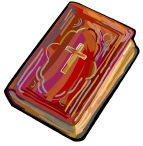




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Volume 2, Issue 3  
April 2009 / Easter Season

the

# Liturgical

flame

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR  
LITURGICAL MINISTERS

## Musical Elements of the Triduum

The Easter Triduum commemorates the three day liturgical celebration of the Last Supper, death, and resurrection of Christ. These three days are at the heart of our identity as Catholics! The musical elements of these beautiful liturgies assist in enhancing a deeper spiritual experience for all of us!

On Holy Thursday, we remember the Last Supper. In this mass, the washing of the feet is a reminder of our call to love, humility, and service. The accompanying music evokes these three themes. This liturgy concludes with a procession of the Eucharist to the chapel for adoration and continued prayer. The traditional chant "Pange Lingua" (Sing, My Tongue of the Savior's Glory) is sung at this time. This hymn expresses our belief in transubstantiation in which ordinary bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ. After the procession, the lights are extinguished as we leave in silence.

The Triduum continues on into Good Friday where the musical overtones take on the concept of the meaning of suffering. The music can be darker, even raw at times. During the veneration of the cross, the music assists us in uniting our suffering with Jesus – knowing that He understands our deepest wounds. This liturgy concludes with a simple Communion service. We like to use a rendition of Behold the Lamb of God for the Communion song to underscore the Scripture texts in John 1:29 and Isaiah 53:4-5 which express that "He carried the sorrows of us all!" and "by His wounds, we are healed!" The liturgy then ends again in silence as we remember the sense of connection with all three liturgies.

The Easter Vigil begins Saturday night after sundown with the Service of Light. The time-honored traditional "Exultet" is chanted by a soloist. This beautiful Easter Proclamation excludes the excitement of the beginning of the great 50 days of Easter. "Rejoice, O heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!" resounds throughout the church as candlelight fills the Worship Space.

The second part of the service, The Liturgy of the Word, proclaims all the wonderful things God has done for His people

traced through the Scriptures. The choir responds with an appropriate psalm following each reading. We prefer using joyful and easily singable psalms to encourage active participation from the congregation. After the last psalm is finished, the Gloria is sung for the first time since the beginning of Lent.

We chose the octavo version by the composer Peter Jones. This is a majestic and powerful rendition of the Gloria that provides a strong liturgical memory for our congregation.

After responding to God's Word, we move on to the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation. John Becker's Litany of the Saints has become a tradition here at St. Stephens as we prepare to baptize the new candidates. It is a beautiful piece calling down all the angels and saints to join us in prayer! The sprinkling rite song "Song Over The Waters" recalls how the Holy Spirit moved over the waters and renews us by recalling our own baptism and remembering we are sons and daughters of God. Next, we call down the Holy Spirit during the Confirmation rite by singing the chant "Veni, Sancte, Spiritu" as an ostinato (repetitive melody).

The last part of the service is the Liturgy of the Eucharist. We glorify God with a joyous Easter Anthem at Presentation of the Gifts. Our communion song, Proclaim the Message, is reflective of the Triduum story with the refrain insisting that "...on the last day we shall rise again, and see the face of God, rejoice!" Beethoven's traditional Ode to Joy concludes our Easter Vigil service with hope and rejoicing in our collective new birth in Jesus Christ. "Let the Alleluias begin once again!"

Paula Bonkiewicz, Music Director  
Judy Dughman, Choir Director





## Upcoming Liturgical Dates

Hospitality Meeting: Thursday April 23rd at 7:00 p.m.  
Liturgy Meeting: Tuesday May 5th at 7:00 p.m.  
Taize Prayer: Tuesday May 26th at 8:00 p.m.

### Ascension Thursday Services

Wednesday May 20th: 6:30 p.m.  
Thursday May 21st: 6:30 a.m.; 12:00 noon and 5:30 p.m.

