



March, 2024

Special Dates:

World Day of Prayer (March 1)

24 Hours for the Lord (March 8-9)

Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace (CCODP) (March 17)

St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary (March 19)

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (March 24)

Diocesan Chrism Mass (March 26) / 6:30pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral (Prince Albert)

The Sacred Paschal Triduum (March 28-30)

The Resurrection of the Lord (March 31)

Featured Special Days: (Holy Week)

“Holy Week is the week which precedes the great Feast of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday: it includes the last days of Lent and the beginning of the Easter Triduum. During Holy Week, the Church celebrates the mysteries of salvation accomplished by Christ in the last days of his life on earth, beginning with his messianic entrance into Jerusalem.”

****taken from ‘Ordo: Liturgical Calendar 2023-2024’ published by CCCB**



Food for Thought! Celebrating the Liturgical Mystery

From this mystery the assembly takes its identity. No matter the brokenness, the sinfulness, the tragedy, no matter the delight, the creativity, the triumph, our God does not abandon us, but walks with us through the joy and devastation of our lives to a place where Life does triumph over death... The paschal mystery marks the whole of our lives; it sums up Jesus' experience of God: God is faithful, no matter what. Not even death could separate Jesus from God. Christ offers praise and thanks for this faithfulness; we who live now in him do the same...

Full Participation: Lay people are full participants in the liturgical action, not second-class citizens. In *The Assembly Celebrates*, James Challancin has pointed out how the hierarchical ordering of the liturgy described in the CSL actually includes lay people. Most people would be surprised to realize this. He reminds us that the word "hierarchy" is derived from the Greek word for "holy." All God's holy people celebrate the eucharist, carrying out those actions that belong to them.

Conscious Participation: Hopefully you're awake when you come to celebrate the sacred mysteries, because not only will you need to be awake, but also to be conscious of what you're doing. You're able to recognize that you're giving praise, or listening, or reflecting, and you deliberately choose to do so.

Active Participation: Active participation goes hand-in-hand with having a place in the celebration. Our job is not to be spectators at the priest's celebration, but to assume our rightful role, for "all the church's a stage and all the men, women and children players."

**taken from 'Preparing for Liturgy Series: Preparing and Evaluating Liturgy'
by Bernadette Gasslein