



Palm Sunday is the sixth and last Sunday of Lent. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week. Up until Thursday night we are in the last few days of Lent. If we have kept these days with different kinds of fasting, almsgiving, and prayer, then we are near the end. We can perhaps put an extra burst of energy into finishing our Lenten journey.

If we have not kept these days so well, if we have forgotten to pray, neglected to fast, not gotten around to the many ways alms can be given, then there is good news: We have five more days, including today! There is still time to fast and discover what hunger feels like. There is time for almsgiving -- to spring-clean our homes, our wallets and our lives to diminish our attachment to *things*. There is still time for prayer and quiet, for reading our Bibles, quietly reflecting on the words and stories. Yes, there is still time! "Five Days of Lent to conclude your forty days, or Five Days to be your Forty Days."

And then, the week is split in two on Thursday night.

Easter Triduum



What do we do from Holy Thursday to Easter Sunday?

The center and high point of the Liturgical Year is the Easter Triduum. Holy Thursday brings the end to Lent. That night we begin the Triduum (Latin for Three Days). Even though the Triduum takes place over three days, it is meant to be celebrated as *one event*. The Triduum lasts from the evening of Holy Thursday to the evening of Easter Sunday. The Triduum is about the Paschal Mystery - the suffering, death, and resurrection of the one who is truly God, and truly human, Jesus.

What do these Three Days mean for you? Can you make these days different from all the days of the year? As much as possible, life as usual should stop from Thursday evening to Easter Sunday. The entire time from Thursday night until the Easter Vigil should be free of social engagements, free of extra work, and free of entertainment. We make Good Friday and Holy Saturday free for prayer, reflection, preparation, and silence. Our nourishment should be in the form of simple meals. We are asked to fast during Good Friday.

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(Only those from age 18 until age 59 are asked to fast. Please do not fast if you have a medical condition. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. If you cannot fast, focus on simple meals.) If possible, the fast on good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus. We then come to the Easter Vigil hungry and full of excitement to celebrate his Resurrection.

Whether you are young or old, currently active in the parish or not, please set these days aside. Our presence for the liturgies is important. We are all needed here. All of us need this whole community together on its greatest days. Together we will hear some of the church's most beautiful prayers and scriptures. We will worship together in song. Please look closely at the parish schedule and make plans to take part in the liturgies on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. Above all, come on Saturday night for the Vigil!

Holy Thursday of the Lord's Supper March 29th, 7:00pm



On Thursday evening we enter into the Triduum. Things are different this night. The Holy Water fonts are empty. Then, after listening to the scriptures, we do something strange: We wash feet. Jesus gave us this image of what the church is supposed to look like, feel like, and act like. We are called to follow the example of the One who "came to serve, not be served" (Matthew 20:28). All members of the Church are called to serve one another in love. This moment is rehearsal for Christian life, as is the next thing we do, a collection for the poor.

Our collection on Holy Thursday will be for the support of our St. Vincent de Paul ministry, which provides assistance to our neighbors in need.

Next we celebrate the Eucharist. We recall the Last Supper, when Jesus instituted the Eucharist, his presence with us until he returns again. Additional hosts are consecrated on this night for Communion on Good Friday. The Holy Thursday liturgy has no ending. After the priest processes out with the Blessed Sacrament, we can stay to pray awhile or leave. We are now in the quiet and peace and glory of the Triduum.

All are welcome to stay for a time of silent prayer and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the "Garden of Gethsemane" in the parish hall.





Good Friday
March 30th, 7:00pm

We gather and leave in silence on Good Friday. There is no procession. Together we listen to the Passion of the Lord from the Gospel of John. We pray at length for all the world's needs during the Solemn Intercessions. Then there is another once-a-year event: The Holy Cross is held up in our midst and we each come forward to do reverence with a kiss, a bow, or a genuflection. Following the veneration of The Holy Cross, we receive Communion. As with Holy Thursday, there is no end to this Liturgy. There is silence after Communion, and we leave in silence.

We now continue in fasting, prayer, and a vigil. This Saturday is a day of rest and quiet. It is like God's rest at the end of creation. It is the time of Christ's repose in the tomb.



Holy Saturday, the Easter Vigil
March 31st, 8:30pm

Hungry now, and excited, the church gathers outside in the darkness around a blazing fire. Together we experience the flames dispelling the darkness and lighting up the night. In this Service of Light, the fire is blessed, and the new Paschal candle is lit. It is from this candle that our own candles are lit.

Now the Easter Proclamation (Exsultet) is sung, announcing the night when Christ our Light overcame the darkness of sin and death. This is followed by some of the most powerful scriptures in the Bible, which take us through the story of Salvation History. Then we pray to all our saints in the Litany of Saints to
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stand with us as we go to the baptismal font and bless the waters. When there are catechumens, this is when they are baptized and anointed. These are the moments when death and life meet, when we reject evil and give our promises to God in a renewal of our own Baptismal promises. Candidates for reception into the Church are now welcomed and confirmed, along with the newly baptized. Finally, we go to the table and celebrate the Easter Eucharist. Easter Sunday begins, and we are ready for Fifty Days of rejoicing!



Easter Sunday, April 1st
9:30am at Saint John Bosco

The Triduum ends on Easter Sunday at the time of Evening Prayer. Easter Sunday is also the beginning of the Fifty Days of Eastertime, which conclude at Pentecost. This is a season of joyful celebration of all that took place during the Triduum.

Come and Celebrate!
He is Risen! Alleluia!

Resources: *The Three Days*, by Gabe Huck & U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

Holy Week Schedule

Holy Thursday
 March 29th, 7:00 pm, (SJB)

Good Friday
 March 30th, Veneration of the Cross, 7:00 pm, (SJB)
 (No Stations of the Cross - Office Closed)

Easter Vigil
 Holy Saturday - March 31st, 8:30 pm, (SJB)
 (No Confessions)

Easter
 April 1st, 9:30 am, (SJB)

****No Daily Mass During Holy Week****

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WELCOME We welcome you to St. John Bosco Parish, celebrating with us, whether you are new to the area/parish or maybe not so new but just have not registered. If you are not registered, please complete the form below and place it in the collection basket or mail it to the parish office. Thank you. (This is not a registration form).

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