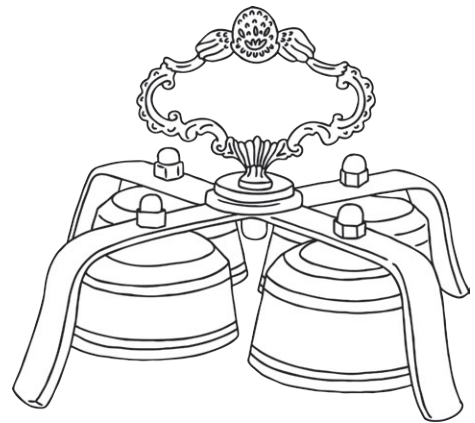


What to Expect on Holy Thursday

There are some special things that happen during Mass on Holy Thursday.

The bells fall silent

During the singing of the 'Gloria', you may hear the bells ringing in church. The bells will not ring again until the 'Gloria' is sung at the Easter Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday night. They will be silent on Good Friday.



The washing of the feet

A special event that we remember on Holy Thursday is the example of love and care for others that Jesus gave us when he washed the feet of the Apostles. On Holy Thursday, the priest may wash the feet of twelve people attending Mass, in the same way as Jesus washed the feet of the Twelve Apostles. Jesus showed love and care for all people.



What to Expect on Holy Thursday

Collection for the poor

In some churches you will see people bringing up a special collection during the offertory procession. This may include Lenten collection boxes or money collected for a special cause.



Remember the Last Supper

Holy Thursday is the day that celebrates the Last Supper that Jesus had with his disciples. The words Jesus spoke at this meal are heard during every Mass:

This is my body.

This is the chalice of my blood.

Do this in memory of me.

These words are reflected upon in a special way on Holy Thursday, because this was the night that Jesus said these words and gave us the gift of the Eucharist (Holy Communion).



What to Expect on Holy Thursday

After Mass

People may be asked to spend some extra time in silent prayer in the church. The Blessed Sacrament (Holy Communion) will be taken to a special place called the Altar of Repose.

The altar will be stripped (everything will be taken off it). Crosses and statues in the church will be covered with purple (or red) veils.

People are asked to leave the church in silence.

