



**Enter  
into the  
Passion,  
Death and  
Resurrection  
of the Lord  
2010**

# Easter Duty of Confession and Communion

Every Catholic has an obligation under Church Law to receive Communion once a year between Lent and Trinity Sunday (*two weeks after Pentecost*). To receive Communion, a person must be in the state of grace and free from any serious (mortal) sin. It is thus understood that Catholics who have committed a serious (mortal) sin, must receive forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) before receiving Communion. To receive Communion in the state of serious sin is considered a sacrilege.



**RECONCILIATION NOTE:** On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday there will be NO scheduled celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. On Thursday, we begin the Easter Triduum which is our celebration of the Paschal Mystery. Besides the necessity of the priest to prepare for the liturgies of these days, the Sacrament of Reconciliation should be a part of our preparation before the Easter Triduum. Please plan to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation at one of the scheduled times before Thursday. Of course, you may always ask Father to celebrate this Sacrament with you at any time and he will be happy to give you the Church's absolution and God's forgiveness.

## THE EASTER TRIDUUM

We are approaching the end of Lent. Lent is a time of Purification, for we strive to cast out whatever we find in ourselves that is evil; it is also called a time of Illumination, for the prayers, songs and scripture stories of Lent fill us with a kind of light. This lights up for us the way of Christ which we began at baptism. All the days of Lent and all the practices of Lent should lead us to be ready on Holy Thursday to enter the short season that is the very heart of the Church's year. This is a season three days long. That is what its name means: Triduum—the three days. It begins on Thursday Evening (Friday by the Church's calculations from sunset) and lasts only until Saturday Evening. It includes the Liturgies of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. The Masses of Easter Sunday are celebrations of these three days, and they also begin the great 50 days of rejoicing called Easter time. By having one name for all three days the Church focuses on something important: One mystery is celebrated, the Paschal Mystery. It is the mystery of Christ, and it is our own mystery: dying, He destroyed our death; rising, He restored our life. One mystery: when we enter this Triduum Holy Thursday we say: *"We should glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus, the Christ."* The next day, at the Good Friday service, we honor the wood of the cross and say: *"Through your cross, you brought joy to the world."* And Saturday night, at the Vigil liturgy, we hear: *"This is our Passover feast, when Christ, the true Lamb, is slain."* One mystery: a Cross that is about death and yet life, about a Passover that is our joy, our glory.

### HOW DO CATHOLICS KEEP THIS TRIDUUM AS A HOLY TIME?

The Church's calendar makes one very strong suggestion about the first two days: *"On Good Friday and, if possible, also on Holy Saturday until the Easter Vigil, the Easter fast is observed everywhere."* Note carefully: the Easter fast, not the Lenten fast, for Lent is over. But an Easter fast. Church law tells us that on Good Friday, at least, we abstain from all meat and take only one full meal. But the calendar urges us to exceed this. Why? Not to do penance, and not simply to share in the suffering of Christ. We are to fast for these days because of what is happening at the Vigil.

At the Easter Vigil, each Parish assembles together for an evening of watching and praying. The Paschal Mystery, which we have made the center of the fast and prayer throughout Good Friday and Holy Saturday, we now celebrate in the sacraments. For it is on this night that the Church baptizes. Those who have been preparing for months and months are now brought to the baptismal font, the womb of the church. They are baptized, confirmed and share the Eucharist. This is the paschal mystery, as Paul says: *"Are you not aware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Through baptism into His death, we were buried with Him, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a new life."* All our life long we are living out what happened to us in the water of baptism. Each Lent calls us to live that way. Each Easter we find God's love for us in the water and in the bread and wine of Eucharist.

Come then to the Parish Liturgies of the Easter Triduum. Come on Thursday Evening, when we tell of how Jesus showed his love by washing the feet of his disciples. Come on Good Friday when we venerate the saving Wood of the Cross. On Friday and Saturday, keep a good fast in unity with all those who will be baptized into the church. And come on Saturday night: to light the new fire of God's love and listen to the great stories of God's love, to celebrate Baptism, to share Eucharist.

