

**“Herein that He loved us is love, not that we loved God, but.”**

**(1 St. John 4.10)**

What a pleasant surprise to see it lying there in the cellar. Leaning against a post, large as life, it appeared in the shadows to be a sleeping giant. And in a certain way it was: nine feet tall and five feet wide, with arms four inches square. There it was: not *the* old, rugged Cross; but one similar.

The thing is, just seeing it reminded me of the soldiers' mocking -- the purple robe and crown of thorns; the blood-curdling cries of the crowd ; the barbaric nailing; and the Death of Jesus, the Son of God. It was all very real; and still is, by faith.

In his book, Power of God, Gregory Dix, an English Monk offered this helpful point: “We must not think of the Cross as being very tall, raising the Body of the Saviour on high; eight or nine feet was the usual height. His face was not much more than a foot or so above theirs as they peered up at Him in the darkness; and His hanging head enabled Him to look straight into their eyes.”

I hadn't realized that Jesus' Cross was only nine feet tall. How personal everything was: the Sweat and precious Blood, the laboured Breathing, the Sighs and Groans; and the final Exhale. Of this, Dix wrote: “The road to the foot of the Cross for any of us is not an official one. It is through a *personal* love of the Personal Lord who has been crucified for *me*.”

Every day our Heavenly Father invites us to experience victory through His Son. When you were baptized, He adopted you as His very own. You belong to Him and He loves you. In the Holy Communion, we come to His Table and put out our empty hands to be fed and strengthened by Jesus' Body and Blood. There, in a tangible way, He forgives and confirms us. Every Easter we celebrate the power of this Everlasting Love – the selfless Charity that came and suffered, to save.

Through our Lord's Passion (suffering and endurance), we are given the grace to live in this broken world. The grace to believe, to hope, to pray, to love unselfishly. When everything we think to be solid is suddenly out there blowing in the wind, we have the certainty of His Love – of new life and Resurrection -- by faith in Jesus.

The world needs the Church. It needs us to shine in the darkness – to be Easter people. But we cannot do that on our own. The Risen Christ lives in us by His mighty, Holy Spirit to help us. Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

Yours in Him,

Chris VanBuskirk +

*Please see the list of Services for Holy Week is on the other side of this page.*

## Services for Holy Week and Easter 2026

**Monday (March 30<sup>th</sup>) 7:00 pm Holy Eucharist at the Rectory**

**Tuesday (March 31<sup>st</sup>) 7:00 pm Holy Eucharist at the Rectory**

**Wednesday (April 1<sup>st</sup>) 11:30 am Holy Eucharist at the Rectory**



**Maundy Thursday (April 2<sup>nd</sup>) 7:00 pm at St. Thomas' Church**

The Holy Eucharist with the Stripping of the Altar.

A Watch will follow, with the Order for Compline prayed at 10:00 pm.

**Good Friday (April 3<sup>rd</sup>) 10:00 am at St. Thomas' Church**

The Liturgy for Good Friday.

Following the morning Service, at **2:30 pm**, a wooden cross (9' x 5'), found in the Rectory cellar, will be carried the Village Hall to the Cenotaph, with stops to observe Jesus' last words. According to the Gospel, He died at pm.



from  
3:00

**Holy Saturday (April 4<sup>th</sup>) 10:00 am Morning Prayer at the Rectory.**

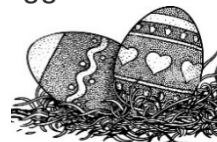
**5:00 pm Evening Prayer at the Rectory.**

**8:00 pm the Easter Vigil at St. Thomas' Church**



**Easter Day (April 5<sup>th</sup>) 9:00 am at St. Thomas' Church**

The Holy Eucharist followed by an Easter Egg Hunt for the children and Breakfast for all! (Offering of twoonies for Jamaica.)



**Easter Monday (April 6<sup>th</sup>) 9:00 am  
The Holy Eucharist at the  
Rectory**

**The Octave Day of Easter  
(April 12<sup>th</sup>) 3:00 pm at  
St. Thomas Church**

The Annual  
Memorial Hymn  
Sing



