

The
Catholic Church
in Pocahontas County
West Virginia



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HOLY THURSDAY - ABC

First Reading (Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14)

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt,
“This month shall stand at the head of your calendar;
you shall reckon it the first month of the year.
Tell the whole community of Israel:
On the tenth of this month every one of your families
must procure for itself a lamb,
one apiece for each household.
If a family is too small for a whole lamb,
it shall join the nearest household in procuring one
and shall share in the lamb
in proportion to the number of persons who partake of it.
The lamb must be a year-old male and without blemish.
You may take it from either the sheep or the goats.
You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month,
and then, with the whole assembly of Israel present,
it shall be slaughtered during the evening twilight.
They shall take some of its blood
and apply it to the two doorposts and the lintel
of every house in which they partake of the lamb.
That same night they shall eat its roasted flesh
with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.
“This is how you are to eat it:
with your loins girt,
sandals on your feet and your staff in hand,
you shall eat like those who are in flight.
It is the Passover of the LORD.
For on this same night I will go through Egypt,
striking down every firstborn of the land,
both man and beast,
and executing judgment on all the gods of Egypt –
I, the LORD!
But the blood will mark the houses where you are.
Seeing the blood, I will pass over you;
thus, when I strike the land of Egypt,
no destructive blow will come upon you.
“This day shall be a memorial feast for you,
which all your generations shall celebrate
with pilgrimage to the LORD,
as a perpetual institution.”

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18;
Grail translation, 1963;
Response cf. 1 Corinthians 10:16)

Response: Our blessing-cup is a communion
with the Blood of Christ.

How can I repay the Lord
for his goodness to me?
The cup of salvation I will raise;

I will call on the Lord’s name.

O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful.
Your servant, Lord, Your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:
I will call on the Lord’s name.
My vows to the Lord I will fulfill
before all his people.

Second Reading (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

Brothers and sisters:
I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you,
that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over,
took bread, and, after he had given thanks,
broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”
In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying,
“This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”
For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,
you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.

Gospel Acclamation (John 13:34)

I give you a new commandment, says the Lord: love
one another as I have loved you.

Gospel (John 13:1-15)

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.
So, during supper,
fully aware that the Father had put everything
into his power
and that he had come from God
and was returning to God,
he rose from supper and took off his outer garments.
He took a towel and tied it around his waist.
Then he poured water into a basin
and began to wash the disciples’ feet
and dry them with the towel around his waist.
He came to Simon Peter, who said to him,
“Master, are you going to wash my feet?”

Jesus answered and said to him,
“What I am doing, you do not understand now,
but you will understand later.”
Peter said to him, “You will never wash my feet.”
Jesus answered him,
“Unless I wash you,
you will have no inheritance with me.”
Simon Peter said to him,
“Master, then not only my feet,
but my hands and head as well.”
Jesus said to him,
“Whoever has bathed
has no need except to have his feet washed,
for he is clean all over;
so you are clean, but not all.”
For he knew who would betray him;
for this reason, he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

So when he had washed their feet
and put his garments back on
and reclined at table again,
he said to them,
“Do you realize what I have done for you?
You call me ‘teacher’ and ‘master,’ and rightly so,
for indeed I am.
If I, therefore, the master and teacher,
have washed your feet,
you ought to wash one another’s feet.
I have given you a model to follow,
so that as I have done for you, you should also do.”

Reflection (2021)

St. Paul tells us that Jesus said at the Last Supper: “Do this in remembrance of me.” How do we remember those whom we love? Often, we treasure things that remind us of them. We recall the times we spent together. Places and events that we shared take on new meaning. For our Lord, it is more than all of this. It is a matter of “doing,” which is why he said “Do this in remembrance of me.” It is in “doing” the Eucharist, it is in “doing” the things he commanded us to do, that we remember him.

Reflection (2022, 2023)

In St. John’s Gospel, the Eucharist is about serving. Jesus washes the feet of his disciples, at a time when washing someone’s feet was the work of servants or slaves. Imagine walking barefoot on roads where animals also walked, and also left their manure. Washing someone’s feet was to wash all that filth. So when Jesus gives us a model of what it is to serve, he is saying that we should be willing to do even the worst and undesirable tasks, for the good of others.

Reflection (2024)

As we begin the holiest time in our Church year, we recall the events of the Passover, a Jewish feast, celebrated by the Lord, where he gave us his body and blood. Jesus was a Palestinian Jew, his disciples were Palestinian Jews, his followers were Palestinian Jews, his rituals were traditional Jewish rituals. For much of our Christian history, we called Jews “Christ killers,” and used that as justification for persecution of Jews. What a few did, we used as justification to persecute the many. Today, the same is true. There are a few people in almost every group that do heinous things. We use that to condemn all Jews, all Muslims, all Palestinians, all foreigners, all immigrants, all those who are different – basically anyone we don’t like. But most people in every group are good people, deserving freedom, respect, and the right to life.

Reflection (2025)

It’s been five years since the beginning of the *Covid* pandemic. Five years ago, we did not have any Holy Week celebrations, because of the potential dangers to all of us gathering together. Some would argue that God would protect us anyway, but the way God protects us is by ordinary means: by taking available precautions, by listening to doctors and medical scientists, and by being careful in our interactions with others. Otherwise, we are just tempting God, demanding that God make up for our own foolishness.

While we did not have any Holy Week celebrations five years ago, what we did have were wonderful examples of people being of service to others – health care workers, teachers, police and firefighters, first responders, the National Guard, trash collectors, store clerks, and so many others – sometimes even at great risk to their own safety. Five years ago we saw living examples of what the Lord calls us today to do: to be of service to others.

Reflection (2026)

Yesterday at sundown, the Jewish people began the commemoration of Passover, the celebration of God’s saving act for his people in Egypt. Today’s readings are all about the Passover. We as Christians, and particularly we as Catholic Christians, inherit so much from our Jewish ancestors.

On this night, Jesus celebrated the Passover, but in a unique way. Taking the bread and wine and saying the blessing, the same Jewish blessing we say at Mass, he said it was his body and his blood, he was the lamb, for our salvation. And lest we think we are already saved, he reminds us of our need to live the command of love, evidenced in our service to others. He gave us the example for us to follow.

2 April 2026
Holy Thursday

Penitential Rite

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you forgive us our sins: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you feed us with your body and blood: Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

Prayer of the Faithful

Merciful Father, you are the source of the bread and the wine that we offer today. As we gather to worship you, we ask you to hear our prayers:

- for Christians everywhere, that we will proclaim the Gospel in our words and in our actions, we pray
- for the leaders of our country, that they will become models of service and selflessness, we pray
- for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, and for all those who minister in the Church, we pray
- for peace in the Middle East, we pray
- for the conversion of those who do evil, we pray
- for those who serve our communities, that they will be safe, we pray
- for all of us gathered today at the Eucharistic table, that we find the strength to serve others, we pray
- for those who have died, that they will be welcomed at the table in heaven, we pray
- and for your other intentions
(pause)
for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, we pray

Almighty Father, the example of your Son shows us how to serve others in our deeds and in our prayers. Give us the grace to always share with others what we ourselves have received. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.