

March 2023

As we approach the celebration of Holy Week, there is a growing excitement in my heart. The entire week, especially the last three days, is a celebration of who we are as a Christian community. Through these sacred and ancient rituals, we enter into the mystery of the Lord's death and resurrection. In the liturgies throughout the week, we are called to acclaim our true identity: people who have been saved through the blood of Christ and immersed into His Body. Throughout the week, we remember and re-enter the Upper Room, the Garden of Gethsemane, the horror of Calvary, the darkness of the tomb, and the splendor of Easter morning.

As you will notice, our three faith communities are coming together to celebrate the core mystery of faith. All three communities are hosting different parts of the celebration. To make it easier to attend the Mass of the Lord's Supper, the Liturgy of the Lord's Passion and Death, and the Easter Vigil, these will be celebrated at Immaculate Conception. Members of all three communities will participate in these liturgies, assuming roles as liturgical ministers, participating in washing of the feet, and providing our music. Morning and Evening Prayer, Stations of the Cross, and the Blessing of the Easter Food will be held at St. Joseph's and Our Lady of Grace.

It is my hope and prayer that you will enter into the celebration of Holy Week. For me, this is a celebration of the entire Church and not just one parish. Together we are all baptized into Christ. He chose the Cross for each of us. We are all commanded to wash each others feet. What better time to realize our oneness in Jesus, our crucified and risen Lord. The Holy Week schedule is printed on the back of this letter.

You are all in my prayers during Holy Week and throughout the 50 days of Easter. May the joy and light of the Risen Lord draw us closer together into the mystery of His Love.

In the name of Christ our Pastor,

Fr Tom

Fr. Tom Konopka
Pastor

