

April 1, 2020

## Approaching Easter, Our Lord's Passover

The celebration of Easter, the resurrection of our Lord, on April 12<sup>th</sup>, is less than two weeks away. Soon, we will enter Holy Week and the celebration of the Triduum, which includes Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. The Sunday before Easter is Palm Sunday which falls on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

For 40 days we have tried to follow the discipline of Lent through prayer, fasting, and charity (alms-giving) to prepare ourselves to enter into and share in the Paschal Mystery – the suffering, death, and resurrection of Our Lord – so that we come to better understand and appreciate the sacrifice Jesus made for us.

The celebration of the Triduum (three days) of Holy Week helps us to understand the connection between the first Passover and the Paschal Mystery of Our Lord. We recall the saving power of the 'blood of the lamb' at the very first Passover of the Lord over the land of Egypt, as recorded in the Book of Exodus in the Old Testament. The people ate the lamb and sprinkled the blood of the lamb on their door posts and were spared, as the angel of death passed over the land to slay the first born of every (Egyptian) household not marked by the blood of the lamb. The New Testament reveals Jesus as the 'Lamb of God' whose Body and Blood are the basis of the new covenant, the sacrificial Lamb by whose blood we are saved, just as the Israelites were saved. At every Eucharist we partake of the Lamb's body and blood; but this Lamb is Jesus, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, who frees us from the death caused by sin. Happy are we, blessed are we who partake of the supper of the Lamb - the Eucharist!

Please read the following scriptures and consider the questions that follow:

Matthew	Chapter 21, verses 1-11
Matthew	Chapter 26, verses 1-56
Luke	Chapter 22, verses 1-20
John	Chapter 13, verses 1-38

What noteworthy events occurred at the Passover meal Jesus celebrated with the Apostles on the night we now refer to as Holy Thursday ?

What new commandment did Jesus give his Apostles ?

What lesson about service and humility did Jesus teach ? How did He do this ?

Why would Peter refuse, at first, to let Jesus wash his feet ?

What new covenant did Jesus establish at the meal ? How did He do this ?

When do we celebrate this new covenant and how do we do this ?

Where was Jesus arrested ?

Who was with Jesus at that time ?

What was Jesus praying before the crowd arrived to arrest Him ?

Who led the arresting party to the place where they could find Jesus ?

How much was the Judas paid by the chief priests to lead them to Jesus ?

**Homework : Please read pages 237 – 240 about Triduum in your textbook. How is it that Jesus was greeted triumphantly when he rode into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday) and within a week he was arrested, condemned and crucified ?**

Parent's signature \_\_\_\_\_