

PALM SUNDAY marks the beginning of the most powerful week of the year: Holy Week. Pope St. John Paul II wrote a letter to all the faithful regarding Holy Week:

“I . . . exhort you to live these days with fervor, so that they will leave a profound imprint upon your souls, orienting your lives. May you ardently enter into the mystical atmosphere of the Paschal Triduum. . . . Make it your duty, then, to participate in the rites of Holy Week, leaving aside other interests and affairs, convinced that the liturgy truly purifies man's sentiments, elevates his aspirations, causes him to feel the beauty of the Christian faith and the yearning for heaven.” (John Paul II)

Yes, a mystical atmosphere awaits us. Yes, these days can leave a profound imprint upon our souls. Yes, these liturgical celebrations can purify our sentiment, elevate our aspirations, cause us to feel the beauty of the Christian faith and give us a yearning for heaven!! Why settle for anything less?! Please do not sit idly by while Jesus walks through our midst and invites us to accompany him by participating in the Sacred Liturgy. I offer here a few inspirations connected with the events of Holy Week, I hope you will find many more:



HOLY THURSDAY: MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER - INSTITUTION OF THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS AND PRIESTHOOD

“Anyone who approaches this august Sacrament with special devotion, and endeavors to return generous love for Christ's own infinite love, will experience and fully understand--not without spiritual joy and fruit--how precious is the life hidden with Christ in God, and how great is the value of converse with Christ. For there is nothing more consoling on earth, nothing more efficacious for advancing along the road of holiness.” John Paul II

GOOD FRIDAY: THE PASSION AND DEATH OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR; VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

“He was a knight on the field of battle . . . the crown of thorns was His helmet, His scourged body was His armor; the pierced hands His gauntlets; His sword was the spear in His side, and His spurs were His pierced feet nailed to the cross. Behold how gloriously this knight is armed!” (St. Catherine of Siena)



Thou, O Life,
Was buried in a grave, O my Christ,
and the armies of the Angels were shuddering,
As they praised thy condescension and thy love.

Meadows, hills, and mountains,
And all nations of men, come today,
Lament, and cry bitterly
With the Mother of your Savior and your Lord.

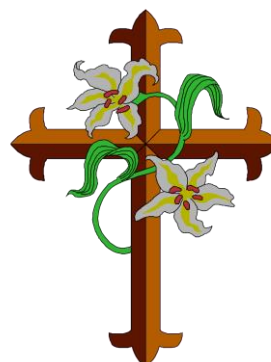
Rise, O Lord Life-giver!
Tearful and heart-broken,
Thy Holy Mother calls thee.

(Lamentations, Greek Liturgy)

HOLY SATURDAY: JESUS IN THE TOMB

“Something strange is happening—there is a great silence on earth today, a great silence and stillness. The whole earth keeps silence because the King is asleep. The earth trembled and is still because God has fallen asleep in the flesh and He has raised up all who have slept ever since the world began. God has died in the flesh and hell trembles with fear.” [Ancient Homily on Holy Saturday]

EASTER SUNDAY: HE IS RISEN! LIFE CONQUERS DEATH!



OH
HAPPY
DAY!!

Happy Holy Week!! – Fr. Staples