

2017 PASSIONTIDE SCHEDULE ST. MARY & ST. THOMAS PARISHES

** [I] = Incense may be used if we have enough servers **

On Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, the first mass at St. Thomas will begin at 9:15.

Saturday, April 8th

- 3:00pm – Confessions (St. Thomas)
- 4:00pm – Vigil Mass of Palm Sunday [Simple Entrance] (St. Thomas)

Sunday, April 9th

- 7:30am – Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord [Solemn Entrance] (St. Mary)
- 9:15am – Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord [Procession] (St. Thomas)
- 11:00am – Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord [Simple Entrance] (St. Thomas)

Monday, April 10th

- 7:00pm – *Tenebrae* (St. Thomas)

Tuesday, April 11th

- 7:30am – Mass, Tuesday of Holy Week (St. Mary)

Wednesday, April 12th

- 8:30am – Mass, Wednesday of Holy Week (St. Thomas)
- 9:15am – Coffee Club at St. Thomas School

Thursday, April 13th

- [I] 7:00pm – The Mass of the Lord's Supper (St. Thomas)

Friday, April 14th

- 8:00am – Morning Prayer [*Lauds*] (St. Thomas)
- 3:00pm – The Liturgy of Passion of the Lord (St. Thomas)
- 4:00pm – Confessions will be heard

Saturday, April 15th

- 8:00am – Morning Prayer [*Lauds*] (St. Thomas)
- [I] 8:00pm – The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night (St. Thomas)
- Following the Vigil, a light reception will take place to welcome our new Catholics and Confirmands

Sunday, April 16th

- 7:30am – Easter Sunday Mass (St. Mary) (No Confessions)
- 9:15am – Easter Sunday Mass (St. Thomas)
- [I] 11:00am – Easter Sunday Mass (St. Thomas)



+ WHAT TO EXPECT DURING PASSIONTIDE +

Holy Week and especially the Sacred Triduum (Thursday Evening – Sunday Evening) are some of the most intense days of the Liturgical Year.

I would highly encourage you to participate in as many of these liturgies as possible, especially the Easter Vigil on Saturday night. Here is a brief explanation as to what you can expect if you are unfamiliar with any of these liturgies:

Palm Sunday

This liturgy stands at the head of Holy Week and marks the beginning of the proximate preparation for Easter.

Two of the hallmarks of this day are the blessing and carrying of palm branches in imitation of the Gospels and the reading or chanting of the passion narrative.

A third hallmark is how Mass might actually begin. At St. Mary and at the 9:15am Mass at St. Thomas, Mass will actually begin with a special reading of a Gospel – Jesus’s triumphal entrance into Jerusalem. At St. Thomas this reading will take place in the school gymnasium followed by a procession to the Church in imitation of Our Lord’s entrance into Jerusalem.

Tenebrae (~45 min)

This optional but moving prayer service consists of a series of readings and psalms. The church is also gradually darkened representing the darkness brought on by sin which will be vanquished Saturday night by the “Light of Christ.”

Morning Prayer (~20 min)

On Friday and Saturday, the Church recommends a public praying of Morning Prayer, part of the official prayer of the Church. If you are unfamiliar with this form of prayer, come check it out and

discover a simple way to sanctify your day.

Holy Thursday

This liturgy which features the optional practice of washing the feet of some of the lay faithful concludes with a solemn Eucharistic procession to a place where the Eucharist is reposed and where the faithful are invited to wait with Him in prayer.

Three main themes are emphasized: Christ’s institution of the Eucharist as well as the Priesthood and also the proclamation of the “new command-ment” to love as Christ loves.

Good Friday

This service is not a Mass, but like Mass it includes both a Liturgy of the Word (including the reading of the Passion according to St. John) and the distribution of Holy Communion.

Two elements unique to this liturgy are the Solemn Intercessions and the Adoration of the Holy Cross.

Easter Vigil (~2 hours)

This is the most solemn liturgy of the Church year. Nothing surpasses it in importance or grandeur and it consists of four basic parts.

The first part (*Lucernarium*) begins with the faithful gathering

around a yet-unblessed fire. Once the fire is blessed, the solemn Paschal Candle is prepared and lit from this fire. It represents Christ, “the true light, which enlightens everyone” (Jn 1:9). Next, the Light of Christ leads the faithful into the church where it is shared with them, recalling the fact that, on account of their Baptism, they have been enlightened by Christ. Finally, the Solemn Easter Proclamation (*Exsultet*) is chanted. This chant beautifully relates the purpose for which we gather and rejoice at our Lord’s Resurrection.

The second part consists in a series of readings and psalms which highlight the major events of Salvation History and culminates with the proclamation of the news of Jesus’s Resurrection.

The third part consists of the baptism of catechumens, the reception into the Church of baptized non-Catholics, and the consequent conferral of Confirmation upon these new Catholics. During this third part, the faithful also take time to renew their own baptismal promises.

The fourth and final part of this great Vigil is the Liturgy of the Eucharist which proceeds in the usual manner but includes the first reception of Holy Communion by our new Catholic brethren.