

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

THE TRIDUUM – APRIL 17-19, 2025



This stained glass is located in the St. Thomas the Apostle Nave.

The Triduum

Lent comes to a close on Holy Thursday, at the Mass of the Lord's Supper. That liturgy is the beginning of the Triduum – the three days that depict Christ's passion, death and resurrection.

Holy Thursday – April 17

The Mass of the Lord's Supper – 7:00 pm

Good Friday – April 18

Stations of the Cross – 3:00 pm

The Celebration of the Lord's Passion – 7:00 pm

Holy Saturday – April 19

Easter Vigil – 7:00 pm

Holy Thursday

What we remember and celebrate:

- Jesus celebrates the Passover Seder/Last Supper with the apostles.
- He washes their feet, showing them what type of leaders they are to be.
- Jesus institutes the Eucharist: "This is the chalice of my blood... This is my body."
- Jesus suffers the agony in the garden as he prays: "Not My will, but Yours be done."
- Judas betrays Jesus and hands Him over to the authorities who arrest Jesus.

Live the Day

- Participate in the Holy Thursday liturgy at 7:00 pm.
- Spend time with our Eucharistic Lord in the Gathering Area from 8:30 pm until midnight.

What you will see at church:

- The Oil of the Sick, the Oil of Catechumens, and the Sacred Chrism will be presented to our community during Mass. These oils will be blessed during the Chrism Mass. By the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, who fills these oils with life and grace, the saving work of Jesus Christ is continued in the Church.
- All are invited to wash each other's feet as a sign of service.
- Domestic breads and wines will be blessed for families to take home and share with each other. Please bring your bread and wine for this blessing.
- No Masses are celebrated on Good Friday, so Fr. Peter will consecrate enough hosts on Holy Thursday for Good Friday.
- After Mass, the altar is stripped and decorations are removed from the sanctuary. The consecrated hosts are transferred to an "altar of repose" until midnight, then transferred to another tabernacle away from public view. This absence of the Eucharist helps us experience the loss and emptiness the apostles felt on Good Friday.

Good Friday

What we remember and celebrate:

- Peter denies knowing Jesus three times.
- Jesus is on trial before Pontius Pilate. Pilate offers the crowd a choice: Jesus or Barabbas?
- Jesus is scourged.
- Jesus carries His cross.
- Jesus is nailed to the cross and left to die.
- He gives His mother, Mary, to a beloved disciple and, in turn, to each of us.
- Jesus dies.
- Jesus' body is taken down from the cross, prepared for burial, and placed in the tomb.

What you'll see at church:

- This is the one day on which no Masses are celebrated.
- There will be living stations at 3:00 pm and the Celebration of the Lord's Passion, with Eucharist, at 7:00 pm.
- The tabernacle will still be empty and the church still undecorated.
- Candles are lit only when Jesus is present in the Eucharist at the 7:00 pm liturgy.
- The Veneration of the Cross occurs after the living stations and also during the Good Friday liturgy in the evening. All are invited to show a sign of reverence (touch, bow, genuflect) before a cross.

Live the Day

- Try to spend some time praying and reflecting on the Passion.
- Come to the living stations presented at 3:00 pm by the teens of the parish, or come to the Good Friday liturgy at 7:00 pm.

Easter Vigil

What we remember and celebrate

- Alleluia! He is Risen! Jesus rises from the dead and leaves the tomb.
- An angel tells women disciples the good news of Jesus' resurrection.

What you will see at church:

- The Paschal candle, the "Light of Christ" is carried into the church and the assembly's candles are lit from it.
- The Exsultet prayer and scripture readings help us to recall salvation history.
- We sing the Gloria, the Alleluia, and ring bells for the first time since before Lent began. Be sure to bring your bells to ring!
- We sing the Litany of the Saints, asking them to join us in prayer to God.
- Our sisters and brothers who are joining the Catholic Church are baptized, confirmed, and receive Eucharist for the first time.
- The worshipping community is blessed with water after all renew their baptismal promises.

Live the Day

- Participate in the Easter Vigil at 7:00 pm.
- Have a feast!
- Continue to celebrate our Lord's resurrection during the 50 day Easter season!