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# The Sacraments and the THREE DAYS of Easter



“According to the Church’s ancient tradition, the Sacraments are **not** celebrated on Good Friday or Holy Saturday”.

*(The Roman Missal)*

This is because from sundown on Holy Thursday to sundown on Easter Sunday we are in the midst of the Church’s most solemn time; in fact we are in the midst of liturgy since the Mass begun on Holy Thursday night does not really end until Sunday night at Paschal Vespers.

Practically, this means that on Holy Thursday and Good Friday, **Communion** is not distributed outside the liturgy except to the sick. On Holy Saturday, Communion is not given except to the dying, i.e., **HOLY VIATICUM**, which is communion for the dying (the “Last Rites”).

The **Sacrament of the Sick** may be celebrated in an emergency situation.

In the case of a **FUNERAL**, the Funeral Mass is not celebrated until **AFTER** Easter Sunday; in such instances a special Liturgy of the Word is celebrated without Mass, burial follows as usual. The Funeral Mass would be celebrated after Easter Sunday. (The funeral Mass may not be celebrated on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday or Easter Sunday).

The **SACRAMENT OF PENANCE** (confession) is ordinarily not celebrated during this time since we are in midst of the liturgy of the Lord’s Passover. The Sacrament of Penance (“confession”) should have occurred before the Sacred Three Days began.

**Marriage** is **NEVER** celebrated on Good Friday or Holy Saturday.

**BAPTISM** is celebrated at the Easter Vigil and never on Good Friday or Holy Saturday unless there is danger of death.

**The fact that the Church does not celebrate the Sacraments during this time is clear testimony to our Catholic belief that “business as usual” must be suspended during this time due to the sacred character of the days and their centrality to our life of faith. THESE DAYS ARE ESSENTIAL TO OUR FAITH. Without them we would not be the Church!**

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