



WHAT'S
INSIDE:



April 1st—You can't fool us!

Quiz: what did the people wave when Jesus entered into Jerusalem?
Hint: April 10th is Palm Sunday

The Triduum—The Three Days

Holy Thursday and the Last Supper.

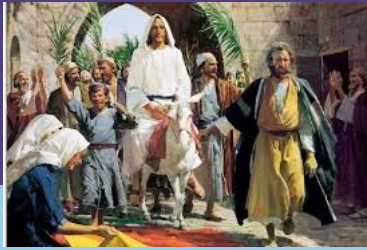
What's so "good" about Good Friday? See page 4

He is Risen Indeed!
Divine Mercy!

a community of life and love

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APRIL
2022



Palm Sunday The Tradition

Palm Sunday is also known as Passion Sunday in recognition of the beginning of Holy Week and Jesus' final agonizing journey to His crucifixion. Palm Sunday is celebrated in all major Christian churches—Roman Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox. In many Orthodox churches, Palm Sunday is known as *Entry into Jerusalem*. In some countries, the graves of loved ones are decorated with palms. Since palm trees are not indigenous to colder climates, branches of willow, and yew are often used.

Today, many Palm Sunday traditions remain much the same as those celebrated in the tenth century. Some ceremonies begin with the blessing of the palms. Afterward, many people take the palms home and place them in houses, barns, and fields. In many churches, children serve as an integral part of the service since they enjoy the processions. Children often craft crosses from palm leaves which were used in the Sunday processional. The traditions of Palm Sunday serve as reminders of the life-changing events of Holy Week.

It was traditional in the Near East to place a cover across the path of someone deemed worthy of highest honor. The palm branch was a Jewish symbol of triumph and victory (Leviticus 23:40; Revelation 7:9). In 2 Kings 9:13, Jehu, son of Jehoshaphat, received the customary announcing of a king with the spreading of cloaks upon the ground. Jesus, the Messianic King, was given a similar honor. *"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"* (Matthew 21:8) (allaboutJesusChrist.org/palm-sunday)

Click on: [Read about Palm Sunday - Catholic Culture](#)

Watch: [Palm Sunday Bible Lesson for Kids](#)

Did you know?

April 1st— April Fool's Day

Some historians speculate that April Fools' Day dates back to 1582, when France switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar, as called for by the **Council of Trent** in 1563. In the Julian Calendar, as in the Hindu calendar, the new year began with the spring equinox around April 1.

People who were slow to get the news or failed to recognize that the start of the new year had moved to January 1 and continued to celebrate it during the last week of March through April 1 became the butt of jokes and hoaxes and were called "April fools."

These pranks included having paper fish placed on their backs and being referred to as "poisson d'avril" (April fish), said to symbolize a young, easily caught fish and a gullible person. (www.History.com—the History Channel)

This year April 1st falls on a Friday. **We won't be fooled into forgetting our abstinence from meat on the Fridays in Lent.**

TRIDUUM—WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Holy Week is the most solemn and glorious week in Christianity, the pinnacle of the liturgical year. It's more sacred than Christmas! This is because Holy Week commemorates the final week of Our Lord's life, the very purpose for which Christmas happened.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday (when Jesus made his final entrance into Jerusalem) and culminates with Easter Sunday. As Holy Week progresses to its final days the solemnity heightens.

Sundown on Holy Thursday to sundown on Easter Sunday is considered the most solemn part of the liturgical year. This three-day period is referred to as the ***Easter Triduum***, also known as the ***Sacred Triduum***, or ***Paschal Triduum***.

The word "triduum" comes from the Latin word *triduum*, which comes from *tris* ("three") + *dies* ("day").

Basically, the Sacred Triduum is one great festival recounting the last three days of Jesus' life on earth, the events of his Passion and Resurrection, when the Lamb of God laid down his life in atonement for our sins.

Holy Thursday—April 14

The evening Mass on Holy Thursday is referred to as *The Mass of the Lord's Supper*. This is where the Church re-lives the institution of the Eucharist and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at the Last Supper, as well as the institution of the priesthood, which took place the evening before Jesus was crucified.

After the homily there is an optional "washing of the feet" ceremony, where the priest washes the feet of others to signify his role as servant—just as Jesus did with his disciples. Extra hosts are consecrated at this Mass to be used on Good Friday when no Mass will be celebrated.

The Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday concludes with a procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the "altar of repose," a place where the consecrated Host is kept, away from the main altar where Mass is normally celebrated.

Many parishes will create space for people to stay and pray with the reposed Eucharist at this altar of repose late into the night, remembering Jesus' request in the Garden of Gethsemane for someone to "watch and pray" with Him.



Good Friday— April 15

Good Friday is a mandatory day of fasting and abstinence. This is the day of the crucifixion, the day Jesus died for the sins of the world.

The parish altar looks very different on Good Friday: it is plain and bare. There is no consecrated Host in the tabernacle at the main altar of the church; it was carried away on Holy Thursday night to the "altar of repose" to signify Jesus' death. The candle by the tabernacle is blown out, and the tabernacle doors are left open to show that it is empty. Jesus is gone. This is quite dramatic, reminding us that Good Friday is a solemn day of mourning and prayer.

The ceremony on Good Friday is not a Mass—it is a communion service using the consecrated hosts from Holy Thursday. **Good Friday is the only day of the year on which no Masses are offered.**

These Good Friday services often take place at 3 p.m., the hour that Jesus breathed his last on the cross. Often the priest will begin the service by prostrating himself in front of the altar. Veneration of the Cross usually takes place at this service, in which the priest and the faithful kneel before a cross and kiss it. (catholiccompany.com)

For young children watch: [Palm Sunday and the Last Supper](#)

For kids 7—10 years watch (23 minutes): [Superbook - The Last Supper - for kids](#)

Click on: [Celebrate Holy Week with Kids](#)



Holy Saturday—April 16

On this day Christ is in the tomb.

