



### Entering the Triduum

Join us on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and at the Easter Vigil as we enter into the days of our Salvation with Jesus. I will be doing the Triduum fast from the Mass on Holy Thursday through the Easter Vigil, for those of you that are able this is a wonderful way to enter into these holy days. Join us on all the Holy Days if you can. If you cannot attend then make time for prayer. On Holy Thursday pray the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary, On Good Friday pray the Stations of the Cross, On Holy Saturday pray the Memorare or Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary as we mourn with the Virgin. All these prayers may be found online.

Peace,  
Fr. Tom

### **The Triduum: Three Days that Define Us** article by Gretchen Feliz

Sundown on Holy Thursday to sundown on Easter Sunday is considered the most solemn part of the liturgical year. This three-day period is referred to as the Easter Triduum, also known as the Sacred Triduum, or Paschal Triduum.

Basically, the Sacred Triduum is one great festival recounting the last three days of Jesus' life on earth, the events of his Passion and Resurrection, when the Lamb of God laid down his life in atonement for our sins.

"Though chronologically three days, they are liturgically one day unfolding for us the unity of Christ's Paschal Mystery" (USCCB).

It is known as the "Paschal Mystery" because it is the ultimate fulfillment of the ancient Jewish Passover (or Pasch), which itself was a recollection of how God brought the Jews out of their slavery in Egypt. The spotless lamb was slaughtered at the Passover meal and consumed, and that night the destroying angel "passed over" the homes marked with the blood of the Passover Lamb, and those covered by the Blood were saved. This was the Old Testament prefigurement of Jesus' work at the Last Supper—where he inserted himself as the Paschal Lamb—and Calvary, where the sacrifice was offered to save us from our slavery to sin. With the Holy Eucharist, we consume the victim that died for our sins.

The Paschal Mystery is, therefore, God's plan of redemption for the fallen human race through the Passion, death, and resurrection of God-man, Jesus Christ. It is one marvelous event stretched out over three days.

Here is a breakdown of each of the three days that make up the Easter Triduum:

The evening Mass on Holy Thursday is referred to as The Mass of the Lord's Supper. This is where the Church relives the institution of the Eucharist and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at the Last Supper, as well as the institution of the priesthood, which took place the evening before Jesus was crucified.

After the homily there is an optional washing of the feet ceremony, where the priest washes the feet of others to signify his role as servant, just as Jesus did with his disciples. Extra hosts are consecrated at this Mass to be used on Good Friday when no Mass will be celebrated.

The Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday concludes with a procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the "altar of repose," a place where the consecrated host is kept other than the main altar where Mass is normally celebrated.

Because of its connection to the Last Supper, where Jesus instituted the Mass and the twelve Apostles first received Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament ("Take, eat, this is my body . . ."), Holy Thursday is a day especially given to adoration of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist; many parishes will have Eucharistic Adoration at this altar of repose late into the night.

**Good Friday** is a mandatory day of fasting and abstinence. This is the day of the crucifixion, the day Jesus died for the sins of the world. The parish altar looks very different on Good Friday, it is plain and bare. There is no consecrated Host in the Tabernacle at the main altar of the church; it was carried away on Holy Thursday night to the "altar of repose" to signify Jesus' death. The candle by the Tabernacle is blown out, and the Tabernacle doors are left open to show that it is empty. Jesus is gone. This is quite dramatic, highlighting that Good Friday is a solemn day of prayer and mourning.

The ceremony on Good Friday is not a Mass, but rather a communion service using the consecrated hosts from Holy Thursday. It often takes place at 3pm, the hour that Jesus breathed his last on the cross. Veneration of the Cross also takes place at this service, processing to kneel before a cross and either touching it or kissing it. Often the priest will begin the service prostrate in front of the altar.

A vigil Mass is held after nightfall on Holy Saturday, or before dawn on Easter Sunday, in celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. This is called the Easter Vigil, the most glorious, beautiful, and dramatic liturgy for the Church.

The vigil is divided into four parts and can last up to three hours: 1) the service of light, 2) the liturgy of the Word, 3) the liturgy of Baptism, and 4) the liturgy of the Eucharist. This is also the Mass where many in RCIA are brought into full communion with the Catholic Church.

### **Easter Sunday**

"Therefore Easter is not simply one feast among others, but the 'Feast of feasts', the 'Solemnity of solemnities', just as the Eucharist is the 'Sacrament of sacraments'. St. Athanasius calls Easter 'the Great Sunday' and the Eastern Churches call Holy Week 'the Great Week'. The mystery of the Resurrection, in which Christ crushed death, permeates with its powerful energy our old time, until all is subjected to him." (CCC #1168, 1169)

### **Divine Mercy Novena**

Join Fr. Francisco and Fr. Tom at 3PM for the Divine Mercy Novena to be prayed in the Church beginning on Good Friday and finishing with the Celebration of Divine Mercy on Sunday **April 8**.

