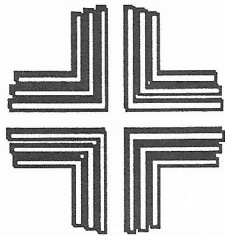


# Word on Worship

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## CELEBRATING THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM IN LIGHT OF THE THIRD EDITION OF THE ROMAN MISSAL

Rev. Thomas B. Iwanowski  
Pastor, Saint Joseph  
Oradell/New Milford



All three days of the Sacred Paschal Triduum (Triduum) celebrate the Passion, Death and Resurrection of the Lord. These days are not historical re-enactments of these events in the life of Jesus. The three days are a unit, one celebration of the paschal mystery by which we are brought to new life. This article focuses the principal liturgies of the Triduum, namely, the Mass of the Lord's Supper, the Celebration of the Lord's Passion, the Easter Vigil, and the Mass of Easter Sunday. It highlights the directions found in the third edition of the *Roman Missal (RM)* regarding these liturgies and instructions found in the *Ceremonial of Bishops (CB)*, the *Circular Letter Concerning the Preparation and Celebration of the Easter Feasts (CLEF)* issued by the Congregation for Divine Worship in 1988, the *Rite of Baptism of Children (RB)* and the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)*.

**NOTE: Any instruction found in the third edition of the *Roman Missal* that did not appear in the previous *Sacramentary* appears in bold print.**

### THURSDAY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER AT THE EVENING MASS

According to the *Roman Missal*, ideally there should only be one celebration of the Mass on this day, namely, the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper. The practice of celebrating Masses earlier in the day confuses the start of the Triduum. Such Masses imply the Triduum has already begun, yet it is "with the celebration of Mass on the evening of Holy Thursday the Church begins the Easter Triduum." (*CLEF*, 44) Such morning Masses also lessen attendance at the main celebration.

According to the *Roman Missal*, "where a pastoral reason requires it, the local Ordinary may permit another Mass to be celebrated in churches and oratories in the evening and, in the case of genuine necessity, even in the morning, but only for the faithful who are in no way able to participate in the evening Mass. Care should, nevertheless, be taken that celebrations of this sort do not take place for the advantage of private persons or special small groups, and do not prejudice the evening Mass." (*RM, Thursday of the Lord's Supper*, 3) The days of the Triduum are unique in the Church's calendar, and this uniqueness should be reflected in the liturgical schedule of the parish.

The tabernacle is to be completely empty before the celebration of the Mass of the Lord's Supper. The doors of the tabernacle should be open and its candle extinguished. (*RM, Thursday of the Lord's Supper*, 5)

"A sufficient amount of bread should be consecrated in this Mass for the Communion of the clergy and the people on this and the following day." (*RM, Thursday of the Lord's Supper*, 5) During the days before the Triduum, priests and others who prepare the bread and wine for Mass should see that only the elements necessary for the communion of the faithful are consecrated. Only a few hosts should remain to provide for the possible need of the sick or dying on Wednesday or Thursday of Holy Week. This should be the practice throughout the year. The Eucharist is reserved in the tabernacle for the

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Use of *Roman Missal* Texts in other Liturgical Rituals

