

DID YOU KNOW?

Passion Week

PASSION Sunday is thus named because on this day the Pharisees and the chief priests in council came to the conclusion to put Our Lord to death, because, on the Friday before, He raised Lazarus from the grave, and they came on Saturday and told it in the temple. The Sabbath ended at sundown among the Jews. When the sun went down that day their Sabbath was finished. The day before, Lazarus was raised from the dead. It was the first day of the month, toward evening, and they resolved to put Our Lord to death. For that reason, He hid Himself, and to commemorate these things, toward evening, the Saturday before Passion Sunday, we veil the cross, the pictures, and the images in our churches.

Thus, after the seven weeks of the Septuagesima season and of Lent, which typify the seven different ages of the world, we now come to the preparation for the death and funeral of Our Lord. Two weeks are devoted to His Passion, because He suffered for two peoples: the Jews and the Gentiles; because He was foretold to come in the two conditions of God's people: before the law of Moses, and after the giving of the law. Again, there are two weeks as there are two testaments: one before He came and one in which He suffered. Thus there are two weeks: one before He suffered and the other in which He was put to death.

From the Vesper time till the Mass of Holy Saturday, the words, "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost," are not said, for they are to give glory to the Holy Trinity, to the Triune God, Who was so dishonored in the sufferings of the Son. It is said at the end of the psalms and in other places, for the death of Our Lord will be for our salvation, when we will glorify the Trinity in heaven. The Psalm, "Judge me, O Lord," is not said till Easter Sunday, as it is a joyous psalm, which would be out of place in this time of sorrow. In the three days of Holy Week, all words of joy and gladness are heard no more....

The malice and the hatred of the Jews increases from day to day. The presence of the Lord in the temple irritates them, while His goodness, His

sweetness, and His miracles attract crowds of people to the holy place. He continues His wonderful works. His words become more energetic. His prophecies threaten the temple. He foretells the time to come prophesied by Daniel, when the Romans under Titus will come from the west and leave not a stone upon a stone of the holy city. But they could neither understand the prophecy of the destruction of the city nor the words of David, the royal prophet, nor the prediction of Isaias, Israel's greatest inspired prophet, relating to the sufferings and death of Jesus, the Lord's anointed. Obstinate in their errors, they would hear nothing. Blinded by their prejudices, they would not listen to Him. Filled with pride, they would not have so lowly a man for their King. Ambitious for worldly gain, they looked for a Messiah who would conquer all nations and make them the ruling people of the world. Pushed on by all the worst passions of fallen human nature, they concluded to put Him to death. They swore His life away, and brought upon themselves and upon their children that curse of His blood by which they are scattered into every part of the world, a living witness to all nations of the truth of the Gospel history of the sufferings and of the death of Christ.

The Passion of Our Lord opens out many of the secret evils of the heart of man, but the Jews were no worse than the people of today, and the sinners who do evil and commit wickedness are as bad as the Jews, and in the words of St. Paul, they are guilty of again crucifying the Son of God.

Passion Sunday is thus named, because from this time the Church is entirely taken up with the Passion of Our Lord. It is called "Judge Me," from the first words of the Introit. It is called the Sunday of the "Paschal Moon," because it begins at the new moon, while among the Greeks it is called the "Fifth Sunday of the Holy Fasts."

—Fr. James Meagher, *The Festal Year*

Benedictus, March 2024

Holy Week Schedule:

Palm Sunday - March 24th - Regular Sunday Mass Schedule:

- 8am at St. Bridget
- 11am at St. Thomas the Apostle

Holy Monday - March 25th - Daily Mass at 8am offered at St. Thomas the Apostle.

Holy Tuesday - March 26th - Daily Mass at 8am offered at St. Thomas the Apostle.

- Chrism Mass will be offered at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception at 11am.

Spy Wednesday - March 27th - Daily Mass at 8am offered at St. Bridget.

Holy Thursday - March 28th - 6pm Mass will be offered at St. Thomas the Apostle.

Good Friday - March 29th - Communion Service at 3pm will be offered at St. Bridget.

- Stations of the Cross (6pm) at St. Thomas the Apostle.

Holy Saturday – March 30th - 7:30pm Easter Vigil at St. Thomas the Apostle

Easter Sunday – March 31st - Regular Sunday Mass Schedule:

- 8am at St. Bridget
- 11am at St. Thomas the Apostle