

WEST TENNESSEE CATHOLIC

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LATEST NEWS

Bishop Talley Presides over Good Friday Celebration of the Passion of the Lord

Following a shortened opening procession conducted in silence, Bishop David P. Talley began the Good Friday celebration of the Passion of Our Lord (pictures below) by making a reverence at the altar and then laying prostrate in a sign of sorrow for Jesus' death on the cross and humility to the will of God. The large gathering at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception knelt in silence.

From the earliest days of Christianity, no Mass has been celebrated on Good Friday, the only day of the year on which that occurs. Instead, the faithful gather for a special liturgy focusing on the cross to commemorate the saving passion, crucifixion, and death of Jesus.

The Good Friday service was a grace-filled experience combining times of quiet and sometimes silent prayer with solemn musical accompaniment. The liturgy took place in three parts: Liturgy of the Word, Adoration of the Cross, and the distribution of holy Communion.

For the Liturgy of the Word, the Passion of the Lord was proclaimed, recalling Jesus' death on the cross at Calvary. The faithful at the Cathedral also joined Catholics around the world in praying for the same 11 intentions: for the holy Church, for the pope, for all orders and degrees of the faithful, for catechumens (those preparing to enter the Church), for the unity of Christians, for Jewish people, for those who do not believe in Christ, for those who do not believe in God, for those in public office, for those in tribulation (the sick, the hungry, the imprisoned, the traveling, and the dying), and for the victims of abuse.





For the Adoration of the Cross, a large cross was carried up the center aisle to the front of the church. "Behold the wood of the cross, on which hung the salvation of the world," was sung each of the three times the cross was elevated, with the third time being at the front of the sanctuary. "Come, let us adore," responded the congregation each time.

Led by Bishop Talley, all present then came forward for adoration of the cross, some kissing the cross, others touching it, genuflecting before it, or gazing at it and praying silently. The cross is venerated as a remembrance of Christ who offered his life for the forgiveness of every person's sins and for the salvation of the world.

The hosts used during the distribution of holy Communion on Good Friday had been consecrated during the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper at the cathedral. The cathedral's tabernacle remained empty until the Easter vigil, and the altar was also stripped.

Just as they had arrived, the celebrants and assembly departed in silence on Friday, awaiting the joy of Easter.

The Sacred Triduum (Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ on Good Friday, and the Resurrection on Easter) are the holiest days of the year for Christians and celebrate the forgiveness of all sins for humanity and the gift of everlasting life to all believers.

Pictures and videos from many Masses, services, and events throughout Holy Week will be posted here on the diocesan website.

LATEST NEWS

Project Outreach, a non-profit, charitable organization which strives to improve the nutrition, living conditions, health and education of the impoverished in Fayette County, distributed non-perishable and perishable food, including whole turkeys, to 219 families in need at its annual Easter food distribution on Holy Thursday last week.

Sixty volunteers from Incarnation Catholic Church, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church (OLPH), St. Brigid Catholic Church, St. Agnes Academy, St. Dominic School and other Mid-South churches gathered to distribute food, hygiene items, toilet paper and 600 Easter baskets for children in need at Sister Elaine Wicks Memorial Park in Fayette County.

"There was a lot of rain scheduled for that day and we delayed the distribution by two hours," said Deacon Phil Moore, chaplain and volunteer for Project Outreach. "In the three hours we were at the park distributing food, we never saw a drop of rain. As soon as we pulled out of the park, the sky opened up. It was as if God was saying, 'Well done, Project Outreach, keep up the good work."

Project Outreach is a 501c3 organization, which distributes food monthly to families in need in Fayette County. The organization accepts monetary donations and is always looking for volunteers. If interested, please send monetary donations to:

Project Outreach

9245 Poplar Ave., Suite 5, #317

Germantown, TN 38138

For volunteer information, please contact Shona Moore, OFS, director of Project Outreach, at shona. moorepo@gmail.com.





(Volunteers from St. Agnes Academy and St. Dominic School distributed food to 219 families for Project Outreach in Fayette County on Thursday, April 18.)



(Volunteers for Project Outreach distributed 600 Easter baskets to children in need in Fayette County on Holy Thursday last week.)



(Over 200 bags of food were distributed along with hygiene items and toilet paper to families in need for Project Outreach in Fayette County on Thursday, April 18.)

8th Grade Students at SFA Competed in the 2019 Egg Crash Challenge

April 25, 2019- SFA students were challenged to build a car with only two pieces of paper, four wheels, and two axels. The car had to hold an egg and was tested by sending it down ramps of increasing heights crashing into an obstacle at the bottom. Students' grades were based on how many trips their egg survived. This experiment was the culmination of their study of the physics of car crashes. Congratulations to Jacob Fullen and Brandon Baker for winning the 2019 Egg Crash Challenge!





St. Louis begins a New Tradition for Holy Thursday

At St. Louis Catholic Church a new tradition began this year of washing the feet of 8th grade students who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in next few weeks. To see more pictures from Holy Week events around the Diocese, you can click here.



Holocaust survivor, Dr. Clark Blatteis spoke to 8th grade students at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School



April 26, 2019 – Memphian, Dr. Clark Blatteis talked with students about the events leading up to World War II and his family's experience aboard the St. Louis as they sailed from Germany to Cuba to escape Nazi persecution.

"Seven-year-old Clark and his parents were among the 937 refugees aboard the St. Louis. The trip from Germany to Cuba lasted about two weeks. When the St. Louis reached Havana on May 27, only 28 Jewish refugees were allowed entry. The passengers stayed on the ship for five days. Then the St. Louis sailed slowly toward Miami. Telegrams to the White House and the United States State Department proved futile. The ship turned back. Belgium accepted 241 passengers, Clark and his family among them. When the Germans invaded, they were trapped again. We ran and hid in our cellar and heard bombs going off overhead. After the destruction, we were arrested for being German nationals. Upon release, they traveled through France to Spain and boarded a boat for Morocco. After eight years in Casablanca, they finally made it to the United States." - Excerpt from the Tennessee **Holocaust Commission**

Dr. Blatteis wants to make sure that the lessons from the Holocaust are not forgotten by today's youth. He talked about the importance of protecting the freedoms of all people.

















