

WHAT IS HOLY WEEK?

Changes in the Church during Holy Week:

On Good Friday and Holy Saturday, noticeable changes take place in the way churches are decorated. Many churches statues and crosses are covered in purple or black cloth or simply removed. Holy water is removed from the church and Holy Saturday church bells remain silent until the Gloria at Easter Vigil.

Palm Sunday: Recalls Jesus's arrival in Jerusalem. Palm Sunday is known as such because the faithful will receive palm fronds which they use to participate in the reenactment of Christ's arrival in Jerusalem with a procession. In the Gospels, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding a donkey to the praise of the townspeople who laid palms or small branches, in front of him as a sign of homage. This was a customary practice for people of great respect.

Holy Thursday: Commemorates the Last Supper, when Jesus consecrated bread and wine. In the morning, bishops typically gather with priests from their diocese for the Chrism Mass. During the Chrism Mass, they bless holy oils. The washing of the feet takes place during the Mass of the Lord's Supper in the evening.

Good Friday: Is one of the darkest days of the year for Catholics. It covers Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion. His death and burial are also memorialized. The events of Good Friday are commemorated in the Stations of the Cross, a 14-step devotion, traditionally prayed during Lent and especially on Good Friday. Good Friday is a day of fasting within the Church. Traditionally, there is no Mass and no celebration of the Eucharist on Good Friday. Communion comes from hosts consecrated on Holy Thursday. Church bells are silent. Altars are left bare. The solemn, muted atmosphere is preserved until the Easter Vigil.

Holy Saturday: Remembers the day which Jesus spent in the grave resting. The Easter Vigil takes place at the end of the day at 8:00 P.M. because the new liturgical day begins at sunset. The vigil begins at sunset on Holy Saturday outside the church, where an Easter fire is kindled, and the Paschal candle is blessed and then lit. This Paschal candle will be used throughout the season of Easter, remaining in the sanctuary of the church and used throughout the coming year at baptisms and funerals, reminding all that Christ is our life and light. Also, during the mass the water of the baptismal font is solemnly blessed and any catechumens and candidates for full communion are initiated into the church.



SPRING UNIFORM

Students may begin wearing **dress shorts** and Blessed Sacrament red polo shirts that is part of our spring uniform option **beginning on April 1st**. Students may also begin wearing our Blessed Sacrament gym shorts to gym class with their sneakers on gym days. Please refer to the Uniform Policy located under the "Parents" tab on our website for more information.

REPORT CARDS

All students in grades Kindergarten through 6 will receive their report cards via email on **Tuesday, April 16th**. If anyone has any questions or concerns regarding the report cards, please feel free to contact your child's teacher for a conference.



NEW YORK STATE ASSESSMENTS

Students will participate in Computer-Based Testing (CBT) for the New York State ELA & Math Assessment on April 11th, 12th, and May 7th, 8th.

- The exams will remain untimed. Students will have as much time as they need as long as they are productively working.
- Students with an IEP or a 504 Plan will receive eligible accommodations.

As with all school days, children should get a good night's sleep, eat a nutritional breakfast, and arrive at school on time. Testing will begin promptly at the regular start of the school day. As with any test, we encourage our students to do their best and make every effort to help them feel comfortable about the assessments. We understand and respect the concerns some parents may have about testing. While we encourage test participation, we know some parents will decide otherwise. **If you plan to opt your child out of this testing, you must submit a written letter before the testing by Wednesday, March 27th. Students must stay home during these testing days because we cannot supervise students not taking the tests.**

PTA 25th ANNUAL AUCTION

Mark your calendars! The PTA is hosting its 25th Annual Auction, an adults-only event on Saturday, April 13th, 2024, from 6:30 to 10:30pm.

Bid to win! We'll have a fantastic silent auction with items you can browse and bid on online for your convenience. Links will be available at the event, and friendly staff will be happy to assist you.

Get ready for excitement! Our lively live auction features incredible items and the ever-popular classroom baskets. Don't forget to try your luck in the Share the Wealth raffle! Tickets are on sale now in the main office.

An evening of fun awaits! Enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres, a beer & wine bar, games, and prizes. This is a night you won't want to miss!



