

Which Three Days are The Three Days?

There's a lot of talk in church now about "the Three Days," or in Latin, the "Triduum." These are our most holy of days. They make up our most important single celebration of the year: Easter. But exactly which three days make up the Triduum?

At first this sounds like a stupid question such as, "What color was Napoleon's white horse?" or "Who's buried in Grant's tomb?" Actually, it's a trick question. Most would say that the Three Days are Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. And that's wrong! (How could Easter Sunday not be one of the Three Days?!)

The three days of the Triduum are counted using the Jewish way of keeping time: from sunset to sunset. So the first day of the Triduum is from sunset on Holy Thursday until sunset on Good Friday. The second day is from sunset on Good Friday until sunset on Holy Saturday. The third day is from sunset Holy Saturday (the great Easter Vigil) to sunset Easter Sunday (Paschal Vespers).

Does this make any difference—or is it only good Catholic trivia? Here's the difference that it makes. We tend to think of the Three Days as commemorating separate, distinct events: On Holy Thursday we remember the Last Supper, on Good Friday we recall the passion and on Holy Saturday the resurrection. But in our liturgy, the church thinks about the Last Supper not as the last thing that happened on Holy Thursday, but as the first thing to happen on Good Friday. What new insights into the Eucharist do you have when you think of it as the first act of Christ's passion? What new understanding of Sabbath—the day of rest—do you have when you reflect on the fact that Jesus slept in death from sunset Friday and all through the Jewish Sabbath, Saturday? And how might we spend our Saturday nights if we understood them to truly be the beginning of Sunday—not just during the Triduum, but year round? What does it mean when the priest or deacon sings at the Vigil that because of the resurrection, this night is brighter than any day?

These Three Days are a single moment. We walk (or crawl) into this moment on Thursday night and walk (or dance) out on Easter day. In between, there's a flood of stories and songs, rites and rest, fasting and feasting. The Three Days are time out of time, the center of our year and of our life. Please join us in celebrating these sacred days.

<p><u>Historic Church Pilgrimage</u> Bus tour to see 4 historic and beautiful Churches. Mon. Mar. 24, 8 AM. Contact Fr. Coulter today, 944-3554.</p>	<p>Sharon Schaub <i>Tax Return Preparation Bookkeeping Services</i> (402) 944-3907 St. Mary Parishioner</p>	<p>Thomas Dredging & Excavating Lake Development & Restoration 944-7852 Cell: 432-7852 www.thomasdredging.com</p>
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St. Mary & St. Joseph Catholic Churches

Ashland



1625 Adams Street, Ashland NE 68003
Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 PM
Sunday Mass: 8:30 AM

Pastor: Father Gary Coulter

Welcome to new parishioners,

please call the rectory to register or for information on any of our parish activities and organizations.

CCD & Youth Group each Wed. 7:15 PM

Greenwood



7 Oak Street, Greenwood
Sunday Mass: 10:30 AM

Rectory & Fax: 944-3554, CCD/Hall: 944-7509
Cell: 202-3782, stmaryashland@alltel.net

Confessions a half hour before Masses

Saturday 4:00-4:50 PM St. Mary
Sunday 8:00-8:20 AM St. Mary
10:00-10:20 AM St. Joseph

Any time by calling the rectory.

Mass and Service Schedule for this week				
Sat.	Mar. 15	5:00 PM	Ashland	+ Ben Holbrook
Sun.	Mar. 16	8:30 AM	Ashland	+ Gerhard Groenjes
		10:30 AM	Greenwood	For the People
Mon.	Mar. 17	9:00 AM	Ashland	Beatrice Prell
Tues.	Mar. 18	9:00 AM	Ashland	Jerry Schwaller
Wed.	Mar. 19	9:15 AM	Care Center	+ Valentine Meduna
Holy Thursday	Mar. 20	7:00 PM	Ashland	Mass of Lord's Supper
Good Friday	Mar. 21	3:00 PM	Greenwood	Stations of the Cross
		7:00 PM	Ashland	Veneration of Cross
Holy Saturday	Mar. 22	8:00 PM	Ashland	Easter Vigil
Sun.	Mar. 23	8:30 AM	Ashland	For the People
		10:30 AM	Greenwood	Barber Intentions

March 16, 2008

Passion (Palm) Sunday

Ministries for next weekend

Sat. Mar. 22 - 8:00 PM
Servers: Cambell, Stilles
Acolyte: Todd Survil
Lector: Rod Reisen
Sun. Mar. 23 - 8:30 AM
Servers: Holbrook, Kresak, Smith
Acolyte: Ken Broz
Lector: Dennis Holbrook
Sun. Mar. 23 - 10:30 AM
Lector: Jeannine VanLaningham
Offertory: Schweigart

Stewardship Thought

Passion Sunday
'The Lord God has given me a well-trained tongue, that I may know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them,' says Isaiah in today's first reading.
The gifts God has given us are likewise given for the good of others. How am I using my gifts?
See Isaiah 50:4

Congratulations

Anniversaries: Bev & Jim Ziegenbein 3/19
Birthdays: Jonathan Haag 3/17
Pat Proctor 3/17
Justin Suhr 3/17
Natalie Hofferber 3/18
Bob Wall 3/18
Travis Stewart 3/20
Jason Pike 3/22

