

HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS

Holy Week Masses



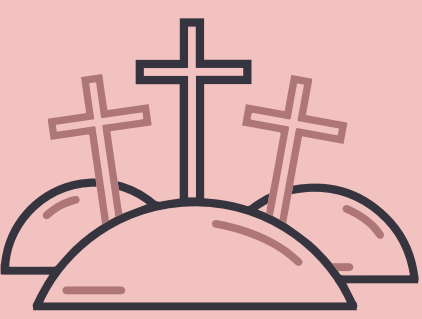
PALM SUNDAY

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday when we celebrate the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. On that day, the people laid palms before Him, a gesture reserved for triumphant leaders. At Mass, we distribute palms to the faithful who may keep them for a time for use as devotional objects. The palms are blessed at Mass. Eventually, these palms are returned to the Church, burned, and used at next year's Ash Wednesday services.



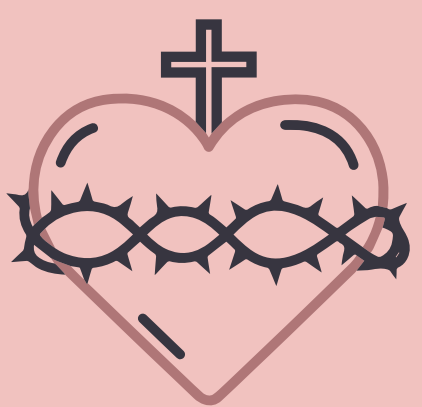
HOLY THURSDAY

On this day, we remember how Jesus celebrated the Passover feast with His disciples. We refer to this event as the Last Supper, and it commemorates the institution of the Eucharist and the institution of the priesthood. During this meal, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples in order to teach them humility and the importance of serving others. After supper, Jesus went to the Mount of Olives and prayed. Jesus was arrested later that night.



GOOD FRIDAY

The next day is Good Friday, and on this day, we commemorate the trial, punishment, and crucifixion of Our Lord. The celebration of the Lord's Passion is a somber liturgy with three major parts: the proclamation of the Passion, the veneration of the Cross, and the reception of Holy Communion. The Tabernacle is left empty, to show that Christ is departed. Good Friday is the only day of the liturgical calendar in which Mass is not celebrated.



HOLY SATURDAY

On Holy Saturday, we remember that Jesus descended into hell where He preached the Gospel to those who preceded him in death, and he opened the way to heaven for all those who were worthy. After nightfall, the Church is permitted to celebrate the Easter Vigil, which contains the service of light, the Easter Proclamation, and a baptismal liturgy for new members of the Church, in addition to Scripture readings and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.



EASTER SUNDAY

Easter is the celebration of Christ's resurrection and His triumph over sin and death. Since Easter represents the fulfillment of God's promises to mankind, it is the most important holiday on the Christian calendar. The Easter date is movable and always falls on a Sunday between March 22 and April 25. Commemorating the sacrifice of the true Lamb of God and the Resurrection of Christ is the cornerstone upon which our faith is built.