

**Nativity Parish at 4<sup>th</sup> and Alameda** will be holding a Lenten Communal Reconciliation service at 12:15 on Thursday, 18 March! This service for the community will be in our parking lot between the church and the parish hall. All are welcome to attend. There will be a brief Word service followed by general absolution for all who are present. This is the perfect lunchtime gift to give to yourself!

**Holy week is also quickly approaching!** Nativity will offer a Holy Thursday Mass on 1 April at 7 pm in the church to celebrate the Last Supper, the institution of the Mass and of the priesthood. We will also be broadcasting the audio to the parking lot for any overflow or for anyone who prefers to stay in their car. Communion will be provided in the cars as well as in the church. Seating is limited. Doors will open 15 minutes prior to the Mass

**Good Friday service** will be held in the church on 2 April at 12:30 pm to celebrate the passion and death of our Lord. This is the only day of the year in which the Mass is not celebrated anywhere in the world! There will be a Word service with an opportunity to venerate the cross from a distance, prior to receiving communion. We will also broadcast the service to the parking lot. Seating is limited. Doors will open 15 minutes prior to the Mass

**The Easter Vigil Mass** will be held in the church on Saturday, 3 April at 7:30 pm to celebrate the resurrection of the Lord. We will live stream the Mass on Facebook as well as broadcast it into the parking lot. Seating is limited. Doors will open 15 minutes prior to the Mass

**ALL EASTER MASSES (7:30, 9, 10:45 and 12:30)** will be held in the parking lot to accommodate the large number of people expected! We welcome everyone to come and share the joy of the resurrection with the community!

# TRIDUUM

## THE PASSEOVER OF OUR LORD

The Paschal Triduum, or "Three Days," is the most solemn event of the Christian year. Beginning on the evening of Holy Thursday and closing with Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday, these three days celebrate Christ's passage through death to new life.

Early Christians celebrated only the Easter Vigil, concluding with a Mass at dawn at which the catechumens were baptized. By the fifth century, the events of Easter were commemorated as units, and there emerged an Easter Triduum of Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter. Later, Holy Thursday evening was added because the "days" were reckoned from sundown the day before.

The celebration of each day revolves around a central liturgical action: the Washing of the Feet, The Adoration of the Cross, the Baptism of the Catechumens.

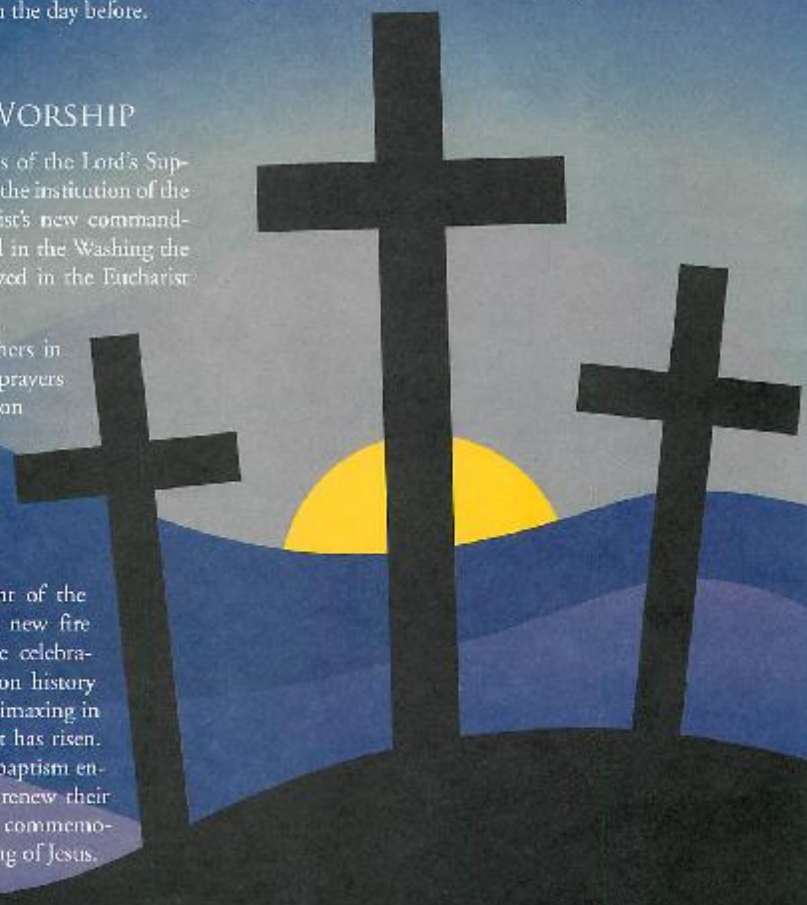
The centerpiece of the Church's entire liturgical year is the Easter Vigil. Beginning with the blessing of the new fire and the light ceremony, the Vigil recounts our salvation history in an extended liturgy of the Word. Baptism and the renewal of our baptismal promises prepare us to receive the Eucharist with new hearts. The Paschal Triduum concludes with Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday, and the 50-day Easter Season begins.

