

What a blessing to have an opportunity to celebrate the Sacred Triduum live and in person. Our Easter schedule can be found on our parish website now and in the Palm Sunday bulletin.



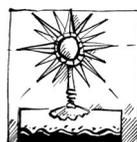
During this unusual time of Covid, we have planned the liturgies accordingly in order to celebrate the Three days, the most important days of our Liturgical Year, in the safest way possible. The following will outline the adaptations we have made to each Liturgy to provide a safe, shortened Liturgy still filled with all its prayerful and celebratory actions while keeping its utmost reverence.



Holy Thursday celebrates both The Foot Washing, representing how Jesus shows us through his humility that we are to “wash each other’s feet”, to serve one another with humility and grace; and the Institution of the Eucharist. Jesus specifically tells us how we are to celebrate the Eucharist and to share in his life, death and Resurrection through the action of celebrating the Eucharist and being Eucharistic people; feeding one another humbly with love, charity and mercy of Christ.

We literally help feed others through our Social Concerns office: On Holy Thursday please bring your food items to the front of the church receiving your donations (as we do each first Sunday of the Month) as well as monetary donations to assist local families in need. Thank you for your ongoing generosity.

During the foot washing on Holy Thursday, we will have 12 representatives from the variety of the ministries active here at Ascension. They will have their feet washed by our Pastor Fr. John. He is so excited and humbled to wash the feet of so many who day after day “wash the feet” of this community with prayer, love, service, and joy. Next year we hope to return to inviting the entire community to get their feet washed or have the opportunity to wash others feet.



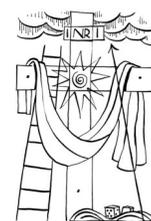
At the end of the Mass, for one full hour, there will be an opportunity to remain in your seats to take time with Jesus and adore him, to remain with him in solemn prayer.

Good Friday will remain a solemn service focused on the Cross and the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ. We will have the great opportunity to actively participate in the proclamation of the Passion with listening and responding to the Story which helps us understand the suffering Christ and our need to reflect on



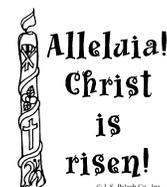
our own suffering and our desire to be raised up to new life.

At the conclusion of the Good Friday Service, all will have the opportunity to venerate the cross. As we expect many at the Good Friday Service, there will be a cross in the main church as well in the hall (where overflow will be available) for the veneration ritual. We ask all to take a moment to pay homage with a bow or genuflect, refraining from kissing or touching the cross. Those holding the cross will welcome others to have an opportunity to hold the Cross with reverence and honor.



The **GREAT EASTER VIGIL** is just that: “GREAT”! This is the night we begin with the light of Christ and hear our story as a faithful people, the night we remember our history and our future; the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. This night we renew our baptismal promises and witness many who have been preparing for a year and some two years to join all the Baptized at the Table of the Lord. We pray, we praise, we witness, we celebrate, we believe and then we are sent to proclaim all that we have heard and witnessed to the world In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The Elect and candidates, those who have been preparing for full initiation in the Catholic faith will begin outside by the Easter Fire. The remainder of the assembly will be gathered in the church witnessing on the screens the very moment when the new Paschal candle will be lit. This Easter candle which is lit during the season of Easter and for Baptisms and Funerals – symbolizes Christ’s light in our lives. The great procession with the Elect and candidates and the ministers will begin and all will light their candle from the light of the Paschal candle as we hear the song of our history during the *Exultet*.



We then continue with the Word of God then move into the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation witnessing new life of so many who have committed themselves each week to unpacking the Word of God and learning and sharing all that the church has to offer. The Elect will do this in front of the Altar for all to witness with the support of their sponsors and the community present. Then with an outpouring of Praise we sing “Alleluia” for all who have Christ in their lives.

We then share the Eucharist and praise God for offering his Son so all may live in love. We are then sent out to share the Good News - that we have seen with our own eyes, we have heard with our own ears, and we have felt with our own hearts, the Glory of the Risen Christ Jesus.