

Friday *The Passion*

Fridays are days of penance and fasting. Jesus was mocked, scourged, and Crucified on Good Friday. The Church, therefore, sets aside Fridays as days of sacrifice. In fact, Friday is not just a weekday devotion. Rather, it is *still* part of Canon Law that we Catholics do some form of penance on Fridays:

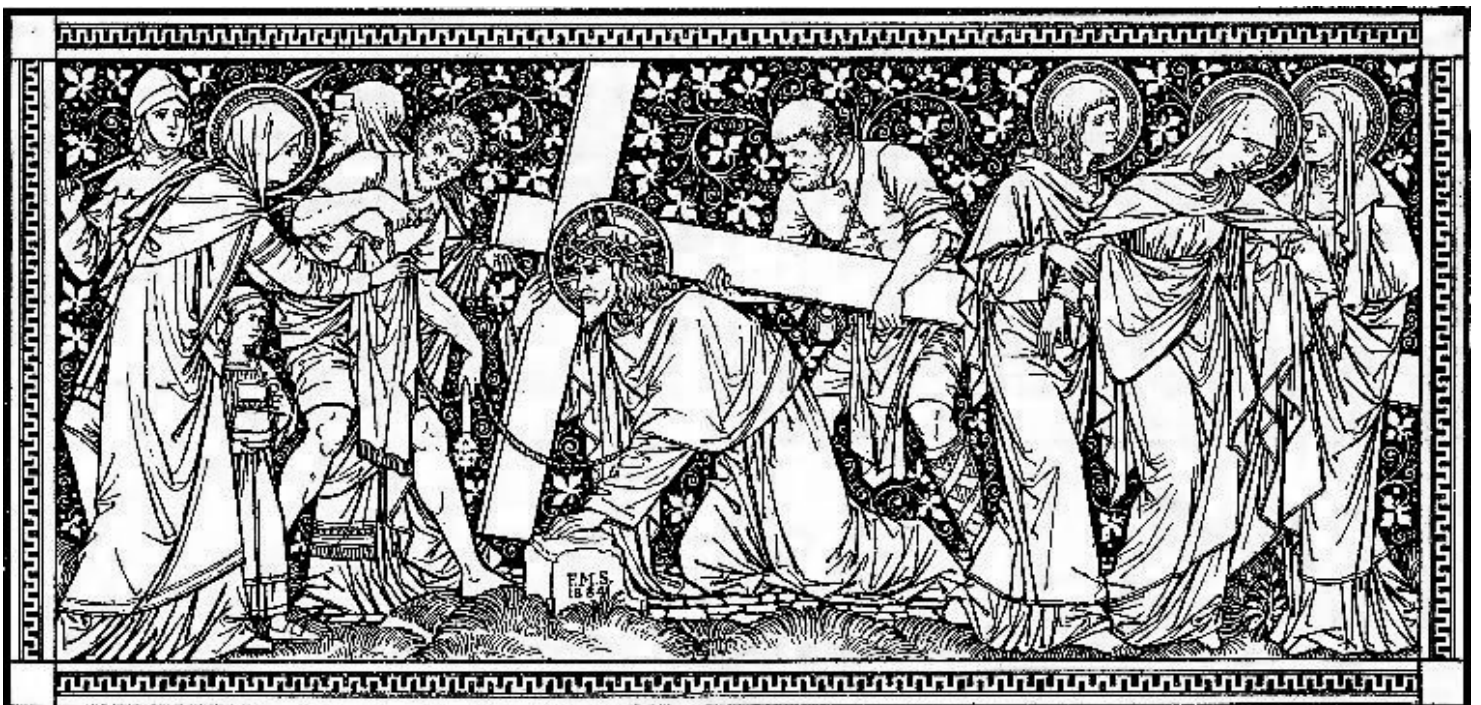
Can. 1249 The divine law binds all the Christian faithful to do penance each in his or her own way. In order for all to be united among themselves by some common observance of penance, however, penitential days are prescribed on which the Christian faithful devote themselves in a special way to prayer, perform works of piety and charity, and deny themselves by fulfilling their own obligations more faithfully and especially by observing fast and abstinence, according to the norm of the following canons.

Can. 1250 The penitential days and times in the universal Church are every Friday of the whole year and the season of Lent.

Can. 1251 Abstinence from eating meat or some other food according to the prescripts of the conference of bishops is to be observed on ,of abstinence binds those who have completed their fourteenth year of age. The law of fasting, however, binds all those who have attained their majority until the beginning of their sixtieth year. Nevertheless, pastors of souls and parents are to take care that minors not bound by the law of fast and abstinence are also educated in a genuine sense of penance.