### THREE DAYS OF WORSHIP

**Holy Thursday** celebrates the Mass of the Lord's Supper in the evening, commemorating the institution of the Eucharist and the priesthood. Christ's new commandment to love one another is recalled in the Washing the Feet. That love becomes fully realized in the Eucharist and Christ's sacrifice on Calvary.

On **Good Friday**, the Church gathers in silence to read Scripture and offer prayers for the whole world. The Veneration of the Cross takes place not simply to mourn Jesus' suffering and death but to acknowledge that through the cross of Jesus we are led to glory.

The **Easter Vigil** is the high point of the entire Church liturgical year. The new fire is blessed and candles glow in the celebration of Christ as our light. Salvation history is proclaimed through Scriptures, climaxing in the joyous proclamation that Christ has risen. Those who have been prepared for baptism enter the Church, and all Catholics renew their baptismal promises, for this night commemorates our share in the dying and rising of Jesus.



## TERMS AND CUSTOMS OF THE TRIDUUM

**Fasting** throughout the Triduum or for 40 hours before Easter sunrise was a tradition in the first centuries of the Church.

**The Mass of the Lord's Supper** is celebrated on the evening of Holy Thursday inaugurating the Easter Triduum and commemorating the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples. Many parishes reenact the washing of the disciples' feet during this Mass as well.

**Mandatum** is the Latin word for commandment (referring to Christ's command that we love one another given to his followers at the Last Supper.) Holy Thursday is sometimes called "Maundy Thursday" because of the *mandatum*.

The **Stripping of the Altar** occurs at the end of Mass on Holy Thursday. All the altar coverings are removed, symbolizing the fact that Christ was stripped of his garments upon his arrest.

The **Veneration of the Cross** is part of the liturgy on Good Friday. The clergy and congregation approach a cross or crucifix one by one, and offer a gesture of respect by either bowing or kneeling and reverently kissing the crucifix.

The **Service of Light** takes place at the beginning of the Easter Vigil. The new fire and the paschal candle are blessed, the candle is lit and all light their candles from it. Honoring Christ as the light of the world, it concludes with the singing of the *Exultet*, the Easter proclamation.

The **Easter Vigil Readings** follow the story of salvation from God's creation of the world, the sparing of Noah and his family from the flood and the deliverance of God's people from Egypt to the Gospel accounts of Jesus rising from the grave.

A **Catechumen** is one who is learning about Christianity in preparation for formal entry into the Church.

**Evening Prayer** is part of the Liturgy of the Hours, the official public prayer of the Church comprised of hymns, psalms, spiritual and biblical readings, and prayers. Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday concludes the Paschal Triduum.

## EASTER VIGIL & BAPTISM

From the days of the early Church the Easter Vigil has been the time for adult converts to be baptized and enter the Church. The Easter Vigil consists of four general parts: the Service of Light, the Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of Baptism, and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. After the conclusion of the Liturgy of the Word, catechumens (those who have never been baptized) and candidates (those who have been baptized in a non-Catholic Christian denomination) are initiated into the Church respectively by baptism and confirmation. The faithful are sprinkled with holy water and renew their baptismal vows. Then all adult candidates are confirmed and general intercessions are stated. The Easter Vigil concludes with the Liturgy of the Eucharist and the reception of Holy Communion.



## TRIDUUM PRAYER

Almighty God, you gather your Church  
in solemn celebration of the mystery of our Redemption.  
Open our hearts and minds as we remember the dying  
and the rising of Jesus so that we may appreciate  
more deeply the mystery of our own baptism.  
May these days remind us that we are not alone  
in our suffering nor without hope.  
May the joy we share strengthen us  
to be witnesses of the Gospel throughout the year.  
We ask this in the name of your Son and our Lord,  
Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## MASS READINGS 2020

**Holy Thursday** • Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14;  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-15

**Good Friday** • Isaiah 52:13—53:12;  
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9;  
John 18:1—19:42

**Holy Saturday** • Genesis 1:1—2:2;  
Genesis 22:1-18; Exodus 14:15—15:1;  
Isaiah 54:5-14; Isaiah 55:1-11;  
Baruch 3:9-15, 32—4:4;  
Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28;  
Romans 6:3-11; Matthew 28:1-10



# Easter

NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

**EASTER**, the celebration of Christ's Resurrection, is the oldest and most solemn feast of the liturgical year.

**THE RESURRECTION** is recorded in the Gospels and proclaimed in the New Testament, particularly by St. Paul, who wrote that without the Resurrection, "your faith has been in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:14).

