

Mark 11: 1-10 or John 12: 12-16
Isaiah 50: 4-7, Philippians 2: 6-11 Mark 14: 1-15: 47 or 15: 1-39

FOCUS: Our Parish church this weekend is the table, the cross, the empty tomb. The great composer Mozart called the Solemn High Mass the highest accomplishment of Western art because it was a drama that appealed to all the senses. Therefore, he composed many musical settings for the Mass, his Requiem being, perhaps, the most famous. For the artist Mozart the liturgy was somewhat like watching a play; today, we place a higher value on participation in the liturgy. Yet, in Holy Week Mozart's observation carries some weight. While some preachers may struggle during Holy Week to find new angles and fresh approaches that will move the television generations, the rites speak for themselves; the procession with palms- the Passion account-the Lord's Supper and the washing of feet-the unveiling and veneration of the cross-the Easter vigil.

We participate with the worship aids provided by our parishes, but we are surrounded by awesome symbols. Just consider the three most eloquent symbols of this Holy Week, the greatest week that ever was-a supper table, a wooden cross, an empty tomb.

The original supper table was probably low, horseshoe shaped, with cushions for the diners to recline on instead of chairs. Here Jesus said his farewell, washed the feet of the Twelve, and surprised them with the words of consecration. Our altar tables are now the gathering places where we share heavenly faith and food. This Thursday night, we gather in the name of Jesus so he may nourish us and show us how to care for each other.

The true cross that Jesus carried was most likely only the horizontal beam. The vertical beam was probably a permanent fixture on Golgotha. Together, the two beams made the cross, the instrument of death, symbol of the suffering Jesus invites us to join. The cross in our sanctuary is a visible reminder for us of suffering and death and recalls how dearly Christ paid for our redemption.

The empty tomb was a man-made cave hewn out of rock with a large, flat stone rolled across its front. The empty tomb is the most eloquent of this week's symbols, speaking of the triumph of life over death, of hope over despair, of faith over doubt. This Saturday night we will assemble in tomb-like darkness and witness the emergence of Easter light. Actually, every Sunday as we gather in our eucharistic celebration, we recall the passion, death, and resurrection of God's Son. So, we have fifty-one little Easters, but these three days of Holy Week, which we call the Paschal Triduum, are very special. Give this week to the table, the cross, and the empty tomb. Listen to Him who touched these symbols that springtime two millennia ago and who bids us, "Do this in memory of me."

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Prayers for Michael Kwinn III.

Michael Kwinn, III, son of LTCs Brigitte and Michael Kwinn is fighting cancer. The Most Holy Trinity Parish family has secured a medal of Mary of the Miraculous Medal that was touched by Mother Teresa of the Missionaries of Charity in 1997. Michael and his family have been blessed with the medal and are wearing the two medals. We are asking members of the parish family to pray to God for Michael's healing through the intercession of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal and Mother Teresa whose is being considered for canonization to Sainthood. Please feel free to ask others.

Novena Prayer: O Immaculate Virgin Mary / Mother of Our Lord Jesus and our Mother, / Penetrated with the most lively confidence in your all-powerful and never-failing intercession, / manifested so often through the Miraculous Medal, / We your loving and trustful children implore you to obtain for us the graces and favors we ask during this novena, / if they be beneficial to our immortal souls, and the souls for whom we pray. /

(Healing of Michael Kwinn III)

You know, O Mary, how often our souls have been the sanctuaries of your Son who hates iniquity. / Obtain for us then a deep hatred of sin and that purity of heart which will attach us to God alone so that our every thought, word and deed may tend to His greater glory. / Obtain for us also a spirit of prayer and self-denial that we may recover by penance what we have lost by sin and at length attain to that blessed abode where you are the Queen of angels and of men. Amen

Jesus, we humbly ask you to glorify in heaven and on earth, the servant of God, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who generously participated in Your sufferings, who loved Thee so much and labored for the glory of your heavenly Father and for the good of souls.

With confidence, we beseech thee to grant us, through her intercession the grace of ...

(Healing of Michael Kwinn III) which we ardently desire.

Pray: *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Amen (3 times)*

Format borrowed from Prayer for Intercession of