



# THIS WEEK AT THE MADELEINE

Furthering the Reign of God, Where All Are Welcome • March 28–29, 2026

## Waiting for the Dawn

Lent, Triduum & Easter at The Madeleine

### Rice Bowls

Benefits Catholic Relief Services

Collect change in your home to fill your rice bowl. Return to church Holy Thursday.

### Penance During Lent

Saturdays & Wednesdays

- ▶ At The Madeleine, Saturdays, 3:30-4:30 pm
- ▶ At St. Rose with Fr. B, Wednesdays, 6 pm

### Chrism Mass

Thursday, March 26 † 5:00 pm • Cathedral

Join Archbishop Sample and his archdiocesan priests as they consecrate the sacred Chrism and bless the other oils.

### Good Friday: 7 Last Words

Friday, April 3 † Noon • Fireside Room

- ▶ Please join us with parishioner and Lenten book editor Marilyn Robb, who will lead us in a reflection on the Seven Last Words spoken by Jesus during his passion.

## Paschal Triduum & Easter

### Holy Thursday, April 2

- ▶ 6:30 pm—Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

### Good Friday, April 3

- ▶ 6:30 pm—Celebration of the Lord's Passion Veneration of the Cross

### Easter Vigil, Sat, April 4

- ▶ 8:30 pm—Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter Blessing of the Fire and Paschal Candle

### Easter Sunday, April 5

- ▶ 8:00 am—Mass: Resurrection of the Lord
- ▶ 10:00 am—Mass: Resurrection of the Lord  
*Easter egg scramble; treats and refreshments afterward*

### Prayer Vigil for Peace

You are invited to join in a Silent Prayer Vigil For Peace.

- ▶ Where: Madeleine Church
- ▶ When: Tuesday, March 31, 9 am to 2 pm
- ▶ How: Come anytime. Pray in silence together for minutes, an hour or more. Brief reading on peace offered on the hour: 9 am, 10 am, 11 am, noon and 1 pm. Bring your Bible if you wish.
- ▶ Who: You and everyone who desires to pour out your hearts in prayer to God for peace. Bring family and friends.

### Holy Thursday Adoration

- ▶ Where: Fireside Room
- ▶ When: Holy Thursday, after the 6:30 pm Mass
- ▶ What: The Eucharistic Presence of Jesus

will be moved from the Church to the Fireside Room. A time of prayer will be opened with a prayer for peace. All are invited to spend some time (5, 10, 15 minutes, an hour) for the intention of world peace. This is an opportunity for us as a parish community to pray together for the world peace we hold with hope in our hearts.

### Special Church Cleaning: March 30, 10:30 am

Our Church Cleaning Ministry is asking your help for a special, pre-Easter deep cleaning on Monday, March 30. 10:30 am–3:30 pm. Come and help for as long as you'd like or are able. As usual for our Church Cleaning Ministry, please enter at the side door of the church.

## Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

CONSIDER OUR KING. Entering the world in poverty, Jesus made his triumphal entry riding a colt. Rather than worldly power, Jesus was armed with love. This extraordinary king calls for extraordinary followers. Let us not be in step with this world, seeking glory and riches, but seek to follow Jesus, even to the cross, as we desire to join in his resurrection

### Pray For Our Faithful Departed

- ▶ John Seeronen
- ▶ Steve Nava
- ▶ Ron Verhaalen
- ▶ Glynn Roberson

### Prayer Requests

For those who are ill or in need of our prayers

- ▶ Carol McMenamin
- ▶ Ruth Wieber
- ▶ Karen Hudson
- ▶ Julie Masson
- ▶ Bill Stevenson
- ▶ Kevin McMenamin
- ▶ Chris Mealy
- ▶ David Hendrickson
- ▶ Griff Marshall
- ▶ Kait Skyler
- ▶ Trish Grantham
- ▶ Kitt & Corinne Jordan
- ▶ Ann Czuba
- ▶ Jean Mitchell
- ▶ Charli Phipps

