
Seven Churches Pilgrimage Meditation Guide

Holy Thursday, after Mass of the Lord's Supper until Midnight



*Reflect on each of these seven stop Jesus made before
picking up His Cross and heading to Calvary.*

As you spend 5-10 minutes in Adoration, pray:

*5 Our Fathers, 5 Hail Marys
5 Glory Bes*

after each reflection.

Seven Churches Visitation on Holy Thursday

Next to the solemn celebration of the Easter vigil on Holy Saturday evening, there is probably no liturgy in the Universal Calendar of the Catholic Church that is fraught with more significance and symbolism than the Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Supper on the evening of Holy Thursday. With that Mass we celebrate the end of Lent and the beginning of the Easter Triduum. The Mass celebrates both the institution of the Holy Eucharist and the institution of the priesthood. It includes the very moving ceremony of the washing of feet. Mass concludes with a solemn procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar of Repose, after which the other altars of the church are stripped. After the Blessed Sacrament has been reposed, the faithful are invited to remain in quiet prayer and adoration, keeping Christ company as He begins the hours of His Sacred Passion and Death.

The Seven Churches Visitation is an ancient pious tradition wherein the faithful visit the Altars of Reposition of seven churches on the evening of Holy Thursday to keep solemn vigil with Jesus. The custom probably began in Rome with the visitation of the seven basilicas. The tradition of visiting all seven churches is attributed to St. Philip Neri around 1553. The tradition is especially popular in the Philippines, where it is known as the *Visita Iglesia*.

There are no set prayers, except to pray for the intentions of the Pope and recite the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be. Some participants choose to meditate on the following stations of the *via crucis* during their visitations:

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| Starting church: | Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:39-46) |
| Second visit: | Jesus bound and taken before Annas (John 18:19-22) |
| Third visit: | Jesus taken before the High Priest, Caiaphas (Mt 26:63-65) |
| Fourth Visit: | Jesus taken before Pilate (John 18:35-37) |
| Fifth Visit: | Jesus taken before Herod (Luke 23:8-9; 11) |
| Sixth Visit: | Jesus taken before Pilate again (Matthew 27:22-26) |
| Seventh Visit: | Jesus crowned with thorns and led to crucifixion (Mt 27:27-31) |



1st Visit:

Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

Luke 22: 39-46

Then going out he went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. When he arrived at the place he said to them, "Pray that you may not undergo the test."

After withdrawing about a stone's throw from them and kneeling, he prayed, saying,

"Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me; still, not my will but yours be done."

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. When he rose from prayer and returned to his disciples, he found them

sleeping from grief. He said to them, *"Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not undergo the test."*



2nd Visit:

Jesus is bound
and taken
before Annas

John 18:19-24

The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his doctrine.

Jesus answered him, *“I have spoken publicly to the world. I have always taught in a synagogue or in the temple area where all the Jews gather, and in secret I have said nothing. Why ask me? Ask those who heard me what I said to them. They know what I said.”*

When he had said this, one of the temple guards you standing there struck Jesus and said, “Is this the way answer the high priest?”

Jesus answered him, *“If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong; but if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?”*

Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.



3rd Visit:

Jesus is taken
before the High
Priest Caiaphas

Matthew 26: 57-68

Those who had arrested Jesus led him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. The chief priests and the entire Sanhedrin kept trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus in order to put him to death,... The high priest rose and addressed him, "Have you no answer? What are these men testifying against you?"

But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, "I order you to tell us under oath before the living God whether you are the Messiah, the Son of God." Jesus said to him in reply, *You have said so. But I tell you: From now on you will see 'the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power' and 'coming on the clouds of heaven.'"*

Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has blasphemed! What further need have we of witnesses? You have now heard the blasphemy; what is your opinion?" They said in reply, "He deserves to die!" Then they spat in his face and struck him, while some slapped him, saying, "Prophecy for us, Messiah: who is it that struck you?"



4th Visit:

Jesus is taken
before Pilate

John 18:28, 33-38

Then they brought Jesus from Caiaphas to the praetorium. It was morning So Pilate went back into the praetorium and summoned Jesus and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered,

“Do you say this on your own or have others told you about me?”

Pilate answered, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?”

Jesus answered , *“My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants [would] be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not here.”* So Pilate said to him, “Then you are a king?”

Jesus answered, *“You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”*

Pilate said to him, “What is truth?” When he had said this, he again went out to the Jews and said to them, “I find no guilt in him.”



