



# 2026 Holy Week Triduum Worship Schedule

**Holy Week** is the most sacred week in our Church's liturgical year, beginning with Palm Sunday to Holy Saturday. On Palm Sunday, we carry blessed palm branches to symbolize Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem as we recount the story of Jesus' death and Passion. During the remaining days of Holy Week, we continue to pray and reflect on Jesus' suffering and sacrifice in the final days of his life.

**Monday-Wednesday March 30-April 1, 2026**  
8:30 am *Daily Mass*

**Holy Thursday - April 2, 2026**  
9:00 am *Morning Prayer*

7:00 pm *Liturgy of the Lord's Supper*  
Adoration will be held in the Church  
immediately following the liturgy until 10:30 pm

**Good Friday - April 3, 2026**

9:00 am *Morning Prayer*  
12:00 pm *Stations of the Cross*  
3:00 pm *Passion of the Lord*  
7:00 pm *Taizé Prayer*

**Holy Saturday - April 4, 2026**

9:00 am *Morning Prayer*  
10:00 am *Easter Basket Blessing*  
*Egg Hunt immediately following*  
7:00 pm *Easter Vigil*

Please note:

- No 4:00 pm Confession on Holy Saturday.
- No 5:00 pm Mass on Holy Saturday.

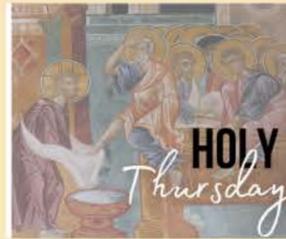
**Easter Sunday - April 5, 2026**

7:00 am, 9:00 am, and 11:00 am  
Additional seating will be available.

**Divine Mercy Sunday - April 12, 2026**

3:00-5:00 pm *Adoration and Divine Mercy*  
*Chaplet, followed by Benediction at 4:45 pm*

All events will be livestreamed through our website.



On Holy Thursday, we are invited to remember and celebrate four events: the Last Supper, the Washing of the Apostle's feet by Jesus, Christ's despair and prayer in Gethsemane, and the arrest of Jesus.

At the end of Mass, the sanctuary is stripped of all decorations, and the Eucharist is transferred to the Altar of Repose instead of the Tabernacle. We are invited to pray and spend time with Jesus in the same way that He invited His Apostles.

On Good Friday, we remember Jesus dying on the Cross out of love for each of us. This is the only day during the year that we do not celebrate Mass. Instead, we have a Communion Service where we are gathered to venerate the Cross.



In the evening of Holy Saturday, we celebrate the Easter Vigil. At the Easter Vigil, we hear our story of salvation through different readings. You will notice that the entire church is dark at the beginning of Mass. The Light of Christ will shine through the darkness once the Paschal candle is lit. Light is then spread throughout the church as individual candles are lit, calling each of us to go out in the world and be the light for others.

**In celebration of our eight OCIA candidates, there will be a reception to welcome our new members immediately after in the Community Room.**

Easter Sunday is a day of celebration! We celebrate Jesus rising from the dead, and His tomb is empty. Our celebration continues for 50 days!



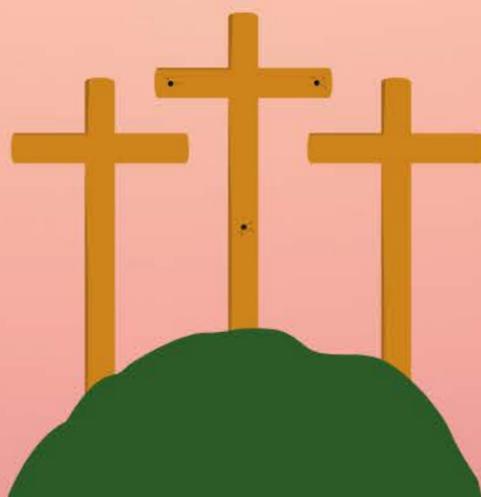
## Office Hours for Easter 2026



Good Friday, April 3	8:30 am to 12:00 pm
Holy Saturday, April 4	9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Easter Sunday, April 5	Office closed
Easter Monday, April 6	Office closed

847-253-8600 | [www.st-raymond.org](http://www.st-raymond.org)

As we prepare for Holy Week, we invite you to participate in the different services at St. Raymond. Each service will bring you closer to Jesus as he suffers and dies for our sins. We hope you can join us for one or all of our services.



SEVEN  
CHURCHES  
PILGRIMAGE



# Holy Thursday

## April 2, 2026

The Seven Churches Pilgrimage is the practice of visiting seven different churches on Holy Thursday, in imitation of the journey of Christ on the eve of his crucifixion. Adoration will be held in the following parish at listed times in no particular order.

