

Saint John Vianney Catholic Church



*Celebrating
Holy Week
at Home*

2020

Palm/Passion Sunday

Affix palms to your front door or mailbox. Set up a prayer table or corner on your kitchen counter, in the den, or other common area where it is always in sight. Use a red cloth for Palm Sunday and Good Friday, white or gold for Holy Thursday, Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday. On your prayer table set a crucifix, candle, and Bible. You may also include a photo or Holy Card illustrating the particular event being celebrated each day; one of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem; Jesus' agony in the Garden. If possible, watch the movie, *The Passion of Christ*, on this day.

Monday

Pray the Stations of the Cross

Tuesday

In our archdiocese the Chrism Mass is celebrated. Log-on to the Diocesan website and watch as Cardinal DiNardo and Bishop Sheltz celebrate this Mass within which Holy Oils will be blessed and consecrated. As a reminder of your anointing in Baptism set out your Baptismal candle or certificate.

Additionally, place on your prayer table a copy of the parish Bulletin as a reminder of the priests who serve the community of Saint John Vianney (Fr.s Troy, Chuck, Richard, Curto, and Anderson) and say a special prayer for them. Within the Chrism Mass priests renew the promises made at their ordination.

Holy Thursday

On this day we remember what would be Jesus' last supper on earth with his disciples. Celebrating a Passover Meal he commanded his disciples to celebrate this meal always.

Today Jews continue to celebrate the Passover meal and at a pivotal point in the ritual meal the youngest person at the table asks the head of the family, "What makes this night different from all other nights?" Spend some time after the meal but before dessert reflecting on this question not only in its biblical context but also within our current, very unique situation.

Your prayer table as well as your dinner table can include flowers and lit candles as Holy Thursday takes on a festive tone. It is a time to say, "Alleluia"! It is noteworthy that in every Holy Week this is observed; in the midst of the darkness and somberness we can still sing out our doxology because we know how the story ends. This is especially important to remember at this time.

Eucharist means *thanksgiving*. On this night as we commemorate the institution of the Eucharist and, before you conclude your reflection on the distinctiveness of "this night", articulate those things and people for whom and which you are thankful.

Good Friday

Go dark—turn off your electronic devices; silence phone. Resolve to not post anything until Easter Monday. Before signing-off on Facebook or Instagram, invite “your followers” to follow Jesus over the next few days instead!

Read the Passion narrative found in John 18-19:42. Conclude by praying the *Act of Contrition*.

During the hours between 12-3pm, pray The Stations of the Cross. Remember this is a day of fast and abstinence.

Clear off your prayer table. At bedtime, pray the rosary meditating on the Sorrowful Mysteries.

Holy Saturday

We continue the silent and somber atmosphere of Good Friday but it is also one of anticipation. Your prayer table should not be adorned with anything.

Later in the day, as the sun begins to fade, light a candle in one room. Pray the *Exsultet*. Each hour afterwards, light another candle in another room. Each time you do so read one of the Old Testament readings designated for the Easter Vigil liturgy.

At the evening hour of your choosing read aloud the New Testament from the Vigil liturgy then ignite the candles on your prayer table; now your home should be aglow with light reminding you that Jesus overcame death and darkness; he is The One who dispels the darkness. Pray the *Gloria*, and then read aloud the Gospel, and then pray the *Creed*.

Before going to sleep, pray *The Glory Be*.

Easter Sunday

Add a white ribbon or flowers to the palms on your door or mailbox. Your prayer table or area is covered with a white or gold cloth; candle(s) are lit. Add the flowers you used on Holy Thursday and maybe Easter Eggs as signs of the new life the resurrection brings. The crucifix is also returned as a visual reminder of the great love God has for us and of the self-emptying love we are to have and practice in imitation of him. Above all the crucifix is a reminder of his enduring promise: *Berit Olam—I will never let you go!* We likewise respond: “and, I will never let YOU go!”

Designate a special meal; breakfast, lunch, or dinner, to be your Easter celebration. Before eating read the scriptural readings for Easter Sunday then dig in and enjoy your meal however simple or elaborate it may be. *Rejoice and be glad; be grateful and be hopeful—we are resurrection people!*

For the Exsultet:

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/easter/easter-proclamation-exsultet.cfm>

For Daily Scriptural readings:

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/easter/easter-proclamation-exsultet.cfm>

The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks;
we praise you for your glory.

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

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.*

Act of Contrition

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy. Amen

The Doxology: Glory Be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible
and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only
Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before
all ages. God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father; through him all
things were made. For us men and for our salva-
tion he came down from heaven,

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin
Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius
Pilate, he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day in accordance
with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of
life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and
glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic
Church. I confess one Baptism for the for-
giveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.