**DISCIPLES WHO KNEW JESUS** was dead and where he was buried went to his tomb, but found it empty, and were told: "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised" (Luke 24:5-6). Later, St. Paul writes, the risen Jesus appeared to more than five hundred disciples (1 Corinthians 15:6).

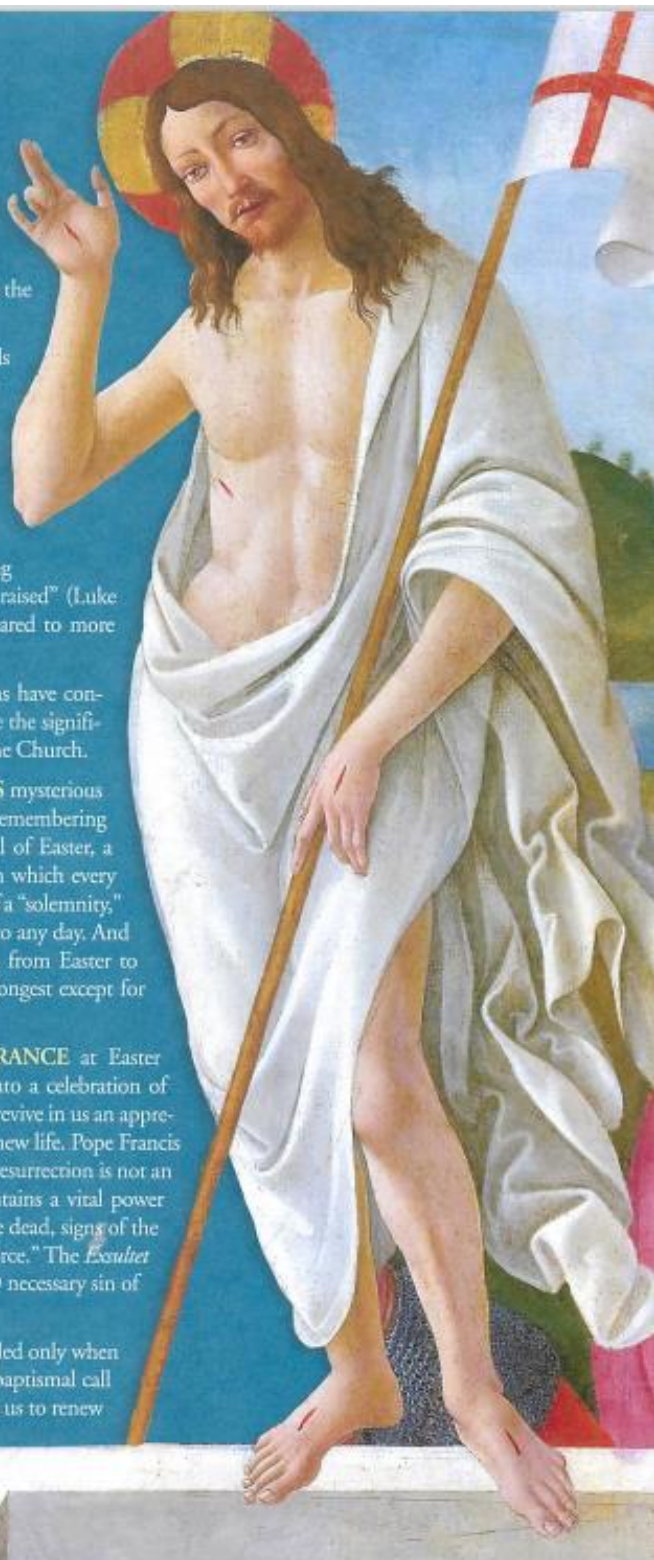
**THROUGHOUT THE CENTURIES**, Christians have continued to try to understand, appreciate and celebrate the significance of this most central experience for the life of the Church.

**ACKNOWLEDGING THE RESURRECTION'S** mysterious depths, the Church's liturgical cycles are based on remembering and celebrating Easter. Every Sunday is a memorial of Easter, a "little Easter." Easter is the only feast in which every day of its Octave (Eight Days) is itself a "solemnity," the highest ranking given to any day. And the 50-day Easter season, from Easter to Pentecost Sunday, is the longest except for Ordinary Time.

**LITURGICAL EXUBERANCE** at Easter is intended to draw us into a celebration of God's gift of salvation, to revive in us an appreciation of the promise of new life. Pope Francis reminds us that "Christ's resurrection is not an event of the past but contains a vital power

that has permeated this world. Where all seems to be dead, signs of the resurrection suddenly spring up. It is an irresistible force." The *Exsultet* at the Easter Vigil boldly declares: "O happy fault, O necessary sin of Adam, which gained for us so great a Redeemer!"

**AS IF TO REMIND US** that our Easter joy is fulfilled only when we do our part, when we respond faithfully to our baptismal call to love God and others as ourselves, the Church asks us to renew our baptism promises to reject evil and to "serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church."





