



ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL  
*The Fifth Sunday of Lent*  
April 6, 2025

ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR  
*The Fifth Sunday of Lent*

THIRD SCRUTINY OF THE ELECT (10:00am)  
FIRST SUNDAY YOUTH CELEBRATION WITH YOUTH STATIONS (Noon Mass)

INTROIT

*Iudica me, Deus*  
chant, adapt. Thomas B. Stratman (1939–2008)



You, O Lord, are my re - fuge.

GREETING

PENITENTIAL ACT

chant, Vatican XVII, adapt.



R. 1, 3 Lord, have mer - cy.  
R. 2 Christ, have mer - cy.

COLLECT (OPENING PRAYER)

*The Liturgy of the Word*

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 37:12-14

PSALM RESPONSE

Psalm 130  
Michel Guimont (b. 1952)



With the Lord there is mer - cy, and full-ness of re - demp-tion.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:8-11

TRACT

Thomas B. Stratman

Musical notation for the Tract, featuring two staves (treble and bass clef) in common time. The melody consists of several quarter and eighth notes, ending with a double bar line. A second ending is marked with a '2.' above the staff.

Lord, how won-drous is your wis - dom. wis - dom.

GOSPEL

John 11:1-45

HOMILY

Father Michael G. Ryan

PROFESSION OF FAITH (except Sunday 10:00am)

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 salvation  
he came down from heaven,

***ALL BOW***

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

***ALL STAND UPRIGHT***

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.

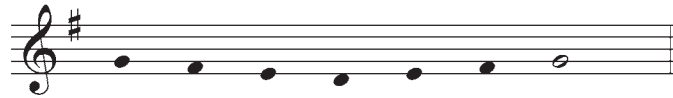
I believe in one, holy, catholic  
and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Third Scrutiny of the Elect* (10:00am)

INTERCESSIONS

Litany of Saints



Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

PRAYER OF EXORCISM

LAYING ON OF HANDS

*Come out from tombs of death and sin*  
TALLIS CANON

DISMISSAL OF THE ELECT

Thomas B. Stratman

Choir: I give them life long and full,



and I show them my power to save, says the Lord.

*The Liturgy of the Eucharist*

PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR AND THE GIFTS

**PROCESSION OF GIFTS** Please follow the directions of the ushers and come forward to the altar  
with your offering. If you give online, you are still encouraged to participate in the procession!  
Use one of the white envelopes in the pews and simply drop it in the basket.

Offertory (10:00am)

*Wondrous love*  
Alice Parker (1925–2023)

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul?  
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss  
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

(Sunday Evening)

*I bind unto myself today*  
ST. PATRICK'S BREASTPLATE / DIERDRE

SANCTUS

*Missa Deus genitor alme*

Vatican XVIII

San-ctus, San-ctus, San-ctus Do-mi-nus De-us Sa-ba-oth. Ple-ni sunt  
 cæ-li et ter-ra glo-ri-a tu-a. Ho-san-na in ex-cel-sis. Be-ne-dic-tus  
 qui ve-nit in no-mi-ne Do-mi-ni. Ho-san-na in ex-cel-sis.

MYSTERY OF FAITH

Roman Missal

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,  
 we pro-claim your Death, O Lord, un-til you come a-gain.

AMEN

Christus vincit

A - men, A - men, A - - - men.

*The Communion Rite*

LORD'S PRAYER

AGNUS DEI

Vatican XVII

R. 1, 2 Mi - se - re - re no - bis.  
 R. 3 Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

COMMUNION

*Videns Dominus*

Mode VII

When the Lord saw the sisters of Lazarus in tears near the tomb, he wept in the presence of the Jews and cried: "Lazarus, come forth." And out he came, hands and feet bound, the man who had been dead for four days.

