
The Sacred Triduum



Dear Friends in Christ,

Today we begin the most sacred three days of the year: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. Now, every moment of our Lord's life was important. But these three days -- during which He gives Himself in the Eucharist, offers His Body on the Cross, and appears in His risen Body -- place before us the events that effect our redemption.

We do not merely recall or recollect these events. During these days, the *reality* of what our Lord accomplished is made present and real through the liturgical celebration of them.

As such, I encourage you to unite yourselves to the Lord in every way you can during these days. Set aside time for prayer, take advantage of the opportunities for confession, and live-stream our liturgies for each day.

Please know that you will be in our prayers especially these days. May the grace and power of our Lord's paschal mystery be yours in abundance.

Updates...

- **Holy Week & Easter Schedule.** [Please see the schedule](#) of our liturgies, devotions, and Masses for the Triduum and Easter Sunday. Remember that Friday is a day of fasting and abstaining from meat.
- **Closed.** The church will not be open today, Holy Thursday, so that we can rehearse and decorate for the Mass of the Lord's Supper at 730pm.

- **Catechumens and Candidates.** So what happens to all of those people preparing to become Catholic at Easter? As many of you know, catechumens and candidates (i.e. converts to Catholicism) typically receive the sacraments for the first time at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday. Given this year's restrictions, we cannot do that. So we will arrange to receive the catechumens and candidates into the Church at smaller liturgies over the next month. Please keep these converts in your prayers, that the Lord will bless them abundantly upon their full reception into His Body.

- **Confession Times.**

Good Friday: 9am - 11am; 6pm - 9pm

Holy Saturday: 930am - 12pm

- **Easter Eucharistic Adoration.** We will have exposition and adoration of the Eucharist from 7am to 8pm on Easter Sunday. Come and visit our risen Lord in the Blessed Sacrament! Please [sign up](#) for a visit.
- *Parochiae et Oppido.* To conclude Adoration of the Eucharist, at 8pm on Easter Sunday I will offer a benediction with the Blessed Sacrament from the top of the church steps -- imparting the Lord's blessing to the parish (*parochiae*) and to the city (*oppido*) of Falls Church.
- **Easter Pictures.** On Easter Sunday I encourage you to "attend" one of our live-streamed Masses (the usual Sunday schedule). But not only that. Put on your Easter best. Sit, stand, and kneel as you would normally throughout the Mass. And then post a picture of you and your family and/or friends (no more than 10, of course) on our Facebook page. Or send us a picture with permission to post. It would be great to have a virtual parish gathering in our Easter finery.
- **Divine Mercy Novena.** In a series of revelations to St. Maria Faustina Kowalska in the 1930s, our Lord called for a special feast day to be celebrated on the Sunday after Easter. Today, we know that feast as Divine Mercy Sunday. Let us prepare for this great Feast by praying the Novena of Divine Mercy, which begins on Good Friday. Here are some sites with more information on the [Feast](#), the [Novena](#), and the [Chaplet](#) of Divine Mercy.
- **Rectory Ramblings.** Episode 7 will be Monday night at 8pm. I will have a special guest, Michael Searby. He is a parishioner, a school dad, and a licensed counselor with many years experience. I've asked him to come and speak about the different perusal and relationship struggles that might arise in the home as we have to continue to stay at home -- and what are some good methods for dealing with them. Please join us!

Through the intercession of our Lady and Saint James, may the Lord bless and keep you.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Scalia

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