### Mass Intentions

- 03/28, Sat ..... Gerald Sullivan †
- 03/29, Sun 8:00 am ... Madeleine Community
- 10:00 am. .... Richard Feeny
- 03/31, Tues ..... Maria Hill †
- 04/01, Weds ..... Norris Hibbler
- 04/02, Thurs ..... Josephine Valero †
- 04/03, Fri ..... No Intention
- 04/04, Sat ..... Rose Alice Fox †
- 04/05, Sun 8:00 am ..... Anne Smith †
- 10:00 am. .... Madeleine Community

**If you ordered an Easter Pie  
from the Madeleine Parents  
Association, remember to pick it  
up on Wednesday, April 1  
@ 2:30 in front of the school.**

## Calendar This Week

### 29 March • Sunday

- ▶ Palm Sunday
- 8 am: Mass—Church
- 10:00 am: Mass—Church  **ALSO LIVESTREAMS**
- 11:30 am: Madeleine Singers Rehearsal—Church

### 30 March • Monday

- 10:30 am: Church Cleaning Ministry—Church
- 6:30 pm: FA Meeting—Fireside Rm
- 7 pm: Madeleine Choir with Instruments—Church

### 31 March • Tuesday

- 8:30 am: Mass—Church
- 9 am: Adoration—Church
- 7 pm: Pastoral Council

### 1 April • Wednesday

- ▶ Parish Office Closed—Staff Retreat
- 8:30 am: Mass—Church
- 7 pm: Madeleine Choir Rehearsal—Church

### 2 April • Thursday

- ▶ Holy Thursday—No School, Parish Office Closed
- 6:30 pm: Holy Thursday Mass—Church
- 8 pm: Adoration—Fireside Rm


### 3 April • Friday

- ▶ Good Friday—No School, Parish Office Closed
- 12 pm: Good Friday Seven Last Words Service—Fireside Rm
- 6:30 pm: Good Friday Liturgy—Church

### 4 April • Saturday

- 8:30 pm: Mass, Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter—Church

### 5 April • Sunday

- ▶ Easter Sunday
- 8 am: Mass, Resurrection of the Lord—Church
- 10:00 am: Mass, Resurrection of the Lord—Church  **ALSO LIVESTREAMS**
- Easter Egg Scramble follows on the School Field*

## Upcoming Events

- ▶ **Coffee & Donuts:**
  - ▶ April 12—hosted by Madeleine Parents Association
  - ▶ April 26, May 24—hosted by Knights of Columbus)
- ▶ **Paschal Triduum 2026:** April 2-4
- ▶ **Easter 2026:** April 5
- ▶ **E-Waste Recycling Event:** April 26
- ▶ **Feast of St. Mary Magdalene/Parish Picnic:** July 18
- ▶ **Advent Begins:** November 29
- ▶ **Madeleine Marketplace:** December 11

## PARISH LIFE

### Infant Baptisms and OCIC

Parents seeking baptism for their infant or young child should submit our registration form and sign up for one of our upcoming classes. Registration forms and instructions are available at [www.themadeleine.edu/sacraments](http://www.themadeleine.edu/sacraments). Children older than 7 years and beyond 2nd grade must go through OCIA for children (OCIC). Through April, please reach out to Kristen Kill at [kristenkill@gmail.com](mailto:kristenkill@gmail.com) to sign up for classes and learn more.

### Women's Coffee Time

Our next meeting will be on April 13. Program TBD. Watch the bulletin for updates.

### Madeleine Book Club!



We cordially invite you to join our group for monthly opportunities to connect with other readers for excellent book selections and great discussions. For details, please contact: Gretchen Stevenson, MBC Ministry Coordinator, [gypsyfrau47@yahoo.com](mailto:gypsyfrau47@yahoo.com) or 503-312-6834.

## Advertise in the Parish Bulletin

It's one of the best kept secrets and biggest bargains in the area...Madeleine Parish Bulletin Advertising. The back page of your weekly bulletin is a great place to get the word out to our parish community of your goods or services. With the turnover of the new year, we have a few spaces available.

▶ **Affordable**—Starting at just \$220 per full year (January 1 through December 31).

▶ **Versatile**—Many sizes available...based on our "single" size module, you can stack it two or three high, stretch it two or three wide...or more if space allows...whatever size you need to get your brand's message across to our readers.

▶ **Relatable**—Members of The Madeleine community tend to be very loyal to their fellow parishioners. By advertising in the bulletin, you're showing to the community that you're an integral part of this parish community.