**Upon returning to your place after Holy Communion, please kneel or be seated.  
 Low-gluten hosts are distributed at the credence table near the presider's chair.**

(10:00am)

*There is a balm in Gilead*  
Carol Sams (b. 1945)

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole,  
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.  
Sometimes I feel discouraged and I think my work's in vain,  
but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

**This Sunday at 9:30am, Father Ryan blesses the new Portico at the Marion and Terry corner of the block. In celebration of the completion of this project which brings new light and beauty to our Cathedral campus, we sing this special hymn of praise.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

*Lift up your heads, O mighty gates*  
TRURO



1. Lift up your heads, O might - y gates; Be - hold the  
2. O blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where Christ the  
3. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a  
4. Come, Sav - ior, come with us a - bide; Our hearts to



King of glo - ry waits! The King of kings is  
ru - ler is con - fest! O hap - py hearts and  
tem - ple, set a - part From earth - ly use for  
you we o - pen wide: Your Ho - ly Spir - it



draw - ing near; The Sa - vior of the world is here.  
hap - py homes To whom this King of tri - umph comes!  
heav'n's em - ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy.  
guide us on, Un - til our glo - rious goal is won.

FINAL BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

PROCESSION

### *The Way of the Cross* (Noon)

Immediately following the Noon Mass, the children of the Cathedral Parish will lead the Way of the Cross. If you do not wish to remain for this brief prayer, **please depart as quietly as possible.**

Presider We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you.

ALL **Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.**

## ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL

The Most Reverend Paul D. Etienne, Archbishop of Seattle

### PASTOR

The Very Reverend Michael G. Ryan

**PAROCHIAL VICAR** Rev. Alex Pablo

**IN RESIDENCE** Rev. Bryan Hersey, Rev. David Brant

**PASTORAL ASSISTANT for ADMINISTRATION**

Lawrence N. Brouse (206-382-4280)

### FAITH FORMATION

John Simpson, Director of Faith Formation (206-654-4658)

John Marquez, OCIA (Becoming Catholic) (206-654-4640)

Patty Pruitt, Administrative Assistant (206-274-3108)

### CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

Tami Kowal, Director of Children's Faith Formation (206-219-5822)

Leticia Escobar, Faith Mentors & Faith Friends (206-619-0816)

### LITURGY

Corinna Laughlin, Pastoral Assistant for Liturgy (206-264-2086)

Julie Sharples, Spencer Truong, Peter Burns, Wendell Dyck,

sacristy (206-654-4646)

### MUSIC MINISTRY (206-382-4874)

Joseph Adam, Director of Music & Cathedral Organist

Christopher Stroh, Assistant Director of Music & Organist

Stacey Sunde, Director of Youth Music

Marjorie Bunday, Music Office Assistant

### SOCIAL OUTREACH and ADVOCACY

Patrick Barredo, Director (206-382-4515)

Peter Burns, Outreach Assistant

Cathedral Kitchen: Mick McHugh (Director) (206-264-2091),

Tom Bentler, Nathan Braxton, Marc Blasquez (206-264-2091)

### MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS MINISTRY

Anisa Ralls, Director (206-382-4269)

### ST. JAMES IMMIGRANT ASSISTANCE (206-382-4511)

Erica de Klerk, Director

Patrick Suhrbier, Senior Immigrant Legal Services

Sayuko Setvik, Tutoring Coordinator

Laura Murton, Immigration Legal Coordinator

### STEWARDSHIP and DEVELOPMENT

Maria Laughlin, Director (206-382-4284)

Caroline Okello, Welcome & Volunteer Coordinator (206-654-4650)

### PARISH OFFICE

Yanti Kapoyos, Weddings and Funerals (206-382-4288)

Bev Mauser, Louise Mennella, Wedding Coordinators

Mary MacLean, Bookkeeper (206-382-4564)

Maggie Corrigan, Office Manager (206-622-3559)

### FACILITIES and GROUNDS

Tang Nguyen, Facilities Supervisor (206-264-2087)

