

Wednesday of Holy Week

Understanding Wednesday of Holy Week

The Wednesday of Holy Week is also called Spy Wednesday because the Gospel at Mass tells the story of how Judas began to watch for an opportunity to hand Jesus over for 30 pieces of silver. On this last full day of Lent, we prepare to walk with Jesus into the Paschal Mystery of his suffering, death, and resurrection.

Open The Word

One of the Twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?" They paid him thirty pieces of silver, and from that time on he looked for an opportunity to hand him over. (Matthew 26:14)

- **Read today's Gospel:** Matthew 26:14-25

Holy Week In Your Home

What are you willing to give? Judas wanted to know what he would get in exchange for betraying Jesus. The practices of Lent invite us to ponder what we are willing to give in gratitude for Jesus' great and merciful love.

Traditionally, we give alms by donating money we saved by sacrificing something during Lent. One suggestion is a donation to Catholic Relief Services using the Rice Bowl. This year, our Lord also invites us to sacrifice in an additional way. Is there someone in your home or extended family, a neighbor or fellow parishioner, who might benefit from the gift of your time? Do you have a skill that would meet a local need? What gifts of your abilities or time might Jesus be inviting you to offer so that you might help others to know Jesus' love?

For Children

On this Spy Wednesday, to be more like Jesus, can you spy, or look for, ways to be kind to others over the next three days until Easter?

Activity: [Kindness Bingo](#).

Did You Know?

Tenebrae is a traditional Holy Week service of darkness, which involves the gradual extinguishing of candles and the reading of Scripture passages symbolizing the increasing darkness and the abandonment of Jesus by his disciples. It offers a stark contrast to the Service of Light celebrating Jesus' Resurrection held at the start of the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday.

Spiritual Reading

It is a mistake to think that the great privilege of living in company with Jesus is enough to make a person holy. Jesus does not force our will when he invites us to follow him along the path of the beatitudes.

The only way to avoid the pitfalls that surround us is to give ourselves entirely to Jesus, to enter into full communion with him, so that we think and act as he did, in total obedience to the Father. God can turn everything to a good purpose.

~Pope Benedict XVI, general audience of Oct. 18, 2006.

Let Us Pray

Gracious God, on this solemn Spy Wednesday, we come before you with humble hearts, seeking your forgiveness and guidance. Give us the wisdom to recognize the ways in which we betray you in our thoughts, words, and actions. Inspire us instead to do kind acts to help one another. We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus, our humble Lord. Amen.

Faith In Action

Lent is a time of almsgiving. As this season ends, how can you serve the needy members of your community through the gift of your time, talent, or treasure? Consider donating to the St. Vincent de Paul Society or a local community organization that serves poor and vulnerable members of your community.



The Roman Catholic
Archdiocese of Washington