**LITURGICAL SCHEDULE :**

Last opportunities for confessions at O.L.G.

Tuesday: **March 27th** 7:00-8:00am

Wednesday: **March 28th** 6:00-7:00pm

***Mass Schedule for Holy Week***

Monday, **March 26th** 8:15am

Tuesday, **March 27th** 8:15am

Wednesday, **March 28th** 8:15am & 6:00pm

***No morning Masses Thursday-Saturday***

***The Sacred Triduum***

The Sacred Triduum, spanning three days, is one commemoration celebrating the great event of glorious triumph of Jesus over sin and death. We invite you to share in all the liturgies as we ascend to the joy of Easter resurrection and new life won for us.



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**SCHEDULE FOR THE SACRED TRIDUUM:**

**Holy Thursday, March 29th, 7:30pm**

**MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Transfer of the Eucharist to the repository in Stack Center follows the liturgy.

**Good Friday, March 30th**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

12:00pm (English) & 5:30pm (Spanish)

**CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION**

1:30pm, 6:30pm (Spanish) and 8:00pm

**Holy Saturday, March 31st, 8:00pm**

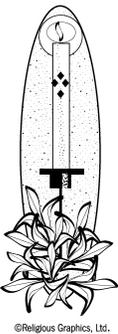
**THE GREAT EASTER VIGIL**

Service of Light, Liturgy of the Word, Rites of Initiation for the Elect and Liturgy of the Eucharist

**Easter Sunday Masses, April 1st**

**THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**

7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am & 1:30pm (Spanish)



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***CELEBRATE NEW LIFE IN CHRIST  
YOU ARE INVITED TO:***

Celebrate the Baptism, First Eucharist, and Confirmation of Our Elect for 2018. **Julia Bowen, Stephanie Smith, Heather Solis, Dillon & Kendall McVeigh.** We will also welcome into full communion with the Church: **Laura Bender, Xavier Ochoa, Lupita Ruiz & Joshua Walters.** Rejoice!

***The Solemn Easter Vigil***

***Saturday, March 31st, 2018 at 8:00 pm***

***Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church***



**EASTER MEMORIAL FLOWERS  
OUR LADY OF GRACE TRADITION**

Once again, this year we are inviting you to remember family members and friends through a Flower Offering which will help us to purchase the plants and other decorations we need to beautify our sanctuary. You may list the names of loved ones you wish to remember or memorialize by using the special Easter Flower Offering envelopes available in the pews. A list of names of all who are remembered will be available after Easter.



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**HELP US DECORATE FOR EASTER**

We will be readying the church for our Easter Services beginning at 9:00am on Saturday, **March 31st.** If you are available to help place flowers, dust and spruce up the church, we would be most appreciative of your help. No need to RSVP, just looking forward to seeing you then!

**GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION  
A Message from Pope Francis**

Pope Francis has asked our parish to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land. Your support helps the church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools, offer religious education & helps preserve sacred shrines. The wars, unrest & instability have been hard on Christians. In these times of crisis, this collection provides humanitarian aid to refugees. When you contribute, you become an instrument of peace & join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. Baskets will be available in the Church for your donations. Please be generous! For more info, visit [www.myfranciscan.org/good-friday](http://www.myfranciscan.org/good-friday)

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

The Parish Office will close at 12 Noon on Good Friday, **March 30th.** We will re-open on Tuesday, **April 3rd** at 9:00am. The entire Parish staff wishes you & your family a very Blessed Easter!

**LIGHTING THE WAY  
BISHOP'S APPEAL 2018**

Following is the status of our Annual Bishop's Appeal through **March 15th:**

\$ 16,195.00—Actual Donations Received

<b>Our Goal for 2018:</b>	<b>\$29,000.00</b>
# of Registered Families	1,100
# of Acknowledged Donors to date:	102
Funds Raised (includes pledges)	\$23,779.00

We are currently at 82% of our goal for this year's Bishop's Appeal. We are most grateful to all those who have contributed and look forward to completing this appeal. If you have not yet made your contribution, consider doing so today.

**EVANGELIZATION CORNER**

**Youth Ministry**

Next Meetings: March 25th

**1st Holy Communion**

Next Meetings: April 14th *Retreat Day & Practice*

**Whole Family Catechesis**

Next Meetings: April 8th *Divine Mercy*  
April 29th *How to Pray Well*

For more information, contact the Evangelization Office at 510-582-9266.



**SUNDAY COLLECTION**

Stewardship of treasure involves trust in God. You have to really believe in God's Providence and trust that if you give ten percent of your income to the Church and charity, for example, God will help you live on the rest.

