

HOLY THURSDAY READINGS:

First Reading: *Exodus 12: 1-8, 11-14*

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 116: 12-13, 15-16, 17-18*

Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 11: 23-26*

Gospel Reading: *John 13: 1-15*

HOMILY FROM PETER GALLAGHER, SJ, for the Mass of the Lord's Supper. (a Jesuit of Britain)

At the end of the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, the Blessed Sacrament is carried in procession to the altar of repose. Guarded overnight on that altar are the consecrated hosts which will be consumed on Good Friday at the solemn commemoration of the Lord's passion. Is 'repose', however, a misnomer? The vigil recalls the garden of Gethsemane. Here Jesus waits: he agonizes; he braces himself for betrayal and arrest; he prays for strength. What repose was there for Jesus in the garden? In this place he experienced an agony. He contemplated an obedience to the will of the Father which would make him humbler yet.

LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU At the Last Supper he presented the new commandment, love one another as I have loved you, by washing the feet of his disciples. This new law would shortly be further explained by the passion. Now he showed how perfect his love was. In the instituting of the eucharist comes the further command: do this as a memorial of me and every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are proclaiming my death.

Far from encouraging rest, the Last Supper is a call to action both charitable and sacramental. We are summoned not to repose but to service and to the imitation of Christ. The phrase 'as I have loved you' would reveal its most terrible meaning in the sufferings of Calvary. Christ's agonized submission was neither rest nor repose. The garden would soon be invaded by the arresting officers. The men of violence allow him no peace.

SUPPOSE THAT WE ARE THE ALTAR OF REPOSE? Could Jesus be brought to us to find rest? He certainly entrusts himself to us. The commandment of love is addressed to us. I have given you an example so that you may copy what I have done to you. Holy Communion and the commandment to love one another are certainly delivered to us. The presence in our life of Jesus and his perfect charity is a source of energy for us. The whole Church is built up by the outpouring of divine strength and encouragement which is taking place. The Lord confers peace on us so that we can do the good work which he commands, and for which he energizes and strengthens us.

AN EMPTINESS WHICH ONLY JESUS CAN FILL Amid the tumult, from where comes the rest and tranquility which properly surrounds the altar of repose that is us? Principally our repose is from and in Jesus Himself. He was calm in the garden and he will be at peace amid everything he endures in the passion. It is the Lord's presence in our heart which gives us peace as he stirs us to action and

generosity. Without him we would be lost in anxiety or delusion. On the altar of repose is a tabernacle which is empty until Jesus is placed there. We 'altars' each have an emptiness which only Jesus can fill.

Even the most eager disciples can be slumberous: the eye-lids of Peter, James and John are heavy. The vigil at the altar of repose finds us weary. Yet there can be in us a prayerfulness, an attention and a vigilance which are the architects of the repose we seek. Our prayerful openness to God and his will for us sustains our many activities and good works. Jesus is handed over to us for safekeeping. Is there room in our life for a Lord who commands us to serve even as he renews us with his gifts? We receive Jesus into our life and we find that He transforms us.

We have our Gethsemane moment, however. We tremble at the thought of the suffering of the morrow. Jesus knew what awaited him. We can guess at the cost of our discipleship. We are nervous, naturally, at the prospect of all sorts of renunciation or pain we can imagine might be asked of us.

WE ARE THE DESTINATION As altars of repose, we could seem to be a temporary solution to an accommodation problem. As the dwelling-place of the Lord do we lack solidity or permanence? Imagine that the procession is approaching us. We are its destination. Jesus is being carried to us. On Good Friday he will be pushed roughly towards Calvary.

On Holy Thursday his minders usher him towards us. He is venerated in us. Prayer and worship are our function now. Adoration is our purpose. The One who has been brought to us reassures us about our suitability. The now-filled emptiness has some beauty. We are bedecked by contemplation like beautifully arranged flowers, shining linen and bright candles.

To such altars as us Jesus says, without irony or disappointment: take your rest now. We have been built for repose. We go in to the altar of God. To the God who gives joy to our vigor and hope.

Holy Week Resources Online:

[THE EASTER TRIDIUM](#) (Dan Schutte, composer & musician, St. Louis Jesuits)

[STATIONS OF THE CROSS](#) (from the Central & Southern Jesuit Province)

[ARCHDIOCESE OF SANTA FE HOLY WEEK](#)

CRS Rice Bowls

From Anne Avellone, M.Div, LMSW

Director, Office of Social Justice and Respect Life
Archdiocese of Santa Fe

We thank you for your Rice Bowl order, and for your parish's or school's participation in Rice Bowl this



Lent. Holy Week is upon us. We mourn not being able to spend these sacred days in our parishes. We can still keep these days holy at home with our loved ones.

Through CRS Rice Bowl, we have been journeying with our brothers and sisters in Kenya, Honduras, and Vietnam. I invite you and your parish/school to continue our prayer and solidarity during Holy Week. Catholic Relief Services has some excellent resources to help us pray through this sacred time. Click here for prayers, videos and a digital stations of the cross: <https://www.csricebowl.org/holy-week>

Please notify your parishioners that they can “Empty Your Rice Bowl” virtually this week.

Instead of dropping your Rice Bowl off at the parish or school, **we have set up another way you can give!** Rice Bowl helps us to be in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in need. Give your 2020 Lenten Rice Bowl Contribution here: <https://archdiocesesantafegiving.org/virtual-crs-rice-bowl>. Please donate what you have collected. It is more important now than ever before!

Where Does Our Lenten Rice Bowl Money Go?

100% of CRS Rice Bowl contributions support projects for the poor *both overseas and* here in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. 25% of the contributions fund local poverty and hunger alleviation programs in dioceses across the United States. From the Rice Bowl money collected from 82 parishes, schools and other organizations during Lent 2019, \$19,160.00 went to 18 local organizations that work to alleviate hunger and homelessness in our Archdiocese: [Where Does Our Lenten Rice Bowl Money Go?](#)

Watch **Thank You** Video: <https://photos.crs.org/rb2020videos/he192d44e#he192d44e>

Blessings this Holy Week,
Anne Avellone

PRAYER FOR A PANDEMIC

By Cameron Bell

May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors
Remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home
Remember those who must choose between
preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our
children when their schools close
Remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips
Remember those that have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the
tumult of the economic market
Remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
Remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country,
let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap
our arms around each other,

Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace
of God to our neighbors.

Amen.

HOLY WEEK: A TIME APART FOR RENEWAL

The Symbols of Holy Week

The liturgies of Holy Week are filled with some of the richest and most ancient symbols of the Catholic faith. The waving of palms on Passion (Palm) Sunday reminds us that we are called to be followers of Jesus,



not just fans who cheer from a distance. The washing of feet on Holy Thursday speaks to us of the selfless love that we are called to practice in imitation of Jesus. The veneration of the cross on Good Friday reminds us that, as Christians, we believe that Jesus can overcome anything, even death. The lighting of the Easter fire in a darkened church and the celebration of baptisms on Holy Saturday speak to us of the new life that is ours because of Jesus' triumph over the darkness of sin and death through his resurrection.