

*Holy Thursday -
Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper*



The Year of Hope and Abundance

A Year of Rebuilding into a
Community of Change
for the World



**Saint Miriam
Parish & School**

Welcome to Saint Miriam



We begin our journey toward the proclaiming of Christ is risen. Indeed He is risen! I pray and ask God to fill Your hearts with the joy and hope of the Resurrection, as we gather and celebrate the Easter Triduum together! This, the holiest season of the Christian year. What an absolutely beautiful feeling to be here in this warm and wonderful place—a special place known as Saint Miriam!

Lent, as many believe, doesn't end on Easter Sunday. It ends when the great Easter Triduum begins - today, on Holy (Maundy) Thursday. The Triduum encompasses the three holiest days of our year - Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Great Vigil of Easter. For it is here that we enter the great celebration of the death and the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Great Easter Triduum, or Paschal Triduum, are often terms used by some Christian churches, particularly the Catholic Church, to denote, collectively, the three days from the evening of Holy Thursday to the evening of the first new sprig of Easter. The Triduum begins today with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper and ends after Vespers at sunset on Easter Day. In essence, then, the Great Triduum is actually one Mass Celebration with two major pauses; and that is why we gather today, to honor this great tri-segmented Easter Liturgy!

The coming Resurrection of Jesus, as our Christ, reminds people of the presence of a faithful God who offers a love more powerful than even death. God grants this power to every human being so that we can prevail over evil within our soul and the evil surrounding us in the world. God grants us all the power to transform hatred and death into trust, and love, and life that was gifted to us through the Resurrection of Jesus.

During this season of renewal, let us come together and give thanks to the Almighty who made us in His image and redeemed us in His love. During this most Holy Season of Light, may we all remember the love that God has for all of us, without reservation or condition.

Abundant blessings to You and those You love in this beautiful Easter Season and through the coming days and years!

Father Liam

Monsignor +Jim

ON MAUNDY THURSDAY...

This day, Maundy Thursday (also known as “Holy Thursday” or “Shrove Thursday”) commemorates Christ’s Last Supper and the initiation of the Eucharist. Its name of “Maundy” comes from the Latin word *mandatum*, meaning “command.” This stems from Christ’s words in John’s Gospel, “A new commandment I give unto You.” It is the first day of the three holiest days known as the Paschal or Easter Triduum, and after the Vigil tonight, and until the Great Vigil of Easter, a more profoundly somber attitude prevails (most especially during the hours between Noon and 3:00 PM on Good Friday). Any raucous amusements should be set aside.

The Last Supper took place in the “upper room” of the house believed to have been owned by John Mark and his mother, Mary (See: Acts 12:12). This room, also the site of the Pentecost, is known as the “Coenaculum” or the “Cenacle” and is referred to as “Holy and Glorious Zion, mother of all churches” in St. James’ Liturgy. At the site of this place -- our first Christian church -- a basilica was built in the 4th century. It was destroyed by Muslims and later re-built by the Crusaders. Underneath this sacred place is the tomb of David.

At the evening Mass, after the bells ring during the Gloria, they are rung no more until the Easter Vigil (in some churches, a wooden clapper called a “crotalus” is often used instead). Parents explain this to their children by saying that all the bells fly to Rome after the Gloria of the Mass on Maundy Thursday to visit the Pope (In our case it would be the Presiding Bishop!). Children are told that the bells sleep on the roof of St. Peter’s Basilica, and, bringing Easter eggs with them, start their flight home at the Gloria at the Easter Vigil, when they peal wildly!

Then comes the Washing of the Feet after the homily, a rite performed by Christ upon His disciples to prepare them for the priesthood and the marriage banquet they will offer, and which is rooted in the Old Testament practice of foot-washing in preparation for the marital embrace (See: II Kings 11:8-11, and Canticles 5:3) and in the ritual ablutions performed by the High Priest of the Old Covenant (contrast Leviticus 16:23-24 with John 13:3-5). The priest girds himself with a cloth and washes the feet of those He is charged to care for by his being a priest in service to Christ.

The rest of the Mass, after the Washing of the Feet, has a special form, unlike all other Masses, after this Mass, the priests return to the Altar, incense the Sacred Hosts in the ciborium, and, preceded by the Crucifer and torchbearers, carry the Ciborium to the “Altar of Reservation,” also called the “Holy Sepulchre,” where it will remain “entombed” until the Mass of the Pre-sanctified on Good Friday.

