

## 2024 Holy Week and Easter Season - What to Expect

### ***Palm Sunday - March 23/24***

Palms will be distributed at all weekend Masses

### ***Holy Thursday - March 28 - Organ/Choir***

No 6:30 or 9:00 am Masses

- Mass of the Lord's Supper at 5:30 pm (church was comfortably full last year)
- Many people say Holy Thursday is their favorite liturgy in Holy Week. At the beginning of Mass, we welcome the Holy Oils that will be used in our parish for the coming year (oil of catechumen, oil of the sick, and sacred chrism). There are three themes associated with this liturgy and reflected in the readings – institution of the Eucharist, institution of the Priesthood and the call to service (represented by the washing of the feet of 12 parishioners). Following communion, we process the Blessed Sacrament to the chapel and blow out all the candles on the altar (in preparation for Good Friday). Following the Mass, we have our Holy Thursday dinner in the Parish Center (comfortably full last year - 200 people). Adoration in the chapel continues until 10:00pm when we close with night prayer. *Mass is about 65 minutes in duration.*

### ***Good Friday - March 29***

No 6:30 or 9:00 am Masses

- Stations of the Cross at 12:10 pm (church was  $\frac{3}{4}$  full last year) - we enter into the passion and death of our Lord by reciting the Stations of the Cross as once prayed by St. Pope John Paul II. These stations are particularly powerful as we become one with Jesus on this reflective day. *Stations of the Cross are about 40 minutes in duration.*
- Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at 6:00pm (church was  $\frac{3}{4}$  full last year). Organ/Choir. Good Friday is the only day of the year we do not celebrate Mass. We begin this liturgy in silence and it has three parts. First, is the reading of the passion according to John's gospel (different reading than Palm Sunday). Second, is the veneration of the cross (we all kiss the cross of Christ). Third, is receiving Holy Communion (we consecrate enough hosts at the Holy Thursday Mass for this liturgy). We depart in silence. *The Lord's Passion is about 65 minutes in duration.*

### ***Holy Saturday - March 30 - Organ/Choir***

No 9:00 am Mass, 4:15 Reconciliation or 5:00 pm Mass

- Easter Vigil Mass at 7:00pm (church was comfortably full last year) - this is the most beautiful liturgy we do all year. We begin with the Easter fire in the church, light the Paschal (Easter) candle and all parishioners light their candles. We

listen to three of the most beautiful readings in the bible before listening to the resurrection story of Jesus. We renew our baptismal promises and welcome into our church 11 adults who have never been baptized or those wishing to be confirmed and receive First Communion. *Mass is about one hour and 45 minutes in duration.*

***Easter Sunday - March 31***

We celebrate the Risen Lord at three Masses on Easter Sunday. Overflow seating is available in the chapel and Upper Room (the Mass in the church is live-streamed to both locations) for all Easter day Masses. *All Easter Sunday Masses are 60 minutes or less in duration.*

- 8:00 am Mass - church was full last year. Music: Organ/Cantor
- 10:00 Mass - all seats in the church were filled by 9:45am last year.  
Music: Organ/Choir
- 12 noon Mass - church was comfortably full last year. Music: Organ/Cantor

***Ascension of the Lord - Thursday, May 9 (Holy Day of Obligation)***

Masses at 6:30 am, 12:10 pm, and 6:00 pm

***Pentecost Sunday - May 19 (marks the end of the Easter Season)***

***We extinguish the Easter Candle***

Masses at 5:00 pm (Saturday Vigil), 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12 noon