

From Fr. Fleming's Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It's Holy Week! Here's how your parish will be praying this week - I hope you will be with us!

Daily Mass will be celebrated on **Monday at 7:00 a.m.**, on **Tuesday at 9:00 a.m.** and on **Wednesday at 7:00 a.m.** (Morning Mass is NOT celebrated on Holy Thursday, Good Friday or Holy Saturday.)

Confessions will be heard on **Wednesday night** from **6:30 – 8:00 p.m.** Fr. Myles Sheehan and I will be hearing confessions on this night. (*Note: Confessions are not scheduled for Holy Saturday afternoon.*)

In the **Paschal Triduum** (**Thursday, Friday and Saturday of Holy Week**) the Church celebrates the most important and beautiful liturgies of the whole year.

On Thursday at 7:30 p.m. we will celebrate the **Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper** with the Washing of Feet and procession with the Eucharist. All those present will be invited to have their feet washed and to wash the feet of another person, just as Jesus instructed us at the Last Supper. (At the appropriate time, those who wish to participate will be asked to remove their shoes and socks in their pews and to come forward barefoot.) While in some years as many as 40 people participate in this, it is an **option** in which many share simply by praying and witnessing this sign of service.

Mass on Holy Thursday concludes with a **procession with the Blessed Sacrament** from the altar in the sanctuary to an "altar of repose." **ALL** are invited to walk in the procession. Our procession will exit the upstairs church via the front doors of the church and enter the lower level through the door on the street level in Monument Square. (*The lift, of course, will be available for those unable to use the stairs.*) Arriving in the lower church, the Eucharist will be placed in a special tabernacle and all are welcome to remain for a moment of prayer on that night when Jesus asked his friends to pray with him in the garden after the Last Supper. **The lower church will remain open for prayer before the Blessed Sacrament until midnight.**

On Friday evening at **7:30 p.m.** we will have the **Celebration of the Lord's Passion**. This liturgy includes the **proclamation of the Passion** from the gospel of John, the annual **Solemn Prayers of the Faithful**, the **procession with and Veneration of the Cross**, and **Holy Communion**.

At **4:00** on **Good Friday afternoon** we will have a **children's service** which is a simplified version of the evening liturgy. Holy Communion will not be distributed. Although this service is geared for children, all are invited to attend.

On Saturday night at **8:00 p.m.** the great **Easter Vigil** will **begin outdoors** with the **lighting of the New Fire**. This is followed by the **procession with the Easter Candle** and the candlelit, sung proclamation of the **Easter Exsultet**. A series of **scripture readings and sung responses** will trace our salvation history right up to the **gospel account of the Resurrection**. After the homily we will renew our own baptismal promises. And of course, the Easter Vigil includes the celebration of the **first Mass of Easter 2018**.

Of all the worship that truly marks us as Catholic, these three liturgies are at the top of the list. As I have written before, it is unfortunate that so many Catholics live their whole lives without ever participating in these great annual celebrations. Please plan on joining us for all three – and if that seems too daunting, come at least to one or two!

On Easter Sunday Mass will be celebrated at: **7:30, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.** I'm grateful that Fr. Myles Sheehan, SJ will celebrate the 7:30 a.m. Mass on Easter morning! Note: We will NOT have Mass at 5:00 p.m. on Easter Sunday.

Sincerely,
Fr. Fleming