# HOLY THURSDAY: THE LITURGY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER



*The Liturgy will begin at 7:30 PM in the Church. Mass Servers, Musicians, Lectors, and others in the Ceremonies are asked to be at Church at 7 PM.*

This is the day we begin the three day remembrance and celebration of the DYING AND RISING OF THE LORD. All other observances, even the institution of the Priesthood and the Eucharist itself, are secondary. Our focus now is on the DYING AND RISING OF THE LORD JESUS. We begin this Easter Triduum with a Liturgy reflecting the manner of the Last Supper. The Priest invites other Priests to concelebrate at this liturgy as Christ gathered with his apostles. We invite our friends to gather with us to begin this holy time. We

recall the spirit of love and service that filled that upper room when Jesus washed the feet of His disciples. You are invited to watch the priest wash the feet of people imitating Jesus' gesture of love. This is also the anniversary of these two great Sacraments: Priesthood and Holy Eucharist. The Church encourages everyone to begin this holy time with this liturgy.

**TRANSFER TO ALTAR OF REPOSE** —After the liturgy of the Lord's Supper, the Eucharist is removed and transferred to the special place where it remains, commemorating our Lord's dark night in the Garden of Olives. He asked his followers that night, "Could you not even watch one hour with me?" We ask each family in the Parish to spend one half hour before the Eucharist in thanksgiving for what Jesus has done for them. An adoration schedule is prepared so that we can spend time with the Lord. This schedule for Adoration is established by the first letter of the family name. Please note the Sacred Heart Chapel Altar will be used for our Altar of Repose.

9:00 —9:30 PM (P thru S)	9:30—10:00 PM (T thru Z)	10:00—10:30 PM (E thru G)
10:30—11:00 PM (A thru D)	11:00—11:30 PM (H thru K)	11:30—12:00 AM (L thru O)

Many of the neighboring Parishes have Altars of Repose.

*For many centuries in the Church, there has been a custom of visiting as many of the repositories as possible on Holy Thursday Evening.*

**Vigiling**—It has been a long standing tradition in our parish to "vigil or keep watch" on the evening of Holy Thursday after the celebration until Midnight. Though the Eucharist is placed away at midnight, the Church extends this vigiling throughout Friday and into Holy Saturday as a way of marking these special days. Ideally, these three days would be days where the community would stop the normal activities of life and spend time in prayer and preparation of the most important evening of the year—the celebration of the Easter Vigil. Since we live in a less than idyllic place, we instead ask that volunteers watch and pray around the clock, so that the community's work of watching continues throughout these days. We invite you to represent the community by signing up to pray in Church during these days; a sign up chart is located in Bethany Lobby. Come and "watch one hour" in prayer on Thursday Evening and vigil and wait with us for the Lord during Friday and Saturday.

## GOOD FRIDAY: SOLEMN SERVICE OF THE LORD'S PASSION

Friday of the Lord's Passion is the ancient name for Good Friday. The liturgical service naturally centers on the Passion and Suffering of Jesus. It does this, not by a Mass or Eucharistic celebration, but by a Scripture Service and a very simple distribution of Communion. There is also a very Solemn General Intercession of Prayers and the Solemn Adoration of the Redeeming Cross. For the Church, this is not a day of mourning or sorrow, but rather a day of proclamation, prayer and reflection. It is in the presence of the Risen Lord that we celebrate today's service. We can glorify in the instrument of the cross because we have experienced the Risen Lord. It does not focus on the crucified body of the Lord, but on the gift of salvation which has been won for us. That is why the Stations of the Cross are not part of the "official liturgy." The service consists of the Proclamation of God's Word in scripture with the dramatic reading of the Passion, the Solemn Prayers for the Church and the world, the Adoration of the Cross (as our sign of victory), and the Reception of the Risen Lord in Communion. This is the only day that Mass is not celebrated in the Catholic Church, because it sees these three days of the Triduum as one event. The Church is stripped of all the decorations as Jesus was stripped of his clothes. The focus of the day is on the redemption of the world by the saving act of Jesus, our Savior.