## Holy Week Services

### Holy Thursday

**April 9th 7:00 p.m.**

*Washing of Feet, Transfer of Eucharist*

### Good Friday

**April 10th Noon**

*Youth Stations of the Cross*

**April 10th 3:00 and 7:00 p.m.**

*Passion, Veneration of Cross,  
Holy Communion*

### Easter Vigil

**Fulfills Sunday Obligation**

**April 11th 8:30 p.m.**

*Blessing of Fire, Water, Easter Candle,  
Christian Initiation of Adults and Renewal  
of Baptism Promises*

### Easter Sunday

**April 12th**

**7:30 a.m.**

**9:00 a.m.**

**9:05 a.m. (gym)**

**10:30 a.m.**

**10:35 a.m. (gym)**

**12:00 noon**

**6:00 p.m.**

## Thank You, Peter Guile

Peter Guile, who has served as parish liturgist for many years, will be stepping aside from this role at the end of the current contract year, June 30th. I want to be the first to thank him for his generous service, and to wish him well in whatever endeavor he takes on. I trust that each of you can find a way to express your thanks and appreciation. Between now and June 30th, Pe-

ter will be in the office Tuesday—Friday. The duties of liturgist will be divided between current staff members Karen Hardy and Deacon Marty Warwick. We will inform you as those details get worked out.

Father Jim Tiegs.

## Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Palm Sunday is a unique liturgy in many ways. It is the only time during the year when two gospel readings are read to the congregation. After the palm branches are blessed, the account of the Lord's entrance into Jerusalem is proclaimed from one of the four gospels. This year we hear Mark's account, where Jesus sends his disciples into the city to find a particular colt. Jesus knows the questions that the people will ask and the answers that the disciples will give. Jesus already knows what awaits him in the City of Jerusalem. The disciples return to Jesus who then sits on the colt as they continue their journey into Jerusalem. The children came forth to meet the Lord, waving palm branches and saying, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord".

Here at St. Stephen the Martyr we replicate the journey of Jesus travelling into Jerusalem, as our preschool children wave palm branches and we as a congregation sing that "Jesus is King" during our opening processional.

Today we also hear Mark's version of the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We encourage you to take your palm branches home and continue to pray as a family as we prepare for Holy Week.

## Paschal Triduum

During the liturgies of the Triduum we as a Church remembers the Passion, death and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. These liturgies are passionate and powerful. They liturgically bridge us from the past to the to the present. If we remember the mysteries of redemption we allow ourselves to open ourselves to the faithful riches of the Lord's powers. We are not to just remember that the Resurrection happened as a historical event. We must remember that the Resurrection happens. Pope Benedict's homily from April 15th, 2006 expresses this beautifully. *"This is the joy of the Easter Vigil. The Resurrection is not a thing of the past, the Resurrection has reached us and seized us. We grasp hold of it, we grasp hold of the risen Lord, and we know that he holds us firmly even when our hands grow weak."*

The Paschal candle is inscribed with the current year. This is an excellent example to remind ourselves that this is happening now.

### A Triduum Prayer for Liturgical Ministers

*Lord Jesus Christ,*

*Help us to enter into the Three Days this year with our whole heart and mind:*

*To rejoice in the gift of your body and blood;*

*To walk with you on the way of your Passion; To share in the joy of your glorious Resurrection.*

*As we celebrate these solemn liturgies, help us to focus not on our mistakes and shortcomings, but on the greatness of your love, which does so much more than we ask or imagine.*

*You are Lord, yesterday, today and forever!*

*Amen*

## Holy Thursday—Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

Before 1955 the Mass of the Lord's Supper and Holy Thursday services occurred during the morning. The focus of the day was Eucharistic adoration. The altar of repose was elaborately decorated with flowers and candles. Many times the faithful would travel from church to church to pray before the reserved sacrament in each church.

In 1955 the focus was turned to the Mass itself. The Eucharistic procession is still an important part of the day's observance. Many parts of the world have continued the custom of visiting several churches and praying before the Blessed Sacrament.

There are many distinct elements to the Mass of the Lord's Supper that occurs on Holy Thursday. The

washing of feet occurs and most importantly the transfer of the Holy Eucharist to the place of repose.

One theme is present throughout all of these elements and that is "Love". The liturgy of Holy Thursday shows us of Christ's Love through the word, ritualistic action of the washing of feet and the receipt of Jesus through the Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist.

We invite you to spend time with Our Lord in the daily mass chapel following the Holy Thursday liturgy.