There is no daytime Mass on Holy Saturday. It is still a day of fasting and sorrow before the Easter Vigil begins that evening. We recall, with Mary and the disciples, that Jesus died and was separated from them for the first time as He lay in the tomb. The faithful often continue their Good Friday fast through Holy Saturday.

In the Apostles Creed we pray "He descended into hell" (translated *hades*, that is, the temporary abode of the dead—not the eternal lake of fire) which describes what Jesus did in the time between his burial and Resurrection. Jesus descended to the realm of the dead on Holy Saturday to save the righteous souls—the Old Testament patriarchs, for example—who died before his crucifixion.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church calls Jesus' descent into the realm of the dead "the last phase of Jesus' messianic mission," during which he "opened heaven's gates for the just who had gone before him." Before Holy Saturday, there were **no** souls enjoying the beatific vision of God in heaven!

Christ's work on Holy Saturday is also known as the "Harrowing of Hell."

The Easter Vigil

A vigil Mass is held after nightfall on Holy Saturday, or before dawn on Easter Sunday, in celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus. This is called the Easter Vigil: the most glorious, beautiful, and dramatic liturgy for the Church.

The Vigil is divided into four parts and can last up to three hours: 1) the Service of Light, 2) the Liturgy of the Word, 3) the Liturgy of Baptism, and 4) the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

This is also the Mass in which many RCIA catechumens are brought into full communion with the Catholic Church.

Click here: [Read more about the Triduum - The Catholic Company](#)



Easter Sunday—April 17

Easter Sunday is what we've all been waiting for! The forty days of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving during Lent was in preparation for this day, when our hearts and souls can drink in deeply the culmination of the Paschal mystery: the Resurrection.

"Therefore Easter is not simply one feast among others, but the 'Feast of feasts', the 'Solemnity of solemnities', just as the Eucharist is the 'Sacrament of sacraments'. St. Athanasius calls Easter 'the Great Sunday' and the Eastern Churches call Holy Week 'the Great Week'. The mystery of the Resurrection, in which Christ crushed death, permeates with its powerful energy our old time, until all is subjected to him."

—The Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1168 and 1169



Divine Mercy Sunday—April 24

The Message of the Divine Mercy that Sr. Faustina received from the Lord was not only directed toward her personal growth in faith but also toward the good of the people. With the command of our Lord to paint an image according to the pattern that Sr. Faustina had seen, came also a request to have this image venerated, first in the Sisters' chapel, and then throughout the world. The same is true with the revelations of the Chaplet. The Lord requested that this Chaplet be said not only by Sr. Faustina, but by others: "Encourage souls to say the Chaplet that I have given you."

The same is true of the revelation of the Feast of Mercy. "The Feast of Mercy emerged from my very depths of tenderness. It is my desire that it solemnly be celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the fount of My Mercy."

These requests of the Lord given to Sr. Faustina between 1931 and 1938 can be considered the beginning of the Divine Mercy Message and Devotion in the new forms. (thedivinemercy.org)

CATHOLIC PRAYERS AND PRACTICES

Devotions to Divine Mercy

Through St. Faustina, the Merciful Savior has given the aching world new channels for the outpouring of His grace. These new channels include the *Image of The Divine Mercy*, the *Feast of Mercy* (Divine Mercy Sunday), the *Chaplet*, the *Novena to The Divine Mercy*, and prayer at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, the *Hour of Great Mercy*.

Although these means of receiving God's mercy are new in form, they all proclaim the timeless message of God's merciful love. They also draw us back to the great Sacrament of Mercy, the Holy Eucharist, where the living Lord, who suffered and died on the Cross and whose Heart was pierced with a lance, pours forth His mercy on all mankind, and grants pardon to all who draw near and honor Him. As Jesus told St. Faustina: (TheDivineMercy.org)

My Heart overflows with great mercy for souls, and especially for poor sinners...[I]t is for them that the Blood and Water flowed from My Heart as from a fount overflowing with mercy. For them I dwell in the tabernacle as King of Mercy. (St Faustina *Diary*, 367)

Watch and pray: [Chaplet of Divine Mercy in Song](#)

Tour the world and pray: [Franciscan Friars of the Renewal pray the Chaplet](#)

Learn how to pray the Chaplet: [How to Recite the Divine Mercy Chaplet](#)

Novena to Divine Mercy: Begin on Good Friday—end the Sunday after Easter
[The Novena to Divine Mercy](#)

Young children pray Chaplet: [Divine Mercy Chaplet for Kids](#)



Watch: [Meet St. Faustina](#)

Kids Watch: [Kids meet St. Faustina](#)

What's So Good About Good Friday?

Why call the day of Jesus' death "Good Friday" instead of "Bad Friday" or something similar? Some Christian traditions do take this approach: in German, for example, the day is called Karfreitag, or "Sorrowful Friday." In English, in fact, the origin of the term "Good" is debated. Some believe it developed from an older name, "God's Friday." Regardless of the origin, the name Good Friday is entirely appropriate because the suffering and death of Jesus, as terrible as it was, marked the dramatic culmination of God's plan to save his people from their sins. (Christianity.com)



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For more information about the Saints and Feast Days we honor this month, visit:

www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day

www.catholic.org/saints

Books of Interest:

The Diary of St. Faustina

Click Here to Read: [The Diary of St. Faustina - full text](#)

Movies of Interest:

Adults watch: The Shroud of Turin on Formed