## THE HISTORY OF EASTER

Easter is the celebration of Christ's resurrection, the culmination of Christ's mission and the foundation of our faith. Easter is also the oldest Christian holiday, one that Pope Leo I regarded as the greatest feast of the liturgical year, a conviction that has since been widely embraced. As St. Paul wrote, "If Christ has not been raised, then your faith has been in vain" (1 Cor 15:14).

St. Bede suggests that word "Easter" could be related to *Estre*, an ancient goddess of spring. The more common term for Easter was the Latin *Pasch* or *Passover*. Easter was the *Festa Paschalia*, a name that is plural because Easter is not just a one-day event but includes seven more days of celebration (called the Easter octave). The name Easter is also related to the German word for east, *astern*, where the sun rises. So the associations of light from the rising sun and the new life of spring naturally carry over to our celebration of new life through Christ.

The fixing of the date of Easter was complex and somewhat controversial. To the members of the early Church, every Sunday was regarded as a celebration of the resurrection. When it was determined to single out one day to highlight the feast, there was disagreement as to the proper date. Some Christians, including St. Irenaeus and St. Polycarp, felt it should coincide with the Jewish Passover, which was determined by the lunar calendar, while others preferred the Sunday celebration date that eventually prevailed when the Council of Nicaea in AD 325 determined that Easter is to be celebrated on the first Sunday following first full moon that occurs on or after the spring (vernal) equinox.

Alleluia

## Terms of the Easter Season

**Alleluia:** From the Hebrew word meaning "Praise the Lord," *Alleluia* is a special acclamation of joy in the Easter Season.

**Ascension:** Originally celebrated on Thursday (40 days after Easter), now all U.S. dioceses except 6 celebrate it on the Seventh Sunday of Easter.

**Easter:** The first Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox, Easter is the celebration of Jesus' resurrection. The Church considers every Sunday in the year a commemoration of Easter.

**Easter Duty:** Having received First Communion, every Catholic in the United States must receive communion at least once a year during Easter time, defined in the U.S. as the period from the First Sunday of Lent to Trinity Sunday.

**Easter Season:** The fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday.

**Paschal Candle:** A large decorated wax candle that is a symbol of the risen Savior, the light of the world. It is lit during Mass from the Easter Vigil to Ascension Thursday, and used thereafter in baptisms and funeral liturgies.

## Mass Readings for the Easter Season 2020

**Easter Sunday:** Acts 10:34, 37-43;

Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 Colossians 3:1-4  
or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8; John 20:1-9

**2nd Sunday:** Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24;  
1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

**3rd Sunday:** Acts 2:14, 22-33; Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-11;  
1 Peter 1:17-21; Luke 24:13-35

**4th Sunday:** Acts 2:14, 36-41; Psalm 23:1-6;  
1 Peter 2:20-25; John 10:1-10

**5th Sunday:** Acts 6:1-7; Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19;  
1 Peter 2:4-9; John 14:1-12

**6th Sunday:** Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; Psalm 66:1-7, 16, 20;  
1 Peter 3:15-18; John 14:15-21

**Ascension of the Lord:** Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47:2-3, 6-9;  
Ephesians 1:17-23; Matthew 28:16-20

**7th Sunday:** Acts 1:12-14; Psalm 27:1, 4, 7-8;  
1 Peter 4:13-16; John 17:1-11

**Pentecost:** Acts 2:1-11; Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34;  
1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13; John 20:19-23



Figure 1: [click to view video](#)

## Blessing of Ashes

Burning of Palms and blessing of ashes for Lent 2021. Follow us on Facebook and on our website for more Lenten opportunities.

Website: [www.nbvm.org](http://www.nbvm.org) Facebook: ...

[youtu.be](#)



Figure 2: [click to view video](#)

## Stations of the Cross

Join us for the Stations of the Cross in our prayer garden!

[youtu.be](#)

### ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

**ALL SERVICES WILL BE IN THE PARKING LOT.** Please remain in your cars and we will instruct you on how to receive your ashes.



0700 – Word Service with Ash Distribution

0900 – Mass with Ash Distribution

1215 – Word Service with Ash Distribution

3 – Word Service with Ash Distribution

6 – Word Service with Ash Distribution

We will be holding a collection at all Ash Wednesday services.

### MASS

Nativity will offer Mass at 9 am in the church every weekday during Lent.

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

This year, because of the pandemic, we will NOT hold in-person Stations of the Cross. Each parishioner is encouraged to pick up a Stations book from the parish office so they may follow along and participate with our recorded version of the Stations in the Stations Garden. We will update the recording as we progress through Lent.

The Stations Garden will remain open from 8-4 each day for individual devotion. We encourage you to utilize this beautiful facility. Books will be available at the entrance to the garden.