

Celebrating Holy Week and Easter Triduum Liturgies



Celebrating at Home in Your Domestic Churches

During this unprecedented time, we have to celebrate the holiest of weeks in our homes. The silver lining in this pandemic is that the Lord has provided us a gift of down time from our busy lives. Please use this time to rest in the Lord this Holy Week. See this gift as a retreat!

We offer the following suggestions of celebrating the Liturgies of Holy Week and Easter Triduum in your homes as you watch the liturgies online or on television. We are really thinking outside the box here, so do what you can to celebrate as a family. Each page highlights a different day in Holy Week and the Easter Triduum.



PALM SUNDAY

Prayer Space/Prayer Table: Prepare a prayer space in your home using a small table. Place a crucifix, candles, a bible, icons, prayer cards on this table. Have this be a place where people in your home can go to pray during this week.

Palm Branches: We cannot pass out palm branches in time for Palm Sunday, but as an alternative go outside and find a branch off a tree or a shrub or have your children make palm branches out of paper. Whatever you decide to do, give one to each member of the family and as we sing "All Glory Laud and Honor" have these branches in hand. Hold the branches as we proclaim the Passion according to Matthew. The Gospel writers refer to these branches differently: Matthew refers to them as branches, Mark refers to them as leafy branches from the fields, and John refers to them as palm branches. Get creative!

Palm Sunday Collect

Almighty ever-living God, who as an example of humility for the human race to follow caused our Savior to take flesh and submit to the Cross, graciously grant that we may heed his lesson of patient suffering and so merit a share in his Resurrection.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



Mass of the Lord's Supper Collect

O God, who have called us to participate in this most sacred Supper, in which your Only Begotten Son, when about to hand himself over to death, entrusted to the Church a sacrifice new for all eternity, the banquet of his love, grant, we pray, that we may draw from so great a mystery, the fullness of charity and of life.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



HOLY THURSDAY - Mass of the Lord's Supper

Washing of Feet: It is tradition during the liturgy to wash the feet of 12 people. This year, the rite is being omitted in the Liturgy. Before the Liturgy begins gather the family together and wash one another's feet as an act of love and service. Here is sample service that you can use: [At Home Footwashing Service.](#)

Gloria and the Bells: It is the tradition of the Church that the church bells ring during the Gloria of the Mass of the Lord's Supper. We do not hear the bells again until the Gloria of the Easter Vigil. Find any type of bell that you might have around the house and ring it during the Gloria.

Altar of Repose: Following the Mass, we will stream on our website the tabernacle until 9:30 p.m. Place your tablet, computer, iPad in your prayer space and have private prayer together.



Paschal Watch: Take some time for personal prayer during the Easter Triduum. "Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray!" The altar is stripped in Church at the end of Mass. Strip everything from your prayer area that can become a distraction.



GOOD FRIDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION AND DEATH

Removing Shoes: We have the tradition at Saint Pius X to remove our shoes for we walk on holy ground this day, the Passion of the Lord.

Veneration of the Holy Cross: If you have not already included a crucifix in your prayer space, take a crucifix of your wall and place on your prayer table. When the cross is revealed in Church, place candles around the cross. As the cross is venerated by the priests, have your family venerate your home crucifix.

Paschal Watch: Take some time for personal prayer during the Easter Triduum. "Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray!" The altar is again stripped again at the end of the Good Friday Service. Keep your prayer space stripped of distractions. We will stream on our website the crucifix on the steps of the altar surround with candles when services are not taking place for personal prayer.

Stations of the Cross: Pray the Stations together as a family. We will have Good Friday Stations at 7:00 p.m. on the website. You could also go outside and walk around your neighborhood or even your backyard. You can mark 14 spots where you can stop and walk the way of the Cross in a creative way.

Good Friday Collect

Remember your mercies,
O Lord, and with your
eternal protection
sanctify your servants,
for whom Christ your
Son, by the shedding of
his Blood, established the
Paschal Mystery.
Who lives and reigns for
ever and ever.
Amen.



Easter Vigil Collect

O God, who make this most sacred night radiant with the glory of the Lord's Resurrection, stir up in your Church a spirit of adoption, so that, renewed in body and mind, we may render you undivided service. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.



EASTER VIGIL

Preparing a Home Paschal Candle: Find a candle at home that can be decorated. Here is a link to an example of what should be a part of the Paschal Candle: [Paschal Candle](#). You can carve your own based off the image. After the essential part of the candle is done, be creative and decorate the candle with religious images of your choice. Next, find thumb tacks or rocks and place them in the middle of the cross and on the 4 ends of cross. These will represent the 5 wounds of Christ.

Dress Up: Dress as if you were going to Church for Easter!

Paschal Candle: During the Easter Vigil, as Fr. Bill consecrates the Paschal Candle, trace the images on your Paschal Candle. When it is lit, light yours at home. Turn out the lights in your home.

Lighting of Candles: After the Paschal Candle is lit, have candles available for your family to light from the Paschal Candle. Hold these candles as Fr. Nathan chants the Easter Exsultet.

Liturgy of the Word: As we begin the Liturgy of the Word, extinguish your candles except the Paschal Candle. Keep the lights off and listen to the readings by the light of the Paschal Candle.



Gloria and Placing of Flowers/Decorating: When the Gloria begins, turn the lights on in your home. Locate the bells that you used on Holy Thursday and ring them during the Gloria. If you have flowers, place flowers in your prayer space and place any other decorations that you desire in this area.

Renewal of Baptismal Promises: Following the Renewal of Baptismal Promises, if you have holy water in your home, bless yourselves as a reminder of Baptism.

After Mass: Have a reception for your family (include foods that you may have given up for Lent). Feast with joy in the Lord! Happy Easter!