Afterward, there follows the Stripping of the Altar, where the priests change into a simple black cassock and during which everything is removed as Antiphons and Psalms are recited. All the glorious symbols of Christ’s Presence are removed to give us the sense of His entering most fully into His Passion. Christ enters the Garden of Gethsemane; His arrest is imminent. The joyful signs of His Presence won’t return now until Easter begins with our Great Easter Vigil Mass on Saturday evening.

As the Entrance Hymn is played, the Presiding Priest, and any assisting ministers, make their way to the Chancel area, and after reverencing the altar, they remain standing with the Assembly for the Introductory Rites.

Introductory Rites

Entrance Procession - Stand

Entrance Hymn

Sign of the Cross & Greeting

Priest: In the Name of the Father, and of the  Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Priest: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Penitential Rite

Priest:

My brothers and sisters, in order to prepare ourselves to celebrate these most holy and sacred mysteries, let us call to mind our sins and our failings; the ways we have failed God and one another and ask the Lord for pardon and strength.

A period of silent reflection is honored and then,

All:

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Priest: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

Gloria

All: **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.**

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Silencing of the Bells

[after the Gloria, all bells are silenced and collected; then a time of silence is honored]

Sign of Peace

The exchange of a sign of peace is a welcomed tradition at Saint Miriam! It may take a little longer than most parishes, but is well worth the added effort! Please, make yourself at home and greet one another in the name of Christ. And, if it is your first time, please don't be shy and meet your new friends! If you wish to not embrace, just put out your hand and everyone will simply shake your hand in return and welcome you to this wonderful place! During Lent, we are more reserved, in keeping with the season of penance and reflection, but still offer a warm Sign of Peace.

Priest: **Whenever and wherever Christians gathered....**

....The peace of the Risen Lord...

All: **And with your spirit.**

Deacon: **Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace!**

The Assembled exchange a sign of God's peace with one another!

The Opening Prayer is a different prayer for each Sunday and Holy Day, Feast or Solemnity, of the year, as there are specific prayers assigned for many of the feasts and memorials of saints we remember in our Liturgical Year.

Collect

All remain standing for the reading of the Opening Prayer.

Priest: The Lord be with you...

All: And with your spirit.

Priest: Let us pray...

After the Opening Prayer, the People respond,

All: Amen.

The Readings of the Mass are found in the Lectionary and follow a set, three year cycle. There are three readings assigned to each Sunday; the first comes from the Hebrew Scriptures, except during Easter Season when we find selections from the Book of Acts. The responsorial psalm is taken from the Book of Psalms and is then followed by a reading from the New Testament Letters.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading - Sit

A reading from the Hebrew Testament, will be offered, except in Easter Season.

The Response from the Reader, or Lector, comes at the end of the reading and is followed by the acclamation of the Assembly :

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

A psalm is offered from the Hebrew Testament, Book of Psalms. The psalm changes weekly and the proper response if given by the Leader and then repeated by the Assembly following each stanza of the psalm.

Second Reading

A reading from the New Testament, or an Epistle from the New Testament will be offered. On Thursdays, there is only one reading.

The Response from the Reader, or Lector, comes at the end of the reading and is followed by the acclamation of the Assembly:

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel - Stand

The Gospel readings follow a three cycle of Year A, Year B, and Year C. Year A is generally taken from Matthew, Year B from Mark, and Year C is from Luke. John's Gospel is read throughout Lent and Easter seasons and on various occasions during the year. While not every passage is read, the Gospels are generally read from start to finish during this cycle.

Cantor: Praise and honor to you, O Lord, O Lord. Praise and honor to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All: **Praise and honor to you, O Lord, O Lord. Praise and honor to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Reading of the Gospel

Priest or Deacon: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Priest or Deacon: A Reading from the Holy Gospel....

All: **Glory to you, O Lord!**

After the Gospel is Proclaimed:

Priest or Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord!

All: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

The homily, or sermon, is done by a priest or deacon. Most generally the theme of the homily is taken from the readings and Gospel for the day, but may also be taken from the feast or a seasonal theme. The purpose of the homily is to take the sacred words of Holy Scripture, or sacred texts of the Holy Mass, and make them more relevant as a guide for us today.

Homily - Sit

[after the sermon, a time of silence and reflection is honored]

In the Gospels, Jesus says where two or more pray in His name, the prayers will be answered. Before concluding the Liturgy of the Word, we pause as a community of faith to gather our prayers for the needs of the Church, the world, for the needs of God's people and our own needs, spoken aloud or held in silence.

The Mandatum & Hymn Refrains

Every person is encouraged to participate in the sign of foot washing, given to us by the Lord Jesus on the night He was betrayed. Chairs are set up at the edge of the chancel steps. As a chair becomes available, please go to it and remove your shoes. After your feet are washed and dried, please place your shoes and socks back on, as applicable. During the washing, the assembly will sing refrains repeatedly as a sign of devotion until the priest is seated back at the presidium.