MONTHLY SERVICE PROJECT

Blessed Sacrament School will team up with the Casper, Johnstone, Vaughn family at the “one step at a time” [Autism Awareness Walk](#) on Saturday, April 13th from 10 – 11am at Jamesville Beach Park. Please refer to the “Autism Awareness Walk” email for more details. Here is a note from the family:

As we embark on this journey for autism acceptance, we are profoundly grateful for your unwavering support. Our two boys, Ryan and Joey, each with their unique brilliance and challenges, inspire us daily with their resilience and spirit.

We are deeply moved by the collaboration of Blessed Sacrament School, whose dedication to inclusivity, faith and understanding has made a tangible difference in our lives and countless others. Together, we stride forward, advocating for acceptance, understanding, and celebration of neurodiversity.

Your generosity fuels our hope and amplifies our voices. With every step we take, we are one step closer to a world where individuals with autism are embraced for who they are, cherished for their strengths, and empowered to thrive. Thank you for joining us in this meaningful journey. Your support is a beacon of light, illuminating the path toward a more inclusive and accepting future. Thank you for your support of our fundraising efforts! CNY ASA is committed to assisting families affected by autism, reaching out to the community to promote awareness and acceptance, disseminate information and provide educational and recreational programming. All monies raised will assist us in our efforts to expand our recreational and educational programming here in the Central New York area. We so appreciate your support, and it will definitely serve to positively impact our local autism community.

With heartfelt gratitude,
The Casper, Johnstone, Vaughn Family

SOLAR ECLIPSE

Get ready to gaze skyward! Mark your calendars for Monday, April 8th because we're in for a celestial treat – a solar eclipse! This exciting astronomical phenomenon occurs when the moon passes directly between the Earth and the sun, casting a shadow on our planet. Whether you're a seasoned stargazer or a curious newcomer, this is a sight not to be missed. So, find a clear viewing spot, and prepare to witness the wonder of a solar eclipse!

As a reminder, Blessed Sacrament School will be closed on **Monday, April 8th**, to allow everyone the opportunity to witness this celestial marvel. Permission slips for the school-provided solar eclipse glasses were sent home with students. Please be sure to sign and return them by Wednesday, March 27th to ensure your child receives their glasses.



EAGLE EXTRAS

- ☞ **SCHOOL BANKING** - Thursday, April 4th at all lunches.
- ☞ **SCHOOL LITURGY** – Friday, April 5th, planned by 4th grade.
- ☞ **CHESS PROGRAM** – begins Friday, April 5th.
- ☞ **BELLUCCI BASKETBALL** – begins on **Tuesday, April 9th** for grades **K-3** and **Thursday, April 11th** for grades 4-6.
- ☞ **NO SCHOOL** – **Wednesday, April 10th** for Parent/Teacher Conferences.
- ☞ **\$1.00 TAG DAY**- **Friday, April 12th** will be a rainbow themed **TAG DAY**. More information will be sent home.
- ☞ **\$3.00 TAG DAY** – **Friday, April 19th** will be a blue themed **TAG DAY** for diabetes.
- ☞ **April Antics** - The deadline to sign up for the April Antics Recess Program is **Tuesday, April 16th**. Please contact the main office if you have any questions. Regular school is in recess from **April 22nd – 26th**.
- ☞ **SCIENCE EXPLORERS** – begins Monday, April 29th.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- ☞ **MAY DEVOTIONS** - begin on **Wednesday, May 1st**.
- ☞ **NYS TESTING MATH** – **May 7th – 9th**.
- ☞ **SCHOOL LITURGY** – **Thursday, May 9th at 9am** for Ascension Thursday.
- ☞ **MAY CROWING** – **Friday May 10th at 9am**.
- ☞ **PTA MOM PROM** – **Saturday, May 11th**
- ☞ **BEAUTY & THE BEAST JR.** – **Friday, May 16th and Saturday, May 17th at 7pm**.
- ☞ **PTA MEETING** – **Wednesday, May 22nd at 7pm**.
- ☞ **NO SCHOOL**- **Friday, May 24th – Monday, May 27th**. School will resume on **Tuesday, May 28th**.
- ☞ **SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR** – **May 28th – May 30th**.

EAGLE WORD SCRAMBLE

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Unscramble the words and use the highlighted letters to unscramble the catchphrase about the Solar Eclipse! Return to the main office by **Thursday, April 29th** for your TAG DAY pass. Good Luck!