We celebrate this Service of Good Friday three times: once at 12 Noon, 5:30 PM (*in Polish Language*) and again at 7:30 PM. On Good Friday, there are many traditions connected with this day. One of the oldest is to visit nine Churches during the day. We are close enough to other Parishes to keep this custom. The Stations of the Cross are encouraged as private prayer, but there will be no public Stations of the Cross at Church, since the focus of the day is on the Solemn Services.

**THIS IS A DAY OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE.**

**NO MEAT MAY BE EATEN AND ONLY THE EQUIVALENT OF TWO NORMAL MEALS MAY BE EATEN ALL DAY.**



# HOLY SATURDAY

## IN THE MORNING

This is a day of quiet reflection and prayer. You are encouraged to keep a fast and abstain in a spirit of generosity, not obligation. You are reminded to bring flowers to the Church in memory of loved ones who have died. These may be lilies or potted bulbs. Place the name of the loved one on the plant. Bring them no later than 9 AM.

## IN THE AFTERNOON

### THE BLESSING OF EASTER FOOD

*at 12:30 PM in Polish and English  
2 PM in Polish*

It is customary for many people to bring food to be blessed. This is food that will be consumed at the Easter breakfast and noon meals. There are special blessings for the Paschal Lamb, other meats, bread, dairy foods, eggs, cakes and pastries, wine, and children and their Easter baskets.

This blessing (in Polish and English) is at 12:30 PM. There will also be a food blessing in the Polish language at 2 PM



**THERE ARE NO 4:30 PM AND 6:30 PM SATURDAY NIGHT MASSES,**

## IN THE EVENING

### THE SOLEMN EVENING VIGIL

The Easter Vigil Mass begins at 5 PM (in Polish) and at 8 PM (in English). In the darkness of the night, the Vigil Fire is lighted outside to signal all to come; the Easter Candle is lighted from the fire and we process into the dark Church with "Christ our Light" leading the way. The Church tells the stories of salvation as recorded in the scriptures and celebrates the power of the risen Jesus. It is the most solemn of nights. There will be a solemn procession of light following the Christ Candle into the church.



This is the MOST IMPORTANT DAY of the Church. It is the celebration of not only Christ's victory over death, but it is the celebration of our redemption as we remember the Lord. The Vigil Celebration centers around the Easter candle which represents the Risen Christ. Jesus becomes the Light of the World and becomes the symbol of our Easter joy. The candle stirs the waters of Baptism, and in the presence of the Risen Christ we renew the Church by baptizing the "Elect" into the Christ and by renewing our baptismal promises. It is on this great night that the Church receives these

Catholics into full communion with the Church through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. This celebration is truly radiant with the Easter Joy in the festive music and resounding ALLELUIAS.

#### RECEPTION AFTER VIGIL

There will be a Parish Family celebration in Bethany Lobby following the Vigil Liturgy. It will be our solemn "breaking of our fast."

#### SOLEMN BLESSINGS

If you bring your Easter Baskets and food items to our party, we will bless them.



#### EASTER WATER

The Church considers the blessed Easter Water to be a special sacramental. If you wish to take water home to bless your house or other items, you may bring a jar and remove some from the font anytime during Eastertide.

# EASTER SUNDAY



**THE LITURGY OF THE RESURRECTION** will be celebrated on *Easter Sunday at 5:00 AM (Polish), 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM and at 1:00 PM (Polish)*. The great joy of the Easter Vigil and the Resurrection have blossomed like a flower for us. The Feast of the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus is the core of our belief. With Christ, we rise to a marvelous new life to be joined in union with Him. We join the Apostles in becoming witnesses of Christ's Resurrection and His continued life in us. We celebrate the joy of our redemption and the reception of the new Catholics into full communion with the Church by the Easter Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. *We repledge our covenant with the Lord by the renewal of our Baptismal Vows. On this great Feast of Baptism, we will celebrate Baptisms at each Mass.*

**EASTER EGGS** The egg has from the earliest times been a Christian symbol of the Resurrection—Christ breaking out of the tomb. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday morning for all the children of the Parish five years old and under, after the 11:00 AM Mass, on the front lawn of the Church.

