



Congregation of St. Pius V

# IMMACULATA



Immaculate Heart Seminary

www.congregationofstpiusv.com

April 2025

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

As Holy Week draws closer, we look forward to the inspiring ceremonies which commemorate the events of Our Divine Savior's Passion, Death, and Resurrection. This year the priests of the Congregation will assist with the Holy Week ceremonies in Round Top (NY), Melville (NY), White Bear Lake (MN), Great Falls (MT), and Cincinnati (OH).

Dom Gueranger, the author of *The Liturgical Year*, reminds us that by reliving the events of Our Lord's life through the Church's sacred rites, we can come to a deeper understanding each year of what they signify. In other words, we can better realize how much Our Lord suffered for us by following Him in His Passion as Holy Mother Church has us do during Holy Week. St. Alphonsus Liguori affirms this when he writes: "There is nothing which unfolds to us the treasures contained in the sufferings of Jesus Christ better than the simple history of His Passion."

## **Palm Sunday**

The ceremonies of Palm Sunday express both joy and sorrow. The procession with blessed palms recalls the joyous "hosannas" that greeted Our Lord as He entered Jerusalem. At the end of the procession, the church doors are found shut and locked. After a hymn in honor of Christ the King is sung, the subdeacon strikes the door with the bottom of the processional cross and the door is opened. This ceremony reminds us that the gates of Heaven were shut to us by sin, but Our Lord opened these gates by His death on the Cross. Holy Mass is then offered, during which the Passion is read. While reading St. Matthew's



*Palm Sunday Procession*

account of Our Lord's sufferings and death, our joy turns to sorrow as we realize that only five days after Our Lord's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, the same people who cried "hosanna" were shouting, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"

## **Holy Thursday**

The Mass on Holy Thursday commemorates the institution of the Holy Eucharist. Toward the end of Mass, the priest places a consecrated Host in a chalice and covers it with a silk veil. The Blessed Sacrament is then carried in procession to a specially-decorated altar, commonly known as the Altar of Repose, where it is reserved until Good Friday morning. In their visits to the Blessed Sacrament, reserved at this altar, the faithful strive to console our Savior by meditating on His agony in the garden and all the excruciating sufferings of His last night on earth. Another interesting

feature of Holy Thursday, which is not seen in every church, is the consecration of the three holy oils by the bishop. In the middle of the Mass, the bishop leaves the altar and goes to the center of the sanctuary to bless the oils which are used in the administration of the sacraments. Holy Thursday is the day set aside for this special blessing.

### **Good Friday**

One of the most beautiful ceremonies on Good Friday is the Veneration of the Cross. It begins with the priest gradually unveiling a large crucifix, covered with a black cloth. As the cross is unveiled, the priest chants in Latin, "Behold the wood of the cross on which hung the salvation of the world." The choir sings in Latin the response, "Come, let us adore!" The priest, servers, and people then approach the cross and devoutly kiss the feet of our Redeemer in a solemn act of reparation.

Besides the morning ceremonies, at a number of our chapels, the faithful spend from noon until 3 p.m. in the chapel to commemorate the three hours that Christ hung upon the Cross. During these three hours parishioners strive to comfort Our Lord by making the Stations of the Cross, praying the Rosary, listening to sermons, and venerating the relic of the True Cross.



*Blessing the New Fire on Holy Saturday*

### **Holy Saturday**

The ceremonies on Holy Saturday begin outside with the priest blessing the fire. We then enter the church, which is in complete darkness. This symbolizes the tomb in which Our Lord's dead body lay. The newly blessed fire is used to light the Paschal Candle, the pure wax of which represents Our Lord's body. Grains of incense are placed in the candle in remembrance of the holy women who brought sweet spices to anoint the body of Our Lord. Finally, the first Mass of Easter is offered. The first Mass of Easter is celebrated on Holy Saturday because Holy Mother Church is filled with such expectation and anticipation of Christ's Resurrection that she begins the celebration of this sublime event a day early.

It is my hope that the faithful who have access to these sublime ceremonies will take advantage of this tremendous blessing and make every effort to attend them. For those unable to attend Holy Week in person, the ceremonies will be live streamed from St. Pius V School in Melville, NY. I pray that the remainder of Lent be filled with many blessings and graces for you.

In the Sacred Heart,

*+James Carroll, C.S.B.V*

The Most Reverend James Carroll, C.S.P.V



*Unveiling the Cross on Good Friday*

*To view the Holy Week schedule and live stream, please visit [www.StPiusVChapel.org](http://www.StPiusVChapel.org).*