

# HOLY WEEK



*Saint Michael the Archangel Catholic Church*  
2018  
*Lake Jackson, Texas*

## Holy Week & Easter Week Services

### Passion (Palm) Sunday - March 25

Masses	Sat. Vigil (3/24)	5:30 pm **
	Sun.	8:00 am
	Sun.	9:30 am
	Sun.	11:00 am **

\*\* Mass begins in Hall

### Monday - March 26

Rosary	7:00 pm
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### Tuesday - March 27

Daily Mass	5:30 pm
Chrism Mass	7:00 pm
(Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Houston)	

### Wednesday - March 28

Daily Mass	8:30 am
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### Holy Thursday - March 29

(No Daily Mass)	
Mass of the Lord's Supper	7:00 pm
Keeping Vigil—Wleczyk Hall	until 12:00 mid.

### Good Friday - March 30

Celebration of Our Lord's Passion	3:00 pm
Church open for prayer	4:30—6:30 pm
Youth Stations of the Cross	7:00 pm

## Holy Week & Easter Week Services (cont.)

Holy Saturday - March 31		
Blessing of Easter Food		11:00 am
Easter Vigil		8:30 pm
Easter Sunday - April 1		
Masses	Church	8:00 am
	Church	9:30 am
	Hall	9:30 am
	Church	11:00 am
	Hall	11:00 am
Easter Monday — April 2		
Rosary		7:00 pm
Easter Tuesday - April 3		
Daily Mass		5:30 pm
Easter Wednesday - April 4		
Daily Mass		8:30 am
Easter Thursday - April 5		
Daily Mass		5:30 pm
Easter Friday - April 6		
Daily Mass		8:30 am

# Holy Week

Any attempt to capture in words the great mystery that is Holy Week is always subject to some frustration. As we stand in view of life's most transforming metaphor, we find that only poetry, music, and silence are adequate for touching these mysteries.

Holy Week, stretching from Palm Sunday to Easter, is at the heart of the Christian experience. It is the great story embracing our individual stories that draws us out to where we can never return. It is the journey of awe during which we ritually enact through once-per-year celebrations. These awesome rituals enable us to walk full-witted through the mystery of death in the silent testimony of an empty tomb and the invitation to belief. Through the yearly pilgrimage of these liturgies we discover once more *who* we are and *whose* we are. We learn the meaning of life, professed once in baptism, inaugurated anew in Easter mysteries. We discover ourselves to be the earthly body of the Lord broken again so that others might live. We journey through cross and tomb to the promised life beyond every expectation or understanding. This is the heart of the Christian faith and the heartbeat of our lives as followers of Jesus Christ. It includes the most sacred high holy days of the church year. It commemorates and celebrates the final journey of Jesus in his mission to redeem humankind. It is the journey that he became one of us to fulfill.

We celebrate these great moments in Jesus' life in awe of their importance for humankind. This is one moment in the year when we should be prepared to experience the full power of what Mother church can give. These powerful and unique celebrations transport us through the triumph of Jesus entering Jerusalem, the gift of His Body and Blood and final instruction to serve & love one another, his life-giving passion and death, and the mystery of an empty tomb. This journey from triumph through cross and tomb is at the heart of our Catholic Christian faith.

We should make attending these sacred celebrations the most important commitment we make all year and the central focus of our Holy Week journey.

*(Adapted from "Holy Week in the Parish" by Rev. Don Neumann)*

# The Elect of the RCIA

For many months, ELEVEN adults and youth have been in formation to become fully initiated Catholics. During the season of Lent, they have completed their final preparation to receive the Easter sacraments at the Easter Vigil.

## ADULTS

To be Baptized, Confirmed & receive First Eucharist:  
Kimberly Aleman

To be Confirmed & receive First Eucharist:  
Shelley Gilliam  
Katie James  
Morgan Terry  
Scott Poitevint  
Travis Polasek

## YOUTH

To be Baptized, Confirmed & receive First Eucharist:  
Alivia Gonzalez  
Crisabel Mercado  
Isaiah Mercado  
Alexus Mercado  
Jose Juan (JJ) Mercado

Your prayers are highly encouraged as they complete their initiation and begin the life of new Catholics. Please join us in welcoming them into the Body of Christ in the faith community of St. Michael the Archangel.

## Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Sunday, March 25

Gospel: Mark 11:1-10	Masses:	Saturday	5:30 pm
1st Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7		Sunday	8:00 am
2nd Reading: Philippians 2:6-11			9:30 am
Passion: Mark 14:1—15:47			11:00 am



We read two Gospels on Palm Sunday, depicting Palm and Passion, both by the evangelist Mark.