▶ **Good Company**—On the back of our bulletin are some of the stalwart companies in our parish and community. Several familiar names have been with us for decades...isn't it time you joined them?

Contact Rich Hammons, Director of Communications, at [bulletin@themadeleine.edu](mailto:bulletin@themadeleine.edu)

**Single: 1<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" x 7<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>"**  
**\$165 April–December**  
**Full Year: \$220**

**Double Stretch: 3<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" x 7<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>"**  
**\$282 April–December • Full Year: \$375**

**Double Tall:**  
**1<sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" x 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>"**  
**\$282 April–December**  
**Full Year: \$375**

**The Madeleine Parish Office will be closed  
Wednesday, April 1 for a staff retreat, then closed  
Holy Thursday and Good Friday, April 2–3**



**Today is Palm Sunday and the beginning of the holiest of Christian weeks.** Let us pray for the grace to take up our own cross and to follow Jesus through death to new life. Please support the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can help the poor as they carry their cross of suffering and pain. Thank you.

—Lisa Hawkins, (503) 309-7968 • **Emergency Services Client phone: (503) 235-8431**



Emily Fellman

Kelsie Storm

Cash Freitas

## Help us Welcome Candidates With a Note

Please help us give a warm Madeleine welcome to our OCIA candidates—Emily Fellman, Kelsie Storm, and Cash Freitas—by writing a note as they come into full communion with the Catholic Church. A few words letting them know you are praying for them means so much to them. Feel free to share your RCIA/OCIA experience or what you love about the church, or your faith journey. Note cards are available in the back of the church. Please return no later than April 17.

## Easter Giving: Can You Help?

Donate online at [www.themadeleine.edu/easter-giving](http://www.themadeleine.edu/easter-giving)

In this time of Lent—as we anticipate the renewal and rebirth of spring—we anticipate the rebirth and renewal of ourselves as we approach Easter and the Resurrection of Christ. It's a truly uplifting time we experience together.

And it's together that we support our spiritual home...The Madeleine. Together we support the staff that keeps our church running. Together we maintain the buildings in which we worship and celebrate. Together we keep our grounds beautiful. Together we work to expand the reign of God. And together we build on the 114 year tradition of The Madeleine Parish. Our Madeleine Parish.

One of our biggest collections of the year is typically Easter Sunday. Each year we budget for an Easter collection that is in addition to the Sunday collection. Some parishioners account for Easter collections in regular online or automated giving. But if you are not among those who do, we'd very much appreciate if you would consider an additional Easter gift.

### Several easy ways for you to help:

- ▶ **Envelope**—If you have an Easter envelope, mail to the parish office or drop it off, or bring it to Mass.
- ▶ **Scan at Mass**—We have giving placards on the back of all of our pews. Just scan the QR code and make a convenient donation.

▶ **Online**—Visit our online giving page at [www.themadeleine.edu/easter-giving](http://www.themadeleine.edu/easter-giving) where you can make a secure, convenient online donation.

▶ **Electronic Transfer**—If you are making stewardship donations via electronic transfer, contact My Schoning in our business office to arrange an additional payment.

Thank you for your loyal support.

## Support The Madeleine!

Donations are what keep The Madeleine working for our parishioners and our community

Scan here to make an Easter Offertory Gift



or visit

[www.themadeleine.edu/parishgiving](http://www.themadeleine.edu/parishgiving)  
Thank you for supporting The Madeleine

## Weekly Mass Times

### Regular Mass Times:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday . . . . . 8:30 am  
Thursday . . . . . School not in session: 8:30 am  
School Thursdays: 2:00 pm  
Saturday Vigil . . . . . 5:00 pm  
Sunday . . . . . 8:00 am, 10:00 am

**Penance** . . . . . Saturday, 4:00–4:40 pm  
**Adoration** . . . . . Tuesdays, 9:00 am–2:00 pm

## Parish Office

**Hours** . . . . . Tuesday–Friday, 9:00 am–3:00 pm  
**Phone** . . . . . 503-281-5777  
**School Office** . . . . . 503-288-9197

