

St. Michael Swords News

March 25, 2021

www.stmichaelswords.org



*to be friendly, respectful, responsible
and Christ-like*

Holy Week Begins

Holy Week provides an opportunity for the faithful to reflect on our personal sinfulness and our need for Christ and His sacrifice on our behalf. The historic events commemorated each year during Holy Week symbolically represent a transition in the human condition. Whereas Adam and Eve provoked a fall, by which all people have become sinful and estranged from their God; Jesus, through the events of this sacred week, reversed the effects of the fall, making it possible for all to return to God.

Palm Sunday

The branches we receive on Palm Sunday remind us of the willingness with which Jesus went to Jerusalem, even though it meant death for Him. We join those who followed Him into Jerusalem with joy, not knowing what being His disciple would cost.

When we place branches in our homes or our classroom, near the cross and the scriptures, they are a sign that we are willing to pay the price of following Him. And we have been following Him all during Lent.

Holy Monday

Jesus and some of His disciples spent Sunday night in Bethany. As they traveled the next day, they saw a fig tree full of foliage—a sign that the tree would be full of ripe figs. However, when they got close to the tree, they saw that it had no fruit on it; and, so, Jesus “cursed” the tree, which ultimately caused it to wither and die. In ancient times, the fig was sometimes seen as a symbol of Israel, or God’s covenant people. Thus, Jesus’s cursing of the tree implied His rejection of those who put forth “signs” of their relationship with God, but who actually bore no fruit, as the faithful should if they were attempting to follow God. Thus, after cursing the fig tree, Jesus went to the temple and cast out the merchants, “thieves” and “robbers” who symbolized the fruitless people of the covenant through their insincere religious practices. Just as the tree died because of its lack of fruitfulness, Jesus sought to symbolically remind us that a life of insincere devotion, void of Christian fruits, will lead to spiritual death.

Holy Tuesday

Jesus gave many sermons this day. His first highlighted the importance of having “faith in God” and “not doubting in one’s heart.” It was during this sermon that Jesus famously taught His disciples that, if their faith was sufficient, they could move “mountains.” It was also on Holy Tuesday that Jesus taught the “chief priests and the scribes” in the Temple—prophetically making it clear to them that He knew that they would seek to slay Him. Through this interaction, the lesson of the cursed fig tree was evident. Those who were said to be the leaders of the faith were shown to not be bringing forth good fruits. Later, on His way back to Bethany, Jesus stopped on the Mount of Olives and warned His disciples of trials they would soon face—trials which would determine if they too were fruitless trees or devoted disciples.

Holy Wednesday

This fourth day of Holy Week is often called “Spy Wednesday” because it is believed to be the day on which the high priest and authorities formally hatched their plot to take Jesus’s life. This day is believed to be the last peaceful day of Jesus’s mortal life. He spent that Wednesday in Bethany, knowing what was to come in the days ahead.

Holy or Maundy (Command) Thursday

We remember that on this day Jesus washed the feet of his disciples as a sign of loving service. He told His followers to remember His actions and care for others as He did. At that same Passover meal, Jesus gave us the sacrament of His body and blood. It was on this sacred day, just prior to Jesus being treated with the utmost hatred, that He said to His disciples, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this shall all people know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another.”

Good Friday

On this day, which commemorates the incomprehensibly violent death of Jesus (through scourging and crucifixion), the worst thing possible happened to the greatest being that ever lived. Jesus's ransom sacrifice for sin happened on Good Friday, leading to His resurrection on Sunday. Thus, while most terrible for Him, we refer to it as "Good Friday" because of what it has done for us. Christ's death brought only good; and made possible the eternal destruction of all that is evil. On this day, Jesus was arraigned before Annas, the Sanhedrin, the Roman authorities—Pilate, then Herod, then again before Pilate. He was questioned, beaten, scourged, mocked, crucified, and pierced with the soldier's spear. It was on this day that His body was hurriedly prepared and placed in the tomb—as the Sabbath would begin at sundown. In commemoration of all this, none of the sacraments are traditionally "celebrated"—with the exception of penance and anointing the sick (or baptism for someone in danger of death)—because this day is a time to mourn, not "celebrate."

Holy Saturday

The seventh day of Holy Week is often referred to as "Black Saturday" because black is the color which symbolizes death and mourning—and it is on this day that Jesus's body lay dead in the tomb while His disciples grieved His passing. The focus of this portion of Holy Week is on mourning the death of Christ; and customs associated with grieving are typically observed.

EASTER SUNDAY

This last day of Holy Week is the most important, and the most celebratory. It is the climax of Holy Week, but also the climax of the Lenten season and of the Christian liturgical calendar. Jesus is risen. Sin has been overcome, and death is no more.

It was on this day that the tomb was found empty. And on this day the resurrected Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene first, then to others, including to a group of female disciples, to Cleopas and another disciple on the Road to Emmaus, to Peter, and to ten of His twelve apostles.

*Visit the St. Michael Church website,
www.stmichaelweimar.org,
for mass times during Holy Week.*

The Catholic Relief Services rice bowls sent to students for their almsgiving during Lent are due when we return, Tuesday, April 6th.

Last Supper and Live Stations of the Cross

Everyone is invited to join us for the presentation of the Last Supper by our second and third graders, followed by the Live Stations of the Cross presented by the seventh and eighth graders. These events will take place on Thursday, April 1st. The Last Supper will begin at 10:30 a.m. in our Family Center Gym with the outdoor Stations immediately following.

*We will have early dismissal on Thursday, April 1st.
Classes will resume Tuesday, April 6th.*

SMCS Sports

Our SMCS track team will travel to El Campo on Friday, March 26th for the St. Philip Catholic School Track Meet. Some field events will be held at St. Philip School while all other events will be held at the El Campo Football Stadium.

Our soccer season practice begins on Tuesday, April 6th. Tennis practice will start in PE class next week.

Altar Servers

Altar servers on Saturday, March 27th are:
Saturday at 5:30 – Lily Berger and Sarah Jane Berger
Sunday at 7:30 – Tucker Janak and Hudson Rowland
Sunday at 10:30 – Chloe Brandt and Hannah Hillje

Students, please be sure to check your schedule for when you are serving during Holy Week.

Thank You

Thank you to the Jack Janecka Family for donating wipes and masks to the school.

Thank you to the Kainer Family for trimming up our front flowerbed. It looks so much better now!

Reminder: Service hours for 8th graders are due today! Service hours for Grades 1-7 are due May 3rd.

Next week's newsletter will be sent home on Wednesday!