

Holy Week

Through our participation in the Liturgy of Palm Sunday (Blessing of Palms, Procession with Palms, Celebration of Mass) we begin our observance of Holy Week. By participating in the Palm Sunday liturgy we can adopt the spirit of those who welcomed and accompanied Jesus as he entered Jerusalem on the Sunday before his Passion, Death and Resurrection. Read Luke's account (Lk 19:28-44) and join them.

Through our participation in the Holy Thursday Mass we become present with the Apostles at our Lord's Last Supper with them. During this supper he instituted the Most Holy Eucharist, the sacrifice of the Mass (completed on Good Friday), the Priesthood through which the Eucharist as sacrifice and sacrament are made present in our Catholic churches throughout the world and centuries. Taking part in the procession of the Eucharist to the "altar of repose" we accompany Jesus to Gethsemane and by spending time in adoration there we respond to his request, "Remain here and stay awake with me" (Mt. 26:38).

On Good Friday, through hearing the Scripture readings, venerating the cross and receiving Holy Communion (Mass is not celebrated), we commemorate and reflect on the Passion and Death endured by Jesus for our redemption.

On Holy Saturday - the Easter Vigil - the Church celebrates its most solemn Liturgy. It consists of The Service of Light (blessing of the Easter Fire and lighting of the Easter Candle - the symbol of resurrection of Christ the Light of the World); The Liturgy of the Word - the recounting of the history of salvation; The Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation - Baptism, Confirmation of the Catechumens; The Mass of our Lord's Resurrection (including the first Reception of Holy Communion by the newly Baptized and Confirmed).

Participate in the Liturgies of Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday Vigil and Easter Sunday consciously, fully and actively with faith, reverence, understanding and devotion. Thus you will receive the graces mediated to us through these great mysteries of our Catholic Faith.

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