

## HOLY WEEK: THE CENTER OF OUR LIVES

Holy Week begins on March 25th. All of Holy Week, but especially the great Three Days (Triduum) of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil of Holy Saturday, challenge us to **change** the way we schedule and live our lives. At least from the evening mass of Holy Thursday until the completion of the Easter Vigil, the Church calls us to put aside the ordinary tasks of life and devote ourselves to more intense prayer, quiet and reflection. Perhaps we need to learn something from the deep and living faith of our Muslim and Jewish sisters and brothers who seem to have no trouble at all doing just that during their great holy days throughout the year. If they can do it, so can we!

So please try to plan now to make March 29, 30 and 31 days when nearly everything in life stops and the great celebration of Jesus' dying and rising, his Paschal Mystery, takes center stage in our lives. Here are the scheduled opportunities for prayer during our own Catholic high holy days:

### **THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM**

#### **THURSDAY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER – March 29**

(There is no morning mass; there are no scheduled confessions during the Triduum.)

**7:00p.m.: The Evening Mass** (followed by Eucharistic adoration).

**Midnight:** Night Prayer

#### **FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD – March 30**

(There are no masses on this day.)

**3:00p.m.:** The Way of the Cross

**7:00p.m.: The Celebration of the Passion of the Lord**

Liturgy of the Word; Solemn Intercessions; Adoration of the Holy Cross; Communion.

#### **HOLY SATURDAY – March 31**

(There are no morning or afternoon masses or scheduled confessions on this day.)

**11:00a.m.:** Blessing of Easter baskets in [Sayers Hall](#)

**7:30p.m.: THE EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT – The First Mass of Easter**

This is the mass of Easter; Easter Sunday simply continues the celebration begun on this night. The Easter Vigil is the most important celebration of the entire year for Catholic Christians, the holiest of all nights. Fire and water, Word and Eucharist—all proclaim the full meaning and deepest joy of Easter.

#### **EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD – April 1**

Masses at **7:30, 8:30, 10:00** and **11:30a.m.** (Please note that there is NO Mass in the gym.)

And remember that Easter is not over today. **Easter Time** lasts for fifty days, concluding with the Solemnity of Pentecost on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Please do all you can to make these Three Days the center of your life in during this holiest week of the entire year.

Fr. Bob

