

The Holy Week

Message from Fr. Leo:

Hi everyone and welcome to the Holy Week the week in which Lent goes fever pitch and then crystallizes into Easter. This week, we relive, again, the mysteries of our salvation.

PALM SUNDAY: The events of this day always leave a bittersweet taste behind - joy at the triumphal entry into Jerusalem and sadness at the shocking turn of events in the days to follow.

CHRISM MASS: The Mass at which the Holy Oils for the Church's continuing Mission of sanctification are blessed, takes place at the Cathedral on Tuesday, with the clergy gathered around their Bishop and renewing their vows.

This is then followed by the three most important days in the Church's liturgical year: Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday, altogether known as the **TRIDUUM**. It's so called because the events spread across the three days are in reality, all one event in a three-day continuum. It's always interesting how the Triduum basically starts with a Vigil - 'the Lord at prayer in Gethsemane with His disciples struggling to stay awake', and also ends with a Vigil - the disciples huddled in the upper room, keeping a troubled and prayerful wake, following the disturbing events of the last couple of days.

HOLY THURSDAY: Also known as Maundy Thursday, many things happen this day. The most popular of the day's events is the Last Supper. Jesus, as Man, eats a final meal with His disciples before His

Passion, and in the process, institutes the Holy Eucharist and the Sacred Priesthood putting both sacraments at the service of needy humanity as demonstrated in the Washing of the feet.

GOOD FRIDAY: Many have wondered why the day is called "good" when it is a day which makes believers relive the most gruesome event to ever happen to one Man in all human history. It's not the events but the aftereffects of them which make the day "good".

HOLY SATURDAY: Some wrongly call this "Easter Saturday". Easter Saturday is the Saturday occurring within the Easter Octave (First eight days of Eastertide). Properly called "Holy Saturday", it is the only full day the Lord really remains in the tomb before His Resurrection. Hence the Easter Vigil Mass, with the special service of the fire Lucernarium, blessing of the Paschal Candle, singing of the Easter Exultet Proclamation, increased number of readings and renewal of baptismal promises, all preparatory for the history-making and life-changing event of the Resurrection.

It's an extremely busy week, especially for Priests, but also for the lay faithful. We have been preparing ourselves for this week since the past 5 weeks. We will be in Church far more this week than anywhere else! It will be hard work, just as it was for the first disciples, but if we stay committed all through, we will indeed have a glorious Easter with the risen Lord!

Best wishes for this journey,

Fr. Leo