

SIGNIFICANCE OF HOLY THURSDAY

Will you go to Mass on Holy Thursday?

Although the Catholic Church has never made attendance at Holy Thursday Eucharist obligatory for Catholics, it is arguably the most important one of the year! Other contenders are Christmas and Easter, of course, along with several other significant occasions. Here are some reasons why Holy Thursday should be high on your list of must-attend Masses.



Da Vinci's Last Supper (discoverwalks.com)

The Last Supper

In our culture, meals are important. Not only are they occasions for food, but they provide families with opportunities for being together, for conversation, discussion, sharing stories, recounting the day's events, proposing ideas for future activities. Special occasions provide times to include special guests in this sharing. The Last Supper was such an occasion for Jesus, Mary and his special friends. We have an opportunity to join this meal each year during Holy Week.

Institution of the Eucharist

At the Last Supper, Jesus instituted the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. It is when the apostles and special friends received their First Holy Communion. The Eucharist is when bread and wine is changed into the true body and blood of Jesus. Just as Jesus shed his body and blood for us on the cross, the consecrated bread and wine shows us the same humility and real presence. Our participation in the Holy Eucharist is the most significant way we acknowledge the resurrected Jesus. We celebrate its institution at the Holy Thursday Mass.

Institution of the Sacrament of Holy Orders



(pinterest.com)

When Jesus instituted the Eucharist, he said to his apostles: ***"Do this in remembrance of me."*** He gave them the privilege, ability, power and motivation to administer the sacrament. He made them priests. At this Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, the sacred oils used for upcoming Baptisms, Confirmations and Anointing of the Sick, priestly duties, are blessed.



(simplycatholic.com)

Washing of the Feet

Possibly the most visible event during the Mass of the Lord's Supper is the washing of the feet. Jesus washed the feet of his apostles as the ultimate sign of service. This was a very controversial action at the time, and is now an example for us as to how we should treat others. Every Church will have a re-enactment of this event in some form on Holy Thursday in which you can participate.



(churchofjesuschrist.org)

See you at the Mass of the Lord's Supper!