

**FATHER MARK SCHULTE**  
**HOMILY**  
**APRIL 3, 2026**

**GOOD FRIDAY (A)**

My Brothers and Sisters, Today we arrive at the second day of the Sacred Triduum, Good Friday (of the Passion of our Lord). We read the account of our Lord's Passion from Sacred Scripture (Jn18:1-19:42). In a moment, we will have an opportunity to give reverence to the Holy Cross, and then we will receive Holy Communion.

The focal point of our Lord's Passion is His Holy Cross (CCC 571). On Calvary the scene is one of chaos and dismay. Jesus' disciples are undoubtedly wondering what will happen next. But out of it all the crucifixion becomes the sight where true life begins. Victory over death has been won.

The Apostle Paul said that to the Jews the cross is a scandal because it is the instrument of a criminal's death. And to the Greeks the cross is ridiculousness because it represents suffering. Whereas to them life is about seeking pleasure as the fulfillment of one's experience. But to the believer the cross is a sign of hope, hope in salvation from eternal death (1 Cor 1:22-24). The cross becomes the image of the price that Jesus freely paid for us.

The letter to the Hebrews tells us that Jesus learned obedience from what He suffered and was made perfect (Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9). Death came through the disobedience of the first man, Adam. Life was returned to us through the obedience of the new man, Jesus Christ. Suffering becomes the price, the ransom from eternal death. The effect of sin is very harsh (death). Therefore, the payment for our sins is equally as harsh. As Jesus suffered for our sake, we are called to suffer in the service of others.

Through the entire gruesome scene on Calvary, Mary the Mother of Jesus remained steadfast in her presence. In her own way the sword of suffering pierced her heart as she witnesses the suffering of her Son. We are redeemed through the passion and suffering of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Through Mary's unique suffering as the Mother of the Redeemer, she becomes the Co-redemptrix. Through her intercession we are able to share in some way in the Redemptive suffering and grace won by Jesus. As we come forward to reverence the cross let us attribute to the Holy Cross the value that it deserves.

NOTE: CCC = Catechism of the Catholic Church