

Attention Adorers

This Week, you are encouraged to keep your hour of prayer. During your hour of prayer, keep before you that Christ is no longer present to us in the Blessed Sacrament, for the Holy Season of the Triduum is upon us.

**Celebration of the Easter Vigil –
Saturday, April 20th – 8:00 p.m.**

Darkness: The Easter Vigil begins in a darkness that represents all that is hidden and secret, dishonest and divisive, abusive, fearful, despairing, humbling. It is the darkness of in our world and ourselves. If we are restless and impatient in the dark waiting for “something to happen” we could miss the power of what is to come.

Then the light of the Easter fire in front of the church breaks into the darkness.

The Light of Christ:

The Easter Candle is lit from the new fire and processed into the community. We receive its light and we experience the power of that light as it grows inside the Church. The candle is brought to the front of the Altar and the Deacon begins to sing the Easter Proclamation, almost sounds like the Eucharistic Prayer. We give thanks and praise for this symbol of the Light of Christ, present among us in our midst.

“Friends in Christ we have begun our solemn vigil. Let us listen to the Word of God, recalling how He saved his people throughout history and, in the fullness of time, sent His Son to be our Redeemer.”

The Word: Salvation History: We hear 7 Old Testament readings and sing 7 Psalms, each followed by a time of silence, then a designated prayer. After the last reading the candles on the Altar are lit as we sing “Glory to God”. Now we are ready to hear the New Testament reading, sing the Alleluia, and hear the Gospel reading, “He has been raised!” At this point in the Liturgy we are exultant with joy at the Resurrection of our Lord and His victory over sin and death.

The Liturgy of Baptism: Those who are to be Baptized are now called forth with their sponsors. This night is about all of us and the renewal of our entire community. The initiation and revitalization become one this night.

“As our brothers and sisters approach the waters of rebirth, let us help them by our prayers and ask God, our almighty Father, to support them with his mercy and love.”



The Litany of Saints: Now we ask the community of Saints in glory for their help. This same Litany is sung before the Ordination of Priests. We recall how these Saints once walked the earth as ordinary women and men who journeyed through situations very much like our own. They let God transform their lives and now intercede for us in glory. We may also turn to other Saints we have known, who may not be sung as part of this Litany, but whose love we have known and to whom we can turn tonight to intercede for these Elect for Baptism and our entire community.

Blessing of the Water: Now the Priests, ministers and those to be Baptized go to the Font of Baptism, drawing us there, as the Presider blesses the water. These wonderful prayers are like a mini lesson, both for those about to be Baptized, and for all of us. When the Priest dips the Easter candle in the water, then lifts it up, we experience a ritual that announces the meaning of our Baptism into these waters: one with Jesus in dying that we might be one with Him in rising.

Profession of Faith - Renunciation of Evil: The renewal of our Baptismal promises is a powerful experience of grace that is personal for each one of us.

“Do you reject sin, so as to live in the freedom of God’s children?”

We want to say, “Yes!” but reflection may show we long to be free, even as we still cling to some unhealthy habits. So the next question takes us even deeper.

“Do you reject the glamour of evil, and refuse to be mastered by sin?”

There really is glamour in evil sometimes and it can claim a mastery over us. The renunciation that is asked of us is about freedom: Will we personally choose to be free and reject all sin and darkness?

“Do you reject Satan, father of sin and prince of darkness?”

Now we are ready to profess the faith of the Church, choosing to believe in the One true God who gives us life.

Baptism and Explanatory Rites: Next is the Baptism of the Elect - a major highlight of the night! We feel the power of this moment and open our hearts to their joy and our own.

We are now invited to the Font to sign ourselves in the new



waters of Baptism, water made holy by the blessing of God through the Priest. Anything this Holy Water touches receives the blessing that God, through the Priest, placed on it. When the newly Baptized return clothed in a white

garment, they receive a candle lit from the new Easter candle, and share this Light of Christ with the candles of the assembly for the Renewal of our own Baptismal Promises.

Celebration of Confirmation: The newly baptized are joined by those prepared to come into full communion with the Catholic Church, now ready to share in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit through the anointing of Confirmation.

The Priests lay hands on each person as we pray in silence, then anoints them with Holy Oil. We feel the Spirit



of God move among us: “Veni Sancte Spiritus” ... “Come Holy Spirit” ... and recall the Gifts of the Spirit received through the love and grace of God in Confirmation. Now the newly confirmed take their place among the assembly of the faithful, ready to join us for the first time at the Altar Table of the Lord.

The Eucharist: The power of tonight’s Sacraments and rituals lead us to celebrate the Eucharist. After months of study and preparation, surrounded by the power of God and the Saints Peter and Paul faith community, the newly Confirmed receive the final Sacrament of Initiation: *the Body and Blood of Christ*. We are ready to celebrate with the Easter Masses: 8:00 am, 10:30 am, 2:00 pm and 10:30 pm! The tomb is empty. There is Light in the midst of our darkness. We’ve been fed by the Word of God and have new life in the waters of Baptism. We eat of His Body, drink of His Blood and receive new Life in Him as He has promised. *Alleluia!*

Do I Know Anyone to Invite to Mass? Think about it. You probably do: a friend who has had a rough time lately and is feeling alone; a sibling who stopped going to Mass; a neighbor or colleague who says he’s just gotten too busy; your spouse or child. Just pass along a bulletin, our web site (www.stsppchurch.org), or quietly tell them you have found a great parish – a home and would like them to come with you sometime. This Holy Week may be just the opportunity you and they have been waiting for.

