

The Easter Triduum: Recognizing, Not Just Remembering

Last week I spoke of how the mystery of Christ's life, death, and resurrection is so big that we take three days to celebrate it. Likewise, I need more than just one week to write about it here, so I return to it today. As noted, the word "Triduum" refers to the three days of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, including the Easter Vigil. In these different celebrations we don't simply recall or re-enact the historical events of Jesus' last days before his death on the Cross, or resurrection from that death. Within some Christian traditions there is a strong focus on the historical facts and circumstances of Jesus' death and resurrection. The gospel texts themselves do contain significant historical references, such as the mention of Pontius Pilate, King Herod, and Barabbas as an insurgent and murderer. But in our Catholic liturgical celebration our focus is much more on the *mystery* of Christ's dying and rising in our lives today than its *history* in first century Israel. We celebrate not just what once happened to Jesus, but what continues to happen among us as a people called to conversion, gathered in faith, and gifted with the Spirit of holiness. We celebrate God's presence and action deep within our hearts, recreating us as a new human community, broken like bread for the life of the world, rich in compassion, steadfast in hope, and fearless in the search for justice and peace for all. Our prayer these days seeks not just to *remember* what happened to Jesus back there and then, but to *recognize* how his dying and rising continues to happen ever anew for us here and now, and how we can live that Easter *mystery* in the personal *history* of our daily lives.

Please let us know what else about our faith tradition you'd like to find out more about. Contact Fr. Dan Krettek at dkrettek@saintmaryhc.org.