## Parish Staff

- Rev. Bonaventure Rummell**—Administrator  
[fatherbonaventure@themadeleine.edu](mailto:fatherbonaventure@themadeleine.edu), ext. 111
- Rev. Nazario Atukunda**—In Residence
- Deacon Mike O'Mahoney**—Permanent Deacon  
[deaconmike@themadeleine.edu](mailto:deaconmike@themadeleine.edu)
- Jenn Langhus**—Interim School Principal  
[janghus@themadeleine.edu](mailto:janghus@themadeleine.edu) . . . 503-288-9197
- My Schoning**—Business Manager  
[mhoang@themadeleine.edu](mailto:mhoang@themadeleine.edu) . . . . . ext. 114
- Linda Scheurman**—Bookkeeper  
[lscheurman@themadeleine.edu](mailto:lscheurman@themadeleine.edu) . . . . . ext. 119
- Maria Manzo**—Director of Music  
[mmanzo@themadeleine.edu](mailto:mmanzo@themadeleine.edu) . . . . . ext. 113
- Lauren Craig**—Faith Formation/Sacramental Prep  
[lcraig@themadeleine.edu](mailto:lcraig@themadeleine.edu) . . . . . ext. 116
- Minh-Ha Nguyen**—Parish Admin Assistant  
[mhnguyen@themadeleine.edu](mailto:mhnguyen@themadeleine.edu) . . . . . ext. 112
- Julie Kupers**—Special Events  
[jkupers@themadeleine.edu](mailto:jkupers@themadeleine.edu) . . . 720-936-5635
- Dcn. Mike O'Mahoney**—Facilities Supervisor  
[deaconmike@themadeleine.edu](mailto:deaconmike@themadeleine.edu)
- Rich Hammons**—Director of Communications  
[rhammons@themadeleine.edu](mailto:rhammons@themadeleine.edu) . . . . . ext. 129

## Sacraments

- Infant Baptism** . . Kristen Kill (filling in until end of April): [kristenkill@gmail.com](mailto:kristenkill@gmail.com)
- First Reconciliation, First Eucharist**—  
Rose Horton . . . [sac-prep@themadeleine.edu](mailto:sac-prep@themadeleine.edu)
- OCIA** (formerly RCIA)— Donna Mason (filling in until end of April) . . . . . [ocia@themadeleine.edu](mailto:ocia@themadeleine.edu)
- Marriages** . . . . . Fr. Bonaventure, ext 111
- Anointing** (Emergency) . . . . . 971-301-4421
- Funerals**—  
Therese Fenzl . . . . . [tfenzl@themadeleine.edu](mailto:tfenzl@themadeleine.edu)

## Councils & Contacts

- Pastoral Council**—Dan O'Brien . . 503-206-2843  
[pastoral-council@themadeleine.edu](mailto:pastoral-council@themadeleine.edu)
- Finance/Admin**—John Garrow . . 503-803-5693
- Buildings & Grounds**—Erin Couch, 503-281-9575
- School Advisory**—Emily Fellman, 503-752-4143
- Facility Requests**—[themadeleine.edu/facilities](http://themadeleine.edu/facilities)
- Maintenance Requests**—My Schoning  
[mhoang@themadeleine.edu](mailto:mhoang@themadeleine.edu) . . . . . ext. 114
- Knights of Columbus**—  
Dan O'Donnell . . . . . 503-440-9415
- Ministry Schedule**  
[www.themadeleine.edu/minister-schedule](http://www.themadeleine.edu/minister-schedule)
- Bulletin submissions due 5:00 pm Tuesday**  
Email to [bulletin@themadeleine.edu](mailto:bulletin@themadeleine.edu)

Care for our Common Home  
*Laudato Si'*

**Next Laudato Si Circle Gathering is May 3**

Please consider joining one or more of our monthly Laudato Si Gatherings by Zoom for prayer, fellowship, to share good news and practical action plans.

We plan to meet this year after Sunday 10am Mass at 11:45 pacific on: 5/3, 5/24, 6/28, 7/26, 8/30, 9/27, 10/25, 11/29.

For Zoom links, questions, comments or info contact Bill Hunter, williamjhunterjr@gmail.com or text to (502) 419-5705.

