

THE TRIDUUM: HOLY THURSDAY, GOOD FRIDAY, EASTER VIGIL  
ONE LITURGY IN THREE MOVEMENTS

**DON'T MISS THE HIGHLIGHT OF OUR CHURCH YEAR!**

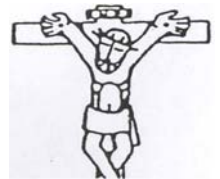
Many at St. Bernadette are already faithful participants in the Triduum, the three days of Holy Thursday Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. The Triduum is the celebration of one liturgy in three movements -- Holy Thursday we celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper, Good Friday the Lord's Passion and Holy Saturday the Easter Vigil. Some may remember the three days from childhood. This year, especially if you haven't participated of late, consider re-discovering the power of this holy time. These special events in our church life are "different" - yes, even longer - than our ordinary celebrations. But special events in our lives do take time to celebrate. So, if you haven't thought about it, please consider joining us to celebrate our story - the story of Christ's death and resurrection.

**HOLY THURSDAY** Mass begins the celebration of the Triduum. It is the entrance into the three days. The power of Thursday is in its unique gestures. They summon us to powerful memories and hopes for what it means to die and rise in Christ. The Washing of Feet conveys the simplicity of Jesus' teaching that the love we all long for in our innermost hearts is already present. We are cared for even as we care for others, washing and being washed. This messy water gesture says what it means to be Church. To do something like washing feet may leave us uncomfortable, yet to wash

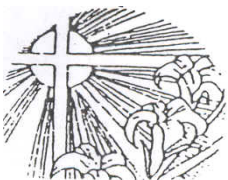


feet is to get very close to that which makes us Church, a Church of service, a Church that understands that we die and rise again and again. We gather around the table to do what Jesus did, to dedicate the service of our lives, to share the Eucharistic meal. After Communion the Eucharistic Bread, the Blessed Sacrament, is transferred to the Chapel. The Eucharistic Bread will be shared the next evening as we gather on that solemn day for the Liturgy of Good Friday.

**GOOD FRIDAY** is the celebration of the Lord's Passion. There is no Mass on this day. The Good Friday liturgy includes a simple Communion Service. We gather simply and recall the story of the Passion. We venerate the cross in humble submission. In the midst of this scene we glory in the paradox of the cross. The symbol of death becomes the ultimate symbol of victory. The instrument of death is the instrument of salvation. To the eyes of faith, glory is revealed. We now wait in quiet fasting for the Easter Vigil.



**THE EASTER VIGIL** on the evening of Holy Saturday is the culmination of the Triduum. Everything in word and deed points to this night. This night can seem very peculiar. We gather to stand in the dark. We light the new fire and celebrate that Jesus Christ broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave. We sing lengthy and sublime texts and read stories from the Bible. What does all this mean? What is going on here in this community and every Catholic community throughout the world? This night we gather to tell our name to all those who will listen, who will take the time to hear. We tell our name to ourselves, by way of reminder, and to those who will become a part of us this night through Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. Our name is a very long one, one that has been growing since the creation of the world. Our name is a very long story, a story of how God liberated us from bondage, of how God planted us in the promised land, of how, in these last times, God has given the world a new twist, giving our name new meaning in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. After telling our story, we are ready to bless water and to initiate those adults who seek Baptism in our faith community. We are reminded of our own Baptism and once again challenged to live out our Baptismal promises in our world. We then look to become complete by initiating those who wish to be one with us through Confirmation and Eucharist. We



all gather around the table and share the meal - the Easter feast of feasts. After these dramatic days we discover ourselves once again as an Easter people proclaiming Jesus not dead but alive, alive in our midst!

**ALLELUIA!**

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