10:00 pm | St. Edna | 2525 N Arlington Heights Rd, Arlington Heights, IL

10:00 pm | St Alphonsus | 411 N Wheeling Rd, Prospect Heights, IL

10:00 pm | Holy Archangels Parish at St. Hubert Church | 729 Grand Canyon Street, Hoffman Estates, IL

10:30 pm | St. Raymond | Lincoln St & Elmhurst Ave, Mount Prospect, IL

11:00 pm | Holy Family | 2515 W Palatine Rd, Inverness, IL

11:00 pm | St. Mary | 10 N Buffalo Grove Rd, Buffalo Grove, IL

11:45 pm | Our Lady of the Wayside | 434 West Park Street, Arlington Heights, IL

Midnight | St. Thomas Becket | 1321 N Burning Bush Ln, Mt Prospect, IL

Midnight | St. James | 820 N. Arlington Heights Rd, Arlington Heights, IL

Midnight | St. Thomas of Villanova | 1201 E Anderson Dr, Palatine, IL

Midnight | Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament | St. Julian Eymard Church location (601 Biesterfield Road, Elk Grove Village)

Midnight | St. Theresa | 455 N. Benton Street, Palatine, IL

Midnight | St. Emily Parish | 1400 E. Central Rd., Mt. Prospect IL

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# The Blessing of Easter Baskets: A Cherished Catholic Tradition

In many Eastern European countries, it's a tradition to have a basket of food blessed on Holy Saturday. This Catholic ritual has been cherished for centuries among many families. It has now been adopted by people of all ethnic backgrounds who enjoy this richly symbolic custom.



Photo credit: Wikimedia, Creative Commons license

The roots of this tradition date back to the early 12th-century history of Poland and is now observed by expatriates and their descendent Poles in the U.S., Canada, the United Kingdom, and other Polish parish communities. However, Eastern Roman Catholics and Orthodox Christians, including Czechs, Croatians, Hungarians, Lithuanians, Russians, Slovaks, and Ukrainians, also participate in this holy ritual.

What goes into a food basket depends on the region one is from and the family's preferences. Years ago, in rural villages, it was a mark of one's wealth if a groaning basket of special, savory foods was presented to be blessed. However, these types of extravagant displays are less common, and just a sample of many foods with symbolic meaning now line the baskets. Instead of hams, some Croatians and Slovenes place a lamb in their basket, and western Slovaks might place a veal loaf or a yeast bread made with veal in their baskets. In wine-making regions like Hungary and others, bottles of superior vintage go into the basket, and others add green vegetables. Balkan countries like Serbia, Bosnia, Bulgaria, and some others exchange eggs on Easter morning rather than have a basket of blessed food.

Since Roman Catholics and Orthodox Christians fast during Lent, none of the blessed food is eaten until after Mass on Easter Sunday. This then becomes the traditional Easter breakfast. Generally, each member of the family eats a sample of everything in the basket. The blessing of the food is a festive occasion. People take special pride in preparing a decorative and tasteful basket with crisp linens, possibly embroidered for the occasion, both lining the basket and covering the food, which symbolizes the covering of Christ's burial shroud. These covers are usually passed down from generation to generation. The basket could also be decorated with colorful ribbons and greenery, pussy-willows, or dried flowers to symbolize spring, renewal, and the Resurrection.

The creativity of the parishioners brings a special joy to this event. Children are eager to help prepare and decorate the family basket and proudly carry it into the church. Some families with small children carry their own decorated basket filled with fruits, a chocolate bunny, or some other treats. In some parishes, baskets are lined up on long tables; in others, parishioners process to the front of the altar carrying their baskets or line the aisle next to the family who brought the basket to church.

## What's in the basket?

While tastes vary by region and family, the basket usually contains smoked meats, sausage, butter, cheese, bread, salt, and decorated, colored pysanky eggs. A white candle symbolizing Jesus, the light of the world, is placed in the basket so it can be lit during the blessing. Another local tradition is to tie two nails together in the form of a cross and place them in the basket.

