

# 2019 Holy Week and Easter St. Thomas à Becket Parish

## PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 14

Sat 4:30 pm & Sun 9 & 11 am

Liturgy begins in the parish hall for all Masses

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

7:30 pm Chrism Mass at

Mary Queen of the World Cathedral

## HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 18

8:00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Bring your Easter breads to be blessed

Adoration until midnight

## GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 19

12 pm Walk with the Cross - begins at the parish

1:00 - 2:30 pm Confessions

3:00 pm Liturgy of the Passion & Veneration of the Cross

4:00 - 5:00 pm Confessions

## HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 20

8:00 pm Easter Vigil

Liturgy begins outside with the blessing of the fire and preparation of the Paschal candle

## EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 21

9:00 am & 11:00 am

**ALL ARE WELCOME**



## HOW TO ENTER INTO HOLY WEEK

Holy Week enables us to walk step by step with Jesus through His Passion. The actions of Holy Week do not just symbolize what happened two thousand years ago, but through the mystical time of the liturgy, enable us to enter into them and participate in the realities that are presented to us.

Beginning with Palm Sunday, we literally greet Christ in His procession into Jerusalem with palms, along with the crowds and children, singing Hosanna and acclaiming Christ's kingship. We recognize that the blessed one who comes in the name of the Lord has entered into our midst. Palm Sunday becomes Passion Sunday as we read the Gospel account of the Passion and literally shout: "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" Those dreadful words show that He truly died for our sins - our sins have brought our Savior to this moment.

On Wednesday of Holy Week, priests renew their priestly promises at the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral.

Holy or Maundy Thursday, named for the mandate that Jesus gave His disciples at the Last Supper, begins the great liturgical drama of the Triduum. Jesus invites us into His mission of self-gift for others, flowing from the Father's love. We commemorate the great gifts of the priesthood and the Eucharist.

At the end of the Holy Thursday Mass we begin our accompaniment of Jesus through His Passion. His sacramental body is processed away from the altar, representing His captivity, as it is stripped, and conveyed through a solemn procession to the altar of repose, where we try to make good the failure of the Apostles in the Garden to keep watch even for one hour.

Prayer, silence, and fasting make Good Friday a particularly powerful day for uniting ourselves to the Cross. The hours between twelve and three on Good Friday, when Jesus hung on the Cross, have been considered a sacred time for prayer and silence. In our parish, we walk through the streets of Pierrefonds with a large cross. The culmination of the day comes in another liturgical reading of the Passion and our veneration of the Cross.

There is a different kind of silence that settles over the world on Holy Saturday: God is dead and we await with sorrowful anticipation the triumph of Christ. In the midst of the darkness of the sinful world, the light of the Vigil fire breaks forth, representing the new life and the renewal of faith as it carries through the church. The Vigil brings new life to the initiated, while everyone embraces the fruits of the Resurrection as they renew their baptismal vows.

And then comes the celebration!

By R. Jared Staudt