Prayer of the Faithful - Sit

The Lector and/or Presider will guide the Assembly on the proper prayer response for the particular Mass. On some occasions, the petitions and responses are sung and the Leader will help guide the Assembly. The response is:

All: Grant this, O Lord.

Preparation of the Altar and the Gifts - Sit

Offertory Anthem

Prayer over the Gifts

Priest: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation through your goodness we have this bread to offer...

All: Blessed be God forever.

Priest: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation through your goodness we have this wine to offer...

All: Blessed be God forever.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

We now enter the most solemn and sacred time in our celebration together with The Eucharistic Prayer. The Prayer begins with the Preface and “The Lord be with you” to which the people respond “And also with you.” Throughout this entire Eucharistic Prayer, the priest says the vast majority of the prayer with only a few responses by the people. We are all called to share in the offering of our sacrifices. The priest, acting as the Presider, says the prayers on behalf of all us as the people of God. However, as we pray in the Eucharistic Prayer that the Spirit come upon the gifts of bread and wine, we also pray that the Spirit come upon us and transform us into “one body, one spirit in Christ.” As active participants in the Mass, we listen and offer ourselves as the priest leads us in the Eucharistic Prayer.

Orate, Fratres

Priest: Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

All: **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of God’s name, for our good and the good of all God’s holy Church.**

Prayer Over the Offerings - Stand

Preface Dialogue - Stand

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

All: **It is right and just.**

Sanctus

All: **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.**

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Eucharistic Prayer - *Stand*

Mystery of Faith

Priest: The mystery of faith.


**All: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
 until you come again.**

As we prepare to receive Holy Communion, as a Community of God, we come together to pray in the words that Jesus taught us, The Lord's Prayer. We pray for the Lord to give us our daily bread. We also ask for forgiveness for our errors, and where we have fallen short, and we ask that we be strengthened to do God's will. This is a time for all to gather as one and offer our deepest intentions in prayer and hope.


Our Father

Priest: At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All:

**ur Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

Priest:

**eliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our
days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and
safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior,
Jesus Christ.**

All: For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

The fraction rite is the breaking of the bread that has become the Body of Christ. In offering His life for us on the Cross, Jesus has become the Lamb of God that is offered for our sins. As the priest breaks the bread, the people sing the Lamb of God, acknowledging Jesus' sacrifice on the cross that takes away our sins.

Lamb of God

All: **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All: **Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the
word and my soul shall be healed.**

Communion

In receiving Communion, we profess faith in Jesus. In coming forth to receive Communion, we are agreeing to strive to do God's will in all things. If we don't agree to strive to do God's will, then Communion is not something we seek.

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion at Saint Miriam. As Catholics, the reception of Holy Communion is a sign of our unity in faith and life in the Catholic Church. We believe in the real Presence of Christ at the Table. Therefore, when you receive the consecrated Bread or Wine, please respond with your affirmation, "Amen!" You may receive the Bread on your tongue, or in your hands crossed over one another; the Wine should come from the Chalice, but please do not intinct (dip your Bread into the Cup). If, for any reason, you do not wish to drink from the Cup, please simply fold your arms across your chest and receive a blessing as you pass.

Period of Silence

When the distribution of Holy Communion is completed, the Presider retires to the Presidium, and we honor a period of silence for prayer. A meditation hymn may also be offered. We end the Communion Rite with a prayer that we will be strengthened and transformed by the Holy Communion we have just received as a community of faith.

Prayer after Communion - Sit

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Priest: Let us pray.

[All pray in silence. The priest then says a Prayer after communion and all say,]

All: Amen.

The Concluding Rite

After closing prayer, the presider remains seated in the chair. A concelebrant begins the process of preparing the Eucharist for transfer. PANGELINGUA BEGINS. Concelebrant and one candle bearer process down the center aisle to the Chapel of Reservation. ASSEMBLY REMAINS IN THE PEWS DURING THIS PROCESSION. When song is over and a period of silence is observed, the STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR begins. Chosen members of the Assembly come forward and begin removing items in an orderly and prayerful manner. Once complete, two women remove and fold the Altar cloth, leaving the Altar completely bare. The presider and altar servers rise, go to the front of the altar and with the assembly quietly leave the church and go directly to the Chapel of Reservation. The Presider incenses the Blessed Sacrament and kneels. Assembly is led in song (Stay with me, keep watch with me. watch and pray, watch and pray) TAIZE. Once this song is over, the assembly is invited to remain for quiet prayer or they can leave.



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