

Suburban Life

Lorraine McClish editor/477-5450



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Tre Ore: a Good Friday highlight

By Lorraine McClish
staff writer

AMONG THE special services planned during Holy Week for Christians is Tre Ore, a worship encounter that dates back to the days of Ignatius of Loyola, a 16th century Spanish soldier and bon vivant.

"He was recuperating from a battle wound at Montserrat when he committed his life to God in the chapel of a Benedictine monastery and conceived the three-hour service," said the Rev. T. Richard Marcell of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Farmington Hills.

Ignatius is also the founder of the religious order known as The Society of Jesus, or more simply, The Jesuits.

Tre Ore, considered one of the most sacred days on the Christian

calendar and observed in many Christian churches throughout the world, runs from noon to 3 p.m. Good Friday at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 12 Mile and New Market, east of Farmington Road.

It is divided into seven 20-minute segments with a five-minute break between each to allow worshippers to attend one or all of the segments. Each segment revolves around a station of the cross, which are points of interest along the traditional pathway Jesus took from Pilate's judgment hall to Calvary.

"Christians universally recognize this pathway by its Latin identification, The Via Dolorosa or 'The Way of Sorrows.' Originally, 38 stations were observed, but today, 14 are recognized by Roman Catholics and seven by Protestants," Marcell said. "Actually, nine are based on the Gos-

pel accounts."

IN ADDITION, the service includes meditations, prayers, readings from the Scripture, Lenten hymns sung by the worshippers and specially prepared music. Offerings are never taken during the services, baskets are placed at the door for those who want to contribute.

At 7:30 p.m. Good Friday, a Tenebrae Service of Darkness is conducted when all seven meditations are based on the "Last Words of Christ from the Cross."

The Eucharistic Service for Maundy Thursday begins at 7:30 p.m. to night, followed by the "Stripping of the Altar," when all paraments and appointments will be removed in preparation for the Good Friday observance.

The Sacrament at Prince of Peace will be administered during Easter Sunday's Sunrise Service, which begins at 8:15 a.m., followed by Easter Brunch in the fellowship hall. The High Easter Service begins at 10:45 a.m.

All of the services planned for Holy Week are open to the community.

EASTER VIGIL is the highest point of Holy Week, the most important liturgy of the year and the most joyous of High Holy Days for Roman Catholics.

The Vigil begins at 8 p.m. Holy Saturday in St. Gerald Catholic Church, 21300 Farmington Road, Farmington.

"A common misconception is that Christmas is our most important holiday," said the Rev. Gerald McEnhill, pastor at St. Gerald.

"We celebrate the birth of Christ, but the essence of his life was in the Resurrection when he overcame sin and death for all of us. His birth was certainly important, but not as important as his saving work."

The full meaning of vigil is the waiting for the coming of the Lord.

It begins with The Service of Light accompanied by meditation, followed by Liturgy of the Word, which gives an account of the history of salvation.

The blessing of the Easter Water and the Liturgy of Baptism welcomes new members into the Catholic faith and the parish family. The Sacraments of Confirmation are performed.

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Spring, liberation link fest

Both Easter and Passover celebrate spring's arrival and commemorate human liberation, local clergy say.

The holidays have obvious theological and ideological differences. "But both have an origin in the human response to spring and the rebirth of the world," said Rabbi Sherwin Wine of the Birmingham Temple, Farmington Hills.

"Just as there are many linkages in Judeo-Christian tradition, both are two great events of liberation," said Dr. William Ritter, pastor at Nardin Park United Methodist Church, Farmington Hills.

"To the degree that Passover is tied to that great tradition, certainly Jews, in their readings for that evening, talk about liberation from Egypt," he added. "In the same sense, Easter is a tradition that says life is not born in by death."

Passover is the Jewish holiday commemorating the Jewish people's escape from Egyptian bond-

age and their exodus from Egypt. "Historically, it marked the spring-time birth of lambs for shepherds and the appearance of the spring grain harvest for farmers," Wine said.