Easter Duty: It is a precept (law) of the Catholic Church that all who have been initiated to the sacraments "shall receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season." In the United States, this extends from Ash Wednesday to Trinity Sunday inclusive. This is a minimum standard and it obliges quite seriously. The annual confession of sins by way of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a precept which obliges those who are

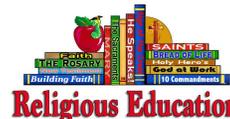
conscious of having committed serious sin, and would be required prior to their Easter communion.

Easter Flowers: Did you know the flowers in the church throughout the Liturgical Year are totally dependent upon your generous donations through the Easter and Christmas Flower fund envelopes included in your envelope packet? The seven weeks of Easter through Pentecost (April 21st – June 9th) provides us with another opportunity to donate



toward the beauty of the season “in memory of” or “in honor of” a loved one. Please print the names clearly on your “Easter Flower” envelope and drop it in the collection basket. Thank you so much for the difference YOU make in the beauty of our worship space throughout the church year.

Religious Education Classes 2018-2019



PSR – Pre-School thru 5th Grade: PSR Classes Resume this Sunday, April 14th with classes beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the school building and concluding at 10:15 a.m.

April Schedule – Sundays, 9:00-10:15 a.m.:

April 14 – Class
April 21 – No Class – Easter Sunday
April 28 – Class

Youth Ministry

Our Middle School and High School Youth program will not be held this Wednesday, April 17th. Classes will resume next Wednesday, April 24th with Mass at 5:30 p.m., continue with dinner and then class. Classes conclude at 8:00 p.m.

April Schedule

April 17 – No Class - Holy Week-Service Project
April 24 - Class

Service Project for our Youth: A special service project is being made available to our youth on Wednesday, April 17th. Our religious education classes will not be held on Wednesday, April 17th but youth are invited to come and help prepare our church for Holy Week. There are many tasks that need to happen in preparation for this Holy Season of the Triduum. We will gather immediately after the 5:30 p.m. Mass in the church so come and join us.

Alpha Pregnancy Care Center will be holding its annual fundraising Dinner on Monday, May 6, 2019 at THE SILO located at 110 John Rives Road here in Hopkinsville. Seating begins at 5:30 p.m. and Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. If you are interested and would like to sit at the Saints Peter and Paul Table, please call the parish office to



hold a spot for you.

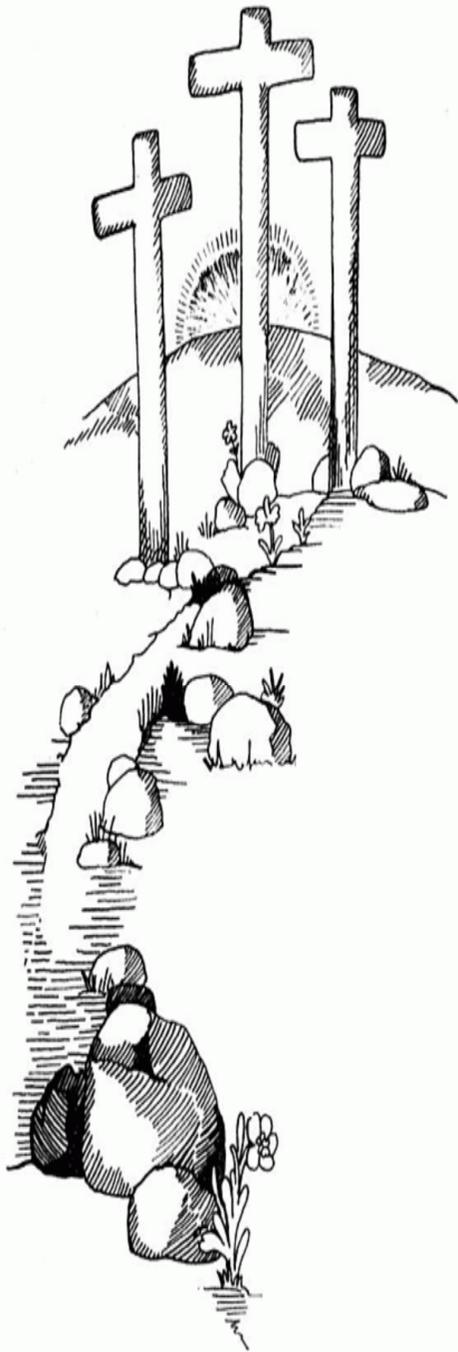
Good Friday Pésame Procession

*Friday, April 19, 2019
following the 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday Service in Spanish*



Join our Hispanic Community as they take a pilgrimage with the statue of Our Lady of Sorrows as a symbol of accompanying Mary, Our Mother, giving her “el pésame” or condolences for the loss of her son, Jesus.

This pilgrimage will take place immediately following our 7:00 p.m. Spanish Good Friday Service. We will process in silent prayer with this statue around the perimeter of our property. All are welcome to come and experience this procession.



Christian County Ministerial Association

Cross Walk

Good Friday
April 19, 2019

Gather in front of the
“Old Court House”
At 10:00 a.m.

The walk pauses for prayer at:

Virginia Street Baptist Church
First Presbyterian Church
First United Methodist Church
Pioneer Cemetery

Community Invited