**Excerpt From Pope Leo's Message for the Tenth World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation:**

“Environmental justice – implicitly proclaimed by the prophets – can no longer be regarded as an abstract concept or a distant goal. It is an urgent need that involves much more than simply protecting the environment. For it is a matter of justice – social, economic and human. For believers it is also a duty born of faith, since the universe reflects the face of Jesus Christ, in whom all things were created and redeemed. In a world where the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters are the first to suffer the devastating effects of climate change, deforestation and pollution, care for creation becomes an expression of our faith and humanity.

Now is the time to follow words with deeds. “Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience” (Laudato Si’, 217). By working with love and perseverance, we can sow many seeds of justice and thus contribute to the growth of peace and the renewal of hope. It may well take years for this plant to bear its first fruits, years that, for their part, involve an entire ecosystem made up of continuity, fidelity, cooperation and love, especially if that love mirrors the Lord’s own self-sacrificing Love.”

**Catholic Friendship Group**

Catholic Friendship Group invites all unmarried Catholics 40-65 for the talk “Last Chance Lent” given by Father Dominic Sternhagen, Parochial Vicar, Holy Trinity – Meet March 22nd, 6:00pm @ Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Beaverton for potluck social and presentation. Details and future events at [www.catholicfriendshipgroup.com](http://www.catholicfriendshipgroup.com), RSVP to [CatholicFriendshipGroup@outlook.com](mailto:CatholicFriendshipGroup@outlook.com).

**Lenten Rice Bowls**

Return bowls to the church on Holy Thursday

Each Lent, Catholic families across the country unite to put their faith into action through



prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Through CRS Rice Bowl, families learn about how our sisters and brothers across the globe overcome hardships like hunger and malnutrition, and how through Lenten alms, we have the power to make the world a better place for all.

Rice Bowls are available in the church. Please be generous during Lent, then return them to the church on Holy Thursday.

**Lenten Fasting & Abstinence—guidelines from the Archdiocese**

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence. For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59.

When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the “paschal fast” to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus.

The Madeleine School—114 years of academic excellence built on a foundation of faith



**ENROLLING FOR FALL 2026**

*Openings in Pre-K and Grades 1 & 2*

The Madeleine School combines academics, faith formation and service in a vibrant, inclusive community where all are welcome, working together to develop the unique gifts of each child.

Madeleine families embrace our Catholic mission, values and philosophy, regardless of their faith tradition. Madeleine School graduates are prepared for their high school of choice, placing many directly into advanced and honors courses, and with experience in community service.

- ▶ Science, Art, Music, Physical Education specialists with grade-appropriate instruction and activities.
- ▶ Full-day Pre-K and Kindergarten.
- ▶ Classroom assistants in Pre-K through Third Grade.
- ▶ Need-based financial aid available.
- ▶ On-site Learning Support Team to support diverse learners with individualized and small-group instruction.
- ▶ On-site counselor supports the social, emotional and academic needs of all students.

**SCHEDULE A TOUR TO FIND OUT MORE! CALL 503-288-9197**

[www.themadeleine.school](http://www.themadeleine.school)

# The Madeleine Care for Creation ANNUAL E-WASTE RECYCLING EVENT

Sunday, April 26 • 9:00 am–1:00 pm

The Madeleine Care for Creation Committee is pleased to announce our annual Earth Day E-Waste Recycling Event. The event is provided at no charge, but donations accepted to help cover costs.

## Green Century Recycling will be on hand to accept the following

- ▶ Computers
- ▶ Laptops
- ▶ TV & Monitors (all types)
- ▶ Hard drives (Secure Data Destruction Provided)
- ▶ Misc. Computer Components (floppy drives, Printed Circuit Boards (PCB), etc.)
- ▶ Cords/Wires/Chargers/Power strips
- ▶ Servers/Switches
- ▶ Routers/Hubs/Modems
- ▶ Networking Devices
- ▶ Communications Equipment
- ▶ POS (Point of Sale equip)
- ▶ Printers/Scanners
- ▶ Fax/Copiers
- ▶ Keyboards/Mice
- ▶ Misc. Office Machines
- ▶ Misc. Electronics
- ▶ VCRs, DVD Players
- ▶ Cable & Satellite Equipment
- ▶ Testing Equipment
- ▶ Stereo/Audio Components
- ▶ Cell Phones (with or without batteries)
- ▶ PDAs, Handheld Games
- ▶ Cameras
- ▶ Telephones
- ▶ Gaming Consoles/Systems
- ▶ UPS (uninterruptible power supply) and other Lead Acid Batteries
- ▶ Small/Large Appliances (which include, microwaves, toasters, blenders, etc.)
- ▶ Electric Power Tools
- ▶ Laptop Batteries, Cell Phone Batteries, Li-on batteries
- ▶ Ferrous & Non-Ferrous Metals
- ▶ Air Conditioners