The foods that have a place of honor on the festive Easter table are the decorated hard-boiled eggs, which are broken and shared by all, and a lamb molded of butter or pastry, representing Christ as the "Lamb of God." Butter may also be placed into a glass container with cloves in the form of a cross studding the top. Some examples would be:

- Eggs – Decorated Ukrainian pysanky or various dyed or plain white eggs, symbolizing hope, new life, and Christ's Resurrection from the tomb
  - Butter – Dairy products are included to celebrate the end of Lent and the richness of our salvation; reminds us of the goodness of Christ that we should have toward all things.
  - Easter Bread – A round loaf, sweetened yeast Paska or rye, topped with a cross, symbolic of Jesus, the Bread of Life
  - Horseradish – Symbolic of the bitterness and harshness of the Passion of Christ; the vinegar it is mixed with symbolizes the sour wine given to Jesus on the cross but sweetened with some sugar because of the Resurrection. This may be white or pink with grated red beets.
  - Pepper – Also symbolic of the Passion of Christ and the bitter herbs
  - Kielbasa/Sausage – The links are symbolic of the chains of death that were broken when Jesus rose from the dead, as well as God's favor and generosity
  - Ham, Lamb, or Veal – Meats are symbolic of great joy and abundance in Christ's Resurrection
  - Smoked Bacon – With its great fattiness, it is a symbol of the overabundance of God's mercy and generosity
  - Salt – A necessary element in our physical life; symbolic of purification, prosperity, and justice; preserves us from corruption. Jesus used its symbolism: "You are the salt of the earth."
  - Cheese – Usually fresh, dry curd or farmer's cheese shaped into a ball, it is the symbol of the moderation Christians should practice
  - Holy Water – Used to bless the home, animals, and fields and used in various rituals throughout the year
  - Sweets – Fruits, candy, poppy seed, and nut rolls, pastry items; promise of eternal life or good things to come
- The food included in any basket can be easily personalized to meet family needs and desires. However, the three-part blessing specifically addresses special prayers for the meats, eggs, cakes, and breads.

(Kenn Splitt is a member of Holy Angels Parish in Kulpmont and provided this compilation of information for publication in The Catholic Witness.)

# Divine Mercy Sunday

## April 12, 2026

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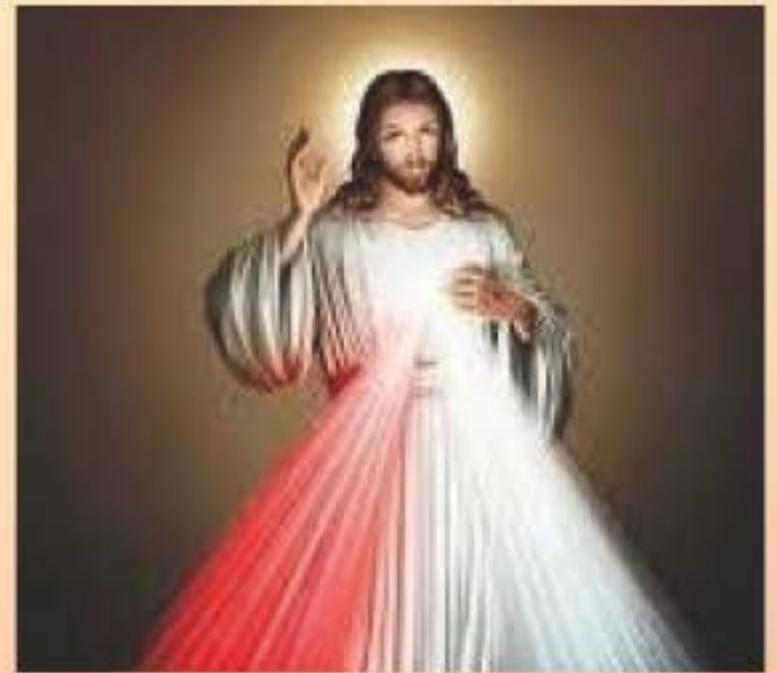
3:00–5:00 pm	Adoration and Divine Mercy Chaplet
3:30–4:30 pm	Confession
4:45 pm	Benediction

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Please join us in the Church for Adoration, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Confession (for those that want to participate). Come for 10 minutes or stay the whole time and spend some special time with Jesus.

### What is Divine Mercy Sunday?

In the 1930s, in a series of revelations to St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, our Lord called for a special feast day to be celebrated on the Sunday after Easter. Pope St. John Paul II, at the canonization of St. Faustina on April 30, 2000, added Divine Mercy Sunday to the liturgical calendar to celebrate the overwhelming mercy of Jesus Christ.



### What is the Divine Mercy Chaplet?

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is recited using ordinary Rosary beads of five decades. The Chaplet is preceded by two opening prayers from the Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska and followed by a closing prayer.

### What is Adoration?

Adoration is silent prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. The consecrated host is displayed in a Monstrance so we can pray in the Real Presence of Jesus. "...So, could you not watch with me one hour? (Matthew 26:40)