Alan Frasher, Brian Jones, Khai Nguyen, Tan Nguyen, facilities

### CELEBRATIONS of the SACRAMENTS

#### MASS

Sundays 8:00am - 10:00am - 12 Noon - 5:30pm

Weekdays 8:00am (M, T, W, Th, F, S) & 12:10pm (M,W,F)

Saturdays 8:00am & "Vigil" 5:30pm

#### VESPERS and BENEDICTION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT

Sundays at 4:00pm

#### CONFESSIONS/SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION Saturdays,

8:30am-9:30am (following 8:00am Mass) and by appointment

#### BAPTISM Communal celebrations are held monthly. A preparation

program for parents and godparents is required. Contact Patty

Pruitt for information, 206-274-3108.

#### MARRIAGE Registered parishioners may begin the scheduling

process up to 14 months in advance. Contact Yanti Kapoyos,

Wedding Office, 206-382-4288.

#### ANOINTING of the SICK In case of serious illness, impending

surgery, or advanced age, please call the parish office. The

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick should not be delayed

until the person is unconscious or in imminent danger of death.

#### FUNERALS for parishioners, Yanti Kapoyos, 206-382-4288

#### TRIBUNAL ADVOCATES The parish has several advocates ready to

assist with marriage cases (commonly called 'annulments').

Information, Maria Laughlin, 206-382-4284

#### CATHEDRAL BOOKSTORE Open weekdays 11-3 and after weekend

Masses

#### CATHEDRAL COLUMBARIUM Maria Laughlin, 206-382-4284

#### CATHEDRAL KITCHEN serves dinner Monday to Friday, 4pm—

4:45pm, and breakfast on Sundays, 7am—8am. All are welcome.

#### PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Monday through Friday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm.

After-hours Emergency answering service for parishioners: 206-467-3049

804 Ninth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104

Telephone: 206-622-3559 FAX: 206-622-5303

[www.stjames-cathedral.org](http://www.stjames-cathedral.org)

## WELCOME TO OUR PARISH FAMILY

ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION | CHRIST OUR HOPE

## The Fifth Sunday of Lent

### April 6, 2025

**WELCOME, VISITORS!** *If you are a visitor to the Cathedral, we want you to know how welcome you are – whether you have come from another part of the country, from across the world, or simply from another parish here in the Archdiocese.*

**ON THE COVER** *O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them.* Icon of the Raising of Lazarus. Joan Brand-Landkamer, Cathedral iconographer.

**SUNDAY HOSPITALITY AFTER 10:00AM MASS** Join us in Cathedral Hall for pastries, fresh fruit, and an opportunity to celebrate our new Portico!

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS WITH CATHEDRAL YOUTH** On Sunday, April 6, Cathedral youth readers will lead the Stations of the Cross following the Noon Mass. After the Noon Mass, all are welcome to join us in Cathedral Hall for a luncheon provided by the Friends of Santo Niño.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** This Lent, there are many opportunities to celebrate the sacrament of God's mercy. Confessions are heard every Saturday from 8:30am-9:30am. **Our communal celebrations of the Sacrament of Penance will be Monday, April 7 at 7:00pm and Saturday, April 12 at 3:30pm (note time change!).**

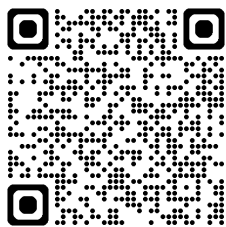
**TOILETRY DONATIONS** If you are traveling and staying at a hotel, consider bringing the small toiletries back to St. James. Donations can be brought to the Cathedral Bookstore. Our St. Vincent de Paul conference packages the toiletries and distributes them to those in need. Thank you!