Can. 1253 The conference of bishops can determine more precisely the observance of fast and abstinence as well as substitute other forms of penance, especially works of charity and exercises of piety, in whole or in part, for abstinence and fast.

“Consummatum est.” (John 19:30)



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WHAT DOES THE CATECHISM SAY ABOUT THE PASSION?

Plainly put, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says that the Passion is “the suffering and death of Jesus.” Going a little deeper, we find that the *Catechism* says much, much more. In essence, Christ suffered His Passion for us; that is, our sins. He died to redeem us because He loves us unconditionally and immeasurably.

571 The Paschal mystery of Christ’s cross and Resurrection stands at the center of the Good News that the apostles, and the Church following them, are to proclaim to the world. God’s saving plan was accomplished “once for all” by the redemptive death of his Son Jesus Christ.

607 The desire to embrace his Father’s plan of redeeming love inspired Jesus’ whole life, for his redemptive passion was the very reason for his Incarnation. And so he asked, “And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour?’ No, for this purpose I have come to this hour.” And again, “Shall I not drink the cup which the Father has given me?” From the cross, just before “It is finished”, he said, “I thirst.”

616 It is love “to the end” that confers on Christ’s sacrifice its value as redemption and reparation, as atonement and satisfaction. He knew and loved us all when he offered his life. Now “the love of Christ controls us, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died.” No man, not even the holiest, was ever able to take



on himself the sins of all men and offer himself as a sacrifice for all. The existence in Christ of the divine person of the Son, who at once surpasses and embraces all human persons, and constitutes himself as the Head of all mankind, makes possible his redemptive sacrifice for all.

617 The Council of Trent emphasizes the unique character of Christ’s sacrifice as “the source of eternal salvation” and teaches that “his most holy Passion on the wood of the cross merited justification for us.” And the Church venerates his cross as she sings: “Hail, O Cross, our only hope.”

619 “Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures” (I Cor 15:3).

1708 By his Passion, Christ delivered us from Satan and from sin. He merited for us the new life in the Holy Spirit. His grace restores what sin had damaged in us.

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WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR THE PASSION?

Below is an accounting of the last hours before Christ's Death on the Cross: His Passion. A pious tradition is to assign specific hours to various events of His Passion according to Scripture. While these hours are approximate, they are the traditional representation based on Luke:

HOLY THURSDAY – AFTER THE LAST SUPPER

11:00 PM – Jesus leads his disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane and suffers the Agony in the Garden

“And going out, he went, according to his custom, to the mount of Olives. And his disciples also followed him. And when he was come to the place, he said to them: Pray, lest ye enter into temptation...kneeling down, he prayed, Saying: Father, if thou wilt, remove this chalice from me: but yet not my will, but thine be done. And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. And being in an agony, he prayed the longer. And his sweat became as drops of blood, trickling down upon the ground.” (Luke 22:39-44)

GOOD FRIDAY

12:00 AM – Jesus is betrayed by Judas and arrested by soldiers.

“As he was yet speaking, behold a multitude; and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near to Jesus, for to kiss him. And Jesus said to him: Judas, dost thou betray the Son of man with a kiss?” (Luke 29:47-48)

1:00 AM to 3:00 AM – Jesus is taken to the house of Annas, then to Caiaphas, the High Priest

“And apprehending him, they led him to the high priest's house. But Peter followed afar off.” (Luke 29:54)

4:00 AM to Morning – Jesus spends the night being mocked and beaten; Peter denies Him three times

“And the Lord turning looked on Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, as he had said: Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And Peter going out, wept bitterly And the men that held him, mocked him, and struck him.” (Luke 29:61-63)

6:00 AM (Daybreak) – Jesus is taken in front of the Sanhedrin

“And as soon as it was day, the ancients of the people, and the chief priests and scribes, came together; and they brought him into their council, saying: If thou be the Christ, tell us.” (Luke 22:66)

7:00 AM – Jesus is brought to Pilate

“And the whole multitude of them rising up, led him to Pilate.” (Luke 23:1)



