Maundy Thursday

Palm Sunday

Good Friday

Holy Saturday
HOLY OR MAUNDY THURSDAY

It was on this day that Our Lord gathered together His twelve Apostles for the Last Supper. It was then that He instituted the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. After the Last Supper He went to the Garden of Gethsemani and it was here that He suffered the Agony in the Garden and where Judas betrayed Him with a Kiss. During Mass on this day the Bishop blesses the oils used in Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders and Extreme Unction. After the Gloria in the evening Mass the bells are rung no more until the Easter Vigil.

PALM SUNDAY

Today is the first day of Holy Week. It was on this day that Our Lord entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey as the people threw palms in His path saying, “Hosanna to the King.” The palms are blessed before the High Mass today. Then carried in procession around the Church before the Mass and given to the Faithful at the Communion rail. Some of the blessed palms are saved for next year to be burned to make the ashes for the next Ash Wednesday. The palms symbolize death and penance, triumphant and the earth’s sorrow. The palms symbolize our grief and our desire for next year to be brought to an end. The palms also recall the promise of victory which God made to Abraham and to the children of Israel.

GOOD FRIDAY

On this day Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ died on the Cross for us. It is the most somber of all the Holy Days. A silence pervades, socializing is kept to a minimum. People do not watch television or radios, quiet music plays softly rather than loudly, conversation is kept to a minimum. Socializing is kept to a minimum. During Mass on this day the Mass of the Presanctified is offered, which is not a true Mass because no consecration takes place. Instead a liturgy called the Mass of the Presanctified is offered. The Mass begins at 3:00 PM, the hour of the crucifixion.

HOLY SATURDAY

Christ is in His tomb. Rather, His Body is in the tomb, but His Soul left His Body to release the just that were in Limbo and Purgatory. Because of this great silence, there will be no Mass this evening. Instead a solemn service will be held. This may be a long service, but so must our participation be. Today we consider the most important hour of the year, the hour in which Christ thereby died. We should be as if we were standing by the deathbed of our Father who died a moment ago.

Easter Vigil

Believe me that He suffered the Agony in the Garden and it was here that He instituted the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. After the Last Supper He went to the Garden of Gethsemani and it was here that He suffered the Agony in the Garden and where Judas betrayed Him with a Kiss. Again in the Garden and where Judas betrayed Him with a Kiss, there is a long Mass which begins just after midnight. The Mass itself is beautiful, but the atmosphere is somber. The Mass itself is beautiful, but the atmosphere is somber.

GOOD FRIDAY