**COMPANIONSHIP TRAINING** Learn how to support individuals in the community with mental illness, insecure housing, substance use disorders, and trauma in this training offered by trainer Lizbeth Adams, based on 5 practices of companionship developed by Rev. Craig Rennebohm, workshop will be held Saturday, April 26, 9am-12pm, Pastoral Outreach Center, 907 Columbia St. Space is limited; registration required by April 17. *Information, Anisa Ralls 206-382-4269 or [aralls@stjames-cathedral.org](mailto:aralls@stjames-cathedral.org).*

**PARISH REMEMBRANCE** *Throughout the year, because we are the Cathedral Church, we remember in prayer at Mass and Vespers each parish family in the Archdiocese of Seattle. This week we pray for the parish family of St. Joseph, Chehalis; St. Mary, Centralia; St. Francis Xavier, Toledo; and St. Yves, Harmony.*

### WHO ARE WE? A SURVEY OF THE CATHEDRAL PARISH

As part of Partners in the Gospel, the three parishes in our family (St. James Cathedral, Immaculate Conception, and Christ Our Hope) are exploring the question of *who are we?* Please take a few moments to reflect on and complete the survey. You can respond to each question with a few words, or a sentence or two. Use the QR code or visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CVQVY5B>. The survey will be open until April 7. This will be tremendously helpful as we explore where God is calling us to grow as a parish in the years ahead. Center. *Information*, Maria Laughlin, [mلاغlin@stjames-cathedral.org](mailto:mلاغlin@stjames-cathedral.org)



### UNITED IN GENEROSITY AS ONE GLOBAL FAMILY

Amid the harsh conditions of the Sahel region's 1976 drought, millions faced hunger. That same year, Catholics worldwide gathered at the 41st International Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia, focusing on "The Eucharist and the Hungers of the Human Family." As Lent draws to a close, let's reflect on how our prayers, fasting and almsgiving can help ensure no one goes hungry in the middle of today's global food crisis. Visit [www.crsricebowl.org/week-5](http://www.crsricebowl.org/week-5) to learn more. Remember that Rice Bowl donations can be brought to Mass starting on Holy Thursday, or at [www.crsricebowl.org](http://www.crsricebowl.org).



**GARDEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** We are looking for garden enthusiasts, green thumbs and novices to join our team of volunteers in the cathedral garden. Our busy season is about to begin and we need help planting, growing and harvesting fresh vegetables and fruits for the Cathedral Kitchen. *Information*, Peter Burns at 206-264-2082, or [pburns@stjames-cathedral.org](mailto:pburns@stjames-cathedral.org)

**SING WITH THE CATHEDRAL CHOIR!** The Cathedral Choir has openings in all voice parts! Auditions are held by appointment. Singers must know how to read music and be able to keep up with a fast pace of repertoire—we sing more than 70 different motets during a typical church year. The choir season begins in mid-September and runs through early June. Cathedral Choir sings for the 10:00am Sunday Mass (usually a 9:00am call time) and has a weekly rehearsal on Thursdays from 7:30–9:30pm. The Cathedral Choir depends on regular attendance at rehearsals and liturgies to achieve the high standards we have for our music ministry. *To schedule an audition*, [musicoffice@stjames-cathedral.org](mailto:musicoffice@stjames-cathedral.org) or 206-382-4874. Please let us know your voice part (soprano, alto, tenor, or bass) and choral singing experience.

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO DINE AT THE CATHEDRAL KITCHEN!** Dinner: Monday to Friday, 4pm - 4:45pm. Sunday Breakfast: 7am – 8am. Meal service is dine-in only.

**HELP NEEDED IN THE CATHEDRAL KITCHEN** The Cathedral Kitchen is currently in need of a driver on Friday mornings from 9:00-11:00am to "glean" food from local grocery stores. Okay to bring a friend/helper along, too! *Information*, Mick McHugh, 206-949-6114 (call or text).

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN WASHINGTON STATE** Stay informed with the Washington State Legislature's 2025 session by joining the Washington State Catholic Conference and advocate for issues impacting our vulnerable communities. Please do so by scanning this QR code.