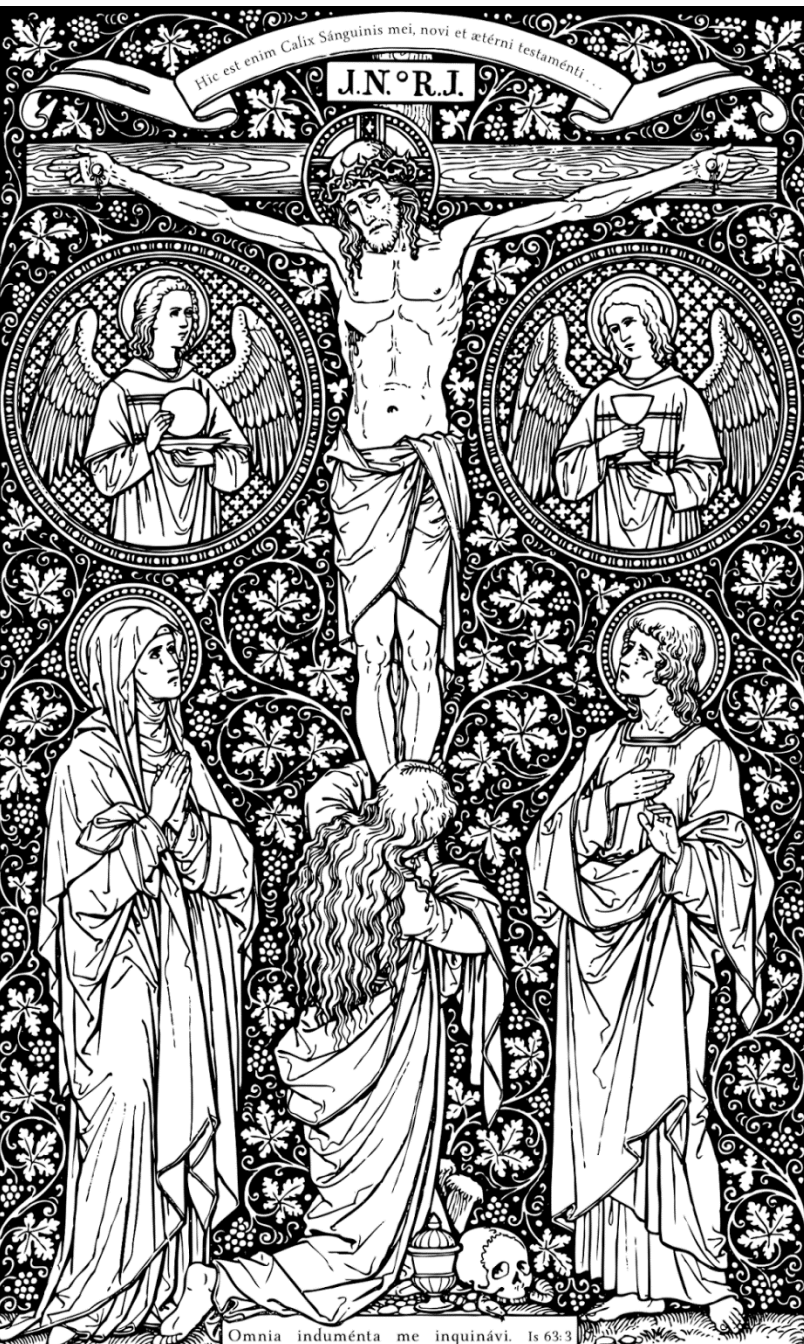
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8:00 AM – Jesus is sent to Herod Antipas and is mocked

“And when he understood that he was of Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him away to Herod, who was also himself at Jerusalem, in those days...And Herod with his army set him at nought, and mocked him...” (Luke 23:7,11a)

8:30 AM – Jesus is brought back to Pilate, who tries to release Him

“...putting on him a white garment, and sent him back to Pilate...And Pilate, calling together the chief priests, and the magistrates, and the people, Said to them: You have presented unto me this man, as one that perverteth the people; and behold I, having examined him before you, find no cause in this man, in those things wherein you accuse him. No, nor Herod neither. For I sent you to him, and behold, nothing worthy of death is done to him. I will chastise him therefore, and release him.” (Luke 23:11b, 14-16)



9:00 AM – Jesus is scourged and sentenced to die His infamous Death on the Cross

“...I will chastise him therefore, and let him go. But they were instant with loud voices, requiring that he might be crucified; and their voices prevailed. And Pilate gave sentence that it should be as they required.” (Luke 23:22-24)

10:00 AM – Jesus carries His Cross up Mount Calvary

“And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus.” (Luke 23:16, 26)

12:00 PM – 3:00 PM. – Jesus is nailed to the cross and hangs there for three hours

“And when they were come to the place which is called Calvary, they crucified him there; and the robbers, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. And Jesus said: Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do. But they, dividing his garments, cast lots.” (Luke 23:33-34)

3:00 PM – Jesus dies on the cross

“And it was almost the sixth hour; and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst. And Jesus crying out with a loud voice, said: Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit. And saying this, he gave up the ghost.” (Luke 23:44-46)