



**Thursday, April 9, 2020:
Thursday of Holy Week**



Catholic Church

215 South 8th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402

Good Morning!

Blessed Holy Triduum! Today we read from Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14, Psalm 116, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 and John 13:1-15. I am always disturbed by the juxtaposition by which today's gospel opens up, "Before the feast of Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to pass from this world to the Father. He loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end. The devil had already induced Judas, Son of Simon the Iscariot, to hand him over." The love of Jesus is so intense for all and yet one can turn against Jesus so easily. Did Judas struggle with this? Was he destined for this role? It is startling to think that we could do the same. Jesus washes the feet of the disciples as an act of service and invites us to do the same, to wash others' feet and to have our feet washed. Holy Thursday is the joy before the darkness. Sometimes the darkness comes before the joy as we read in Exodus.

Darkness exists in today's world. Today is different than every other Holy Thursday we have celebrated. Hope is found in the Eucharist and the call to service. This year we are asked to stay away. It is heart-breaking and we all know it. Are there risks we could take, "yes, but why?" Maybe we need to think differently. We need to ask ourselves the meaning of Holy Thursday for us this year under a "Stay at Home" order. One, we can reflect on how many Catholics throughout the world cannot freely celebrate openly their faith. Two, how can I be of service to another, like so many in our medical field, first responders and military personnel who are on the front lines of this disease, store clerks, and those who continue to serve us in so many ways enabling us to maintain somewhat of a normalcy to our lives. What can I do to serve or serve them? Maybe staying at home would save the lives of others and my own or that of my family. What can I do to wash the feet of others? Share in our daily bread by offering help to our neighbors, food, a cheerful greeting? This day is different than every other Holy Thursday. How can I/we make it special and not wallow in the restrictions that have been placed on us.

We find strength in the Eucharist. Yet fasting from the Eucharist makes our heart long to see the Lord in ways we may never have seen him before. May we recognize that Jesus is home with me. Jesus is in my brother, my sister, my Mother, my Father, my neighbor. Jesus is daily with me showing me hope, giving me strength, teaching me patience and rightful desire. Jesus shows us in a humble way, how to bring hope to our fearful, dark and confused world that the Corona Virus has induced. Jesus is with me, in me and around me. May I be thankful today that I love Jesus and most of all that Jesus loves me. In this love lies the strength I need to walk with Jesus through this suffering, to the cross, to the tomb and to the resurrection. It is through suffering that I can better

understand, forgive and receive and share in the great love Jesus has for me. History and experience tells us that suffering brings strength and unity to people. It is not easy but it is not the end. Our end is hope. Our end is love. Our end is forgiveness. We find it all in Jesus and in Jesus we find ourselves.

May we find a new way to celebrate Holy Thursday as a family, as a community, as a world. "Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ." Jesus says, "Love one another as I have loved you."

Peace,

RevKev

<http://www.usccb.org/bible/> "Our blessing-cup is a communion with the Blood of Christ."