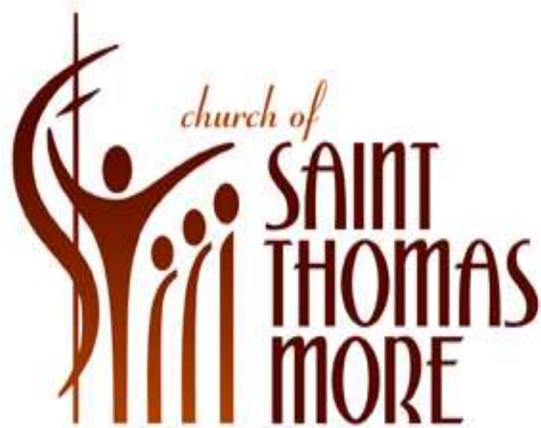


Easter Triduum

The high point of the Church Year is a celebration so big – so important – that we can't fit it into just one night - we need three!

We call it “Triduum” which means “three days” – you know them as Holy Thursday – Good Friday -- and the Easter Vigil on Saturday night. Each of the days recalls a different part of the story of the passion – death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. |



On Holy Thursday we remember the Last Supper. We remember what Jesus did – instituting the Eucharist – and washing feet – to be of service to another. That night, we will process the Holy Eucharist into the Mary Chapel, for prayer and adoration until midnight .

Then on Good Friday –we return to proclaim the passion and death of Jesus. We venerate the Cross – the symbol of salvation. We come and go that night in silence – because there is no beginning or ending – it is the second part of our – one celebration – three days.

Saturday night is the highlight of the three days! The service is a long one; because we have a lot to do. We gather outside around a huge fire – a fire from which we light our Paschal Candle and all our individual candles – and process into a dark church to dispel the darkness with our light. We listen to the stories of how God interacts with us ---- from the very beginnings of creation – to the great Exodus – to the prophets—and come with the women to find the stone rolled away from the tomb – and know that Jesus is risen!.

The most significant thing we do at the Vigil is welcoming of new members into our Church and our parish. Our candidates for baptism walk up the far side of the baptism font – are plunged into the water—then walk down from the font into our assembly. We renew our own baptismal promises – and celebrate the confirmation of the newly baptized and the others who have made the journey through the RCIA.

So yes, it's a long service – but it goes by very quickly – plus – it is THE celebration of Easter – so you can avoid the crowds and the parking problems of Sunday morning!!! So we'll see you Thursday, Friday and Saturday night for this great celebration - one celebration – three days.

Steve Raml
Director of Liturgy & Music