

This week I have started doing a video of a program I do for the school children each week. It is called D.O.G. Discover our God. Below is what I put together for Holy week. Hopefully it will help you navigate all of the liturgical celebrations that we would have been a part of.

I hope you take advantage of these liturgies. Here are a couple of additional thoughts I had. On Holy Thursday consider washing one and others feet, just as Christ washed the feet of his apostles. You may find it a very humbling experience.

Then on Easter Sunday don't just sit around as like other days. Get dressed up, put on your Sunday best and celebrate the great gift of Christs resurrection. While this will be a memorable Holy Week like non any of us has ever experienced make it a unique celebration that we will remember as community and as a family united with our risen Lord.

Today we begin the Holiest Week of the year. It is the climax of our time of Lenten Prayer, Fasting and Alms Giving and it leads us into the Pasqual mystery of Christ's passion, death and resurrection.

It begins with Palm Sunday; you can watch the mass celebration on [www.dioceseofcleveland.org](http://www.dioceseofcleveland.org) at 9:30 am. This is when Christ enters Jerusalem and all the people waving palm branches welcome him into the city. They are celebrating his triumphant return to the city but in just a few days many of these same people will condemn him to death. Note: you can pick up blessed palm in the gathering space of St Mary Church.

Tuesday April 7<sup>th</sup> they celebrate the Chrism mass. At this mass the priests of the diocese renew their commitment to priestly ministry for service to the diocese of Cleveland. The Bishop also Blesses the holy oils that are used throughout the year. These are the *oils of Catechumens*

that are used in the sacrament of baptism, the *oil of the infirmed* used in the sacrament of the anointing of the sick and *Sacred Chrism* that is used for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders as well as the dedication of a new church. Note ( you can also view this mass on [www.dioceseofcleveland.org](http://www.dioceseofcleveland.org) on Tuesday April 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am.

Thursday April 9<sup>th</sup> we begin the Triduum. This is a continual celebration that includes, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and The Easter Vigil.

It begins with the mass of the Lord Supper on Holy Thursday.( Note: You will have to check the Diocesan web site for the actual times). It is at this mass that the priest would wash the feet of twelve people, representing the twelve apostles. It is also the mass where Christ instituted the Eucharist or communion.

Following the mass there would traditionally be adoration of the Blessed Sacrament till midnight.

On Good Friday April 10<sup>th</sup> we read the passion of Jesus Christ and adore the cross on which Christ was crucified, and communion is distributed. There is never a mass on Good Friday.

Then on Saturday we celebrate the Easter Vigil. This is the culmination of the triduum. It is at this mass the Easter candle is blessed, the holy water is blessed in the Baptismal font and all of those individuals who have been preparing to enter the church receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. It is the greatest liturgical celebration of the year.

While we cannot attend any of these celebrations due to the coronavirus and distancing ourselves we can participate by watch them

on TV or on our computer. For many this may be a great opportunity to see witness them since we now have the time.

I hope that you as families will take the time to participate in all of these liturgical celebrations as you are able. You can check **them out** on St Mary web site or on the Diocese of Cleveland web site.

Till next time this is Deacon Larry saying have a Blessed Holy Week.