



## Bulletin

**Sacred Heart Parish**  
**Eucharist Schedule: Saturday 4:00**

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**April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021**  
**Holy Saturday — Easter Vigil**

**Masks are  
mandatory in  
the Church**

### Sunday Readings:

Holy Saturday (from *Sabbatum Sanctum*, its official liturgical name) is sacred as the day of the Lord's rest; it has been called the "Second Sabbath" after creation. The day is and should be the most calm and quiet day of the entire Church year, a day broken by no liturgical function. Christ lies in the grave, the Church sits near and mourns. After the great battle He is resting in peace, but upon Him we see the scars of intense suffering...The mortal wounds on His Body remain visible...Jesus' enemies are still furious, attempting to obliterate the very memory of the Lord by lies and slander.

Mary and the disciples are grief-stricken, while the Church must mournfully admit that too many of her children return home from Calvary cold and hard of heart. When Mother Church reflects upon all of this, it seems as if the wounds of her dearly Beloved were again beginning to bleed.

According to tradition, the entire body of the Church is represented in Mary: she is the "credentium collectio universa" (Congregation for Divine Worship, *Lettera circolare sulla preparazione e celebrazione delle feste pasquali*, 73). Thus, the Blessed Virgin Mary, as she waits near the Lord's tomb, as she is represented in Christian tradition, is an icon of the Virgin Church keeping vigil at the tomb of her Spouse while awaiting the celebration of his resurrection.

The pious exercise of the *Ora di Maria* is inspired by this intuition of the relationship between the Virgin Mary and the Church: while the body of her Son lays in the tomb and his soul has descended to the dead to announce liberation from the shadow of darkness to his ancestors, the Blessed Virgin Mary, foreshadowing and representing the Church, awaits, in faith, the victorious triumph of her Son over death. — *Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy*

Although we are still in mourning, there is much preparation during this day to prepare for Easter. Out of the kitchen comes the smells of Easter pastries and bread, the lamb or hams and of course, the Easter eggs.

There are no liturgies celebrated this day, unless the local parish priest blesses the food baskets. In Slavic countries there is a blessing of the traditional Easter foods, prepared in baskets: eggs, ham, lamb and sausages, butter and cheeses, horseradish and salt and the Easter breads. The Easter blessings of food owe their origin to the fact that these particular foods, namely, fleshmeat and milk products, including eggs, were forbidden in the Middle Ages during the Lenten fast and abstinence. When the feast of Easter brought the rigorous fast to an end, and these foods were again allowed at table, the people showed their joy and gratitude by first taking the food to church for a blessing. Moreover, they hoped that the Church's blessing on such edibles would prove a remedy for whatever harmful effects the body might have suffered from the long period of self-denial. Today the Easter blessings of food are still held in many churches in the United States, especially in Slavic parishes.

Old Calendar: Holy Saturday —  
Easter Vigil

On Holy Saturday the Church waits at the Lord's tomb, meditating on his suffering and death. The altar is left bare, and the sacrifice of the Mass is not celebrated. Only after the solemn vigil during the night, held in anticipation of the resurrection, does the Easter celebration begin, with a spirit of joy that overflows into the following period of fifty days.

**Collection:**

March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Envelopes	\$610.00
Loose	\$20.00
Share Lent	\$75.00
Flowers	\$20.00
	\$725.00

**Notices:**

**1: Take-out Fish Cake and Bean:** A big thank you to all who helped make the Fishcake and Bean supper a success. Thanks to all who came and peeled potatoes and made the fishcakes and a big thank you to all who ordered meals.

**2: Silver Rose Prayer Service: A Pro-life Celebration**

The travelling Silver Rose will be in our area on Tuesday, April 13th. Please join with the Knights of Columbus in honouring Mary under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe to reaffirm our dedication to the sanctity of human life. Holy Mass will be held in Sacred Heart Johnstown at the outdoor shrine (weather permitting) or in the church on April 13th at 3:30 pm and then at St. Peter's Church on April 13th at 6:30 pm.

Due to COVID guidelines for church limitation on numbers it is suggested that you sign at the site where you wish to attend. This, in case the outdoor venue becomes unavailable.