**Offerings of March 18th:**

Sunday Plate:	\$ 8,412.00
Last Year this week	\$ 8,151.00
<b>Weekly Budgeted Goal:</b>	<b>\$ 8,920.00</b>
Year-to-date this year:	\$101,132.00
Year-to-date last year:	\$ 99,853.00

*May God bless your continuing generosity.*



**Your Prayers Are Requested**

Please lift up in your prayer those many among us who are ill and those who have asked for our prayerful remembrance:

- |                   |                           |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Kathleen Andrews  | Elaine Jordan             |
| James Barthman    | Maxine Kruzell            |
| Jot Brown         | Laura Martell             |
| Leonardo Cabardo  | Alice McLaughlin          |
| Antonio O. Chocha | Julie Peterson            |
| Claudia Dobbs     | Stephanie Rosevear        |
| Lynn Franks       | Florence Sharp            |
| Anna Friedeberg   | Rosemary Slater           |
| Byron Griffith    | Mercedes Tellez           |
| Don Jordan        | Baby Jackson Tyler Bishop |

**The Lord IS CALLING You!!??  
MEN'S FAITH SHARE**

All men of the parish are invited to join our Men's Faith Share and Bible Study every Tuesday evening from 7:00 – 8:15pm in Stack Center-Room 7. Each week Fr. Paul leads a discussion on the meaning and application to our lives for the upcoming Sunday Mass readings. **COME & YOU WILL SEE!** (Jn 1:39). Next meeting is **March 27th.**

**HIGH SCHOOL TEENS: GOT QUESTIONS?  
ALPHA - MARCH 25TH**

Join us **tonight** from 6-8pm in Stack Center to share a **Meal**, watch an exciting **Video** & discuss in small groups the video and **our Faith in God** as we have **Fun** & make new **Friends!** Our hope for those teens who attend ALPHA is to have a deep experience with God as we explore our faith and answer questions in a comfortable setting. Bring a friend!

*Please remember in your prayers the recently deceased in our parish families and all who mourn the loss of a loved one.*

**DELIA LAWRENCE**



**CINCO DE MAYO FIESTA  
DINNER AUCTION  
Donations Needed!**

Our spring auction is **weeks away** & we need your help to make it a success! **DONATIONS.** We need donations. Do you have a nice bottle of wine? Extra tickets to a Sporting Event? Play? Musical? Symphony? Is there a favorite kids' class/camp, fitness club/class, restaurant, spa, hair salon that you might solicit a gift certificate or gift basket from? Do you have a cabin or vacation home? Contact: [Our.Lady.of.Grace.Auction@gmail.com](mailto:Our.Lady.of.Grace.Auction@gmail.com) &/or Liz Huizar, Auction Chair @ 510-501-2045

**PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND  
A SCHEDULE CHANGE**

The Pilgrimage culminates by walking the the way of the cross to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. We will be walking through the Via Dolorosa (the Way of the Cross) to the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher for a detailed visit to Mount Calvary, the Holy Tomb and St. Helen Chapel. Join Fr. Tom for a Pilgrimage of a life time **October 17-29**. Cost is \$3499. For more information contact Anastasis Tours at 661-478-2331 or contact Jay in the office.



**PRE-BAPTISM CLASS  
FOR PARENTS & GODPARENTS**

If you are wishing to have your child, **BAPTISM** ages infant to six years baptized, parents and godparents need to attend a Pre-Baptism Class. You also need to be registered members of the parish for at least three months. Call Jay at 510-537-0806 for more information. The next Pre-Baptism Class will be held on **April 4th** at 7:00pm in the OLG Room in Stack Center.

**PAX CHRISTI MOVIE NIGHT!**

On Friday, **April 6th**, come and watch the movie, **Seed: The Untold Story**, a heartwarming account of how indigenous seed keepers along with farmers, scientists & lawyers stand up to giant chemical companies to defend the future of our food. If you are interested in learning more about this issue that affects our ability to feed the world, join us in viewing and discussing this stimulating 94-minute 2016 documentary film. Free admission! We invite you to bring a favorite snack or savory treat to share (optional). This event will be held in Stack Center from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Sponsored by OLG's Pax Christi/Social Justice group. For more info., pick up a flyer at the entrances to the church or call Dennise at (510) 538-6071.



**1ST FRIDAY &  
1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION**

Come join us every 1st Friday for Mass at 8:15am with the recitation of the Litany of the Sacred Heart followed by a gathering in the Office. Join us at 7:00pm for Adoration with prayers of Divine Mercy in April. Join us on every 1st Saturday at 8:15am for Mass, Adoration, Rosary & Benediction. In April after Adoration we will explore Our Lady of Fatima in our Marian series.