**THE LAND IS NOT OUR OWN** Recently, the St. James Racial Solidarity Team began a study series on seeking repair alongside Indigenous communities. You are welcome to read the books that are being used (*Living Nations, Living Words* and *The Land is Not Empty*). They are available for purchase in the Cathedral Bookstore.

**NOVENA OF GRACE APRIL 1-9, 12-1pm**, Seattle University's Chapel of St. Ignatius and livestreamed. Join the Ignatian Spirituality Center this Lent for nine days of beautiful music, scripture, inspiring preaching, reflection, and heartfelt prayer within the context of a contemplative prayer service. Presenters include Arturo Araujo, SJ (Seattle U), Anna Robertson (Discerning Deacons) and Patrick Barredo (St. James Cathedral). Free to attend. All are welcome! *Information*, <https://www.ignatiancenter.org/novena-of-grace-2025>

**ACTIVE RESISTANCE TO EVIL: THE TRIUMPH OF THE CROSS** Saturday, May 3, 9:30am-12 Noon, Cathedral Hall How can we apply the nonviolent witness of Jesus to oppose today's assaults on human rights and dignity. How would Jesus resist today? Speakers include Jim Thomas (author of the upcoming *Atomic Pilgrim*), Annie Fox (Ignatian Solidarity Network), and Nick Mele (Pax Christi), *Information and registration*, [PaxChristi@StJosephParish.org](mailto:PaxChristi@StJosephParish.org).

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL THANKS YOU** A hard working young woman had a position with a local tech company while attending pharmacy school. When her grandmother in Ethiopia became ill, she took family leave to go help. As a result, she lost her job and fell behind on rent. She is likely to get her old job back, but is diligently looking for other work options as well. Thanks to your generosity, the SVdP ministry was able to help with a portion of her rent. Those in need of assistance can call the SVdP Helpline (206-767-6449 or apply online <https://svdpseattle.org/get-help/online-help-request-form/>) *Information*, Blake Steller 907-244-6683 or [blsteller@gmail.com](mailto:blsteller@gmail.com).

ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL

*Parish Communal Celebration of*  
**THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE**



*The Second Station: Jesus receives his cross*  
Joan Brand-Landkamer, artist

Monday, April 7, 2025  
7:00pm

During this beautiful service of readings, reflection, and song, we will open ourselves to experience the gift of God's gracious and loving forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance. *It has long been a tradition in the Church to confess one's sins before celebrating the great feast of Easter. This will be the ideal time to do so.*



# HOLY WEEK 2025

## at ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL

The Most Reverend Paul D. Etienne, *Archbishop of Seattle*  
The Very Reverend Michael G. Ryan, *Pastor of St. James Cathedral*



### **Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion** April 12-13, 2025

Masses Saturday 5:30pm  
Sunday 8:00\*\*, 10:00\*, Noon, and 5:30pm

**10:00am\* Solemn Procession of the Palms**  
Archbishop Paul D. Etienne, *presider & homilist*

**12:00 Noon Children's Procession of the Palms**  
Father Michael G. Ryan, *presider & homilist*

**4:00pm Vespers of Palm Sunday with  
Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament**  
Father Michael G. Ryan, *presider*

### **Wednesday, April 16**

**7:00pm OFFICE OF TENEBRAE**  
Father Michael G. Ryan, *presider*

### **Holy Thursday, April 17**

**8:30am MORNING PRAISE**  
Father Michael G. Ryan, *presider*

**6:00pm\*\* EVENING MASS of  
the LORD'S SUPPER**  
Archbishop Paul D. Etienne, *presider*  
Father Michael G. Ryan, *homilist*  
*Offertory Procession will include presentation of  
Lenten Rice Bowls*

**9:45pm COMPLINE**  
Father Michael G. Ryan, *presider*

**To 12 Midnight**  
ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT



### **Good Friday, April 18**

**8:30am MORNING PRAISE**  
Father Michael G. Ryan, *presider*

**12:00\* Noon, TRE ORE**  
Father Michael G. Ryan, *presider*  
Father Paul Janowiak, SJ, will preach  
on the Seven Last Words of Christ

