

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.

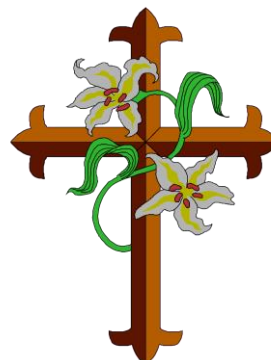
Rise, O Lord Life-giver!
Tearful and heart-broken,
Thy Holy Mother calls thee.

(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



St. Thomas Aquinas

Considered one of the Catholic Church's Greatest Theologians and Philosophers

Feast day: January 28

Born: 1225

Died: March 7, 1274 (age 50)

Canonized: 1323 by Pope John XXII

Patron: Students, Schools, and Universities

Thomas was born in 1225 to a wealthy family in Italy. He is one of the most influential saints in the Catholic Church. Thomas was academically gifted and was sent at the young age of five to study in a Benedictine monastery located at Monte Cassino, Italy. There, his intellectual talents stood out and he was sent to the University of Naples.

At age 19, he wished to join the Dominican Order. Thomas' family did not approve of such a brilliant young mind joining the penniless Dominicans. His brothers captured him and forcibly brought him home.

It was over a year later when his family relented and Thomas made his way back to the Dominicans to resume his studies. Thomas went on to earn his master's degree in theology in Paris. He wrote many important works on church doctrine and Scripture. He used reason rather than faith alone to defend the existence of God. He wrote about bread and wine turning into the Body and Blood of Christ, coining the term "transubstantiation". Thousands of people attended his public lectures. Popes and King Louis IX consulted him on religious matters.

The Catholic Church honors Thomas Aquinas as a saint and regards him as the model teacher for those studying for the priesthood and other sacred disciplines. His best-known works are the *Disputed Questions on Truth* (1256–1259), the *Summa contra Gentiles* (1259–1265), and the unfinished but massively influential *Summa Theologiae* (1265–1274). The *Summa Theologiae* deals with the whole of Catholic theology. After 10 years of working on it, he suddenly stopped. When asked why he stopped writing, he replied, *"I cannot go on.... All that I have written seems to me like so much straw compared to what I have seen and what has been revealed to me."* He died three months later on March 7, 1274 at age 50, was canonized in 1323 and honored with the title of Doctor of the Church in 1568.

[A few quotes from St. Thomas Aquinas](#)

- **Man cannot live without joy; therefore, when he is deprived of true spiritual joys it is necessary that he become addicted to carnal pleasures.**
- **To bear with patience wrongs done to oneself is a mark of perfection, but to bear with patience wrongs done to someone else is a mark of imperfection and even of actual sin.**