**GREEN CENTURY RECYCLING**  
PULL THE PLUG ON ELECTRONIC WASTE.



**USED SOCKS for recycling**  
Clean, used socks only; pairs and singles are accepted. These will be recycled, so no new socks. No stockings, tights, or pantyhose

**We will collect worn-out athletic shoes to be ground up and re-purposed**  
(no dress or casual shoes, please)



## The following items will NOT be accepted during this event.



- ▶ **NO!** Styrofoam
- ▶ **NO!** Plastics/Packaging
- ▶ **NO!** Fluorescent Tubes and lamps (All types)
- ▶ **NO!** Ni-CD & Ni-MH batteries
- ▶ **NO!** Household size batteries (AA, AAA, C, D, 9V, etc.)
- ▶ **NO!** Ink/Toner Cartridges
- ▶ **NO!** Media (CD, DVD, floppy, VHS, Cassette, tapes)
- ▶ **NO!** PCB Ballasts
- ▶ **NO!** Wood
- ▶ **NO!** Refrigerators, Freezers, most water coolers, some dehumidifiers
- ▶ **NO!** Capacitors
- ▶ **NO!** Fire Extinguishers
- ▶ **NO!** Mercury Containing Devices (Thermostats, Ionization Smoke Detectors)

# The Triduum

THE JOURNEY OF OUR REDEMPTION

The Paschal *Triduum*, or “three days” in Latin, holds deep significance for Catholics as it commemorates Christ’s journey through death, burial, and resurrection to new life. This sacred observance is regarded as a single, unified event with three distinct parts, each rich in meaning:

