

# Holy Week 2017

## St. Elizabeth Seton Parish

**Come and Celebrate the Most Important Days of the Year**

On the evening of Holy Thursday, Lent comes to an end, and we enter into the Three Days that are the center of our year: The Easter Triduum



## Holy Week

*On these Three Days, the Church is at its best.*

In song, scripture, and ritual, we proclaim the heart of what we believe and celebrate throughout the year. We gather often - at church, at home - during the Triduum to reflect on the central reality of our faith: the death and resurrection of Jesus. During these Three Days, Christians renew their vows and new Christians are initiated. These are the “high holy days” of Christianity.

*You are invited to make these Three Days different from all the other days of the year.*

Adults in the community are invited to plan ahead so that the entire time from Holy Thursday evening until the Easter Vigil is free of social engagements, free even of work, free of entertainment, free of meals except for the simplest nourishment. The Triduum continues until Easter Sunday evening.

*Because of the importance of these days, we are not merely invited:  
We are all needed to be present in the church.*

All of us need the whole community together on its greatest days, the evening of April 13 through the evening of April 15 in this year of our Lord, 2017.

*Begin plans now to celebrate with our community  
these most significant days.*

## The Mass of Chrism

On Monday of Holy Week, Bishop R. Daniel Conlon will bless the Holy Oils at a liturgy in our Cathedral in Joliet. There are three types of oil that will be blessed. The Oil of Catechumens is used for Baptism. The Oil of the Sick is used when celebrating the Anointing of the Sick. The Holy Chrism is used when celebrating Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders. Chrism is also used for the blessing of Church walls and altars at their dedication.

Each parish from our Diocese will receive their sacred oils from this Mass and they will be presented to our parish at the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. Throughout the year, we will use them for the celebration of the Sacraments. They are kept on display in the Ambry by the Baptismal font.



## Holy Thursday - April 13

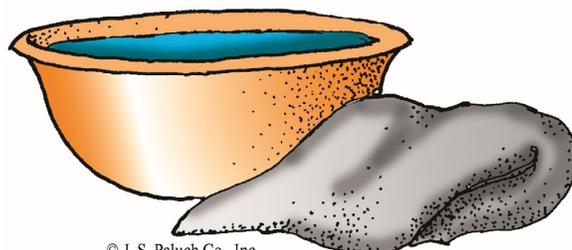
Morning Prayer - 8:15 A.M.

Adoration of the Eucharist in the Chapel will end at 6:00 P.M.

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7:00 P.M.

Holy Thursday evening brings an end to Lent, as we enter the Triduum. In the Gospel reading John tells us that Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, and told them, "as I have done, so you must do." The feet of twelve parishioners will be washed as a symbol of our service to one another. This ritualistic action of washing the feet is called *Mandatum*, and has been part of our heritage since the early church.

At the conclusion of the Liturgy, the Blessed Sacrament will be taken in procession to the "place of repose" for private adoration in the Day Chapel. Drawing upon the Old Testament imagery of the Arc of the Covenant, the Eucharist will be reposed in the tabernacle. Our building will be open until midnight. We strongly encourage you to stop in for a few moments of quiet prayer. At 11:45 P.M., a night prayer service will be held. As Holy Thursday ends, the Eucharist will then be placed in reserve in a non-public place. The church is stripped of all decoration in preparation for the Celebration of the Passion on Good Friday.



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## Good Friday - April 14

### Easter Fast

Good Friday is a day of fast and abstinence. Because Lent is over, it is not a Lenten Fast but rather considered an Easter Fast. All are encouraged to keep this fast also on Holy Saturday. Although not required on Holy Saturday, keeping the fast is a way of continuing to prepare for Easter.

### Morning Prayer - 8:15 A.M.

Morning Prayer at 8:15 A.M. marks the beginning of our commemoration of the Lord's Passion. This is the only day of the year when Mass is not celebrated. At morning prayer, we will pray psalms and prayers that remind us of the Lord's great deeds for us.

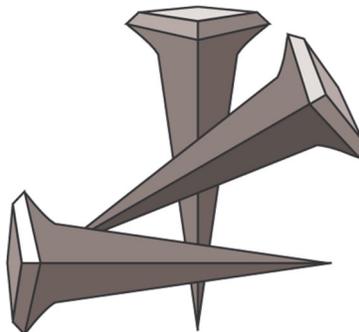
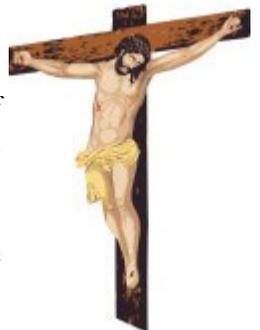
### Stations of the Cross - 3:00 P.M.

The Knights of Columbus will lead our parish in the Stations. We recall through this journey the passion and death of Jesus. At the conclusion of the service, all will be invited to venerate the cross.

### The Commemoration of the Passion - 7:00 P.M.

The Commemoration of the Passion includes the readings of the Passion, offering of intercessory prayers and the Solemn Veneration of the Cross. Holy Communion that was consecrated on Holy Thursday will be distributed.

Please bring the whole family and friends and join us for the Passion and Veneration of the Cross.



# Holy Saturday - April 15

## Morning Prayer - 8:15 A.M.

Morning Prayer will be prayed at 8:15 A.M.

## Food Blessing - 1:00 P.M.

The tradition of blessing food is a beautiful way of celebrating the joy of Easter. We bless the foods that we have been fasting from during the days of Lent. On Easter Sunday, this blessed food is shared to celebrate the Lord's New Life.

## Easter Vigil - 7:30 P.M.

On Saturday evening, we will celebrate the Easter Vigil. In the darkness, we will assemble with a bonfire to light the paschal candle and process to the Worship Space.

This holy night is the most solemn memorial of the entire year. It is our remembrance of the central mystery of redemption, Christ's saving death and glorious resurrection.

The Vigil has four main parts:

1. ***The Service of Life*** which includes the blessing of new fire, the blessing and lighting of the Easter candle, the carrying and distribution of this candle through the church, and the chanting of the Easter song, the Exsultet.
2. ***The Liturgy of the Word*** invites us to listen to Scripture Readings. We begin with the story of Creation and conclude by proclaiming the Lord's Resurrection.
3. ***The Liturgy of Baptism*** begins by the singing of the Litany of the Saints. It is to their company that baptism admits us. The water is blest and our Catechumen will be baptized. All will then be asked to renew their Baptismal Promises. The candidates who are joining us in the Catholic Church join us in this profession. Confirmation will then be administered to those that have been welcomed.
4. ***The Liturgy of the Eucharist*** invites us to share with the new church members the Body and Blood of our Risen Lord.

Because of the length and time of this service, we do not encourage families with infants or small children to attend. A reception will follow.

Adoration of the Eucharist will resume in the Chapel at 11:00 P.M.

