

Holy Week Events

Palm/Passion Sunday

On this Sunday, we participate in welcoming Jesus to Jerusalem and into our lives. We recognize Jesus as our Messiah and Savior, and sing: “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” On this Sunday, we also listen to the reading of the Lord’s Passion—his agony, his trial, and his Crucifixion. The same crowd who welcomed him with palm branches are now screaming, “Crucify him!” We pray for the grace to follow Jesus no matter what!

Times to remember: _____

Holy Thursday

Today the Chrism Mass is celebrated by the bishop at the cathedral. On this day, the sacramental oil is blessed. This is the holy oil needed for the sacraments in every parish in the diocese. The priest in each parish takes some of the oil back with him to use in the parish.

In our own parish, we will celebrate the Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper. At this Mass, we celebrate Jesus’ institution of the Holy Eucharist, when he changed ordinary bread and wine into his Body and Blood. This is a very joyful Mass, because we are so grateful that Jesus left us this great Gift of Himself. Usually all the bells in the church are rung during the Gloria, and then the bells are silent until they are rung again on Easter Sunday.

Times to remember: _____

Good Friday

Today we remember the day Christ died for us on the cross. In our homes, we try to be as quiet and as prayerful as possible. This is not a day for TV or video games. It is a day to thank Jesus for his life and his death for us. Some people take time this day to clean the house in preparation for Easter. Others visit several churches in a sort of pilgrimage around their hometown. See if you can help out at home, and then go to afternoon or evening Good Friday services. These services, including the veneration of the cross, are prayerful and powerful. There is no Mass today, because the sacrifice we offer today is Jesus’ death on the cross. Instead, we receive Holy Communion from Hosts consecrated on Holy Thursday.

Times to remember: _____

Holy Saturday

This is another day of preparation, as we look forward expectantly to the Easter Vigil tonight. At the Easter Vigil, the new fire is lit, the new water is blessed, the catechumens are baptized and become neophytes (new Catholics), we renew our own baptismal promises, and we celebrate newness of life in the Resurrection of Jesus! It is the most beautiful night of the year! Come and celebrate!

Times to remember: _____