EASTER is a Christian festival commemorating Jesus' Resurrection. "It is also, in perhaps the finest sense, a festival of liberation — a liberation from the bondage of death," Ritter said.

"Be they governmental powers, be they militaristic powers, even the powers of human mortality, everything from old age from tumors, death does not get the last word," Ritter said. "It gets a word, but not the last word. The grave can claim us, but it can't keep us. Death gets its day, not its dominion."

The two holidays also spotlight eggs. Easter eggs, dyed or painted hard-boiled eggs, are used as Easter gifts. A roasted Passover egg is

a token of grief for the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem.

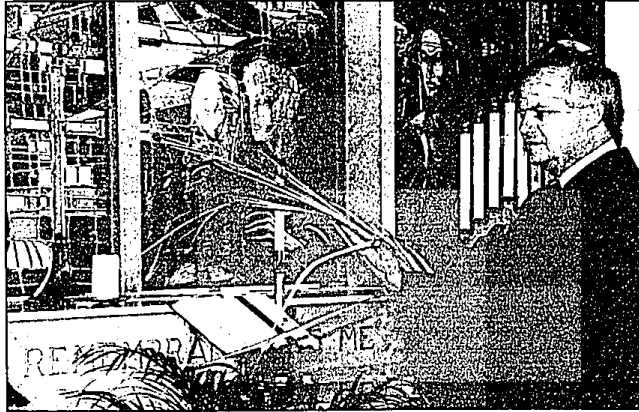
"Both kinds of eggs are symbolic of the renewal of life and a celebration of new life," Wine said.

Interestingly, Jews were celebrating Passover at the time of Jesus' death. Jesus was raised Jewish.

"People assume Jesus' Last Supper (with his disciples the night before his crucifixion) was a seder (a Jewish feast marked by a religious service)," Wine said. "It may or may not have been."

TODAY, on Maundy Thursday, the Thursday before Easter Sunday, Christians remember the Last Supper.

"It is when we recall that Jesus instructed his disciples to break bread and lift the cup and observe that ritual, which would then be a vehicle for them to experience him afresh even after he was gone from them," Ritter said.



William Ritter, pastor at Nardin Park United Methodist Church, holds palm fronds on Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Easter. Palm Sunday commemorates Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, when palm fronds were strewn before him.

BOB SKLAR/staff photographer

Passover

It's a holiday of celebration

By Bob Sklar
staff writer

Birmingham Temple religious school students held a model seder Sunday at Warner Middle School in observance of the Jewish holiday of Passover, which begins at sundown Friday and runs for eight days.

"Passover is a holiday of celebration of perhaps the epic event in Jewish history: the exodus of Jews from Egypt," said Rabbi Sherwin Wine of the Farmington Hills-based synagogue. "Therefore, it is an event generally identified with the founding of Jewish nationhood."

He said the holiday also is "a celebration of the importance of the value of freedom, both as a Jewish and a human value. It's a celebration of both individual freedom and national sovereignty."

Passover commemorates the Jewish people's deliverance from Egyptian slavery, circa 1280 BCE (Before the Common Era).

Moses, as leader of the Israelites, asked Pharaoh to "let my people

go." When Pharaoh refused, a series of 10 plagues, each worse than the one before, were brought against the people of Egypt. The angel of death slew every first-born Egyptian male, but "passed over" the homes of the Jews.

The first two nights of Passover are celebrated in Jewish homes with a feast called the seder, which literally means "order" of the service. It is a ceremonial dinner marked by retelling of the story of the exodus from Egypt through use of prayers, songs and ceremonial foods.

DURING THE first two days and last two days of Passover (Reform and Humanistic Jews, the first and last days only), many children do not attend school and many adults refrain from work. Activities continue as usual during the middle four days.

In their haste to leave Egypt, the Israelites did not have time to let their dough for bread-baking rise. To this day, unleavened bread, or mat-



Rabbi Sherwin Wine conducts model seder

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Birmingham Temple students Tarin Gillin (left), 12, Rachel Greenberg, 12, and Anne Moyerson, 13, take part in a model seder song.

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