



Diocese
of Toledo

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026

Holy Thursday Pilgrimage

NIGHT WATCH AT THE ALTAR OF REPOSE

Holy Thursday Night Watch is a tradition where the faithful pray before the Blessed Sacrament, reserved after the Mass of the Lord's Supper to symbolize Gethsemane. It is a time of silent adoration, reflection on Christ's suffering, and reparation, focusing on the call to "watch and pray".

Metro-Toledo Parishes:

Available Until 8:30pm

Epiphany of the Lord, Toledo
Historic Church of St. Patrick, Toledo

Available Until 9:00pm

St. Catherine of Siena, Toledo
St. John the Baptist, Toledo

Available Until 10:00pm

Most Blessed Sacrament, Toledo
St. John XXIII, Perrysburg
St. Richard, Swanton
St. Thomas More, Bowling Green

Available Until 11:00pm

Christ the King, Toledo
Little Flower, Toledo
Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral
St. Aloysius, Bowling Green
St. Jerome, Walbridge
St. Joan of Arc, Toledo
St. Patrick of Heatherdowns, Toledo

Available Until Midnight

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Toledo
St. Joseph, Maumee
St. Joseph, Sylvania
St. Rose, Perrysburg



HOLY THURSDAY VISITS TO ALTARS OF REPOSE

One spiritual tradition about Holy Thursday is the custom of visiting other Churches after the Mass of the Lord's Supper to pray and reflect on this sacred time from the Last Supper to Good Friday. Some traditions visit up to seven Churches, but there is always flexibility in matters of custom.

The Seven Churches Visitation is traced back by some to the time of St. Philip Neri in Rome during the 16th Century. He would initiate groups to visit the basilicas of Rome on Holy Thursday night. This became a way of keeping watch with Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane the night before his Passion and Crucifixion. This tradition continues on in many countries and cities to this day.

Common Prayers and Reflections

- **Adoration:** "O Savior of the world, our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, Lover of Souls and King of Saints, we adore thee present in the Blessed Sacrament of the altar, and we pray thee to intercede for us, pleading the virtue of thy holy life and death".
- **Act of Reparation:** "I accept Your gentle invitation of love, dear Lord, to spend this night in vigil with You... Lord, when I face the crosses of my own life, give me Your divine courage and strength to say 'Yes' to the Will of the Father".
- **Gethsemane Prayer:** "My Father, if it is not possible that this cup pass without my drinking it, your will be done!".
- **Closing Prayer:** "Almighty God we leave you just for a while and will return at the dawn of morning. We have witnessed the betrayal of Judas and the hurt in your eyes".

Suggested Structure of the Watch

- **Silence:** Much of the time is spent in silent meditation.
- **Scripture Readings:** Focus on Matthew 26:36-46 (Agony in the Garden) or John 13-17.
- **Final Prayer:** A closing prayer may be used to entrust oneself to God's care, such as, "Into your hands, Lord, I commend my spirit"



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