

Holy Week

a guide



During Holy Week, we commemorate the events surrounding Christ's Passion. These last days of Lent are meant to prepare us to truly share in Christ's death and resurrection.

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION *Sunday, March 25, 2018*

At Mass, we celebrate Jesus' Messianic entrance into Jerusalem by processing into church with palms. We also hear the Passion narrative, this year from the Gospel of Mark. The juxtaposing moments of joy and sorrow remind us of how quickly public sentiment turned against Jesus when he arrived in Jerusalem. One of the Masses that weekend will begin with a bigger Palm Procession, starting from outside the church and processing outside on the church grounds before entering the church. This year, that large procession will be at the 9:00am Mass at St. Patrick Church.

TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK *Tuesday, March 27*

The priests of the diocese gather at the Cathedral in La Crosse for the Chrism Mass, when the Bishop blesses the Holy Oils which will be used sacramentally in the next year for Baptisms, Confirmations, and Anointings of the Sick. The oils are then brought back to each parish and formally presented during the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. At our parish, we have two sets of oils, one for each church. The Chrism Mass manifests the unity of the priests with their bishop, and this Mass is also the time when the priests renew their solemn commitment to remain celibate, obedient, and loyal as priests in the Roman Catholic Church.

EASTER TRIDUUM *The Paschal Mystery refers to the way Christ's actions continue to save us: by dying he destroyed our death, and by rising he restored our life. The Easter Triduum celebrates this Mystery, making this the most important time of the liturgical year. The Triduum begins with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday evening and concludes with Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday.*

MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER *Thursday, March 29 | 7:00pm | St. Patrick Church*

Before the feast of Passover, Jesus celebrated the Last Supper in which he gave us his Body and Blood. He told us, "Do this in memory of me." At the beginning of Mass, we sing the Gloria for the first time since Lent began. To mark the return of this hymn, you are encouraged to bring bells to ring while we sing. During the Presentation of the Gifts, the Holy Oils, which were blessed at the Chrism Mass, will be presented by our RCIA candidates. After Communion, all leftover hosts are saved, and they will be transferred in procession to the Benedictine Chapel to be kept there for the rest of Triduum. There the Blessed Sacrament will be placed in the tabernacle, and we may spend time in prayer and adoration until midnight. The church building itself will be empty of the Blessed Sacrament, indicated by the open tabernacle door. *Incense will be used at this Mass.*



GOOD FRIDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION *Friday, March 30*

Catholics are required to observe the Paschal Fast on Good Friday, and to continue it on Holy Saturday as they are able.

Stations of the Cross *12:00 noon | St. Patrick Church*

We pray the Way of the Cross to commemorate Jesus' walk with the Cross to the hill of Calvary. For each Station, we listen to reflections on Jesus' struggles from bystanders, say a prayer, and sing a brief song, and we reflect on how greatly Christ loved us to willingly endure such suffering. The Stations that we pray on Good Friday are different from the ones we pray on the Fridays of Lent—this set tells the story from the perspectives of those who witnessed Jesus' walk to his crucifixion.

Commemoration of the Lord's Passion *2:00pm | St. Patrick Church*

Good Friday is the one day of the year when Mass is not celebrated. The hosts that we receive during Communion were consecrated the day before, at the Mass of the Lord's Supper. In addition to hearing John's Passion account, we take time to venerate the cross by making some kind of tangible sign of our gratitude for Christ's selfless action. After this service we will begin the Divine Mercy Novena, which will be prayed for the next 9 days in preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday on Apr. 8.

Tenebrae (Service of Light and Dark) *8:00pm | Sacred Heart Church*

In this "Service of Light and Darkness," we gather to solemnly contemplate that Christ died for our sins. We listen to Scripture, sing hymns, and slip from light into darkness.

HOLY SATURDAY *Saturday, March 31*

Blessing of the Easter Food *12:00 noon | St. Patrick Church*

The blessing of the Easter basket of foods is a Polish tradition that is open to all parishioners. The basket is full of the first food that is consumed after the Easter Mass, breaking the Paschal Fast. Each item represents something in the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus. If you are interested in learning more about this tradition, search online for "Polish Easter Traditions", or call 715-552-8199 to reach a parishioner who has been attending the blessing for as long as we've been offering it.

Easter Vigil *8:00pm | St. Patrick Church*

Incense will be used at this Mass.

The Vigil service is the high point of the Easter Triduum, and therefore of the entire liturgical year. We start in a dark church, where light from the Paschal Candle passes to everyone present in the Service of Light. We then listen to the story of salvation history in the Liturgy of the Word, welcome new members into the Faith in the Liturgy of Christian Initiation, and celebrate a joyful Paschal meal together in the Liturgy of the Eucharist. For the first time since Lent began, we can say, "Alleluia!"

EASTER SUNDAY *Sunday, April 1*

Incense will be used at the 8:30am Mass.

8:30am, St. Patrick Church | 10:30am, Sacred Heart Church

The joyous celebration we began at the Easter Vigil is continued! We renew our baptismal promises, cleanse ourselves with Holy Water in the sprinkling rite, and sing the Easter Sequence, an ancient hymn and proclamation of Easter. We look to the future and the life we are given in Christ.