
Traditions of Good Friday:

On Good Friday, the entire Church focuses on the Cross at Calvary. The congregation comes together to contemplate the events that lead to our Lord's crucifixion.

The Church - stripped of its ornaments, the altar bare, and with the door of the empty tabernacle standing open - is as if in mourning.

The liturgical observance of this day of Christ's suffering, crucifixion and death evidently has been in existence from the earliest days of the Church. No Mass is celebrated on this day, because Holy Communion, which had already been consecrated on Holy Thursday night, is given to the people.

Traditionally, the organ is silent from Holy Thursday until the Alleluia at the Easter Vigil, as are all bells or other instruments, the only music during this period being unaccompanied chant or song.

The somber quality of this day reminds us of Christ's humiliation and suffering during his Passion. We can see that the parts of the Good Friday service are:

1) Liturgy of the Word - reading of the Passion; 2) Intercessory prayers for the Church and the entire world, both Christian and non-Christian; 3) Veneration of the Cross; 4) and Communion.

Easter Vigil Mass, The most sacred night of the Church year

The Easter Vigil liturgy is the most beautiful liturgy of the Roman Catholic Church.

Although celebrated Holy Saturday evening, it is the dramatic Easter vigil liturgy that marks the beginning of the Easter season.

1) Service of Light The atmosphere in the Church is different: The Holy water fonts are empty, all the lights dimmed, the tabernacle is empty. The service begins outside the Church or at the back of the Church. A ceremonial new fire is lit and blessed. The Paschal Candle is prepared while the priest marks the candle. The candle is then processed through the church, with the deacon lifting the candle at three different times, singing: Christ our light (*Lumen Christi*) and the congregation sings in reply: Thanks be to God (*Deo gratias*). Everyone lights their individual candle from the Easter candle and continue until the whole church is alight. The Paschal candle symbolizes Christ, the Light of the World.

Next follows the glorious Easter song of the Catholic Church: the *Exsultet* (Easter proclamation). "This magnificent hymn, which is remarkable for its lyric beauty and profound symbolism, announces the dignity and meaning of the mystery of Easter; it tells of man's sin, of God's mercy, and of the great love of the Redeemer for mankind, admonishing us in turn to thank the Trinity for all the graces that have been lavished upon us". This is usually sung by the deacon or choir leader.

2) Liturgy of the Word During the Easter Vigil, nine readings, (seven Old Testament and two New Testament) are provided. Not all are required to be read due to time constraints, but at least three Old Testament readings must be read. These readings help us meditate on the wonderful works of God for his

people since the beginning of time. The Gloria is sung before the reading of the Epistle of the Romans, and the Alleluia is sung before the Gospel.

3) Liturgy of the Baptism During this time the Easter water is blessed, new members who have been studying Catholicism in the RCIA program are welcomed into the Church through the reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Communion and Confirmation, and the faithful are blessed with the new Holy Water and renew their baptismal promises.

4) Liturgy of the Eucharist The Mass resumes, with the special prayers inserted during the Eucharistic Prayer. The whole congregation is called to join at the sacrificial table that Christ prepared for us through His death and resurrection. The Mass ends with the glorious... *The Mass is ended, go in peace, alleluia, alleluia.* Response: Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia



NO Mass on Mondays

Tuesday, April 16

8:00 am + MATE MAJIC - Mr. & Mrs. Eljuga
+ SOUL OF PETER - Theresa Tran
Sacrament of Reconciliation 6:00pm to 7:00pm

Wednesday, April 17

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 6:00 pm and concludes with Benediction at 7:00 pm
7:15 pm + ANTONIO RESENDES - Maria and family
+ JORGIANA MELO, LUIS & JAIME TEIXEIRA - Tina
Sacrament of Reconciliation 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Holy Thursday, April 18 (no morning Mass)

7:00 pm - for all deceased priests, especially those who served at St Ambrose Parish

Good Friday, April 19

See schedule on opposite page... 

Holy Saturday, April 20

See schedule on opposite page... 
(There is no 5:00 pm Mass today)

Sunday, April 21 - EASTER SUNDAY

9:00 am - DECEASED CANTO FAMILY - Mary and family
11:00 am - for the intentions of all parishioners

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. - Mahatma Gandhi

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK....

As I announced last weekend, I will be moving from St. Ambrose Parish, effective Wednesday, June 26, 2019.

My move is part of the annual clergy appointments by Bishop Crosby. I have been blessed to have ministered to the parishioners of St. Ambrose since 2009.

I have been appointed Pastor at St. Clement Church, in St. Clement's, Ontario.

Taking my place here will be my Pallottine confrere, Father Martin Mikulski SAC. We are switching parishes! He is moving from St. Clement's, Ontario.

Divine Mercy Novena - Please join us in prayer for the Divine Mercy Novena, which will be held at our parish:



Good Friday, April 19 at 7:30 pm
 Holy Saturday, April 20 at 10:00 am
 Easter Sunday, April 21 at 12:15 pm
 (Easter Monday - please pray on your own)
 Tuesday, April 23 to Saturday, April 27 – after each daily Mass in the Church.

Divine Mercy Hour: Sunday, April 28 3:00 - 4:00 pm in the Church. Join us for music and prayer in honour of the Divine Mercy of Jesus.

Children Needed for the Good Friday service at 11:00 am. Please, if your child would like to participate, please contact the parish office as soon as possible. Thank you!



Blessing of Easter Food
Holy Saturday April 20 at 12:00 noon
in our Church

Święconka "the blessing of the Easter baskets," is one of the most enduring and beloved Polish (and Eastern European traditions) on Holy Saturday. Baskets containing a sampling of Easter foods, which will be eaten for your Easter dinner, are brought to the church to be blessed on Holy Saturday.

All parishioners who wish to have their food blessed are welcome!



We are in need of a few more people, young and old, male and female, who can participate in this small ceremony at Holy Thursday night Mass. We need 7 more!

Please contact the parish office to offer your assistance.

Holy Week Confessions

Tuesday, April 16 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
 Wednesday, April 17 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
 Holy Saturday, April 20 10:15 am - 11:00 am

Holy Thursday, April 18 at 7:00 p.m.
Mass of the Lord's Supper

On this night we commemorate Jesus gathering together with his disciples for the Passover Meal. The Last Supper marks the institution of the Eucharist that we continue to celebrate today. This night also marks the institution of the priesthood. A solemn procession will be held with the Blessed Sacrament to its place of repose at the Adoration Chapel.

Family Good Friday Liturgy, April 19
for parents with young children at 11:00 am

This service is adapted for families with young children, at which children will also be the readers. Grandparents welcome too.

Traditional Solemn Good Friday Liturgy
at 3:00 pm Friday, April 19

Today's liturgy is somber and restrained. There is no Mass, no flowers, the altar is bare and the tabernacle is empty. We participate in the reading of the Lord's Passion.

"Behold the wood of the cross."

We will venerate the cross as a sign of our Lord's suffering for us.

The Good Friday rites conclude with a simple Communion service and we depart in silence, reflecting on the death of our Lord. (Good Friday is a day of fast and abstinence)

Stations of the Cross at 7:00 pm

Divine Mercy Novena begins at 7:30 pm

Saturday night April 20
Easter Vigil Mass at 8:00 p.m.
 (An approximately 2 hour Mass)

This is the most sacred night of the year. Those who have been studying the Catholic faith will receive into the Church through reception of the Sacraments.

(There is NO Saturday 5pm Mass today)

Easter Sunday Masses
9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.