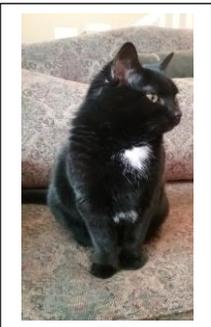


THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PASTOR: Making Time for Holy Week

Today begins the most important week of the year: Holy Week. Because Holy Week allows us to participate in the most important events of the life of Jesus regarding the salvation of the human race – and the most vivid experience of His great love for us – **it is essential that, as Catholics, we make a point to take part in all our Holy Week liturgies.** It is especially essential that we bring our children and grandchildren to experience these high moments of our Christian faith.

The powerful thing about the Catholic liturgy is that, because we are dealing with matters of both time and eternity with the sacramental Real Presence of Jesus, we are actually able literally to relive these events of the Paschal Mystery in the life of Jesus. What more profound experience could we have than to accompany Jesus all the way from his triumphant entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday through the turning of events later in the week: His Last Supper and later betrayal on Holy Thursday; His trials and Way of the Cross and Crucifixion on Good Friday; His harrowing of Hell on Holy Saturday; His glorious Resurrection and triumph over Satan on Easter Vigil and also on Easter Sunday. Holy Week is a re-living of the reason why Jesus came to Earth in the first place: the life-and-death struggle and epic cosmic battle between good and evil – between God and Satan. I encourage parents to explain to our children and grandchildren what was truly at stake during Holy Week, and why it all mattered: especially for our eternal salvation. **And bring our children and grandchildren** to witness and experience these amazing realities here at the church all through Holy Week. In an age when our next generation is being given so many poor role models and is being pummeled with countless temptations, why would we deprive them of experiencing first-hand a personal encounter with a Lord who loved them enough to do battle with Satan for their souls. Our children – indeed all of us – need to be immersed with the kind of love and protection Jesus demonstrated in his struggles during Holy Week. And it means such a great deal to Jesus for us to be there to accompany Jesus in His trials and sufferings. Holy Week has been the defining experience of Catholics for generations; let's not lose its meaning. Together as Hardin County Catholics, may we all take part in our Holy Week liturgies and witness fully to Jesus Christ being the light of the world – the light that our world truly needs.

This year in our cluster, according to our yearly rotation, the Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday liturgies will be held at Ada, but it's vital that all our Hardin County Catholics take part. Holy Thursday Mass will be at 7:00 pm followed by Eucharistic Exposition available as late as 11:00 pm, when we re-live the Last Supper and accompany Jesus in his Agony in the Garden and Betrayal. Good Friday's principal Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified will be at 7:00 pm, where we re-live the crucifixion of Jesus and are able to reverence the Holy Cross. Holy Saturday Easter Vigil – the most important Mass of the entire church year – begins at 8:30 pm; this is a glorious Mass when we light the Easter fire, we light the new Easter candle as the Light of Christ, we listen to the whole story of God's preparations for our salvation from the Bible, we welcome the triumphant Resurrection of Jesus to great fanfare, we renew our baptismal vows with Holy Water, and we celebrate the Risen Lord with the Eucharist. And then, Easter Sunday, at both parishes, we continue to celebrate the Resurrection with his appearances to the Apostles and to the Holy Women. A lot to experience! Let's not leave Jesus behind; let's all together – with our children – accompany Jesus all the way through Holy Week and celebrate our Catholic faith in eternal salvation to the full!



THOUGHTS FOR OUR PARISH CHILDREN by “Jackie”, the Pastor’s Cat

Hi boys and girls! My name is “Jackie”, and, as you know, I am Father Ferguson’s cat. Today is the start of Holy Week! That’s right! This is the most important week of the year! We get to come to church several times and be with Jesus in a special way as He goes through the Last Supper, His Crucifixion, and His Resurrection. He did all that because He loves you and wanted to help you to get to Heaven. I love Holy Week because so many special things happen at Masses this week. Ask your parents to bring you, and see how many different and unusual things you can pick out! Have a “purr”-fect week!

Holy Week

- Tuesday, April 16 Chrism Mass in St. Joseph Cathedral in Columbus at 6:00 pm
- Thursday, April 18 Holy Thursday Mass at OLL (*with incense*) at 7:00 pm
Includes Foot Washing, Presentation of Oils, Procession to Altar of Repose, Stripping of the Sanctuary, Adoration until 11:00 pm
- Friday, April 19 Mime Stations of the Cross at OLL at Noon

Stations of the Cross at ICC at 3:00 pm

Good Friday Liturgy (*with no incense*) at 7:00 pm
Includes Passion Reading, Veneration of the Cross, Communion, Silent Exit
- Saturday, April 20 Easter Vigil Liturgy at OLL (*with incense*) at 8:30 pm
Begins outdoors at 8:30 with Liturgy of Light (new fire, Paschal candle procession, Eight readings and Gospel, Baptisms, Professions of Faith, Confirmations, Holy Communion
- We will be welcoming new members through the Church's Sacraments:
From Our Lady of Lourdes: Ashley Vermillion, Yutong Skye Shi, Kent Winegardner
From Immaculate Conception: Jeff Patterson, Niki McBride, Savannah McBride
- Sunday, April 21 Easter Sunday Masses (*with incense*) are 11:00 am at Our Lady of Lourdes and at 9:00 am at Immaculate Conception



Reminders:

- Sunday, April 28 at 12:00 pm, immediately following Mass
Cookbook Sales and Signing
AND
ONU/Newman Club Farewell Reception
- Sunday, May 5 PSR Classes 9:45 am
VBS Planning Meeting at 12:00 pm
- Sunday, May 12 PSR Classes 9:45 am
Rehearsal for First Communion with parent at 9:45 am
- Saturday, May 18 First Communion Mass at 11:00 am
- Sunday, May 19 PSR Classes 9:45 am
Rehearsal for Confirmation with parents & sponsors at 12:15 pm
- Wednesday, May 22 Confirmation Mass at 7:00 pm