



# Faith Formation

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## “Consumed By Love”

We Christians are a people rich in sacramental signs in which we discover the wonderful works of God for our salvation. The Paschal mystery of Christ’s cross and Resurrection stands at the center of the Good News.

Signs and symbols of the sacred week, we call Holy, abound in our liturgies, in our actions, in our prayers. Every Sunday at Mass we stand together as a faith community and proclaim, “**Jesus Christ suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried**”. This week, Holy Week, we live it with a greater intensity recognizing that the Blood of the Lamb was shed for you, for me, for the world!

### The Sacred Triduum

This one liturgy in three parts begins with the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday, continues with the Lord’s passion on Good Friday, the Easter vigil, the season of Triduum concludes Easter Sunday evening.

### Holy Thursday

Recalling the early days of the church, the entire community gathers (a single Mass is celebrated this day) the Mass begins with the tabernacle empty. Holy Communion will be received from the bread and wine consecrated at this

Mass. The readings recount the origins of the Passover meal, and the earliest account of the Lord’s Supper. The Gospel tells of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples. We witness an enactment of this Gospel in the midst of our parish community through the washing of feet. This call to serve, demonstrated in our midst, is a mandate to us, having been nourished by the Eucharist, we are to serve one another in Christ’s name.

After Holy Communion, as we kneel the priest carries the Blessed Sacrament through the church to a place of reposi- tion. This action is meant to remember Jesus’ crossing the valley to the garden where he was eventually arrested. Silence is kept in the church. We are encouraged to stop and spend time with Jesus as the disciples did in the garden by spending time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

In anticipation of this night each church prepares and decorates the area surrounding the tabernacle of reserve. A custom practiced on Holy Thursday is to travel to seven area churches. This night time pilgrimage recalls

the disciples traveling from place to place in search of Jesus after he was arrested in the garden.

### Good Friday

This most sober of days has no Mass or sacrament celebrated. There is no formal beginning or end because the service began with Holy Thursday and will continue until Easter Sunday. The Altar has been stripped. The Tabernacle is empty. **The liturgy of Good Friday**, the celebration of the Lord’s passion, **is in three parts**. First is the Liturgy of the Word. This part concludes with the singing of the general intercessions in which we pray for the Church and the world. Second is the veneration of the cross. With the eyes of faith we look upon this instrument of torture as a sign of victory over death. The third part of the liturgy is the distribution of Holy Communion.

### Easter Vigil

The liturgy begins after sunset, the Church is in darkness, the holy water fonts are emptied, as is the tabernacle. The service begins outside the church where a new fire is lit and blessed. A paschal candle is prepared with the marks *alpha* and *omega*. Christ is the beginning and the end! Between

these marks is the year 2007. And the wounds of Christ are symbolized with the spears inserted into the candle. *Christ is the light of the world*. This paschal candle, at the blessing of the holy water will be submerged into the baptismal font three times as a reminder that Christ sanctifies the waters so as to bring new life to souls who will be baptized.

The glorious Easter song of the Catholic Church: the *Exsultet* (Easter proclamation) is sung. This magnificent hymn announces the dignity and meaning of the

*Apart from the cross  
there is no other  
ladder by which  
we may get to heaven.*

mystery of Easter; it tells of man’s sin, of God’s mercy, and of the great love in which Christ the Redeemer laid down his life for us.

We hear the story of salvation proclaimed, the Gloria and Alleluia is sung once again, and those seeking Baptism are brought to the life giving waters!

These holy days are days consumed by love, Christ’s love for us! Re-joice!

# RCIA News

Over the last several weeks at the 8 a.m. Mass the parish family of Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian Roman Catholic Church have prayed over the Elect, **Jacquesia and I'Yrell Mason** these words: "My dear friends, this community now sends you forth to reflect more deeply upon the word of God which you have shared with us today. Be assured of our loving support and prayers for you. We look forward to the day when you will share fully in the Lord's table".

This day, which we together as a faith community have been praying for, is fast approaching. Let us continue to pray for Jacquesia and I'Yrell. We also pray for our candidate, **Terry Chase** who seeks full initiation and will receive Eucharist and Confirmation. Join in prayer for **Bruce Miner** as he prepares to receive Confirmation at the Vigil.

We thank Jacquesia, I'Yrell, Terry and Bruce for their witness of faith and their faithfulness to the journey. Our faith community, as well as the universal Church, is strengthened by the gifts and talents, the hopes and prayers these wonderful people of God will share with us.



## *Prayers And Blessings for our Engaged Couples*

The Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian Marriage Preparation Team offers many blessings to our recent graduating engaged couples:

Precinda Nicely and Ousman Jallow  
Arvetta Redd and Joseph Baltimore  
Maria Isabel Sanchez-Garcia  
and  
Steve Leonardo Jefferson

# Parish Spring Retreat

## Parish Spring Retreat

*April 13th—15th  
At Villa of Our Lady Retreat House  
Mt. Pocono, PA*



## *The Christian Walk*

Spend time in prayer and reflection, opening the book of James and you will be challenged to be a true doer of the Word, not a hearer only!

Calling all men and women to this weekend of prayer, fellowship and bible study. Jesus challenged his disciples to "Come aside and rest a while." Will you accept his challenge?

*Retreat facilitator:  
Deacon Kevin Butler*

*The cost is \$210.00/single and \$190/  
double/triple. Deposit of \$50.00 is due  
now.*

*For more information, call  
the rectory 546-1885.*