## Good Friday of the Lord's Passion

The Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday ends without any formal dismissal; the celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday begins without any formal introduction or procession. This serves as a reminder to us that this is ONE great liturgy that allows our prayer to flow without interruption from one celebration to the next.

Over the centuries, Good Friday has changed very little. This day has always been a day of fasting and mourning. Since early times the faithful have gathered together for formal prayer on this day.

The service of this day is filled with so many great rites that allow us to fully pray for Christ's sacrifice.

During this service the priest prostrates himself before the altar, praying in silence. This goes back to seventh century Rome when the Pope walked barefoot, carrying a relic from Saint John Lateran and prostrated himself before the altar.

With the reform of Holy Week in 1955 the emphasis of the liturgy began to reflect the mystery of Christ's sacrifice rather than mourning for Christ's sufferings. This day provides us a day for hope, and a day for remembering that it

is through the paschal mystery in its totality that we join Christ in conquering death and in gaining life anew.

During the liturgy we hear of the Passion of Christ according to John. John's version allows us each to step back from the action of the story, again and again, to show us how all of this fits into the divine plan.

Another part of the Good Friday Liturgy is the Solemn Intercessions. There are ten distinct intercessions. During this portion of the service we see the entire Church prostrate before God in prayer. These intercessions remind us of the universal effect the Passion of Christ who hung on the cross for the salvation of the whole world.

The Veneration of the Cross is divided into two parts. First is the showing of the cross and secondly, individual veneration takes place. There are no rules for individual veneration. A simple genuflection, and touching or kissing of the cross would be appropriate.

The service continues with the reception of the Holy Eucharist and the service ends in silence.

## Easter Vigil

Saint Augustine stated that the Easter Vigil is the "mother of all vigils" and the crown of the Church's liturgy. Everything that we believe flows from the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. This was the first feast of the church and the greatest of the feasts.

The word "vigil" means "staying awake". In the Easter Vigil we keep watch. We begin at the beginning with stories that take us back to the creation of the world, to the basic elements that give us life—fire, water, bread and wine.

At the 2005 Easter Vigil Homily, Pope Benedict, then Cardinal Ratzinger wrote the following; "Every year the Easter Vigil invites us once again to immerse ourselves in the waters of Baptism, to pass from death to life, to become true Christians".

The Easter Vigil begins in darkness. A fire is kindled and utilized to light the new Easter candle. From this candle

the entire assembly is able to light individual candles from the Easter Candle. Fire becomes the symbol of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. The fire also reminds us to rekindle our hope and to purify our minds as we celebrate the Lord's Resurrection.

The RCIA candidates are brought in to the church through the Rite of Baptism and the Right of Confirmation during this liturgy.

The Vigil service is a beautiful service and I encourage all of you to try the Easter Vigil service as a mechanism for growing closer to Our Lord.



## Easter Sunday and Easter Season

The English word for Easter derives from an ancient root that means “to shine” or “dawn” or “the direction of the sunrise.”

Easter morning marks the first day of the Easter octave and it feels like a different season. It is not the end of the Triduum, but the beginning of the 50-day celebration of Easter.

The presider invites us to renew the promises of our baptism, with the renunciation of sin and the Profession of Faith. Following this renewal, the congrega-

tion is sprinkled with the baptismal water from the font.

The Easter season gives us 50 days to let the light of Christ’s Resurrection to shine in our hearts and minds until it burns brightly in the fire of Pentecost.

During the Easter Season we hear from the Acts of Apostles which encourages us to each go forth and spread the good news of Christ to those around us.

### Divine Mercy Sunday

Divine Mercy Sunday is the 2nd Sunday of Easter. It was established by Pope John Paul II as a day of recognizing the abundant mercy of God offered to us through Christ. With great faith and joy, John Paul II understood the Resurrection as a “miracle of mercy,” which “radically changed humanity’s destiny.”

The Archdiocesan Divine Mercy Sunday, Day of Grace program will be held at St. Robert’s Bellarmine with spiritual activities and prayer beginning at 2:00 p.m. concluding with a special Divine Mercy Mass at 6:00 p.m.

### Ascension Thursday

Ascension Thursday which is on May 21st, occurs 40 days after Easter Sunday. This day begins the intense days of expectant preparation for the gift of the Holy Spirit which occurs on Pentecost Sunday.

