

Holy Week

Holy Week is the last week of Lent and is the final preparation for Easter – the pinnacle of the Church’s year. It is an amazing week as it begins with Jesus riding into Jerusalem as a king on Palm Sunday and finishes, a few days later, with him dying on the cross, condemned as a criminal.



The main days of Holy Week are:

Palm Sunday (or Passion Sunday), the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem.

- **Holy Thursday**, the institution of Communion and the betrayal by Judas.
- **Good Friday**, the arrest, trial, crucifixion, death, and burial of Jesus Christ.
- **Holy Saturday**, the Sabbath on which Jesus rested in the grave.



PALM SUNDAY

On this day, Jesus rode triumphantly into Jerusalem on a colt as crowds of people covered the streets ahead of him with their cloaks and palm branches

Today we remember by: reenacting this event by processing into the Church carrying palms. The palms are blessed during the Mass. (These palms will be burnt to make the ashes for next year’s Ash Wednesday Mass).

The Holy Week ceremonies are full of symbolism



HOLY THURSDAY

The Last Supper:

On this day, Jesus shared special meal with his friends. He broke bread and shared wine which became his body and blood. (the beginnings of the Mass). Jesus also washed his disciples’ feet as an example of service to others.

Today we remember by: participating in the Sacrament of the Eucharist every Mass and the priest washing the feet of members of the Parish during the Holy Thursday Mass.

Holy Week

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Stations of the Cross is a special Catholic devotion that is usually observed on Good Friday, as it traces the last hours of Jesus' life as he carries his cross to Calvary.

Most churches have art forms of the 14 stations around the walls (Our church has painted scenes in frames on the side wall).

The devotion involves stopping, praying and reflecting on each of the significant moments of Christ's final journey and their relevance to our own lives.



Our Parish Stations of the Cross are presented by young people and are always held at 10am on Good Friday



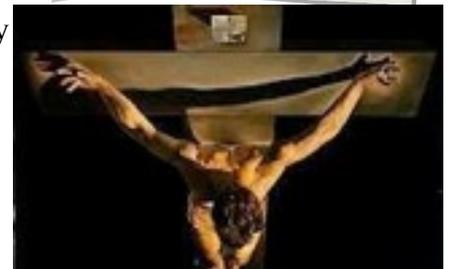
HOLY THURSDAY – AGONY IN THE GARDEN

On this day: After the meal, Jesus took his disciples to a quiet place to pray, the garden of Gethsemane. While he prayed, the disciples fell asleep, unable to support him in his hour of need.

Today we remember by: members of the Parish spending time with Jesus and the Blessed Sacrament in the Altar of Repose after the Holy Thursday Mass.

It was here that Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss and Jesus was arrested and taken away.

**GOOD FRIDAY
IS A DAY OF FASTING
AND
ABSTINENCE FROM
MEAT**



GOOD FRIDAY

On this day: Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice for all mankind. He endured an unfair trial, humiliation at the hands of Roman soldiers who mocked him and gave him a crown of thorns, pain as he was scourged and ultimately death on the cross - all for our sake.

Today we remember by: Participating in the **Stations of the Cross** and the **Good Friday Church service**, usually held in the afternoon at 3pm. (the time Jesus likely died). No mass is celebrated on this solemn day. Instead there is a special liturgy which includes a reading of the Passion (the account of the last days of Jesus' life), prayers and the Veneration of the Cross (where parishioners can worship a wooden cross), followed by distribution of Holy Communion. On this day, all statues and crucifixes in the church are covered.

St. Aloysius Catholic College, Faith Information Sheet 3, 9th April 2014

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