

Dear Friends,

Over the next few weeks you are going to hear me, and others in the parish, talk about the importance of the Triduum (The Three Days) which begins with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday and continues through the celebration of the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday. We look upon these days as one event; the celebration of the paschal mystery.

What is the paschal mystery? It is the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ who came into this world to bring salvation to all who are believers. By our baptism into this faith we claim the title Christian, which means that we believe in Jesus Christ and we strive to follow him by doing what he did, loving one another as he loved us and by taking up our own crosses each day and following in his steps. The paschal mystery is something that is integral to our lives as Christians and must not be ignored. It is, rather, to be celebrated as fully as possible.

More information about the Triduum is coming in the future. My purpose for this letter is simply to encourage you now to clear your calendar for the following events:

- Communal Penance on Wednesday, March 12, 2008 at 7:00 pm
- The Mass of the Lord's Supper on Thursday, March 20, 2008 at 7:00 pm
- The Good Friday Service on Friday, March 21, 2008 at 3:00 pm
- The Easter Vigil Mass on Saturday, March 22, 2008 at 7:00 pm

These celebrations are of the utmost priority in our lives. Spiritually we are in great need of pondering the mystery of what Jesus has done for us. We need this time in our lives to offer our worship and praise of the God of our salvation. These days cannot be seen as common, ordinary days in which our faith takes "second fiddle" to everything else that goes on in our lives.

In joyful hope,
Fr. Tim Seigel