

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 22nd**. If anyone has any questions or concerns regarding the report cards, please feel free to contact your child's teacher for a conference. As a reminder: Please download a copy of your students report card for your record. The link will expire after 14 days.



NEW YORK STATE ASSESSMENTS

Students will participate in Computer-Based Testing (CBT) for the New York State ELA & Math Assessment on April 9th, 10th, and May 6th, 7th.

- 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.

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 **Tuesday, April 1st**. **Students must stay home during these testing days because we cannot supervise students not taking the tests.**

**BLESSED SACRAMENT
PTA
26TH ANNUAL AUCTION**
SATURDAY, APRIL 26TH | 6:30-10:30 PM

Mark your calendars! The PTA is hosting its 26th Annual Auction, an adult-only event on Saturday, April 26th, 2025, 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.

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

In our ongoing "Year of Service," we observe a different Corporal or Spiritual Work of Mercy each month. For April, our focus is on "instructing the ignorant." In this effort, Blessed Sacrament School is pleased to participate in the "One Step at a Time" Autism Awareness Walk, in conjunction with



AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

the Casper, Johnstone, and Vaughn family.

The walk will be held Saturday, April 26th, from 10-11 AM at Jamesville Beach Park. More information will be emailed.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- ☞ **School Banking – Thursday, May 1st** during all lunches.
- ☞ **\$3.00 Blue Tag Day on Monday May 5th, 12, 19th for Diabetes.**
- ☞ **Teacher Appreciation Week May 5th – May 9th.**
- ☞ **FINAL PTA Meeting – Thursday, May 8th at 7pm.**

- ☞ **May Crowing – Friday May 9th at 9am.**
No Tag Day Passes allowed.
- ☞ **PTA Mom Prom – Saturday, May 10th from 6-8pm**
- ☞ **Peter Pan Jr. Tech Week - May 12, 13, 14**
- ☞ **Peter Pan Jr. – Thursday, May 15th and Friday, May 16th at 7pm.**
- ☞ **Talent Show Applications due – Thursday, May 15th.**
- ☞ **FREE Red, White, and Blue themed Tag Day on May 22nd.**
- ☞ **The Student Council will meet on Thursday, May 22nd after school until 3pm**
- ☞ **NO SCHOOL- Friday, May 23rd – Tuesday, May 27th.** School will resume on **Wednesday, May 28th.**
- ☞ **Scholastic Book Fair – May 28th – May 30th.**
- ☞ **Half Day – Friday, May 30th. Dismissal at 10:30am – NO ASCC**

EAGLE WORD SCRAMBLE

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Unscramble the words and use the highlighted letters to unscramble the catchphrase about the month of April! Return the written phrase to the main office by **Wednesday, April 30th**



for your TAG DAY pass. Good Luck!