In the first Gospel, read at the very beginning of Mass before the entrance procession, we hear of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, hailed by a large crowd who shout "Hosanna to the Son of David" and acknowledging him as the anointed descendant of King David.

The second Gospel is Mark's account of Jesus' Passion, his suffering and death on the cross. Following the Passover meal, Jesus undergoes a journey of pain and suffering, ending up at his crucifixion and death on Mt. Calvary.

These two readings from Mark's Gospel provide us with the paradox of this day. First, we welcome Christ as a king entering the holy city of Jerusalem. His "throne" was the back of a lowly donkey, which helped put his true, humble nature and example into perspective, incongruent with the "hosannas" being shouted by the crowd around him.

Later in the Mass we join our voices with those asking for him to be crucified. Traveling a path no human monarch would be willing to follow, he became the ultimate servant of us all. The cross then becomes the true throne from which he reigned.

Christ showed us that the only way to share in his glory is to die to self by becoming servants and disciples. He told us that to follow in his footsteps we must all bear our own crosses. We get to know Jesus today living as he did, by embracing the dying so we rise with him to new life, and by recognizing him in and through others.

## Mass of the Lord's Supper

Holy Thursday, March 29 - 7:00 PM

1st Reading: Exodus 12:1-8,11-14

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Gospel: John 13:1-15

At the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday evening, we commemorate a major highlight of the Triduum: the Last Supper. On this night as Jesus and his disciples celebrated the Jewish Passover meal, Jesus introduced two special and new elements of the traditional Jewish Passover meal. These new rituals show us both a new way of worshiping and of living.

First, departing from the centuries-old scripted ritual of the meal, Jesus gave us a new sacrifice



of his body and blood to nourish and strengthen us. He instructed the disciples to "Do this in memory of me." This memorial of his suffering, death and resurrection, is celebrated at every Mass for time eternal.



Second, after supper Jesus knelt down before his disciples and washed their feet, a task in Jesus' time usually performed by a servant or slave, certainly not by a leader or rabbi. Peter's objected over how this reversed Jesus' role: from Jesus the leader to Jesus the servant. He

drove home his point by commanding the disciples to follow this example, that serving others was essential to be his followers. He showed us that love means there is no task too menial for even the greatest to undertake for the good of others. Likewise, it calls us to a lifetime of loving, a lifetime of service. This is conforming ourselves to Christ so we can share in his inheritance.

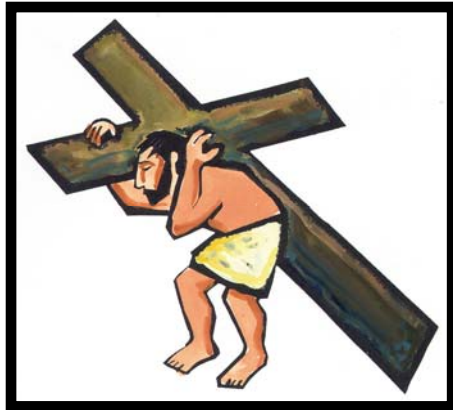
## Celebration of Our Lord's Passion

Good Friday, March 30 - 3:00 PM

1st Reading: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

2nd Reading: Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

Passion: John 18:1-19:42



At the Celebration of Our Lord's Passion on Good Friday, the mercy of God the Father is shown to us in the most direct way by the sacrifice of His only begotten Son. This sacrifice was accomplished in the most hideous way, through his death on the cross, a notorious execution method in the time of Jesus.

Most notably, In today's passion account by the evangelist John, Jesus is shown avoiding several opportunities available to him to avoid this passion and death. Instead, knowing that for this end he become one of us, he not only did not resist being crucified, he took a leading role in cooperating with those who wanted to kill him. When the Sanhedrin could not validate its accusations of Jesus through inept witnesses, Jesus, of his own choosing, provided the necessary evidence to be convicted. When he was brought to Pilate, instead of cooperating with Pilate's desire to set him free, Jesus instead chose to cooperate with the will of the Jewish leaders who sought his execution. Knowing that this was his duty and that salvation for all humankind rested on his shoulders, Jesus gave Pilate no good excuse to prevent his crucifixion. Indeed, he went to his death quietly, like a lamb to the slaughter, completely loyal to his mission to die so that we might have eternal life.

In the ultimate paradox, the cross is both an instrument of torture and death, but also the instrument of our salvation. Jesus, by being lifted up on the cross is lifted up in glory. This is the mystery, the Passover of the Lord. Good Friday is a day of prayerful consideration of Christ's suffering and crucifixion, by which our salvation was gained.



