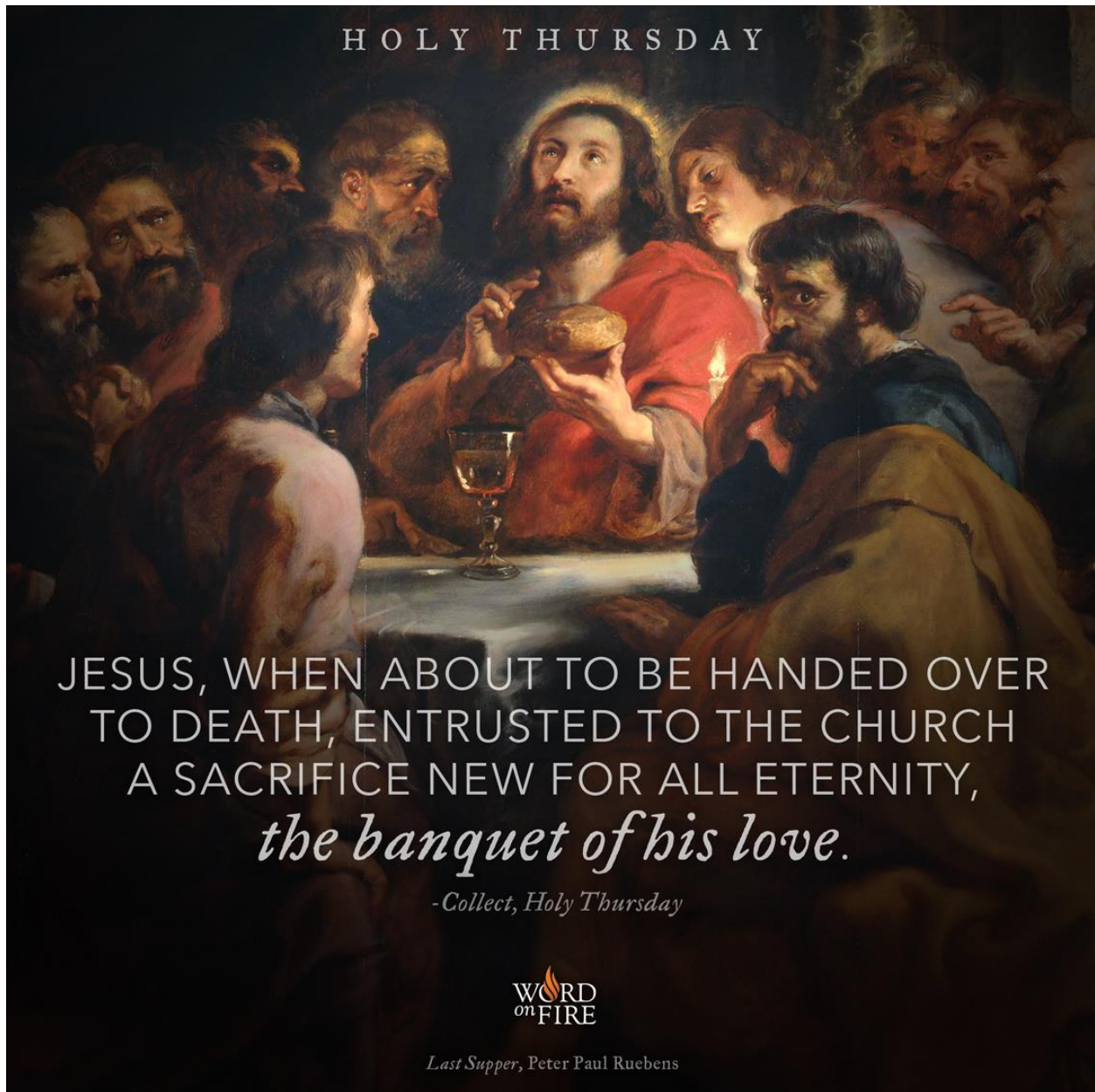


**FROM FATHER JOHN:** *“How shall I make a return to the LORD for all the good he has done for me? The cup of salvation I will take up, and I will call upon the name of the LORD. Precious in the eyes of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones. I am your servant, the son of your handmaid; you have loosed my bonds. To you will I offer sacrifice of thanksgiving, and I will call upon the name of the LORD. My vows to the LORD I will pay in the presence of all his people.” ~ Psalm 69*

***Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ!!!***



Today is Holy Thursday and, with Holy Thursday, Lent ends at the time of Evening Prayer (4:00 pm) and the Easter Triduum begins! This is the holiest of days when we celebrate Paschal Mystery of our Lord Jesus; we celebrate the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus in a most particular way.

**The following is the Holy Week and Easter Mass Schedule:**

- Wednesday of Holy Week ~ 8:00 AM.
- Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper ~ 7 PM.
- Good Friday of the Passion of the Lord ~ 3 PM.
- Holy Saturday, The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night ~ 7 PM
- Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord ~ 8 AM, 10 AM and 12 – Noon
- Blessing of the Easter Food Baskets will take place on Holy Saturday at 11:00 am on the east side of the church near door number 4. The blessing will be outside at each individual car. Reservations are not required for the Blessing of the Easter Food Baskets.
- Mass Reservations are available on the parish website or call the parish office for assistance.

Fr. Don McLaughlin, Pastor of Our Lady of Mercy in Aurora, shared a Table Liturgy last year that families could pray at home as Formal Grace prior to Easter Dinner. He shared it because our churches were closed last Easter and he thought families might want to enter in a more formalized prior as a precursor to Easter Dinner. I thought it was a great prayer last year and I think it is still a very relevant prayer this year.

A lot has changed in a year. Our churches are open even though new regulations have been implemented across the diocese due to the pandemic. But, the thing to remember is ***our churches are open this year!*** This is Good News with a capital G.

Typically, we Catholics say the following prayer as Grace before our meals. *“Bless us, O Lord! and these Thy gifts, which we are about to receive from Thy bounty, through Christ our Lord. Amen.”* But, if we really think and meditate on the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus on the cross, on His resurrection and His Ascension, we will realize that the celebration of Easter really warrants something more than what we do all year long.

I want to share with you a table liturgy for the feast of Easter Sunday that you and your family can pray as part of your family's celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus on Easter Sunday.



## TABLE LITURGY FOR THE FEAST OF EASTER SUNDAY

***The family stands in prayerful silence around their table upon which there are two unlighted candles. After a few moments, the father of the family begins.***

### ***FATHER:***

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, who raised up Jesus from the tomb and has gathered all of us around this table.

### ***MOTHER:***

As the light of God overcame the darkness of death, may these candles we now light be for us a sign of the flame of life that burns within our hearts.

***Candles are lit.***

As these Easter candles call us to the feast of this our table, may the light of Christ, call us to Your eternal Easter feast. May these candles delight our eyes and add splendor to our meal.

**FATHER:**

With great joy, we come to our Easter dinner as we continue our celebration of the ever-newness of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

We rejoice in the resurrection of spring, as birds, flowers and fields come alive after the long sleep of winter.

May we, in this Easter Sunday meal, share with them the great joy of life. Let us pause and, in silence, lift up our hearts to God in gratitude for this holy Easter meal.

***Pause for silent prayer***

As our Risen Lord came as a guest and ate with His disciples, may we be grateful for the presence at our table of our guests, who bring to our table the holy presence of God and add to our celebration of this great and joyful feast.

May God bless them, for together with the food of this feast, they give us reason for joy.

**MOTHER:**

May the taste of goodness in this food be a promise of the eternal Easter meal we shall all share together with our Risen Lord. May this Easter dinner be a sacrament of springtime, peace and eternal happiness.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

May God's blessing rest upon this table and each of us.

**CHILDREN LEAD:**

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.  
Amen.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen.

**CHILD:** St. Ann the Apostle  
**RESPONSE:** Pray for us!

**ALL:**

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**ALL TOAST:**

A Blessed Easter!