**6:00pm\*\* GOOD FRIDAY of the LORD'S PASSION**  
Archbishop Paul D. Etienne, *presider and homilist*

### **Holy Saturday, April 19**

**8:30am MORNING PRAISE**  
Father Michael G. Ryan, *presider*

**8:30pm\*\* EASTER VIGIL**  
The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night  
Archbishop Paul D. Etienne, *presider  
and homilist*

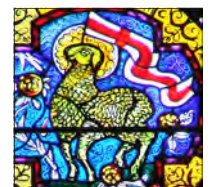
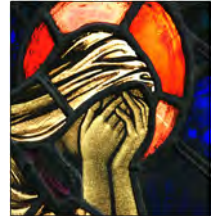
### **Easter Sunday, April 20**

**8:00am\*\* MASS**  
**10:00am\* MASS**  
Father Michael G. Ryan, *presider and homilist*

**12:00 Noon MASS**  
Archbishop Paul D. Etienne, *presider and homilist*

**4:00pm SOLEMN VESPERS OF EASTER**  
Father Michael G. Ryan, *presider*

**5:30pm EVENING MASS  
OF EASTER SUNDAY**  
Father Michael G. Ryan,  
*presider and homilist*



\*\* = livestreamed on the Archdiocese Facebook/Vimeo pages  
\* = livestreamed on St. James Cathedral Facebook/Vimeo pages

For more information on Holy Week liturgies, visit [www.stjames-cathedral.org](http://www.stjames-cathedral.org)



Wednesday, April 16 at 7:00pm

The Office of

TENEBRÆ

On Wednesday of Holy Week at 7:00pm, we observe the Office of Tenebræ. The name *Tenebræ* (the Latin word for “shadows”) was originally given to the ancient monastic services of matins (celebrated after midnight) and lauds (celebrated at dawn) of the last three days of Holy Week. By the late Middle Ages, these services were consolidated into a single daily celebration on each evening before Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.

Tenebræ today is celebrated in many different forms. We include the chanting of the *Lamentations of Jeremiah*, in which each verse is introduced by a letter of the Hebrew alphabet, while candles and other lights in the church are gradually extinguished to signify the darkness that overshadowed the earth at Christ’s crucifixion. The loud noise, or *strepitus*, at the conclusion of the service suggests the earthquake described in the Passion narratives. The single candle left burning is the symbol and promise of Christ’s triumph over death and darkness.

The Cathedral Cantorei will sing the *Lamentations of Jeremiah* (*Third Book of Lamentations* Nos. I and III) by Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (c.1505-1585), *Tenebræ factæ sunt* by Francis Poulenc (1899-1963), the sublime *Miserere mei, Deus* (with its famous high Cs) by Gregorio Allegri (c.1582-1652), and plainchant.

Father Michael G. Ryan is the presider. This liturgy is open to all—no tickets required. A freewill offering will be taken up during the service.

Limited free parking in the O’Dea lot. The Cabrini Garage closes at 8:45pm Monday-Thursday (Pay-to-park.)

More info: [musicoffice@stjames-cathedral.org](mailto:musicoffice@stjames-cathedral.org) or 206-382-4874.

# TRE ORE

GOOD FRIDAY April 18 NOON—3

St. James Cathedral observes the traditional Good Friday devotion of TRE ORE (“Three Hours”) with music and homilies focused on the words of Christ from the cross.

This year, **Father Paul Janowiak, SJ**, will offer meditations on the Seven Last Words of Christ.

**Father Michael G. Ryan** will preside. The women of the Cathedral Cantorei will perform Giovanni Battista Pergolesi’s *Seven Last Words of Christ* with the Cathedral Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Joseph Adam.

