

Easter Triduum



Easter Triduum – Three Days, One Liturgy

Holy Thursday – Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

On Holy Thursday, God's faithful people throughout the world begin the Triduum with the Mass of the Lord's Supper. This one liturgy of the Triduum extends through Holy Thursday evening, into the Celebration of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday) and then flows into the Vigil of Easter (Holy Saturday).

The celebrations begin with a procession of pageantry and colour marking this as a special time. We enter into the spirit of service through the washing of the feet and are fed by the Holy Eucharist in the "meal of all meals" given to us by Jesus Christ. The readings of the day all speak of the Passover. We remember the original Passover in the First Reading and then St. Paul applies that Passover to the life of Jesus. Jesus' words in the Gospel remind us that we are to celebrate this meal in honour of his sacrifice.



The Washing of the Feet (*Mandatum*) - Following the homily, the presider washes the feet of members of the congregation. Christ's message was to wash the feet of another as a sign of care, compassion, unity and service to each other and especially to those in need.

The Procession of the Oils and Gifts - On Holy Thursday, the Prayers of the Faithful accompany the procession of the gifts and the holy oils. The Oil of the Sick, the Oil of Catechumens, and Sacred Chrism (blessed by the Bishop at the Chrism Mass) will be presented to the presider and then used for the sacraments of anointing, baptism and confirmation in the coming year.

The bread used in the Eucharistic celebration is home-made and unleavened, and is very similar to the bread that would have been used the night Jesus ate with his disciples. Included with the procession of the gifts are gifts for the poor, symbolizing our concern for the needs of others.

Final Prayer and Procession of Blessed Sacrament - After the final prayer, the Blessed Sacrament that will be used for Holy Communion on Good Friday is brought to the temporary tabernacle in the Queen of Peace Chapel. The faithful are invited to spend some time in prayer with the Lord: a sign of our solidarity with Jesus and our own desire to open ourselves to the will of God in our own lives.

The evening's celebration concludes with the stripping of the altar and removal of decorations from the sanctuary area. This symbolizes the total emptying of Christ as he sought to fulfill the will of his Father. As this begins a formal time of silent prayer and witness, we ask that all please make special efforts to maintain this silence when coming and going from the worship space and parking lot.

Good Friday – Solemn Celebration of the Lord’s Passion & Death

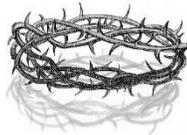
On Good Friday, Christians come together to honour the death of Jesus Christ. His death signifies two major realities: Jesus’ utter surrender to the will of God the Father; and the destruction of human pride. We remain silent as we gather, as a sign of respect and in solidarity with the passion of Jesus.

The celebration begins in silence. The presider enters the worship space without the usual solemn procession and begins by prostrating himself before the cross. This ritual symbolizes the emptying and surrendering of the Spirit of Jesus but is symbolic too of the life of the priest who surrenders himself before the cross in order to shepherd the people of God entrusted to his care.

The readings speak of the courageous act of the Messiah. Isaiah describes the Messiah as the “Suffering Servant” and Hebrews speaks of the ultimate obedience of Jesus Christ who refused to go against the will of God. Traditionally, the Gospel on Good Friday is from the Gospel of John. As Jesus entrusts the care of his Mother to his disciples and entrusts the care of his disciples to his Mother we hear of the foundations of a new family of believers. Jesus’ final words, “it is finished,” convey the remarkable reality that Jesus has now completed all God asked of him, even to death. For believers, these words become even more important as the death of Jesus becomes the final and ultimate sacrifice offered to God for the sake of the world.

The Prayers of the Faithful - The Prayers of the Faithful today are chanted in the ancient Gregorian style. The beautiful and inclusive nature of the intentions is evident in that there is not a single person on earth who is not prayed for. Today, this once-and-for-all death of Jesus Christ was to benefit all peoples, believers and nonbelievers.

The Veneration of the Cross - Venerating the Cross is one of the oldest rituals in the Church. It is a sign of our solidarity with Christ, a willingness to accept God’s will, but also a sign of our appreciation and love for the sacrifice of Jesus. Forms of veneration include kissing, touching, genuflecting, and pausing to make the sign of the Cross. As there was one Cross on which Jesus died, so too, the ritual of the day demands only one Cross for the veneration. This great procession to venerate the Cross becomes one of the most awesome and glorious examples of Christian witness and devotion.



The Rite of Communion - The Eucharist is not celebrated today out of deepest reverence for the sacrifice of Jesus. Instead, the distribution of Holy Communion is of bread that was consecrated on Holy Thursday.

Final Prayer and Vigil Before the Cross - After the final prayer, the Bishop leaves the worship space in silence. The community is invited to keep a Vigil of Prayer before the Cross and to keep the silence when leaving the Church.