## HOLY THURSDAY:

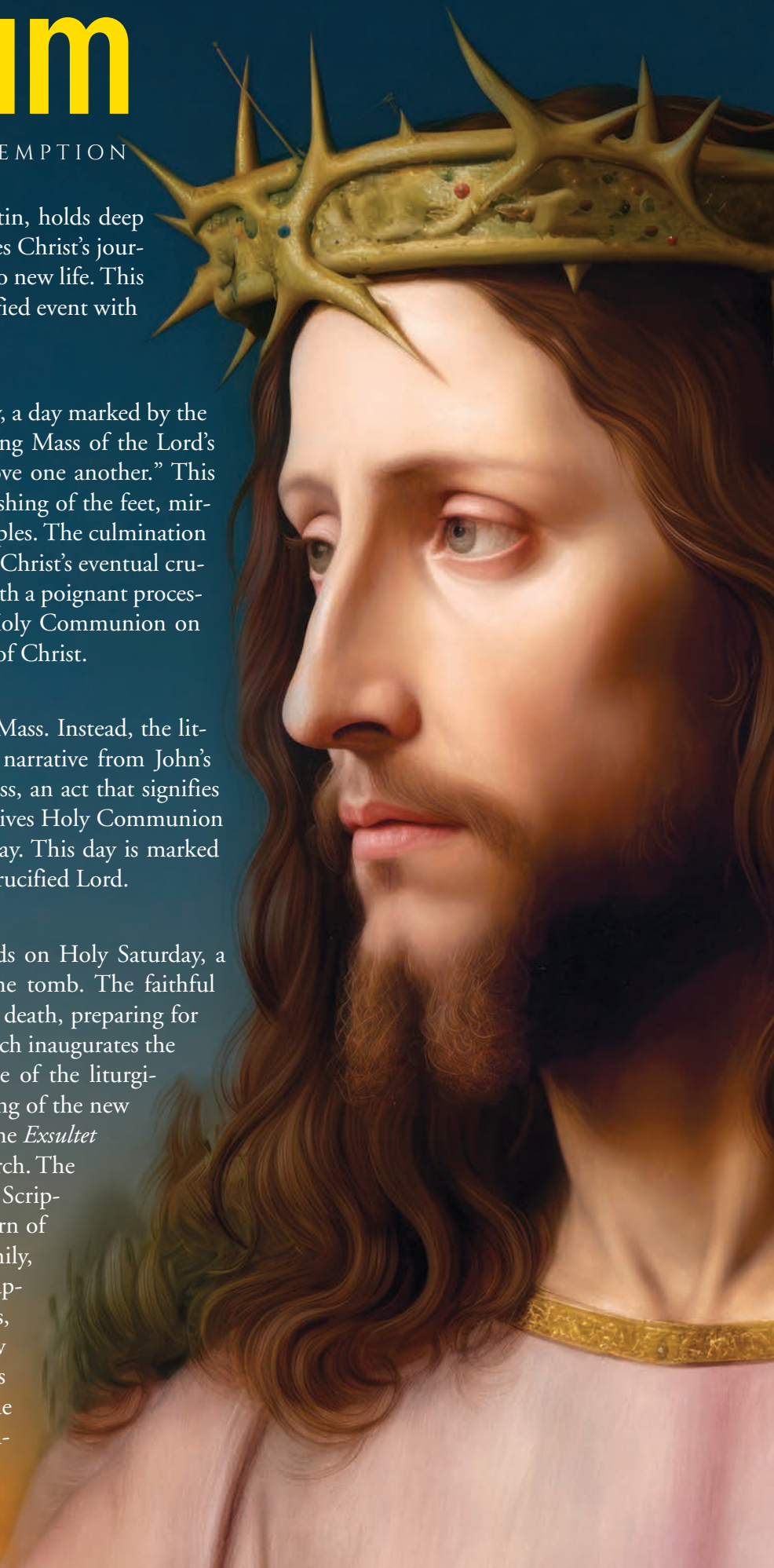
The Triduum commences on Holy Thursday, a day marked by the profound act of Christ’s self-gift. The evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper symbolizes Christ’s command to “love one another.” This divine love is tangibly represented in the washing of the feet, mirroring Jesus’ humility and service to his disciples. The culmination of this love is witnessed in the Eucharist and Christ’s eventual crucifixion on Calvary. The liturgy concludes with a poignant procession as consecrated hosts are reserved for Holy Communion on Good Friday, emphasizing the real presence of Christ.

## GOOD FRIDAY:

On Good Friday, there is no celebration of Mass. Instead, the liturgy centers on the reading of the Passion narrative from John’s Gospel. The congregation venerates the Cross, an act that signifies deep reverence for Christ’s sacrifice, and receives Holy Communion from the hosts consecrated on Holy Thursday. This day is marked by introspection and contemplation of the crucified Lord.

## EASTER VIGIL:

The anticipation of the Resurrection unfolds on Holy Saturday, a day that reverberates with the silence of the tomb. The faithful meditate on the profound meaning of Jesus’ death, preparing for the climactic Easter Vigil in the evening, which inaugurates the Easter celebration. This vigil is the pinnacle of the liturgical year, characterized by the dramatic lighting of the new fire, the blessing of the Paschal candle, and the *Exsultet* Easter proclamation within the candlelit church. The narrative of salvation is recounted through Scripture readings, culminating in the joyful return of the “Alleluia” in the Gospel. After the homily, the Church celebrates the Sacrament of Baptism and the renewal of baptismal promises, underscoring the theme of rebirth and new life. The Paschal Triduum officially concludes with evening prayer on Easter Sunday, but the Easter Season continues to captivate the faithful for a full 50 days, radiating the profound wonder of the Resurrection.



# ORIGINS OF THE TRIDUUM CELEBRATION

The origins of the Triduum celebration have deep historical roots in early Christianity, evolving into the structured observance we know today. Here's a more detailed historical account:

**Early Christian Observances (1st-2nd Century):** In the early Christian era, there was a continuous tradition of commemorating the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus during Holy Week. The Last Supper, Crucifixion, and Resurrection were central themes in the lives of early believers, and the events of Holy Week were marked by intense prayer and fasting.

