
An Explanation of Holy Thursday

As we approach Holy Week, we'll review the Holy Days of the Triduum.

Jesus shared the final meal with His disciples, called the Last Supper, on the night before he was crucified. The institution of the Holy Eucharist occurred during this meal, as indicated from the gospel excerpt below:

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I shall not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom" (Matthew 26:26-29 RSV)

Since Scripture and Tradition tell us that Jesus was crucified on a Friday, Jesus shared the important Last Supper with his apostles on a Thursday. The synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) seem to suggest that the Last Supper was a Passover Meal. However, John's gospel suggests that Jesus was crucified *before* the Passover Meal, on the Day of Preparation. Perhaps the Last Supper was done in anticipation of the Passover Meal, or was a Kiddush. The gospel of John does not record the Institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper, while the synoptic gospels do. However, John's gospel records Jesus washing the disciples' feet. Holy Thursday traditions are derived from all four gospels.

Holy Thursday commemorates the **Institution of the Holy Eucharist** and the **Sacrament of Ordination**. The Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday begins the **Triduum**, which is the three-day commemoration of the heart of the Christian faith: Christ's death and resurrection. The Triduum includes Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and reaches its high point at the Great Easter Vigil (Saturday night). Various traditions and customs are associated with Holy Thursday, such as the washing of feet, reconciliation and Eucharistic adoration. After the Holy Thursday evening Mass, the altar is cleared of all cloths and adornments, the holy water fonts are emptied, and the Blessed Sacrament is carried through the church in procession to a place of repose. Traditionally, the *Pange Lingua* (the last two stanzas which are known as *Tantum Ergo*) is sung during this procession. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for an extended period of time is then encouraged. The Consecrated Hosts from Holy Thursday Mass are then used for Good Friday, as there is no Eucharistic celebration.



No Mass on Monday

Tuesday, April 1

8:00 am – in honour of Jesus' agonizing suffering in the garden of Gethsemane and for Noella D'Souza

CONFESSIONS at 8:30 am to 9:30 am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 8:30 – 9:30 am

Wednesday, April 2

1:00 pm – Prayers for the Sick - everyone welcome. Please enter through parking lot side door.

7:00 pm Mass + SOULS IN PURGATORY – Theresa Tran
+ JORGIANA MELO & DECEASED FAMILY - Tina
+ BRUNA COCCA – Anna
- intentions of Tony and Shirley Borges - Ilda

CONFESSIONS at 6:00 pm to 6:45 pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 6pm to 7pm

Thursday, April 3

8:00 am - in honour of Jesus' agonizing suffering in the garden of Gethsemane and for Anikica Pankretic

CONFESSIONS at 8:30 am to 9:30 am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 8:30 – 9:30 am

Friday, April 4

8:00 am + JOHN BAPTIST – Theresa Tran

CONFESSIONS at 8:30 am to 9:30 am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 8:30 – 9:30 am

6:30 pm – STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Saturday, April 5

8:00 am – Healing of the Family of the Tree Mass

2,000 Hail Mary Devotions – all day in the Church.

CONFESSIONS at 4:00 pm to 4:45 pm

5:00 pm + MILDRED KAVANAGH – Julie

+ JIM, STAN, and JOHN KENNEDY – Kennedy family

+ JOEY DaSILVA – Lisa

+ JOYCE ANNE MUNDALA – Rose and family

Sunday, April 6 – 5th Sunday of Lent

9:00 am – for the intentions of all parishioners

11:00 am + VERA vanHEESWYK – Paul and family

CONFESSIONS: 8:00 to 8:45 am and 10:15 am to 10:45 am

Day of Mercy and Forgiveness

All day Sacrament of Reconciliation available:
Saturday, April 12, 2025 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Father Gary Schlack and Father Michael King will alternate throughout the day to hear Confessions.

Washing of the Feet is a custom of the Catholic Church at Holy Thursday evening Mass, April 17th at 7pm. Parishioners are invited to have a foot washed in symbolic remembrance of Jesus washing the feet of His disciples. **We are in need of people** who will participate in this small ceremony at Holy Thursday Mass. Please leave your name with the parish office 519-621-2013 or email stambrose@golden.net



Share Lent Collection – April 5/6, 2025 – This year's campaign highlights the devastating effects of insurmountable debt, particularly for our sisters and brothers in the Global South. It also highlights the ecological debt, the result of the exploitation of natural resources by the countries of the North, leading to environmental degradation and social injustice.

Pope Francis calls us to act:

"Forgiving the debts of countries that can never repay them is more a question of justice than magnanimity."

Mom & Tots Pray & Play: Bring your children for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and when you're ready you can drop them off to enjoy supervised play with other children for the remaining time while you can pray alone in the Chapel. Registration is required, please email momtotsprayplay@gmail.com Please register for the upcoming date of **Monday, March 31 from 10am to 11:30 am**

Carrying the Cross Prayer:

Crucified Jesus, help us to take up our cross day by day. Through these crosses we can grow closer to You. Help us to learn on You and to learn from You. May we not give in to self-pity or self-doubt. Rather, let us trust in Your presence which strengthens us. Encourage us on our tomb-like days. Remind us of Your resurrection. Help us to keep our vision focused on life and growth. Amen

Today is "Laetare" Sunday

Today is the halfway mark of the Sundays of Lent. This Sunday is known as *Laetare Sunday* for the first word of the Entrance Antiphon is laetare (rejoice); it is a Sunday of joy. The priest has the option to wear rose-colored vestments.

"Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast."

"Laetare" is Latin for "rejoice," the traditional designation for the Fourth Sunday of Lent. We rejoice because of God's abundant mercy. The temptation to sin can be overwhelming and impossible as it nudges us away from God. But once we "come to our senses" and seek forgiveness, the Lord is ready to embrace us and welcome us home. God calls us to reconciliation. Let us rejoice, indeed!

"Daughters of the King" Parish Ladies' group will meet on Tuesday, April 1st at 7pm in our Church Hall. All ladies welcome!

Be A Man men's group meets weekly on Saturday mornings, in St. Ambrose Church Hall from **7:00 am to 8:30 am**. All men welcome, 18 years and older. Come to join us for good conversation, fellowship and coffee and muffins. For info call Joe - 519-241-6070

Mission Statement - The St Vincent de Paul Society is a lay Catholic organization that aspires to live the gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, hope and joy, and to bring about a more just and compassionate society.

For assistance with food, please phone 519-623-8764 and leave a message. Phone calls are returned within 24 hours.

Pro-Life Prayer Vigil - Thursday, April 3, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. across the street from Freeport Hospital, 3570 King St. E., Kitchener, for babies being aborted. All are welcome to pray quietly for those who have no voice, but our own! Parking across the road, at Schneider Park.

On our parish website: **Holy Week and Easter Sunday** schedule of Liturgies and Confessions
stambrosecambridge.ca