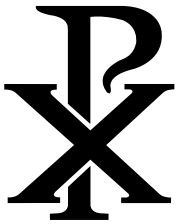


The *FIAT* Newsletter

A Family Ministry Publication

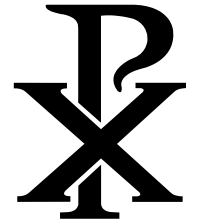
St. Robert Bellarmine Parish & School, Omaha, NE.

Holy Week Edition 2011



Holy Week

Holy Week, the most sacred week of the liturgical year, progresses from Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem to His agonizing passion and death. **Make a firm attempt to live simply and spiritually this week in honor of Christ.** Follow Jesus' journey by attending Mass, reading small sections of the gospels each day or visit www.onlineministries for guided meditations.



Holy Thursday

Holy Thursday was also called Maundy Thursday based on the Latin word *mandatum* meaning "commandment". This refers to Jesus' command to love one another as He demonstrated by washing the feet of the Disciples.

Family Time

-Partake in the Parish Seder Meal to commemorate the Passover. It is a powerful way to understand our history and that of our Jewish brethren.

-Celebrate the Mass of the LORD's Supper. Help your children to understand the importance of this Mass as a commemoration of the Last Supper and the institution of the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

-View age appropriate material on Jesus' life and death. Watch the "Holy Week" section of the [Jesus of Nazareth](#) film or watch [The Passion](#). Read a children's book on the story of Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection.

Holy Saturday

No Mass is celebrated until the Easter Vigil, which is one of the oldest and most important liturgical celebrations.

Family Time

-Color eggs. Remind children of the anticipation of a new life with Christ's resurrection.

-Review your Lenten sacrifices. Help family members evaluate their spiritual growth this Lent.

-Discuss the Resurrection and Jesus' fulfillment of His covenant. Remind children that the Easter Season lasts until Pentecost Sunday, fifty days after Easter Sunday.

Good Friday

On Good Friday, the altar is bare, the tabernacle is empty and no Mass is celebrated. Liturgies during the day consist of reading of Jesus' suffering and death, praying the general intercessions, meditations on the last seven words of Jesus on the cross, veneration of the cross, and a communion service.

Family Time

Make the hours of Noon to 3 p.m. a time of family prayer. Some suggestions for this time are:

-Meditate on the Stations of the Cross. Have each family member read and reflect on a station, in turn. Use one book or several, depending on the age of the participants.

-Pray the Sorrowful Mysteries. Ask Mary for help in understanding the importance of her son's passion and death.

-View age appropriate material on Jesus' life and death. Watch the "Holy Week" section of [Jesus of Nazareth](#) film, watch [The Passion](#) or view a children's film on Jesus' Easter story.

-Cultivate a period of silence. Allow everyone time to be alone and quiet for a period of time today. Offer religious books, prayer books and reflections.

Attend a Good Friday Service. St. Robert Bellarmine Parish offers Good Friday Services at 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

The Divine Mercy Message

During the 1930's, Jesus revealed himself to a humble Polish nun, Sr. Faustina Kowalska. Jesus called her to be His apostle of mercy. **Through St. Faustina, Jesus gives us additional means of drawing on His mercy;**

- The image of The Divine Mercy
- The chaplet of Divine Mercy
- A Feast of Mercy
- A Novena
- Prayer at the three o'clock hour

These means of obtaining mercy are in addition to the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation.

In 2000, Pope John Paul II canonized Sr. Kowalska and designated the second Sunday of Easter as The Feast of Divine Mercy. It is a day set aside to celebrate the paschal mystery with the focus on God's covenant of mercy.

The essence of the Divine Mercy message and devotion is to trust in His mercy and be merciful to others. Jesus wants us to turn to Him with trust and repentance and be merciful to others by our actions, words and prayers. Some suggestions to incorporate this devotion into your life are:

- Purchase a booklet explaining the Divine Mercy Message, prayers and novena.
- Pray the Novena of Chaplets beginning on Good Friday.
- Pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy as presented each day at 3:00 p.m. on KVSS Spirit 102.7 FM
- Each day, be mindful of the Three o'clock hour, the Hour of Mercy. According to revelations to Sr. Faustina, it is Jesus' desire that the moment of His Death on the Cross be venerated each day.

(Source: [Jesus, I Trust in You](#), Pauline Press)

***Show me your hands.
Do they have scars from giving?***

Show me your feet.

Are they wounded in service?

Show me your heart.

Have you left a place for divine love?

-Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

Grow in your Catholic Faith
Spirit 102.7 FM, KVSS
or online at www.kvss.com

What is the Octave of Easter?

Liturgically, the "eight days" of Easter constitute a single day, the day of the new creation. The Church begins celebrating at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday and continues through the Saturday before the Second Sunday of Easter. Every day is another Easter, another day to rejoice in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus!

(From: *Living with Christ*, April 2009)

On Holy Thursday, Jesus instituted the Priesthood. Let us reflect on this beautiful vocation and continue to pray for our priests.

The Beautiful Hands of a Priest

(Author Unknown)

We need them in life's early morning,
we need them again at its close;
We feel their warm clasp of friendship,
we seek them when tasting life's woes.

At the altar each day we behold them,
and the hands of a king on his throne
Are not equal to them in their
greatness; their dignity stands all alone;

And when we are tempted and wander
to pathways of shame and sin,
It's the hand of a priest that will absolve
us---not once, but again and again;

And when we are taking life's partner,
other hands may prepare us a feast,
But the hand that will bless and unite
us is the beautiful hand of a priest.

God bless them and keep them all holy
For the Host which their fingers caress;
When can a poor sinner do better than
to ask Him to guide thee and bless?

When the hour of death comes upon us
may our courage and strength be increased.
By seeing raised over us in anointing the
beautiful hands of a priest!