**THIS WEEK**

**Sunday, March 25th:**

***Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord***

Liturgy of the Word  
9:30am--Augustine Center  
Coffee & Donuts  
After 9:30am Mass--Stack Center  
New Parishioner Registration  
10:00am--Stack Center  
Youth Ministry  
6:00pm--Stack Center

**Monday, March 26th:**

Women's Evening Bible Study  
7:00pm--Stack Center, OLG Room

**Tuesday, March 27th:**

Tuesday Morning Bible Study  
9:30am--Parish Office  
Men's Faith Share  
7:00pm--Stack Center, Room 7

**Thursday, March 29th:**

Altar of Repose  
Stack Center--Closes at midnight  
AA Serenity Group  
7:30pm--Augustine Center, Room A2

**Friday, March 30th:**

Parish Offices Close at Noon

**Sunday, April 1st:**

***Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord***

Liturgy of the Word  
9:30am--Augustine Center

**CASTRO VALLEY HOMELESS OUTREACH**

A very special thank you to all who supported Homeless Outreach over the last year. Your kindness and generosity were truly a blessing and was greatly appreciated by those who received your help. As we go into the new year, we will be redoubling our efforts to reach out to those in need. Our next drop off date is **March 31st** & we plan to drop off every 2 weeks thereafter. We will gladly pick up your donation or you may drop your donation at the Parish Office. Your help is truly a blessing. For more info & a list of needed items, contact Ken White at k2rm@comcast.net or 510-909-5774 or Sean Nalty at sean.nalty@ogletree.com or 415-369-3552.

*Mass*  *for the Intentions* *Week*

All Masses are celebrated in the Church

**SUNDAY, March 25th**

*Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord*

11:30am Debbie & Doug Reetz & Family--L

1:30pm Maria de Jesus de Toribio--D

**MONDAY, March 26th**

8:15am Dorothy & Manuel Callier--D

**TUESDAY, March 27th**

8:15am Debi Telles--D

**WEDNESDAY, March 28th**

8:15am Joaquin & Sheila Vargas--L

**THURSDAY, March 29th**

**HOLY THURSDAY**

7:30pm *Evening Mass of the Lord's Passion*

**FRIDAY, March 30th**

**GOOD FRIDAY**

12:00pm Stations of the Cross

1:30pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Veneration of the Cross & Communion

5:30pm Stations of the Cross (Spanish)

6:30pm Veneration of the Cross & Communion (Spanish)

8:00pm Veneration of the Cross & Communion

**SATURDAY, March 31st**

**HOLY SATURDAY**

8:00pm **THE GREAT EASTER VIGIL**

**SUNDAY, April 1st**

**EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**

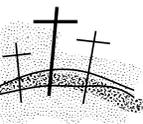
7:30am--9:30am--11:30am--1:30 (Spanish)



**ROSARY BEFORE MASS**

Come join in prayer of the Rosary 30 minutes before each of the weekend liturgies. Pray for our Parish and our youth as they journey with the Alpha Youth program. All are welcome!

**WE WALK THE ROAD TO EASTER**



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**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:**

**March 26th through April 1st**

Monday: Isaiah 42:1-7; John 12:1-11

Tuesday: Isaiah 49:1-6; John 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Matthew 26:14-25

Thursday: Exodus 12:1-8,11-14; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-15

Friday: Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42

Saturday: Romans 6:3-11; Mark 16:1-7

Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-9



**ICF NEWS**

**Biscotti Orders are in!**

Just a reminder that this is the Sunday to pick up the Biscotti that you ordered for Easter. Please bring your order slip & \$6.00 per dozen if you have not paid. Orders can be picked up after Sunday Masses. Enjoy & thank you!

**Potluck Dinner**

Time to share your cooking skills with us, the **April 12th** dinner meeting of the ICF is a pot luck. There is no theme, just bring one of your favorite dishes to share and enjoy an evening of new food, new recipes and maybe new people. Please call Juanita Madrid @ 510-582-7242 and let her know if you are coming and what you are bringing.

**Anniversary Dinner Dance**

Come help the ICF Branch #343 celebrate their 39th Anniversary on Saturday, **April 21st!** Begin the evening with a hosted wine & beer Happy Hour at 6:00pm, followed by dinner at 7:00pm & raffles then dance to the Big Band Sounds of "In Full Swing" from 8-10:30pm. Tickets are \$40 per person & deadline is April 17th. For reservations, pls call Lisa Crudo at 510-861-9835 or Pat Grasso at 510-538-2844. Checks made payable to ICF Branch #343 & mailed to Lisa at 3718 September Court, Castro Valley, CA 94546

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This week we extend our gratitude to:

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