

What Is Triduum?

Directions: Read about the season of Triduum. Then answer the questions.

What is Triduum?

Triduum is the shortest season of the Church year – a total of three days! The word Triduum is Latin for “the three days.” It is one of the most important seasons of the entire Church year. During the three days of Triduum we remember and honor the events of our salvation.

Triduum includes:

- ▶ **Holy Thursday** Mass at night
- ▶ The Celebration of the Lord’s Passion and Adoration of the Holy Cross on **Good Friday**
- ▶ The Easter Vigil on **Holy Saturday** night
- ▶ **Easter Sunday** Mass
- ▶ Evening Prayer on **Easter Sunday**

Holy Thursday

Jesus ate the Last Supper with His Apostles on the night before He died. We call this night Holy Thursday. During the Last Supper, Jesus gave us the Eucharist for the first time. He also made His Apostles the first priests. We honor the beginning of both Sacraments, Holy Eucharist and Holy Orders, during Holy Thursday Mass. During this Mass the bishop or priest washes the feet of twelve people. This is a symbol of how Jesus washed the feet of His Apostles and told them to follow His example.

Earlier in the day on Holy Thursday, every bishop has a Mass with the priests of his diocese. There, he blesses the holy oil, or Chrism, that will be used in the Sacraments all year.

Good Friday and Holy Saturday

On Good Friday we remember Christ's suffering and Death on the Cross. On the first Good Friday, Jesus was put on trial, carried His own Cross, was crucified, and died on the Cross.

We celebrate the Lord's Passion on Good Friday. During this service, we hear Scriptures read, we

adore the cross by kissing the foot of the cross, and we receive the Eucharist, which was consecrated on Holy Thursday. This liturgy usually ends around 3 PM. That is the time that Jesus died.

There are no other liturgies until the Easter Vigil the next night. After the Adoration of the Cross through Holy Saturday, we think about Jesus' Death in a special way, and we wait for His Resurrection. This is just what the Apostles, Mary Magdalene, and His mother Mary did two thousand years ago.

The Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday

The high point of Triduum is the Easter Vigil. It begins when it gets dark on Holy Saturday night. A new Easter Candle is lit and is carried into the dark Church. Other candles are lit from the Easter Candle. Soon the entire Church is lit by candle light. This light represents Jesus the Light of the World. He has risen from the dead!

During the Easter Vigil, we hear different Scriptures read that tell us about how God saved us from sin. New members of the Church are Baptized and welcomed into the Church family. Others receive

Confirmation. Then, everyone is blessed with holy water so we can remember our baptismal promises. And we receive the Eucharist together as one Body of Christ.

The Masses on Easter Sunday begin our celebration of Jesus' Resurrection. Easter is an entire season! It lasts for fifty days and ends on Pentecost. That is when the Holy Spirit came down upon the Apostles. They were filled with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and sent out to share the Gospel with the whole world.

1. What does the Latin word *Triduum* mean?

2. Which two Sacraments do we honor on Holy Thursday?

3. What happened on the first Good Friday?

4. What does the light from the Easter Candle at the Easter Vigil represent?

5. What three Sacraments are received at the Easter Vigil?

6. When does the Easter season end?

HANDOUT B

Last Supper Look and Find

Directions: Compare the two images of *The Last Supper* by Vincente Juan Macip. Can you find 10 apples in the second painting? Circle them when you find them.



HANDOUT B

Last Supper Look and Find