*A free-will offering will be accepted during the service. The entire service will be livestreamed on St. James Cathedral’s Vimeo & Facebook channels.*



Rev. Paul Janowiak, SJ, is a Jesuit priest, liturgist, theologian, and author. He is the Associate Professor Emeritus of Liturgical and Sacramental Theology at Santa Clara University’s Jesuit School of Theology. Prior to that, he taught for many years at Seattle University in Seattle, Washington, where he was Associate Professor of Sacramental and Liturgical Theology. He is interested in Roman Catholic and Ecumenical liturgical and sacramental theology, the sacramentality of liturgical preaching, Trinitarian dimension of worship, devotion as a communal practice, Vatican II, and the Roman Catholic theologians who shaped the Council.

# Entering into the Mystery: The Three Days

## Corinna Laughlin

**A**t the end of the forty days of Lent, the Church moves into the shortest and the most important liturgical season of the entire year: the Sacred Paschal Triduum – the Three Days. The Triduum stretches from the evening of Holy Thursday until the evening of Easter Sunday. Through the liturgies of the Triduum, we walk with Christ from the upper room of the Last Supper, to the place of crucifixion, to the garden where he was buried and raised from the dead. The Triduum is not a passion play or an historical reenactment. Rather, these liturgies are a solemn act of remembrance of the central mystery of our faith: that Jesus lived, suffered, died, and rose again for us. And when the Church remembers, God makes something happen here and now.

The three major liturgies of the Triduum – the Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday, the Passion of the Lord on Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night on Holy Saturday – are really like one great liturgy, spread over three days. They show us the face of Christ and invite us to take our place in the story of his dying and rising. They lead us to the heart of our faith and prepare us to celebrate Easter. In the words of Pope Francis, “we cannot live Easter without entering into the mystery. It is not something intellectual, something we only know or read about... It is more, much more! ‘To enter into the mystery’ means the ability to wonder, to contemplate; the ability to listen to the silence and to hear the tiny whisper amid great silence by which God speaks to us.” The Three Days are the Church’s annual invitation to enter more deeply into the mystery of Christ.

### HOLY THURSDAY

The Triduum begins with the Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper. “On the day before he was to suffer, he took bread.” We hear the words of the Eucharistic Prayer so often, but on this night, the familiar takes on special urgency. Jesus is about to be handed over to trial and crucifixion – and he knows it. He knows his disciples will be scattered. He knows one of them will betray him and one will deny him. And yet his concern is not for himself, but for them. He reassures and consoles them and promises them his abiding presence.



And he puts his love into action: he takes the bread and wine of the Passover table and offers them to his disciples as his own Body and Blood. Through the Eucharist, which the Church has never failed to celebrate in his memory, Jesus continues to reassure, to console, to be present, and to sustain his beloved flock. As the Church remembers the institution of the Eucharist, we also mark the inauguration of the priesthood. In washing of the feet of some Cathedral parishioners, Father Ryan and Archbishop Etienne do what Jesus did on the night of the Last Supper – and show us what servant leadership looks like.

The Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper ends with the Transfer of the Holy Eucharist. The ciborium (a vessel containing consecrated hosts) is carried to the “altar of repose” in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, where Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament continues until midnight. Traditionally, this time of Adoration recalls Jesus’ hours of agony in Gethsemane. By our prayer and presence, we respond to Jesus’ invitation to “remain here and keep watch with me.”

### GOOD FRIDAY

In the early evening of Good Friday, the Church gathers again for the solemn liturgy of the Passion of

the Lord. This liturgy is different from any other in the entire year. It is not a Mass: Good Friday is the only day of the year when the Church does not celebrate the Eucharist. "There is no sacrifice on this day, for all is sacrifice," wrote the English priest Robert Hugh Benson in a wonderful 1904 essay on Holy Week. "Today all the world is Calvary."

The liturgy of Good Friday begins starkly and unforgettably with the prostration of the clergy before the altar. As the Archbishop and Father Ryan prostrate themselves in silence, the entire assembly kneels in prayer. Contemplating the death of Jesus, we kneel in humility, prayer, and adoration. We touch the dust from which we came.

