



“Truly, this was the Son of God” (Matthew 27:54)

In another gospel Jesus asks Peter, “Who do you say that I am?” In today’s gospel the centurion confesses the answer: *“Truly, this was the Son of God.”*

If you had been there, what would you have thought?

The Son of God? Jesus, who enters Jerusalem, *meek and riding on a donkey*? Jesus, who, as the prophet Isaiah foretold, *gives his back to those who beat him and his cheeks to those who pluck his beard*? Jesus, who stands before the crowds, innocent yet accused, and is silent? Jesus, who has every chance to defend himself—to prove himself—but doesn’t?

What kind of a Savior is this? What kind of a God is this?

There is a poignant moment in the Passion narrative that has always struck me—the moment in the garden when Jesus prays. *“My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will.”* Our God is so humble—has emptied himself *so completely* in the person of Jesus—that he *prays*, just as you and I pray. Think about it. We have a God who knows what it is to pray. He knows what it is to feel sorrowful “even to death,” and he knows what it is to ask and be told, “no.” Jesus, who has all the powers of heaven at his disposal, instead makes a humble prayer to his Father and takes on our fear as a human being. But he does not just take on fear, he also takes it up with himself, along with all pain, sorrow, and even death itself, and in doing so he transfigures all human life, filling it with meaning.

To say that Jesus is the Son of God is to profess belief in a God who does not cling to his transcendence and power, but who humbly empties himself out of love for us, a God who offers himself up “for us men and for our salvation,” who extends Himself in love, who offers relationship. Jesus reveals a God who is Love—who shows us what it means to love. This is our creed. “We believe” in a God who chose a cross for his throne, who poured out his life for us, and who calls us to follow Him. This Holy Week and every week, let our words and our lives confess: *“Truly, this was the Son of God.”*

1. Who is Jesus of Nazareth for you? How might he be calling you to follow him more closely?
2. Jesus does not promise us earthly happiness, but the happiness of heaven. What expectations or desires might you bring before him this Holy Week?
3. As we enter Holy Week, take a moment to reflect over these past weeks of Lent. What did you hope to accomplish? How might you pray with Christ, “Thy will be done” regarding your Lenten practices?

-Rachel McGrew, Family Ministry Coordinator, Our Lady of Divine Providence

Sacred Triduum

As we prepare to celebrate the central mysteries of our faith, our family of parishes hopes that you will journey with us to the cross and to the empty tomb of Jesus, our Lord and healer.

Holy Thursday

We begin the Triduum remembering the gift of the Eucharist, instituted by Christ at the Last Supper. Here we eat the Risen body which is given up in death on the cross. Here we drink the blood that is new covenant in Jesus' blood, shed in death on the cross for us. We also remember Jesus washing the feet of his disciples. Jesus summarizes his whole saving ministry in this powerful act of intimate and personal service.

7:00 pm Mass at Old St. Mary

7:00 pm Mass at Our Lady of Divine Providence-St. Casimir

7:00 pm Mass at SS Peter & Paul

Good Friday

This day is the Passion of the Lord. This is the only day of the year that Mass is not celebrated anywhere in the world. The absence of the sacrifice of the Mass emphasizes the historical sacrificial action of Jesus on the cross. Here we reach the heart of Christ's self-emptying love and so we venerate the cross. On the cross, Jesus shows us that no sin can finally separate us from the love of God, our Father!

12:05 pm Good Friday Service at Old St. Mary

1:00 pm Good Friday Service at Three Holy Women-St. Hedwig

1:30 pm Good Friday Service at SS Peter & Paul

3:00 pm Stations of the Cross at Our Lady of Divine Providence-St. Casimir

5:00 pm Stations of the Cross at Old St. Mary

7:00 pm Tenebrae Service at SS Peter & Paul

Holy Saturday

The fundamental claim of Christianity is that "Christ is risen!" God the Father, has conquered death by raising His Son, Jesus, to new life in the Spirit. Our Easter celebration begins as our family of parishes publicly welcomes adults into full communion with the Church.

1:30 pm Blessing of the Easter Food at Three Holy Women-St. Hedwig

7:30 pm Easter Vigil at Old St. Mary

7:30 pm Easter Vigil at SS Peter & Paul

7:30 pm Easter Vigil at Three Holy Women-St. Hedwig

After the Vigil Masses, we invite everyone to Old Saint Mary's Parish Center to a reception, rejoicing in the new life of Easter and honoring the newly initiated members of our Church.