## Easter Vigil

Holy Saturday, March 31 - 8:30 PM

1st: Genesis 1:1, 26-31a

5th: Isaiah 55:1-11

Epistle: Romans 6:3-11

3rd: Exodus 14:15-15:1

7th: Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28

Gospel: Mark 16:1-7

In the Gospel reading during the Easter Vigil, we hear the story about the women, early on the morning of the day after the Sabbath, planning to finish the work they did not have time to do when Jesus was buried. They set out to visit the tomb to anoint Jesus' dead body with spices and thought that their biggest challenge would involve rolling away the large stone blocking the entrance to the tomb. They were not prepared for what they were told when they discovered Jesus' body was gone: that Jesus had been raised from the dead and had gone before them to Galilee.



They were instructed to “go and tell the disciples” to go to Galilee, where they would see Jesus. Their lives and, indeed, the history of the whole world, had changed forever. They were not prepared for the new mission entrusted to them: to announce the Good News of resurrection. They went from preparing to anoint a dead body to proclaiming their Lord having risen back to life.

Like the women at Jesus' tomb, we and our new Catholic initiates are called to leave the past behind and rise again with Christ in new life. Tonight many new Catholics will be baptized, confirmed and receive Eucharist. For them and for all of us, this is a Passover from the old to the new. We renew all of our baptismal promises and are sprinkled with baptismal water. The paschal mystery is announced as a way of life: Alleluia !

# Easter Sunday

April 1

1st Reading: Acts 10:34a,37-43  
2nd Reading: Colossians 3:1-4  
Gospel: John 20:1-9

Masses: Sunday 8:00 am  
\* 9:30 am  
\* 11:00 am  
\* Masses in Church & Hall



Coming to the tomb early in the morning, Mary Magdalene finds that the stone has been rolled away and that Jesus' body was gone. She went to Simon Peter and the other disciples and told them what she observed. Peter and other disciples come running to the tomb, each with their own expectations, and find only the burial cloths. They finally grasp the true outcome of Jesus' passion and death. Christ, the Paschal Victim, has been raised from the dead and this mystery was beginning to be revealed.

Over the next 40 days, Jesus appeared several times to his band of followers enabling them to grasp the reality of his

resurrection. Through these encounters and with Jesus' help, they finally were able to comprehend the full tapestry of Jesus' life of public ministry.

Easter was an opportunity for the disciples to begin anew, and an opportunity for all of us to begin anew. The joy of the Resurrection should be infused in us. Christ has removed our burial cloths, and our celebration today reminds us that life in Christ is lived in the assembly of the faithful. The whole community shouts for joy: Alleluia! We should celebrate that new life with wholehearted singing and laughter. What has died within you has been changed into new life for the future. Throw open the windows, let in the light, and sing Alleluia! Mass today announces it firmly: Christ is risen from the dead, by this he has given us new life.

Have you removed the stone that has been blocking your heart and the cloths that have covered your goodness? Christ, who is our hope, our Redeemer, and our life, is with us.

## The Great Ninety Days

The Season of Lent began on Ash Wednesday and continues until dusk on Holy Thursday. The season contains six Sundays, including Palm Sunday. Lent began as a season of preparation, during which the initiates for baptism examined themselves and their commitment to Christ through fasting and prayer. This time of introspection and prayer gradually expanded to what is now defined as the Season of Lent, was extended to include a time for all Catholics as a time of fasting, prayer and almsgiving. All Catholics set aside this season as a time of repentance, recommitment and preparation for the celebration of Easter.

The Paschal Triduum ("Three Days") is nestled with Holy Week and is the undisputed high point of the church year. We journey from the celebration of the Last Supper on Holy Thursday, through the night leading to Jesus' agony and passion. On Good Friday, we revere the holy wood of the cross, the instrument of our salvation. We observe a period of vigilance with the Lord in the tomb, until we burst forth in joy in the liturgies of the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday. Prominent in the Triduum are the sacraments of initiation (baptism, confirmation, eucharist) conferred on those who have been preparing to become Catholic Christians.

The Season of Easter follows the 40 days of Lent and the sacred three days of the Triduum. It is 50 days in duration, begins with Easter Sunday and includes six other Sundays. The feast of The Ascension of Our Lord is celebrated on the next to last Sunday in the Easter Season, and the season concludes on Pentecost Sunday. The 50 day length of the Easter season reflects the importance of the salvation of humankind through Christ's death and resurrection. As the Easter Season concludes with the great feast of Pentecost, we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the band of Christ's disciples.

Together, the Lenten, Triduum and Easter seasons comprise a powerful 90 day journey through our most sacred and holy liturgical time. This path, from repentance and conversion, through death and resurrection, and continuing in celebration of new life among us is an immense store of treasure that Mother Church provides her children. It is up to us to take full advantage of this powerfully holy annual part of our faith journey.



# EASTERTIME