



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Catholics celebrate holiest week and receive new members

GREEN BAY, Wis. (March 18, 2016) – Catholics in the Diocese of Green Bay join their Catholic brothers and sisters around the world in celebrating Holy Week and the Easter Triduum (meaning the sacred ‘Three Days’), which commemorate the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, March 20-27. At the Easter Vigil Masses in the diocese on Holy Saturday night, 200 individuals will also join the Catholic Church.

Palm Sunday

Holy Week will begin March 20, on Palm Sunday. Parishioners will wave blessed palms in memory of Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem, where he was greeted warmly by followers who laid palms in his path.

Chrism Mass

Tuesday, March 22, Most Reverend Bishop David L. Ricken, Bishop of Green Bay, will concelebrate the annual Chrism Mass with the clergy of the diocese, joined by representatives of all parishes and Catholic institutions of the 16-county Diocese. Bishop Ricken will bless the oil of catechumens, used to anoint those preparing for baptism; the oil of the sick, used in the sacrament of the anointing of the sick; and the Sacred Chrism, used in baptism, confirmation, the ordination of priests and bishops, church dedications, anointing of altars, and blessing of chalices and patens. Parish representatives will receive holy oils to present at their parishes.

Easter Triduum (the Three Days)

The Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday evening celebrates the institution of the Eucharist and priesthood by Jesus at the Last Supper. Bishop Ricken will celebrate Mass at 7 p.m. at the Cathedral.

The Seven Churches Eucharistic Visitation will also begin at 9 p.m. In dioceses across the nation and around the world, there is a visitation of seven churches on the night of Holy Thursday. Individuals will visit the Blessed Sacrament at each of the church’s altars while reflecting on the Seven Last Words of Christ. Bishop Ricken will lead the Visitation, including a 10-minute reflection and short prayer at each site before moving to the next, ending back at the Cathedral. There will be free bus transportation for individuals traveling along the full visitation route, which will depart from St. Francis Xavier Cathedral at 8:45 PM and return to the Cathedral at the end of the evening. Bus reservations may be made by calling 920-272-8342. Limited seats available.

- 9:00 - 9:15 p.m. - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church
- 9:30 - 9:45 p.m. - St. Agnes Church
- 10:00 - 10:15 p.m. - St. John the Evangelist Church
- 10:30 - 10:45 p.m. - St. Philip Church
- 11:00 - 11:15 p.m. - UWGB Catholic Campus Ministry Community (at the UWGB Mauthe Center)
- 11:30 - 11:45 p.m. - Prince of Peace Church
- 12:00 a.m. (Midnight) - St. Francis Xavier Cathedral

Good Friday recalls the death of Jesus on the cross. The Scripture reading of the Lord's Passion, the adoration of the cross, and the General Intercessions (10 prayers for the needs of all people), and the distribution of Holy Communion from the previous evening's Mass are central to this service. Bishop Ricken will celebrate the Good Friday service at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral at 3 p.m. A Service of Shadows, a musical reflection on the Passion of Christ will be held at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral at 7:30 p.m.

On *Holy Saturday morning*, Bishop Ricken will bless Easter food at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral starting at 12 p.m. Worshippers are invited to bring baskets of food that they plan to serve for their Easter meals for this blessing.

Easter Vigil celebrates Jesus' resurrection and the victory over death it promises each of us. The liturgy includes the blessing and lighting of the Paschal (Easter) Candle, an extended Liturgy of the Word proclaiming scripture readings which represent salvation history, the renewal of the baptismal promises of the faithful, and the celebration of Holy Communion. During this liturgy, the baptism of catechumens and reception into the church of those who have already been baptized into a different tradition and now make a full profession of faith as Catholics occurs. Both catechumens and candidates will also receive the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. Bishop Ricken will celebrate Mass at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral at 8 p.m.

Easter Sunday continues the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus on the final day of the Triduum. Bishop Ricken will celebrate Mass at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral at 9 a.m.

For a complete list of all Mass times, visit www.gbdioc.org/mass-times.html.

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Who we are: The Catholic Diocese of Green Bay boldly proclaims the Gospel of Jesus, prayerfully worships in word and sacrament, and compassionately serves those in need. Rooted in the call to form missionary disciples, we strive to spread the good news of God's love and mercy. Established in 1868, the diocese is composed of 324,000 Catholics in 16 counties: Brown, Calumet, Door, Florence, Forest, Kewaunee, Langlade, Manitowoc, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago.

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