
Sacred Symbols and Symbolic Actions

In the week to come, Catholics experience liturgies rich in sacred symbol and ritual. Holy Week—culminating in the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday)—celebrates the central mysteries of our faith, for "the Resurrection of Jesus is the crowning truth of our faith in Christ" (CCC638).



During the past five weeks of Lent, we have focused on sacred symbols that add depth and meaning to our Lenten and Holy Week celebrations.

This week, we take special notice of the symbolic actions, which are equally important—the carrying of palms during the procession on Passion Sunday, the reading of the scriptural accounts of the passion and death of Jesus, the washing

of feet on Holy Thursday, the veneration of the cross on Good Friday, and the lighting of the new fire that dispels the darkness at the Easter Vigil. The Catholic tradition makes use of music, art, symbol, and ritual to awaken our senses, minds, and hearts to the power and glory of God and the wonderful truth of God's unending love for us.

Prayer to Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha

Blessed Kateri, worthy daughter of God, sharing in God's wisdom, you have known how to choose the "best part" and desired the "gift of God" for your people. Obtain for yours as well as for their brothers and sisters of this land, the same wisdom for the reclaiming of your rights, so that all the parties involved know the limits of their rights as well as the justice of their demands.

May the love which filled your heart and made you accept your people like the whites, inspire every citizen of our country mutual respect and a good feeling in justice and charity .

O Kateri, with visions as wide as the valley of the Mohawks and of the field of the Kingdom of God, obtain for every human high and far vision, then walking, hand in hand, as children of the same family, all called to share the happiness of the Kingdom...

All this we ask through Christ our Lord

Amen.

