



VERMILION CATHOLIC
a legacy of Mount Carmel

Parents,

Apr 11, 2025

This month we are experiencing Holy Week, the most central and sacred time of the year. I know everyone is looking forward to the week off for Easter, but I just want to encourage you not to skip too quickly to that. The last three days of Holy Week - Thursday, Friday, & Saturday - are the holiest days of the year. If we let them, they can become for us a rich time of encountering the very heart of reality itself: The Love of God.

We call these days "The Paschal Triduum." It starts with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Thursday (6pm) where we commemorate the first time Jesus gave us the Eucharist and when he washed the feet of his apostles. On Good Friday, we enter into the Lords' Passion (3pm) with the reading of John's Gospel, the chanting of solemn intercessions for the whole world, and veneration of a relic of the True Cross. On Saturday, at the Easter Vigil (8pm), we begin with the blessing of a fire and the lighting of the Paschal Candle as a symbol of Christ's light entering the world. After entering the dark church with candles lit, we then hear the ancient hymn praising Jesus' victory of death before reading from scripture of the broad sweep of salvation history. Then we baptize new converts to the faith and renew our own baptismal promises before moving into the liturgy of the Eucharist, rejoicing that Jesus returned from death to dwell with us forever.

These liturgies can be strange and full of symbols we don't fully understand. They require some investment of time and attention. As far as entertainment value, they cannot compete with the stimulation and energy levels made possible by screens and other technologies. But if we give them their due, they put us in touch with a much deeper reality. Even if you can't participate in these liturgies directly, I urge you to find ways to set aside the usual hustle and bustle and distraction of daily life (and please, don't throw a party on Good Friday when we're supposed to be fasting!).

Find some way to set these days apart and to center them on what Jesus has done for us. Make use of devotions like the Way of the Cross and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. If you're going to use various forms of media, keep them tied into the things of God: music and movies and shows about Jesus' death and resurrection.

I count it a blessing to be your pastor and I look forward to my first Paschal Triduum, my first Easter with all of you. May the Crucified and Risen Christ draw you closer to himself and keep you there always!

In Christ,

Father Alexander M. Albert,
Pastor, Vermilion Catholic, a legacy of Mount Carmel
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Lagniappe: Check out this movie coming out the week after Easter about Carlo

Acutis: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=keMMRdzMrN4>

He's 3 years younger than me and already a saint!

Enter to Learn Christ, Leave to Serve Christ

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