

# Holy Week and Triduum

*Over the next three weeks, we will include information in the bulletin and parish email to remind ourselves of the significance of Holy Week and Triduum in the life of our parish and in our faith. Each week, more information will be added. For some, this will be a review and reminder; for others, it may be the first time you have a chance to think carefully about exactly what it is we are remembering and celebrating during this special time.*

Holy Week – Holy Week is the final period before Easter Sunday. As we conclude the journey of Lent, we turn our attention in a very intense and mindful way to the final days of Jesus’s life. We walk the journey with Our Lord.

Palm / Passion Sunday – Holy Week begins with the celebration of Jesus’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem, riding on a donkey, to the acclaim of the crowds along the way. We hear the Gospel account of this journey and wave our blessed palms as we walk in procession from the outside of the church to the interior. We accompany Jesus from the exultation of his entry into Jerusalem to the suffering of his passion and death as we hear the Gospel Passion narrative read. The liturgical color of this day is red, which is the traditional color of suffering and martyrdom.

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday – These “in between” days are still significant for our observation of Holy Week. On Monday, the Gospel recounts when Mary of Bethany (sister of Martha and Lazarus) anointed Jesus’s feet with oil, foreshadowing his impending death. Tuesday, we hear Jesus foretelling the betrayal of Judas during the Last Supper. On Wednesday (sometimes called Spy Wednesday) the Gospel reading is about Judas plotting with the chief priests to hand Jesus over to them. The liturgical color remains the purple of Lent, signifying our repentance.

Also on Monday, in our diocese, the Chrism Mass is held at the cathedral. At this Mass, Bishop Knestout will bless all the Holy Oils (Oil of the Sick, Oil of Catechumens, and the Sacred Chrism) that will be used in the churches of the diocese for the coming year. These oils help link our celebration of the sacraments here at St. Ann to the universal church. In addition, the bishop and all the priests of the diocese renew their vows of priestly service to the people of God. Traditionally, the Chrism Mass takes place on Holy Thursday, but in an acknowledgement of the challenges of Holy Week, in our diocese and others it is celebrated on Monday.