

**3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL THREE CHURCHES VISITATION**  
*HOLY THURSDAY 2018*

*As the Mass of the Lord's Supper begins on the evening of Holy Thursday, Lent comes to a close and the Church enters into the most sacred season in the Liturgical Calendar: the Triduum. After the Last Supper, Jesus made His way out into the Garden of Gethsemane to pray to His Father. He commanded a few of His closest Apostles on three occasions to "remain with" Him and "keep watch." The Three Churches Visitation is our response to this ultimate request of Jesus Christ.*

**Itinerary**

- **7:15 – 7:20** Gather in the vestibule area of St. Rose of Lima Church.

St. Rose of Lima Church  
428 S. Main Street  
North Wales, PA 19454

- **7:30 – 9:00** Attend the Mass of the Lord's Supper at St. Rose of Lima, then take a few minutes after Mass for Adoration.
- **9:10 – 9:20** Depart St. Rose and travel to St. Stanislaus Church

St. Stanislaus Church  
51 Lansdale Avenue  
Lansdale, PA 19446

- **9:20 – 9:25** 5 minutes for prayer and Adoration at St. Stan's.
- **9:30 – 9:40** Depart St. Stan's and travel to Mary, Mother of the Redeemer Church.

Mary, Mother of the Redeemer Church  
1325 Upper State Road  
North Wales, PA 19454

- **9:40 – 9:45** 5 minutes for prayer and Adoration at MMR.
- **9:50 - 10:00** Depart MMR and travel to Applebee's.

Applebee's  
1281 Knapp Road  
North Wales, PA 19454

The First Visit  
Mass of the Lord's Supper and Adoration  
St. Rose of Lima, North Wales

**Bible Reading:** *While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, from now on I shall not drink this fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it with you new in the kingdom of my Father." Then, after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to feel sorrow and distress. Then he said to them, "My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me." He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will." (Matthew 26:26–30, 36–39)*

**Reflection:** *Our participation in Mass tonight IS a participation in the Last Supper. Imagine that you are one of the apostles in the upper room where the Last Supper is being celebrated. With the eyes of faith, take a look around. What is the atmosphere like in that room? Do the others recognize the importance of this moment? Now look into the eyes of Jesus. Empathize with Him. How is He feeling at that moment? Is there anything you would like to say to Him in this sacred moment? With your eyes still focused on Jesus, how is He responding to you?*



The "Upper Room," where Jesus Celebrated the Last Supper with the Apostles. It is the same room where the apostles received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

The Second Visit  
Adoration  
St. Stanislaus, Lansdale

**Bible Reading:** *When he returned to his disciples he found them asleep. He said to Peter, “So you could not keep watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.” Withdrawing a second time, he prayed again, “My Father, if it is not possible that this cup pass without my drinking it, your will be done!” (Matthew 26:40–42)*

*And to strengthen him an angel from heaven appeared to him. He was in such agony and he prayed so fervently that his sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground. (Luke 22:42–44)*

**Reflection:** *You are in the garden with Jesus. What is your spiritual state? Are you spiritually asleep—i.e. unable to feel the presence of Jesus and/or feeling disconnected from God? If you are spiritually tired, do you give up and fall asleep or do you try to stay awake with Jesus, even though you may not feel or understand what is happening?*

*With the eyes of faith, look at Jesus as He goes to pray for a second time. Can you feel His pain as His friends distance themselves from Him and even betray Him? Look at the drops of blood dripping from His face. There is an unusual phenomenon that some inmates on death row experience shortly before their execution. Overwhelmed with stress and anxiety, capillaries on the surface of their skin actually rupture, creating the effect that the condemned man is sweating blood. Jesus knows the cross He must carry. What crosses do you carry? Sometimes we ask God to take away our suffering, just as Jesus did as He was praying to the Father. If the Father does not take away your cross, will you still be faithful to Him? Will you accept your cross as a way to stay with Jesus and allow Him to suffer with you? Do you trust that, if you suffer with Christ, He can redeem your suffering and bring good out of it?*

A view of Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, where the Garden of Gethsemane is located. This is similar to Jesus' last view of Jerusalem as a free man.



The Third Visit  
Adoration  
Mary, Mother of the Redeemer, North Wales

**Bible Reading:** *Then he returned once more and found them asleep, for they could not keep their eyes open. He left them and withdrew again and prayed a third time, saying the same thing again. Then he returned to his disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Behold, the hour is at hand when the Son of Man is to be handed over to sinners. Get up, let us go. Look, my betrayer is at hand."* (Matthew 26:43-46)

**Reflection:** *There is a profound sense of mystery about tonight. When you get a chance, look up at the moon. This is the only holiday that does not depend on the earth's revolution around the sun, but the moon's revolution around the earth. There is always a full moon during Holy Week. The Sun represents God as the source of light. But even in these dark hours, the light has not totally disappeared because the moon is there to reflect the light of the sun. The moon is a symbol for Mary because she "proclaims the greatness of the Lord." (Luke 1:46) In other words, although Mary is not God, she reflects the glory of God because she is without sin. In those dark moments of life when you feel spiritually asleep and numb to God's love for you, turn to the Blessed Mother. As a source of the Light of God, she will be there to console you when you are sad, comfort you when you are in pain, and guide you home when you are lost in the dark. But Jesus also challenges you to be "the light of the world." He is calling you to "let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." (cf. Matthew 5:14-16) In the eyes of a world without faith, the events we celebrate tonight and tomorrow are a complete disaster. If Jesus was really God, why would He endure sin, division, betrayal, torture, and even death by crucifixion? But with the eyes of faith, we know that this ends in victory. We have a good reason to be joyful tonight because God endured all this out of Love for us, and He promised us that not even death could extinguish that Love. Thank God for Our Savior, who takes our pain and suffers for us now! Humbled by the immensity of His mercy, rise up from your sin and radiate the Love of God!*



A 2,000-year-old olive tree in the Garden of Gethsemane, the place where He prayed in agony and was arrested. The word "Peace" is formed by stones at the base of the tree.