

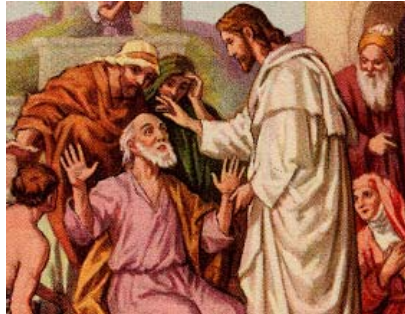


'The Scrutinies' During Lent

We are all in need of conversion throughout our lives, so we join with the newly "elect" in the Church in scrutinizing our lives, and pray for the grace to overcome the power of sin that infects our hearts.



3rd Sunday of Lent
Jesus and Woman at the Well



4th Sunday of Lent
Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind



5th Sunday of Lent
Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead

The Scrutinies are meant to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective or sinful in the hearts of the elect [those preparing for the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist]; to bring out, then strengthen, all that is upright, strong and good. **The Scrutinies** are celebrated in order to deliver the elect from the power of sin and Satan, to protect them against temptation, and to give them strength in Christ, who is the way, the truth and the life.

MASS READINGS THESE SUNDAYS:

3rd Sunday of Lent

"In those days, in their thirst for water, the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "Why did you ever make us leave Egypt? Was it just to have us die here of thirst with our children and our livestock?"

"...hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."

(Jesus says) "You people worship what you do not understand; But the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; I am he, the Messiah, the one speaking with you."

4th Sunday of Lent

"Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the LORD looks into the heart."

"Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness; rather expose them, for it is shameful even to mention the things done by them in secret;"

(Jesus says) "Do you believe in the Son of Man? I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind. If you were born blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying, 'We see,' so your sin remains."

5th Sunday of Lent

"O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them. I will put my spirit in you that you may live, and I will settle you upon your land; thus you shall know that I am the LORD. I have promised, and I will do it, says the LORD."

"Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him."

"Jesus said to her, did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God? I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."



H O L Y W E E K



Palm Sunday we celebrate the first joy of the Lenten Season, with Our Lord's triumphant entrance into Jerusalem where Jesus was welcomed by crowds worshipping him and laying down palm leaves before him. It also marks the beginning of Holy Week, which ends with the greatest tragedy and sorrow.



Early in the week, Jesus spent time with Gentiles in the Temple, and went to the Mount of Olives where He foretold the apostles the events of the next several days, including His impending death. **Holy Thursday** Jesus celebrates the Jewish Passover meal as His Last Supper, and institutes the Sacrament of The Eucharist.



Jesus is arrested by Jewish guards, tried by the Jewish Sanhedrin the high council, and convicted of blasphemy. By day break on the first **Good Friday**, Jesus is turned over to Roman Empire soldiers, and governor Pontius Pilate condemns Jesus to death. His execution last six hours. Jesus suffers excruciating pain for the sins of all mankind before He dies on the cross.



Because of the Jewish Passover Feast, Pilate allowed the body of Jesus to be taken down from the cross, and buried in a nearby grave donated by one of His followers. On **Holy Saturday**, the disciples of Jesus are devastated, and His apostles hid for their lives in great fear they too would be put to death.

The Season of Lent ends at midnight Saturday.

Jesus preached: **"The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed and be raised up on the third day."**