

**FATHER MARK SCHULTE**  
**HOMILY**  
**APRIL 2, 2026**

**HOLY THURSDAY (A, B, C)**

My Brothers and Sisters, Today is Holy Thursday, the first of the three sacred days of the Holy Triduum (CCC 1168). Tonight's Mass is meant to commemorate the Lord's Supper, the Passover Meal; a celebration which has taken place among the Jews for well over a thousand years, since the time of that first Passover Meal in Egypt where they lived as slaves (Ex 12:1-14).

We recall that at the first Passover meal God commanded the Jews to prepare a one-year-old, unblemished male lamb to eat. They were to put the blood of that lamb on their door posts as a sign of protection from the avenging angel that would come and kill all the first born in the land of Egypt. That blood was a sign of God's saving action for His people.

Those same actions are represented in the Lord's Passover Meal, which through His own words and actions has become the first Mass. The Old Covenant has been fulfilled in Jesus and now Jesus has established a New Covenant in His own blood, through His Passion and Death. He has become the eternal Passover Lamb whose blood saves all who believe in Him.

At this Last Supper Passover Meal Jesus will establish His New Covenant and New Testament Priesthood with His Apostles. They will become the first priests of His Church. Jesus took the bread, broke it, gave it to His Apostles and said, "Take and eat, this is my Body". He took the cup of wine, blessed it and said, "Take and drink this is the cup of my Blood, of the New and Everlasting Covenant". "Do this in memory of Me." From that first Last Supper Mass up until the present time, and the very Mass that we are now participating in, the ordained priests of the Catholic Church have been fulfilling the words of Jesus' command, "Do this in memory of Me".

In the second reading the Apostle Paul describes how Jesus revealed to him these words of Consecration (1 Cor 11:23-26). The blood of the Passover Lamb from that first Passover Meal in Egypt and placed on the door posts of Gods' people, protecting them from death, prefigures the Saving Blood of Jesus on the lips of believers who receive His Body and Blood in Holy Communion.

At that time Jesus washed the feet of His Apostles to show them that they were to be men of service to the people and to each other. He said, "I have given you an example to follow. As I have done for you, you should also do" (Jn 13:1-15).

According to the ancient tradition of the Church I will wash the feet of twelve men who symbolize the twelve Apostles. As an ordained priest acting in the person of Jesus Christ, I represent Jesus to the people as their servant and shepherd.

Tomorrow night the Good Friday Service will take place. We will once again read the words of the Lord's Passion. We will also have an opportunity to venerate His Holy Cross, the instrument of our salvation.

The following Saturday evening is the Easter Vigil when new members are brought into the various parishes. At that time we will review our salvation history from Sacred Scripture and renew our own baptismal promises. And at that time, as also on Easter Sunday, we will celebrate the resurrection from the dead of Jesus Christ and how all who believe in Him will share in His resurrection to eternal life.

I invite everyone to participate in all of these services to help us experience the full magnitude of what Jesus has done for His people. Amen.

NOTE: CCC = Catechism of the Catholic Church