



IMPORTANT CELEBRATIONS ON OUR JOURNEY TO EASTER

CHRISM MASS: The bishop, surrounded by the priests and the people of his diocese, blesses the oils that will be used during the coming year for sacramental anointing: the chrism oil for Confirmation and Holy Orders, oil of catechumens for Baptism, and the oil of the sick. This is also a time for priests to renew their unity with the bishop.

PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY: This final Sunday of the Lenten Season begins in a spirit of joy as we gather together with palms which are then blessed and carried in procession into the church in commemoration of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. This happy tone changes quickly with the gospel reading of Christ's Passion and Death. We now begin Holy Week, a time to reflect on the meaning of Jesus' death and resurrection in our lives.



THE SACRED TRIDUUM

Triduum means "a three day festival." The Church gathers together the people of God to experience these most important events in the life of our Lord and in our lives as Christians, the heart of the Pascal Mystery – the life, death, and resurrection of our Savior.

HOLY THURSDAY: Our celebration of the Lord's Supper is highlighted by several special rites. The last line of the gospel which is proclaimed is known as the **mandatum**, when Jesus commissioned his disciples to continue his work of service to others: "For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you" (John 13:15). The Gospel message continues with the washing of the feet of members of the congregation by their pastor. Communion bread and wine (made by some members of the parish) will be shared in unity.

The Blessed Sacrament is carried through the church in procession to an altar of repose as our celebration ends, reminding us that after sharing this special meal, Christ was soon arrested and led away to be crucified. We are invited to remain for a time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

GOOD FRIDAY: Upon entering the Church on Good Friday afternoon, we notice a certain emptiness. The tabernacle is empty; the altar is bare; there is no Mass on this day. There is, instead, a service of special rites to lead us through the celebration of the Lord's Passion. The Liturgy of the Word is highlighted by the reading of the Passion of Christ according to John. The Prayer of the Faithful is a series of sung intercessions for the needs of all peoples. The cross is then brought forth and we are invited to venerate this powerful symbol of Christ's love and our faith. The liturgy ends with a simple communion service. In the evening many find praying the Way of the Cross a meaningful way to conclude this day of quiet, prayerful remembering.



EASTER VIGIL: The Easter Vigil is a journey from darkness to light. The Liturgy of the Word leads us to meditate on the story of God's relationship with us, God's family. We light a new fire from which the Easter candle is lit. We process into the church with this light of Christ and Christ's resurrection is proclaimed in the beautiful Exsultet. The Glory to God is sung once again and the Gospel of Easter is proclaimed.

This is followed by the celebrations of the Sacraments of Initiation and the Rite of Reception - we welcome new pilgrims to our Church. The water of baptism is blessed, and RCIA candidates and catechumens are welcomed into the family of God and anointed with the chrism of salvation. They then join us at the table of the Lord as we celebrate the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

EASTER SUNDAY: Our celebration of the resurrection of Christ has begun and will continue for 50 days, leading to the Feast of Pentecost! We gather on Easter Sunday to celebrate this most important feast. We renew our baptismal promises and are sprinkled with the water of new life. We join one another in joy at the table of the Lord!

SCHEDULE OF CELEBRATIONS:

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| March 28 | CHRISM Mass in Prince George; this is a celebration of the whole church |
| April 02 | Palm Sunday; |
| April 05 | Reconciliation Service: 6:30-7pm; confessions 9:30-10:30 , 5-6, 7-8pm |
| April 06 | Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7:30pm |
| April 07 | Ecumenical Stations of the Cross: 1pm |
| April 07 | Good Friday Service, 3:00pm at SAIKUZ, HOLY TRINITY |
| April 07 | Church open for quiet prayer, 6-9:00pm |
| April 08 | Easter Vigil, 8:30pm |
| April 09 | Easter: St. Joseph at 9:30am, and Holy Trinity (Saikuz) at 12noon |
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