Calendar for This Week

Wed. Mar. 19, 7:00 PM CCD and Youth Group
Holy Thursday - March 20
5-6:00 PM Confessions at Ashland
7:00 PM Mass at Ashland
Good Friday - March 21
12:05 PM Stations at Ashland
3:00 PM Stations at Greenwood
3:30-4 PM Confessions at Greenwood
7:00 PM Service at Ashland
Easter Vigil - March 22
4-5:00 PM Confessions at Ashland
8:00 PM Easter Vigil Mass at Ashland
Easter Morning - March 23
8:30 AM Mass at Ashland
10:30 AM Mass at Greenwood
Mon. Mar. 24, 8 AM Church Pilgrimage

Parish Announcements

Reminder: there is CCD Classes and Youth Group this week, Wed. Mar. 19.
Easter Pilgrimage of Historic Churches on Mon. Mar. 24. Join a visit to four churches in SE Nebraska and NE Kansas on Easter Monday. We will depart from St. Mary's in Ashland at 8:00 AM (8:30 at St. Patrick's Lincoln), have Mass and prayers during the day, lunch at Valentino's, and return by 5:30 PM. Cost is \$20 per person (and \$6 for lunch buffet). Please make your reservations today by calling 944-3554 or emailing stmaryashland@alltel.net.

Easter Flowers - donate towards our Easter decorations in memory of a loved one - there are envelopes in the back of Church. Names will be published after Easter, so you can still turn them in next weekend.

Special Collections: on Holy Thursday the collection will go to Catholic Social Services to help the poor. The collection on Good Friday goes to the Holy Land, supporting the struggling Christian community and protecting Christianity's holiest places. Please be generous.

The Combined Collection gives you a chance to support 7 worthwhile causes with one donation. Extra envelopes are available in the back of Church. Thank you for your generosity.

Community Announcements

Ashland VFW Food Pantry is in need of Condiments (e.g. ketchup, mustard), Paper Products (e.g. Kleenex, toilet paper), and Juices.

Saunders Hospital Auxiliary Buffet and Auction Thurs. Apr. 3, 5-7 PM Buffet, 6 PM Auction - Starlite Ballroom.

Diocesan Announcements

Love and Life Program for Parents/Teens (age 13-16) on human sexuality, chastity and virtues on Sat. Mar. 29, 10AM-2PM at Bl John XXIII Center in Lincoln. Reservation required at 488-2040 (\$25 per family, includes lunches).

LDCCW annual Legislation Day on Tues. Mar. 25, 8:30 AM at St. Mary Church, Lincoln. Pro-life updates with senators. Lunch requires reservation by Mar. 18, call Fran at 538-2425.

Creighton Model Natural Family Planning intro sessions on Tues. Mar. 18 & Mon. Mar. 31 at 7 PM. Call 488-2040 for info.

Pilgrimage to Lourdes, France in honor of the 150th Anniversary, sponsored by Lourdes High School June 17-25, 2008. Visit Lourdes, Paris, and Mont St. Michel, Notre Dame Cathedral, Shrine of the Miraculous Medal, and the Normandy beaches. Base price is \$2,749 per person (all inclusive). For more information, please contact Lourdes Catholic School, Nebraska City at (402) 873-6154.

Please join in Prayer, Fasting and Sacrifices for an end to abortion throughout the 40 Day for Life. Please stop by for an hour of prayer at least once during Lent at the Lincoln Planned Parenthood (37th and South streets).

Interested in a full-time, faith-based volunteer opportunity? Response 2008 is a guide to thousands of volunteer opportunities in programs worldwide. Access on the web at www.cnvs.org.

Pilgrimage to Italy lead by Fr. John Vakulskas of Alton IA, Nov. 11-21, 2008. \$2699 includes air, tours, hotels, meals and more. Contact 712-756-4224 or fjav@earthlink.net.

Pregnant and don't know what to do? There are options - call the Option Line at 1-800-395-HELP or visit www.pregnancycenters.org.

Celebrate Holy Week with the Ashland Ministerial Association.

Daily 12:05 PM services with luncheon:
Mon. Mar. 17 Congregational Church
Tues. Mar. 18 American Lutheran Church
Wed. Mar. 19 United Methodist Church
Thur. Mar. 20 First Christian Church
Fri. Mar. 21 St. Mary Catholic Church

Our Return to the Lord, Mar. 8-9

Table with 3 columns: St. Mary, St. Joseph, and monetary amounts for Adult, Plate, Children, Combined Collection, and Weekly Budget.

Please pray for this week's Seminarian: Eric Schilmoeller, North American Martyrs, Lincoln College 2 at St Gregory the Great Seminary.

Readings and Celebrations this week:

March - Holy Week
17 Mon Is 42:1-7 / Jn 12:1-11
18 Tue Is 49:1-6 / Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
19 Wed Is 50:4-9a / Mt 26:14-25
Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper
Ex 12:1-14 / 1 Cor 11:23-26 / Jn 13:1-15
Good Friday of the Lord's Passion
Is 52:13-53:12 / Heb 4:14-5:9 / Jn 18:1-19:42
Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil
Ex 14:15-15:1 / Rom 6:3-11 / Mt 28:1-10
Easter Sunday: The Resurrection of the Lord
Acts 10:34a, 37-43 / 1 Cor 5:6b-8 / Jn 20:1-9