



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Catholics celebrate holiest week and receive new members

GREEN BAY, Wis. (Apr. 6, 2017) – Catholics in the Diocese of Green Bay join their Catholic brothers and sisters around the world in celebrating Holy Week and the Easter Triduum (meaning the sacred ‘Three Days’), which commemorate the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, April 9-16. At the Easter Vigil Masses in the diocese on Holy Saturday night, over 200 individuals will also join the Catholic Church.

Palm Sunday

Holy Week will begin April 9, on Palm Sunday. Parishioners will wave blessed palms in memory of Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem, where he was greeted warmly by followers who laid palms in his path. The Most Reverend Bishop David L. Ricken, Bishop of Green Bay, will celebrate Mass at 9 a.m. at the St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Green Bay.

Chrism Mass

Tuesday, April 11, Bishop Ricken will concelebrate the annual Chrism Mass with the clergy of the diocese, joined by representatives of all parishes and Catholic institutions of the 16-county Diocese. Bishop Ricken will bless the oil of catechumens, used to anoint those preparing for baptism; the oil of the sick, used in the sacrament of the anointing of the sick; and the Sacred Chrism, used in baptism, confirmation, the ordination of priests and bishops, and the dedication of new churches and altars. Parish representatives will receive Holy Oils to present at their parishes. Due to limited space, tickets for representatives are required for attendance.

Easter Triduum (the Sacred Three Days)

The Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday evening, April 13, celebrates the institution of the Eucharist and priesthood by Jesus at the Last Supper. Bishop Ricken will celebrate Mass at 7 p.m. at the Cathedral.

A *Eucharistic Visitation* of seven Green Bay churches, led by Bishop Ricken, will also be held including a short prayer and reflection at each church site before the reserved Eucharist from the earlier Mass. There will be free bus transportation for individuals traveling along the full visitation route, which will depart from St. Francis Xavier Cathedral at 8:45 PM and return to the Cathedral at the end of the evening. Bus reservations may be made by calling 920-272-8342. Limited seats available.

- 9:00 - 9:15 p.m. - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church
- 9:30 - 9:45 p.m. - St. Agnes Church
- 10:00 - 10:15 p.m. - St. Willebrord Church
- 10:30 - 10:45 p.m. - St. Bernard Church
- 11:00 - 11:15 p.m. - UWGB Catholic Campus Ministry Community (at the UWGB Student Union)
- 11:30 - 11:45 p.m. - St. Philip the Apostle Church
- 12:00 a.m. (Midnight) - St. Francis Xavier Cathedral

Good Friday, April 14, recalls the death of Jesus on the cross. The Scripture reading of the Lord’s Passion, the adoration of the cross, and the General Intercessions (10 prayers for the needs of all people), and the distribution of Holy Communion from the previous evening’s Mass are central to this service.

Bishop Ricken will celebrate the Good Friday service at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral at 3 p.m. A Service of Shadows, a musical reflection on the Passion of Christ will be held at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral at 7:30 p.m.

On *Holy Saturday morning*, April 15, Bishop Ricken will bless Easter food at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral starting at 12 p.m. Worshippers are invited to bring baskets of food that they plan to serve for their Easter meals for this blessing.

Easter Vigil celebrates Jesus' resurrection and the victory over death it promises each of us. The liturgy includes the blessing and lighting of the Paschal (Easter) Candle, an extended Liturgy of the Word proclaiming scripture readings which represent salvation history, the renewal of the baptismal promises of the faithful, and the celebration of Holy Communion. During this liturgy, the baptism of catechumens and reception into the church of those who have already been baptized into a different tradition and now make a full profession of faith as Catholics occurs. Both catechumens and candidates will also receive the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. Bishop Ricken will celebrate Mass at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral at 8:15 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 16, continues the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus on the final day of the Triduum. Bishop Ricken will celebrate Mass at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral at 9 a.m.

For a complete list of all Mass times, visit www.gbdioc.org/mass-times.html.

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Who we are: As friends and followers of Jesus, the Catholic Diocese of Green Bay is devoted to fostering households and communities of discipleship through the mission and ministry of the Catholic Church. We are missionary disciples striving to lead all people to the Kingdom of God. Established in 1868, the diocese is composed of 324,000 Catholics in 16 counties: Brown, Calumet, Door, Florence, Forest, Kewaunee, Langlade, Manitowoc, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago.

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