AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO
THE TRIDUUM
BY JONATHAN TEIXEIRA & MELISSA KEATING FOR THE FOCUS BLOG

HOLY THURSDAY
WHAT HAPPENED ON THAT DAY
Jesus celebrates the Passover/Seder/Last Supper with the Apostles.
Jesus washes their feet, showing them what type of leader they are to be as priests.
Jesus institutes the Eucharist.
Jesus suffers the Agony in the Garden, sweating blood in anguish as he prays.
Judas betrays Jesus and hands him over to the authorities; Jesus is arrested.

GOOD FRIDAY
WHAT HAPPENED ON THAT DAY
While Jesus is interrogated, Peter denies knowing him three times.
Pontius questions Jesus. He offers the crowd a choice: Jesus or Barabbas?
Jesus carries the cross on which he will be crucified.
Jesus is nailed to the cross and left to die.
He gives his mother Mary to John, and in turn, each of us.

EASTER VIGIL
WHAT HAPPENED ON THAT DAY
Jesus is scourged.
Jesus rises from the dead and leaves the tomb.
The guards at the tomb report what happened to the chief priests, who pay them off to tell a cover story.

WHAT YOU’LL SEE AT CHURCH
The priest wears white because it’s a joyful day, celebrating our love for Jesus in the Eucharist.
The priest still washes people’s feet as a sign of his dedication to those whom he serves.
The priest wears red to bring the blood of Jesus shed.
Candles are lit only when Jesus (in the Eucharist) is present, and during the Veneration of the Cross.
St. John’s account of the Passion is read. The congregation often reads the parts of the crowd demanding Jesus’ crucifixion to reinforce how our sins made necessary the cross of Christ.

WHAT YOU’LL SEE AT CHURCH
The tabernacle will still be empty and the church still undecorated.
The Veneration of the Cross occurs during the Good Friday service. Those at the service show a sign of love (kiss, genuflect, etc) to a cross in thanksgiving for Jesus’ cross.

WHAT YOU’LL SEE AT CHURCH
The priest wears white because we’re joyfully celebrating Jesus’ victory over death!

LIVE THE DAY
Keep silence throughout the day, especially from 9:00am to 3:00pm, when Jesus was on the cross.
Increase your time spent praying Reflect on The Passion.
Pray the Stations of the Cross. Your parish may schedule a service.
Take on extra fasting or increased acts of piety.
Pray the sorrowful mysteries of the Rosary.

LIVE THE DAY
Cover or put away your holy pictures and/or statues.
Attend a Thursday Mass (and consecrate) ahead.
The Christ Mass, in which the bishop blesses all the holy oils for his diocese, is also celebrated on Holy Thursday.

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