This is the feast day that Jesus tells his disciples to go into the world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. After he speaks to the disciples, he ascends into heaven and takes his seat at the right hand of God the Father.

Scheduled mass times can be located on page 2 of this newsletter.

## Internet Links

[www.newadvent.org/cathen](http://www.newadvent.org/cathen)

This includes online text of the original 15 volumes of history, teaching and general information from the 1917 Catholic Encyclopedia. It’s excellent for historical research, but does not reflect modern thought or teaching.

[www.dailygospel.org](http://www.dailygospel.org)

The daily readings, Psalm and saint of the day in a free, personalized e-mail.

[www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

The official site of the U.S. Catholic bishops includes an online Bible, the Catechism, publications, movie reviews and more.

**DO YOU HAVE A  
FAVORITE INTERNET LINK WHERE YOU  
RETRIEVE LITURGICAL OR CATHOLIC  
INFORMATION?  
LET US KNOW!**

**CHECK OUT PAST ISSUES OF THE  
LITURGICAL FLAME AT  
STEPHEN.ORG UNDER THE  
LITURGY SECTION**

## Come Holy Spirit—Pentecost Sunday



The early Christian believers reinvented Pentecost from the Jewish Faith. The Jewish people mark Pentecost as a feast of thanksgiving to mark the conclusion of the grain harvest.

The Jewish also utilize

Pentecost to commemorate the giving of the law at Sinai.

For Christians Pentecost marks a new beginning. God would be present among his people not in words carved in stone, but in a whole new way. God lives in our hearts and speaks to us through each other. Similar to the Jewish feast of celebrating thankfulness, Pentecost allows us to celebrate the abundance of God's gifts by giving back to God the first

fruits of the fields. Pentecost celebrates the incredible abundance of God's giving, the many gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost is the joyful conclusion of the season of "Easter". It is a day to pull out all the stops, a day for incense, processions, banners. The gift of the Holy Spirit has been given to us and Jesus is here!

**WHEN HE COMES, THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH, HE WILL GUIDE YOU TO ALL THE TRUTH.  
JOHN 16:13**

### **SAVE the DATE!!!**

#### **Fall Renewal Day**

Please mark your calendars now for Saturday October 24th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in our Church.

This special day is a key part of our 2009 Parish Mission with Vince Ambrosiano. We invite ALL liturgical ministers to join us, as well as our parish staff and Council/Board members.

More information will follow as we get closer.



### **Come Holy Spirit**

*Come Holy Spirit fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your spirit and they shall be created and you shall renew the face of the earth.*

*Oh God, by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful. Grant that by that same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy his consolation through Christ our Lord.*

*Amen*

# Ask the Liturgical Team?

After publication of the last newsletter, no questions were posed to the liturgical team. Please send your questions, and we will be happy to respond with some wonderful answers.

**Q: What time is Mass on Good Friday?**

A: There is no Mass on Good Friday, rather it is a Communion Service. Following veneration, the altar is prepared with the utmost simplicity. We pray the Lord's Prayer and following that the priest simply takes a host from the ciborium, raising it slightly and states, "This is the Lamb of God" to which the congregation gives the usual response. The priest then consumes the Body of Christ and Holy Communion is given to the people. The Eucharist utilized was consecrated at the Holy Thursday Liturgy.

**Q: Easter is the Season of "Alleluia's" What does that word truly mean?**

A: Alleluia is the Greek form of the Hebrew Hallelujah, which means "Praise the Lord!" or, more literally, "Praise Yahweh!" Yahweh is the Hebrew sacred name for God.

During the Liturgy of the Word, we rise at this point of the liturgy to greet the Lord who is about to speak to us through His Gospel. Like those who greeted him with Alleluias on His glorious entrance into Jerusalem, we greet the procession of the Gospel book with our rejoicing Alleluias.

**ASK THE  
LITURGICAL  
TEAM?**

**PLEASE SEND  
YOUR  
QUESTIONS TO  
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**NEXT NEWSLETTER SNEAK  
PEAK**

**ORDINARY TIME**

**LITURGICAL MINISTER  
WITNESSES**

***"IS GOD CALLING YOU TO BE  
OUR NEXT LITURGICAL FLAME  
MINISTERIAL WITNESS?"***