And yet, even on Good Friday, joy is never far away. The first reading – one of the Servant Songs from Isaiah – takes us to a place of hope: "he shall see the light in fullness of days" (Isaiah 53:11). Good Friday is about death and life, about sorrow and hope.

All of this becomes visible in the Veneration of the Cross. We come forward as a community for veneration, we touch the cross, we contemplate the sorrows of Christ, and we recognize in the cross our source of life, our only hope. "Because of the wood of a tree joy has come to the whole world," says an ancient chant in the Roman Missal.

## HOLY SATURDAY

The Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday is the most ancient and the most important of the Church's liturgies. As we keep vigil for the Resurrection of Christ from death, the liturgy takes us to the heart of what it means to be human. The essentials of life – fire, water, oil, bread, wine – are taken up, transformed, and made holy.

The Easter Vigil begins with the blessing of fire, which is used to light the Paschal or Easter Candle, the sign of Christ's Resurrection. On the candle, the Archbishop traces a cross, within which he marks the numbers of the current year. This rite is a powerful expression of the Church's faith that Christ's Resurrection does not recede in time like other historical events. These mysteries are present among us. That is why the great Easter proclamation, the Exsultet, reminds us again and again that "this is the night!" "This is the joy of the Easter Vigil," said Pope Benedict XVI. "The Resurrection is not a thing of the past, the Resurrection has reached us and seized us."

The scripture readings at the Easter Vigil take us from the creation account in Genesis through the whole story of God's love relationship with humanity. Through all our struggles, wanderings, and sins, God has loved us and drawn us towards life in his Son. The readings culminate in the proclamation of the ultimate



good news, the Gospel account of Jesus' Resurrection. And after our long Lenten fast, the Alleluia returns, our Christian song of rejoicing and praise.

The Easter Vigil is the time for the initiation of new members into the Church. Tonight, our Elect - who have been preparing for this night for many months – receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. We do not need to be their family members, friends, or sponsors to participate and rejoice in this moment. In the baptism of new members, the Body of Christ grows; the Resurrection is made visible.

The Easter Vigil is the first and most important of our Easter celebrations, which continue throughout the day on Easter Sunday. Easter is an invitation to start fresh: to "clear out the old yeast," says St. Paul in the Second Reading on Easter Sunday, and "celebrate the feast!" (1 Cor 5:7, 8)

## CONCLUSION

Participating in the journey of the Triduum brings us face to face with the mystery of Christ's dying and rising. We are not mere spectators. By our baptism, we have a place in this mystery. We are sharers in the living, dying and rising of Jesus, called to wash one another's feet, to lay down our egos and even our lives for others, to rise from the tomb of our sins to new life in God.

There's no doubt about it: participating in the Triduum is a commitment. It means sacrificing our time and rearranging our schedules. It means letting other things go. In the words of Pope Francis, "to enter into the mystery means going beyond our own comfort zone." But there is no better way to renew our Easter faith, and no better way to enter into the mystery that guides our lives and gives them meaning.

## Celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Seattle! Volunteer with other Catholics as the living Body of Christ in this "Season of Service", March to May 2025.

May we recognize our legacy of faith by demonstrating our commitment to serving others. Volunteer with a ministry at St. James Cathedral or through the Archdiocese of Seattle (<https://archseattle.org/seasonofservice/>).

Are you a youth sports coach or Scout leader? Do you provide pastoral care? Involved in faith formation with children, youth or adults? These are but a few of the many great volunteer activities with service hours you can count! All Cathedral ministries count, including liturgy, music, faith formation and outreach.

**As a Cathedral, our goal is 17,500 hours of service!**

*Report your volunteer hours (and send pictures!) to Patrick Barredo, director of social outreach and advocacy, [pbarredo@stjames-cathedral.org](mailto:pbarredo@stjames-cathedral.org).*