Holy Saturday – Vigil of Easter

On Holy Saturday, the people of God remain in quiet prayer and fasting at the tomb of the Lord, meditating on his suffering, death and descent to the dead. The Vigil of Easter, which St. Augustine called the “mother of all vigils,” does not begin until after the sun has set on Holy Saturday evening. During this night, our mourning at the death of our Lord will turn to Easter joy as we proclaim Christ’s glorious resurrection.



The Vigil Mass begins in the dark and quiet, a reminder of our mourning on Good Friday. The darkness is broken by the lighting of the Easter fire and then the Easter candle. All present are given small candles that will be lit from the Easter candle, bringing the light of Christ to illuminate the world. The *Exsultet* (Easter Proclamation), a great hymn of praise to God, is then sung.

After the *Exsultet*, the small candles are extinguished and we return to darkness as the Liturgy of the Word begins. The readings and psalms recount the story of Salvation History, beginning with the Creation narrative, meditating on God’s marvelous deeds for his people throughout history. After the final Old Testament reading (with its psalm and prayer) is proclaimed, the lights of the church are lit and the *Glory to God* is sung by all. The Epistle (letter) from the Apostle Paul is then read, followed by the *Alleluia*, which has not been sung since the beginning of Lent. The Gospel is proclaimed, which tells of the culmination of Salvation History – the resurrection of our Lord.

The Liturgy of Baptism follows, in which those who have been preparing to join the Church are received into the Church through rebirth in Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion. The Litany of the Saints is sung during this time, asking all Saints and holy men and women to join in our prayers to God.

Finally, the Eucharist is celebrated – which marks the first time it has been celebrated since Holy Thursday. At this meal, the whole Church (which now includes new members) is called to the table which the Lord has prepared for his people through his death and resurrection.



As the final solemn blessing is proclaimed, the faithful mark the end of the Easter Triduum and the beginning of the fifty days of Easter joy!

Christ is Risen! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Triduum Schedule 2019

Thurs Apr 18th <i>Holy Thursday</i>	Parish Office Closes Mass of the Lord's Supper Eucharistic Adoration Night Prayer	12:00pm 7:00pm 8:30pm-11:45pm 11:45pm
Fri Apr 19th <i>Good Friday</i>	Morning Prayer Commemoration of the Lord's Death Beginning of Vigil at the Cross* <i>(continues overnight)</i>	9:00am 3:00pm 5:00pm
Sat Apr 20th <i>Holy Saturday</i>	Conclusion of Vigil at the Cross* Morning Prayer Solemn Vigil of Easter	9:00am 9:00am 8:30pm
Sun Apr 21st <i>Easter Sunday</i>	Rosary Easter Sunday Mass <i>(Note, there is no 6:30pm Mass on Easter Sunday)</i>	8:30am 9:00am, 11:30am

*Security personnel will be on hand at the Cathedral overnight to help ensure the safety of all who come to pray.

Cathedral Office Closed

The Cathedral Office is now closed for Easter.
It will reopen Tuesday, April 23th at 9:00 am.

In the case of a death and the need for funeral arrangements or the need for anointing of the sick during this time, please contact:

Fr. Ephraim at ephraim@holyfamilycathedral.ca
or Fr. Deyre at deyre@holyfamilycathedral.ca
or Call 306-659-5818

Sorry! WE'RE
CLOSED

Thank you for your understanding.



Please Pray for our Catechumens

We have 1 adult and 3 youth who will all receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist at this year's Easter Vigil Mass. Please pray for them, particularly in these final days and hours, that they may receive these sacraments joyfully and with open hearts.

O Lord,

Bless those who are moving forward into the fullness of faith in You and in the life of our Catholic Christian family. Guide them in these final days of their journey to initiation. Reveal to them your wonderful love and empower them with the gifts of your Spirit so their first steps as members of your church can be made in confidence and joy.

Amen.



Let Us Pray

God of all creation,

You call each of us to remember,
and in remembering, to recall your Word
who walked among us.

He was a light to the poor, he set captives free,
he gave sight to the blind and he forgave all our sins.
He was obedient to you, Father, even until death,
for our sake and for the sake of the world.

Guide our steps and those of the whole Church.
Help us to remember your Word,
and to follow in the example of love, mercy
and service Christ set for us.

Amen.



BLESSING OF THE EASTER BASKETS

All are invited to bring a basket of Easter foods that will be shared and eaten among your family and friends at Easter for blessing. Baskets will be blessed following the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday and the Easter Sunday Masses. Please **place your Easter Basket** for blessing on the **tables in the Area of Welcome** prior to your chosen Easter celebrations.



Thank you!

WE ♥ OUR VOLUNTEERS

To our many volunteers who gave countless hours to help plan, organize and carry out this Easter Triduum—**Thank you!**

The ways in which time and talents were shared were numerous and varied.

From those who helped with Art, Environment and Plants, to those who served in Liturgical Ministries, Hospitality and Reception organizers and helpers, and Office and Administration volunteers, and those whose work defied categorization - all work was vital to ensuring the success of our Triduum and Easter celebrations.

Once again, thank you for your service to your parish family.
May God bless you today and always.