

# *Our Lenten Journey is 'Incomplete' Without Celebrating the Triduum*



On the evening of Holy Thursday, Lent comes to an end, and we enter into the “Three Days” that are the holiest of the entire year: The Easter Triduum

*Come Celebrate With Our Parish  
When We're At Our Best...*

**On these Three Days, the Church is at its best...**

Through song, Scripture, and ritual we proclaim the heart of what we believe and celebrate throughout the year. We gather often—at church, at home—during the Triduum to reflect on the central reality of our faith: the death and resurrection of Jesus. During these Three Days, Christians renew their promises and new Christians are initiated. These are the “high holy days” of Christianity.

**You are invited to make these Three Days different  
from all the other days of the year.**

Families in our community are invited to plan ahead so that the entire time from Holy Thursday evening until the Easter Vigil is free of social engagements, free even of work, free of entertainment, free of meals, except for the simplest nourishment.

**Because of the importance of these days, we are not merely invited:  
We are all needed to be present in the church.**

All of us need the whole community together on its greatest days, *the evening of April 21st through the evening of April 23rd* in this year of our Lord, 2011.

**Begin plans now to celebrate with your community  
on the three most important days in our year.**

*(See reverse side for Triduum Schedule and information)*

## Where Lent Gets Us... *and* Keeping the Triduum...

*Imagine planning for weeks, or even months, to attend an important event in your life and then missing most of it, or getting tickets to the Super Bowl or World Series and arriving just in time to see people heading to the parking lot. That's what it might be like for those of us who do not realize that our Lenten preparation of sacrifice, prayer, and penance get us no where if we do not celebrate the Sacred Triduum. Our Lenten journey has been fruitless if we come only on Easter Sunday morning. We miss the sharing of the most important stories and events of our faith history if we fail to show up for the Triduum liturgies. This is what makes us a baptized faithful community. **This is what Lent is preparing us for!***

The Triduum is one great festival that lasts for three days. As with all the great feasts of the Church, the celebration begins at dusk on Holy Thursday with the Mass of the Lord's Supper and ends at sunset on Easter Sunday. As the rites of the Triduum liturgy are prepared, we are afforded many opportunities to emphasize and maintain the unity of this one celebration. The liturgies of these Three Days are rich with symbols. The Triduum symbols, expressed clearly and according to the Church's rituals, become powerful vehicles of prayer.

Our presence for these liturgies is not just by invitation. We are all needed here. All of us need this whole community together on its greatest days. Yes, it will be different, but with Christ, we are made new. Perhaps God is calling us to celebrate these Three Days for the first time, or perhaps God calls us for the tenth time to celebrate these Three Days—asking us to renew our vision and see how we share in his life.

### **Holy Thursday – April 21**

**Soup & Sharing Meal - 5:30pm (Fremont Hall)**

**Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7:30pm (Holy Angels)**

**Prayer During the Night Watch - 10:30pm (Holy Angels)**

**Adoration at the Altar of Repose until Midnight (Holy Angels)**

On Thursday evening we enter into this Triduum together. The primary symbols of Holy Thursday are the washing of the feet and the sharing of the Eucharist. These symbols embody the themes of service, priesthood, and unity. The leadership of our parish, called to serve us as Christ did, stoop down and wash our feet, giving our parish the example of Jesus' call to love and serve all. **Everyone is invited to participate!** What an amazing act—Jesus gave us this image of what the Church is supposed to look like, feel like, and act like. Then, we celebrate the Eucharist and place it at the Altar of Repose. This evening liturgy has no ending: whether we stay to pray awhile, or leave, we are now in the quiet and peace and glory of the Triduum.

### **Good Friday – April 22**

**Prayer During the Morning Watch - 9:00am (St. John the Baptist)**

**Commemoration of the Lord's Passion - 7:30pm (Holy Angels)**

We gather quietly on Friday and listen to Scripture. We pray at length for all the world's needs. Then there is another once-a-year event: The holy cross is held up in our midst and in the middle of the liturgy, we come forward one by one to show reverence with a kiss or a bow or a genuflection. We continue in fasting, praying, and vigiling, in quiet through Saturday. This Saturday day for us is like God's rest at the end of creation. It is Christ's repose in the tomb.

### **Holy Saturday – April 23**

**Prayer During the Morning Watch - 9:00am (Holy Angels)**

**The Easter Vigil - 8:30pm (Holy Angels)**

Hungry now and excited, the Church gathers in the darkness and lights a new fire and a great candle that will make the night bright for us. We listen to some of the most powerful Scripture in the Bible, from Creation to Resurrection, we pray to all our saints to stand with us and we go to the font and bless the waters. There the Elect are baptized and welcomed. These are the moments when death and life meet, when we reject evil and give our promises to God. Together we go to the table and celebrate the Easter Eucharist. Easter Sunday begins and we are ready for Fifty Days of rejoicing!