

The Easter Triduum 2019

“You’re Invited to... the Sacred ‘Triduum’ or ‘Three Days’ ”

Our Lenten Theme for 2019 was “You’re Invited to...” These words were first spoken to the community on Ash Wednesday. We were given 5 weeks of Lent to look at the various “invitations,” that God always extends to us. We were invited into the “wilderness; to experience mercy;” other invites included, “to listen.” “To experience God’s unconditional love;” and then back to the “wilderness to experience joy.” Each weekend we were ‘invited’ to look at our lives as Christians and to see how we could change and draw deeper in our relationship with God and with one another. At the same time, each ‘invite’ helped to prepare us for the Easter Celebrations: Easter Triduum.

These weeks of preparing for the Easter Triduum included Daily Mass each day and Evening Prayer at each worship site. This year, we decided to add to our roster of preparing for the Triduum a “Reconciliation Service,” at each Worship Site... a week apart, giving opportunity for everyone to participate. I am grateful to have Fr. Tom Fowler and Fr. Mike LeBlanc to help with our Lenten celebrations As well, to Amanda Muise and Doug Hubbard for helping to make this happen. This proved to be a faith-filled experience for our parish, allowing us to reconcile as a community. Nothing but positive and encouraging feedback has been received! With such encouragement, we look forward to having these celebrations in the future. Although we were unable to attain a Daily Reflection Booklet for Lent, reflections along with ‘reflective’ questions were offered in the bulletin for each weekly theme. Also a very good attendance to the weekday Masses have hopefully prepared us to enter into the “Three Days” that are the center of the liturgical year...also known as the “Triduum” or “The Three Days”. During Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil/Sunday (3 days) we celebrate the core mystery of our Christian faith: we ritualize Jesus’ transition from life to death to risen life, and our own participation in this timeless mystery. As Jesus passed over from life to death to new life, we, too, pass over from human limits to divine indwelling. “It is the Passover of the Lord.” During this holy week, “You’re invited to...free up some time so you can enter these days in prayer, reflection and worship.” We gather because these days are about Jesus and his life giving death and resurrection. They are also about us as we call to mind what influence these days will have on us. As we move into the days after Easter, let us call to mind that our journey has not ended but only begun. After next Sunday we can ask ourselves:

- Since this is our first Triduum as Holy Spirit Parish, how can these three days help call us to move forward to action in our faith community?
- Will I consider our Lenten Theme, “You’re invited to...” and change one thing in myself to help draw us closer as a living community of Jesus Christ?

SILENCE...and the Triduum?

Each Triduum, you have been encouraged to embrace the ‘action’ of silence for the Three Days and in the past, **YOU HAVE... YOU HAVE DONE IT VERY, VERY WELL AT BOTH WORSHIP SITES!!!** So once again, at the end of the Holy Thursday Celebration the community is invited to stay and spend some time in **quiet** prayer before the Blessed Sacrament at St. Rose Worship Site between 8-9 pm. When leaving the church after Holy Thursday Celebration, the faithful are called to **leave in silence**. Then the **Good Friday** liturgy **begins in silence and ends in the same manner**. The faithful, out of respect for solemnity of the Triduum, are called to be mindful of this prayerful time. That means **no talking** in the church or **entrance of the church and everyone is to be seated. This is the only day that there are no Ministers of Hospitality.** We are called to save our energies for the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday where we will sing out loud the “**Gloria**” for the first time in 40 days. As well, we will ring bells (**If you have bells, bring them Saturday evening or Sunday Morning**) during the Gloria. Every year, our Triduum becomes a more beautiful celebration but in order for this to happen, we need your help. Many are working very hard to put this together and you can do your part by accepting the “invitation” to participate!

- **Donation of FLOWERS FOR OUR WORSHIP SITES...in memory of our loved ones:** We are **inviting** you to make a monetary offering for flowers in memory of someone you love. When monies are collected we will purchase the flowers and decorations in bulk and the same type, beautifying our churches. This is a cash donation and credit will be given to you for income tax receipt. Just place your donation in an envelope with your name (and envelope number) on it. A nice framed list of all donors will be placed in the church.

I know with the help and gifts of so many, this year’s Triduum will continue to be a faith deepening experience for all. I encourage all of us to enter into this sacred time and relive the final days of Jesus’ journey and to celebrate well the Resurrection.

~Fr. David Martin