**The Development of Holy Thursday:** By the 3rd and 4th centuries, the Christian community began to formalize its observance of Maundy Thursday, focusing on the Last Supper, the institution of the Eucharist, and the humility of Christ washing the disciples' feet.

**The Emergence of Good Friday:** The observance of Good Friday as a distinct day of mourning and reflection on the Crucifixion took shape in the early Christian communities. By the 4th and 5th centuries, the veneration of the Cross and the reading of the Passion narrative became central features.

**Evolution of Holy Saturday:** Holy Saturday developed as a day of expectation and vigil. It was a time of reflecting on Christ's descent into the realm of the dead and the anticipation of the Resurrection.

**Easter Vigil and the Paschal Candle:** The Easter Vigil, which heralds the Resurrection of Christ, became a more structured celebration by the 4th century. Key elements like the lighting of the Paschal candle, the blessing of water, and the *Exsultet*, a joyful proclamation of Christ's Resurrection, were introduced.

**Council of Nicaea and Liturgical Development:** The First Council of Nicaea in 325 AD addressed various aspects of Christian practice and worship, but the Triduum itself was not formalized. The development of these liturgical practices occurred over time and through local customs.

**Medieval Period and Liturgical Reforms:** During the medieval period, the observance of the Triduum became more elaborate and consistent across various Christian communities. Liturgical reforms (Vatican II) and additions in the Middle Ages enhanced the structure and solemnity of the Triduum.

Today, the Triduum stands as the pinnacle of the Christian liturgical year. It remains a powerful expression of faith, hope, and the core beliefs of Christianity, uniting believers in the profound mysteries of Jesus Christ's Passion, Death, and Resurrection.

## A TRIDUUM PRAYER

Lord Jesus, as we enter into these sacred days of the Triduum, we humbly walk with you on your journey of suffering, death, and ultimate resurrection. Help us to understand the depth of your love for us, and grant us the grace to embrace the cross as a path to new life. May we, like you, find strength in moments of trial and hope in the face of despair. In your name, we pray. *Amen.*

## TRIDUUM CUSTOMS

The Triduum is marked by a variety of customs and rituals observed worldwide. Here are some key customs that may be celebrated in your local parish:

**Washing of the Feet** (Holy Thursday): Many parishes participate in the tradition of washing the feet, following Jesus' example of humility when he washed the feet of his disciples at the Last Supper.

**Stripping of the Altar** (Holy Thursday): After Mass on Holy Thursday, the altar is stripped bare, symbolizing the desolation of Christ's impending Passion.

**Adoration of the Cross** (Good Friday): On Good Friday, the faithful often venerate the Cross, either by kissing or genuflecting. This act of reverence serves as a powerful reminder of Christ's sacrifice on the Cross. **Stations of the Cross** are particularly appropriate on Good Friday by calling to mind the steps in Christ's journey to Calvary.

**Easter Fire and Lighting of the Paschal Candle** (Easter Vigil): The Easter Vigil begins with the lighting of a new fire, symbolizing the light of Christ overcoming darkness. From this fire, the Paschal Candle is lit, symbolizing the risen Christ. The candle is then processed into the darkened church, and individual candles may be lit from it.

**Baptism and Confirmation** (Easter Vigil): The Easter Vigil is traditionally a time for the initiation of new members into the Church through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. The baptized often renew their promises during the Easter Vigil, reaffirming their commitment to the faith.

**Easter Vigil Readings** (Easter Vigil) follow the story of salvation from God's creation of the world, the sparing of Noah and his family from the flood and the deliverance of God's people from Egypt to the Gospel accounts of Jesus rising from the grave.

**Easter Sunday Sunrise Services:** Many parishes gather for sunrise services on Easter Sunday, celebrating the Resurrection as the sun rises. These services often include joyful hymns and the proclamation of the Resurrection.



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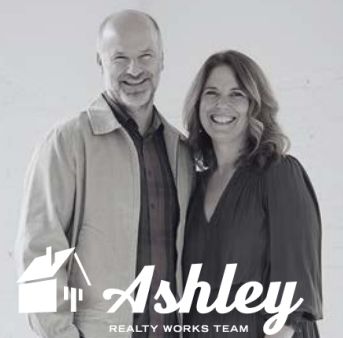
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