebrates each year as the Elect (unbaptized who are ready for full initiation into the Catholic Church) are baptized, confirmed and receive their First Holy Communion.
- **Easter Sunday:** We rejoice at Mass with every fiber of our being, celebrating Christ’s victory won for us on Calvary and through His resurrection!

**Parents:** By your example, teach your children that this week is the most holy week of the year. In the home, consider reading the Passion over the course of three meals and talk about what Jesus suffered for us. Attend as many of the services as you can this week. Come Holy Spirit!