5th Visit:

Jesus is taken
before Herod

Luke 22: 39-46

Herod was very glad to see Jesus; he had been wanting to see him for a long time, for he had heard about him and had been hoping to see him perform some sign.

He questioned him at length, but he gave him no answer. [Even] Herod and his soldiers treated him contemptuously and mocked him, and after clothing him in resplendent garb, he sent him back to Pilate.

Herod and Pilate became friends that very day, even though they had been enemies formerly.



6th Visit:

Jesus is taken
before Pilate
again

Luke 23: 8-9; 11-12

Pilate then summoned the chief priests, the rulers, and the people and said to them, “You brought this man to me and accused him of inciting the people to revolt. I have conducted my investigation in your presence and have not found this man guilty of the charges you have brought against him, nor did Herod, for he sent him back to us. So no capital crime has been committed by him.

Therefore I shall have him flogged and then release him.” But all together they shouted out, “Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us.” (Now Barabbas had been imprisoned for a rebellion that had taken place in the city and for murder.) Again Pilate addressed them, still wishing to release Jesus, but they continued their shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

Pilate addressed them a third time, “What evil has this man done? I found him guilty of no capital crime. Therefore I shall have him flogged and then release him.” With loud shouts, however, they persisted in calling for his crucifixion, and their voices prevailed. The verdict of Pilate was that their demand should be granted.



7th Visit:

Jesus is given the
crown of thorns
and led to his
crucifixion

Matthew 27: 27-31

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him.

They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head.

After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

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<u>Parish</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Times</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>ARRIVE</u>	<u>DEPART</u>
St. Bridget of Kildare (Pacific)	111 W. Union Ave, Pacific, MO 63069	until midnight	in church	Holy Mass 7:00 PM	8:30 PM
Immaculate Conception (Union)	111 N Washington Ave, Union, MO 63084	until 10pm	in church	8:50 PM	9:00 PM
St. Ann (Clover Bottom)	7835 State Hwy YY, Washington, MO 63090	until 10pm	in church	9:15 PM	9:25 PM
Assumption (New Haven)	603 Miller St. New Haven, MO 63068	until 10pm	in church	9:45 PM	9:55 PM
St. Vincent de Paul (Dutzow)	13497 S Missouri 94, Marthasville, MO 63357	until 11pm	in church	10:25 PM	10:35 PM
St. Francis Borgia (Washington)	115 Cedar St., Washington, MO 63090	until 11pm	2nd floor of Jesuit Hall, Choir room	10:50 PM	11:00 PM
Our Lady of Lourdes (Washington)	1014 Madison Ave, Washington, MO 63090	until midnight	downstairs	11:05 PM	11:15 PM
St. John the Baptist Gildehaus (Villa Ridge)	5567 Gildehaus Rd, Villa Ridge, MO 63089	until midnight	in church	11:30 PM	11:40 PM
St. Bridget of Kildare (Pacific)	111 W. Union Ave, Pacific, MO 63069	until midnight	in church	12:00 AM	

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<u>Parish</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Times</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>ARRIVE</u>	<u>DEPART</u>
St. Bridget of Kildare (Pacific)	111 W. Union Ave, Pacific, MO 63069	until midnight	in church	7pm - Holy Mass	8:30 PM
Most Sacred Heart (Eureka)	350 E 4th St, Eureka, MO 63025	until midnight	Fr. Dowling Hall	8:40 PM	8:55 PM
Sacred Heart (Valley Park)	17 Ann Ave, Valley Park, 63088	until midnight		9:10 PM	9:25 PM
St. Joseph (Manchester)	567 St Josephs Ln, Manchester, MO 63021	until 10pm	Parish Center	9:35 PM	9:50 PM
Christ, Prince of Peace (Manchester)	417 Weidman Rd, Manchester, MO 63011	until midnight	vestibule of church	10:00 PM	10:15 PM
Holy Infant (Ballwin)	627 Dennison Dr, Ballwin, MO 63021	until midnight		10:30 PM	10:45 PM
St. Clare of Assisi (Ellisville)	15642 Clayton Rd, Ellisville, MO 63011	until midnight	School Gym	10:55 PM	11:10 PM
St. Alban Roe (Wildwood)	2001 Shepard Road, Wildwood, MO 63038	until midnight	Mikesch Hall in the church basement.	11:20 PM	11:35 PM
St. Bridget of Kildare (Pacific)	111 W. Union Ave, Pacific, MO 63069	until midnight	in church	11:55 PM	

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