AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO

THE TRIDUUM

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HOLY THURSDAY

WHAT HAPPENED ON THAT DAY

Jesus celebrates the Passover. He institutes the Eucharist and Supper with the Apostles.

The priest wears white because it’s a joyful day, celebrating the loss of Jesus in the Eucharist.

No Masses are celebrated on Good Friday, so the priest must plan and communicate ahead.

WHAT YOU’LL SEE AT CHURCH

The priest washes people’s feet as a sign of his dedication to those whom he serves.

This is the one day all year on which no Masses are celebrated.

WHAT YOU’LL SEE AT CHURCH

The priest wears red to bring to mind the blood Jesus shed.

Candles are lit only when Jesus in the Eucharist is present, and during the Veneration of the Cross.

LIVE THE DAY

Keep silence throughout the day, especially from 9:00am to 10:00pm, when Jesus was on the cross.

Start the Divine Mercy Novena.

Decorate your house. Easter Lilies symbolize the hope of life and new life found in the resurrection.

WHAT HAPPENED ON THAT DAY

Jesus washes his feet, showing them what type of leader they are to be: a priest.

The guard at the tomb reports what happened to the chief priests, who pay ten silver coins to tell a cover story.

Jesus is taken away and imprisoned.

Judus betrays Jesus and hands him over to the authorities. Jesus is arrested.

WHAT WILL YOU SEE

The Chrism Mass, in which the Bishop blesses all holy oils for his diocese, is also celebrated on Holy Thursday.

The Chalice of Jesus’ blood is present, and the congregation prays:

Pray the Stations of the Cross. Your parish may schedule a service.

Have a feast!

Cover or put away your holy pictures and/or statues.

Attend a Tenebrae service. Check around for times it’s held on various Triduum days.

Take on special fasts or increase your prayers and devotions.

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