Creating a Prayer Space for Triduum at Home

Since we cannot be together for the high holy days of Triduum, we can take this opportunity to celebrate in our homes with the symbols of the three days. Below is a guide for creating a dedicated place in your home to gather with your family.

**Choose and prepare a Place:** Clear and clean the space. Discuss with your family the purpose of the prayer space you have prepared to celebrate holy week. What do other family members want to include? Can you make it a place away from normal use during these three days?

**Prepare Symbols:** Each night of Triduum celebrates our faith with different rituals and symbols. Below are suggestions for symbols to be included on each night.

**Bless your Sacred Space** Once your space is created, dedicate it with a blessing.

### Blessing a Sacred Space
Take a few moments after you have prepared your prayer place, to thank God for His goodness. Ask that your prayer here will help you and your family celebrate Triduum: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Great Vigil, in union with the community even though we are physically separated.

**A reading from Paul to the Corinthians:** Brothers and sisters: you are God’s building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a wise master builder, I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. Each one must be careful how he builds upon it, for no one can lay a foundation other than Jesus Christ. Do you know that you are the temple of God, and the spirit of God dwells in you? The temple of God which you are, is holy.

**Blessing Prayer:** Loving God, I/we dedicate my/our home, and this altar as a sacred place. I/we make this commitment to meet you here during Holy Week, to listen to your Word and celebrate the truths of our faith in Jesus. Bless this place of prayer and make it holy. *(Sprinkle with water)* Let me/us see holiness in your world, even in this difficult time when we cannot be with our faith family. Amen

**SYMBOLS FOR YOUR SACRED PLACE FOR EACH EVENING OF TRIDUUM**

**Holy Thursday - April 9 - 7:00 pm**
Your altar or sacred space can include the following:
- A white cloth
- A loaf of bread- During communion, you might break off pieces of the bread to share.
- A candle
- A basin
- Towels

The gospel for this first night is the washing of the feet from John’s gospel. You are invited to participate in this ritual with your family at home as Fr. Kwame and the staff celebrate it at St. Charles. You may wash either feet or hands, as you prefer. The washing of the feet will follow the homily.

In John’s gospel, the institution of the eucharist is replaced by Jesus washing the feet of the disciples. His message is that our service to each other, washing each other’s feet, IS eucharist. When we serve each other, we make Christ present. You might take part of this day to discuss with your household, the ways that you serve others, and the ways they serve you.
Good Friday - April 10  1:00 pm - Seven last words of Christ  3:00 pm - the liturgy of the church

NOTE: There will be no evening service, but you may view both on our website later in the day.

Your altar or sacred space can include the following:

- A red cloth
- A cross
- A candle

During the liturgy of the church, we venerate the cross. You are invited to participate in this ritual with your family at home as Fr. Kwame and the staff celebrate it at St. Charles.

On Good Friday, Jesus surrenders his life to the Father and for us. He asks us to do the same, to surrender our lives to God. This is a quiet day. You might take part of this day to reflect on and discuss together ways that your faith challenges you to seek God’s will rather than your own.

Holy Saturday, the Great Vigil of Easter - April 11, 8:30 pm

Your altar or sacred space can include the following:

- A white or gold cloth
- A bowl of water (symbolizes baptism even though there will be no baptisms)
- A large Candle
- Papers on which is written the names of family members who have passed away and are now part of the communion of saints who will be celebrated in the Litany of the saints.
- A loaf of bread to share during communion

On Holy Saturday,
We light the great candle that symbolizes Christ’s light in the world, and remember that we Christians are called to bring that same light into our world.

We hear readings that recall our salvation history- Genesis, Exodus, Ezekiel and Romans.

We recall our own baptism and renew our baptismal commitment.