***What’s so holy about Holy Week?***

Holy Triduum

* What does ‘Triduum’ mean?
  + The Three Days
* What’s the big picture?
  + Sundown on Holy Thursday to sundown on Easter Sunday is considered the most solemn or sacred part of the liturgical year because it the final hours of Jesus’ earthly life and the culmination of his life’s ministry. This three-day period is referred to as the *Easter Triduum*, also known as the *Sacred Triduum*, or *Paschal Triduum*.

Palm Sunday

* Passion Sunday and Passion Week
  + Why is it called “the Passion?”
    - from the Latin *patior* meaning “suffer,” refers to those sufferings our Lord endured for our redemption from the agony in the garden until His death on Calvary.
    - It is a “transitional” liturgy where we remember Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem on a colt as prophesied in Zacariah 9:9 and the hasty turn to his crucifixion.

Maundy Thursday

* What does ‘Maundy’ mean?
  + From Latin *mandatum*, meaning “command or order”
* The last supper: Institution of Holy Communion
* Foot washing: servanthood, act of humility and tenderness
* Garden of Gethsemane – overnight prayer watch; “…not my will but yours be done.”

Good Friday

* Why is it called ‘Good’?
  + it took the death and burial of Jesus to make the victory of the Resurrection possible
  + “Good” is also a word to say, “holy, righteous, sacred, pure”
    - Eucharistic prayers:
      * “…it is meet and right so to do…”
      * “… it is right, and good and a joyful thing…”
    - Genesis story of creation: “…And God saw that it was good.”

Stations

* Traditionally 14 stations (15 with a Resurrection station) to recount the steps Jesus took and attempt to grasp the offering He gave.
  + Witness to the reality of Christ’s sacrifice.
  + Receive examples for faith
    - Selflessness, perseverance, humility, faith,

Holy Saturday

* Jesus is dead in the tomb.
* The Apostles Creed:
  + “…he descended into hell” or “…He descended to the dead”
* “Harrowing of Hell”
  + to save souls, such as the Old Testament patriarchs, who died before his crucifixion.

Great Vigil of Easter

* We wait in the dark of Jesus’ death for the Light of the world to break through death.
* We recount God’s story arc of salvation history.
* Light the paschal candle in remembrance of the Paschal Mystery
  + The sacrificial lamb of the Passover becomes the Messiah of the world for all people, beyond the Israelite community’s anticipation.
* We renew our baptismal vows and baptize new members of the Body of Christ.
* We share the first Holy Communion of the New Light