

## Good Morning!

Today's liturgy begins a season within Lent traditionally referred to as Passiontide. We are invited by the Church to reflect on this great season of Lent even more deeply now as we move closer to Holy Week. You will notice that many images in the Church are covered today. This insert is an attempt to explain the significance of this custom.

In our worship the Church is pruning us spiritually. The Church experiences a liturgical death before the feast of the Resurrection. For our parishioners who worship using the Extraordinary Form, the *Alleluia & Gloria* go on Septuagesima Sunday. For those of us who worship using the Ordinary Form we bid farewell to the *Alleluia & Gloria*, on Ash Wednesday. Certain amounts of musical accompaniment and flowers in the sanctuary go in both Forms of our liturgy as we enter Lent. Today, statues and images are veiled from sight. Also, as part of the pruning, today in the Extraordinary Form of Mass, Psalm 42 in prayers at the foot of the altar and the *Gloria Patri* at the end of certain prayers will not be said again until Easter.

The pruning cuts more deeply as we move into the Triduum. After the Mass on Holy Thursday the Blessed Sacrament is removed from the main altar, which itself is stripped and bells are replaced with wooden noise makers. On Good Friday there isn't even a Mass, and at the beginning of the Vigil we are deprived of light itself! It is as if the Church herself were completely dead with the Lord in His tomb.

The Church then gloriously springs to life again at the Vigil of Easter. In the darkness a single spark will ignite a flame. The light will spread through the whole Church. Our risen Lord will

again take his place at the center of our community in the Holy Eucharist!



Let's take a moment to get ready by reviewing the services of Holy Week here at St. Joseph's.

### **Holy Thursday:**

Ordinary Form: 5pm

Extraordinary Form: 7pm

### **Good Friday:**

Ordinary Form: 3pm

Extraordinary Form: 5pm

### **Great Vigil of Easter:**

Ordinary Form: 8pm

\*Extraordinary Form: 8pm

\* *The Vigil liturgy will take place in the Extraordinary Form at the Lourdes Grotto off Madison Avenue on the corner of Yates and Ontario Streets in Albany.*