**Good Friday Guide**

**What is the Celebration of the Lord’s Passion?**

The Celebration of the Lord’s Passion is the second day of the Pascal Triduum. Good Friday is the only day of the year where Mass is not celebrated, no consecration takes place. Instead of Mass, a simple service consisting of a Liturgy of the Word, Solemn Intercessions, Veneration of the Cross, and Distribution of Communion is offered. This liturgy commemorates the anniversary of Christ’s crucifixion and death, which He offered for humanity’s sake and which allows for salvation.

**What happens at the Celebration of the Lord’s Passion?**

Upon entering the church, the faithful will notice the barrenness. The tabernacle is empty; the altar is bare. The previous evening, following the Mass of the Lord’s Supper, all ornamentation was removed from the sanctuary. The emptiness is meant to convey feelings of loss and sorrow.

At the beginning of the service the priest and ministers will process into the church in silence. When they reach the foot of the altar, they will prostrate themselves. Prostration, to lie flat on the ground face down, is a posture of complete and total worship. During this time the faithful kneel, joining in the silent worship of the crucified Christ who gave His life for the salvation of mankind.

In the Liturgy of the Word we hear: Isaiah’s foretelling of a the suffering servant who will give his life as an offering for others (1st Reading), a hymn of trust in God in the face of trials (Responsorial Psalm), a reminder that Christ chose to share in our suffering (2nd Reading), and an account of Jesus’ arrest, trial, torture, and execution (Gospel Reading). In the Gospel reading the congregation participates, reading the parts of members of the crowd. This participation, particularly when exclaiming, “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!” serve as a stark reminder to the people that, as sinners, all share in the responsibility for Christ’s death. The congregation stand as usual for the reading of the Gospel but pauses to kneel in sorrow and awe at the moment of Christ’s death.

The Liturgy of the Word concludes with the Solemn Intercessions. The Deacon offers an invitation to pray for each intention, he will then invite the congregation to kneel and pray silently for a period. At the Deacon’s invitation, the congregation will return to a standing position and the priest will extend his hands and offer the prayer for that intention. The intentions that are prayed for on Good Friday are: The Holy Church, The Pope, For All Orders and Degrees of the Faithful, For Catechumens, For the Unity of Christians, For the Jewish People, For those who do not believe in Christ, For those who do not believe in God, For those in public office, and For those in tribulation.

The Veneration of the Cross follows the Liturgy of the Word. It begins with either the priest or the deacon moving to the back of the church. He then processes up the aisle carrying a large cross that is covered with a purple cloth. Three times during this procession he stops and sings, “Behold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the salvation of the world.” The congregation responds by singing, “Come, let us adore.” At each stop, part of the cross is unveiled. Once the cross has reached the altar and is fully unveiled, the faithful are invited to come forward and reverence the cross. The reverencing of the cross is an expression of gratitude for the sacrifice of God’s own Son and may be done with a kiss, a bow, a touch, etc.
What happens at the Celebration of the Lord’s Passion? (continued)

After the Veneration of the Cross, communion is distributed. Although there is no consecration at this service, additional hosts were consecrated on Holy Thursday so that the faithful may still receive the Lord in the Eucharist on Good Friday.

At the end of the liturgy, the ministers and people process out of the church in silence as is fitting for this somber day.

Why should we participate in Holy Friday?
The Celebration of the Lord’s Passion is the second part of the Easter Triduum. Although involving three services on three days, (The Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday, The Celebration of the Lord’s Passion on Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday) the Triduum is considered a single celebration and is the summit of the Liturgical Year. These liturgies are both beautiful and powerful. As each is only offered once in each community, they are a tremendous opportunity for the whole community of the faithful to gather and worship together in a heightened way. Special attention has gone into the planning and preparing for these liturgies often making them very moving experiences for those who attend. On Good Friday the Church marks the death of the Lord. She remembers that He suffered the great humiliation and extreme pain of crucifixion for the sake of humankind and that it is His Cross that makes salvation possible.
Good Friday Reflection

Family Last Name: _____________________________________________

First Names of Adult Participants: ________________________________
______________________________________________________________

First Names of Youth Participants: ________________________________
______________________________________________________________

Has your family ever participated in Good Friday before?
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______________________________________________________________

How would you describe your Good Friday experience this year?
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______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________

What was something that stood out for you, particularly in the liturgy? Why did it stand out?
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______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________

Did Good Friday help you to connect with God and/or our parish community? If yes, how? If not, why not?
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______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________

What is one thing about Good Friday that you would like to share with others?
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______________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________