

Each week during the Lenten season, one of the members of the Cathedral family will be offering a reflection on the Gospel. As Lent is a time of preparation, we hope that you will consider discussing this reflection with your son each week as well all prepare for the joy of Easter.

2026 CHS Lenten Reflections: Holy Thursday

Holy Thursday has long been one of my favorite celebrations of the year, as things really start moving at the Last Supper. It's the rising action just before the Biblical story's climax. I'm always captivated by the drama of it all, for the events of Holy Thursday—washing the disciples' feet, the Last Supper, the Agony in the Garden, Jesus' arrest—really earn the title "Holy" by their spiritual magnitude. In considering the Gospel this year, though, it may be the first time the story has felt not "Holy" for the way it sits at the height of Jesus' story in some grand theological sense but "holy" for the way it reflects my own community in a humble yet profoundly moving way.

It occurs to me this year how deeply our Lasallian story reflects the Gospel. **All five Lasallian Core Principles** are on display in this story. Jesus gathers His **inclusive community** of societal nobodies, models genuine **concern for the poor** as He washes their feet, and prays to the Father and institutes the Eucharist, deepening the apostles **faith in the presence of God**. Jesus, the pinnacle of a teacher, leaves them with His final bit of **education**, reminding the apostles of the need to have **respect for all persons**. This moment that so fully encapsulates Jesus' ministry and the Gospel message is rife with the elements of our Lasallian community. It is reassuring to know that these five ideas which have been chosen to anchor and guide our Lasallian family are expressed so clearly in Jesus' final days.

What's more, I see aspects of our Cathedral family at work here, too. On Holy Thursday, Jesus begins His most difficult chapter, and He responds by gathering His community, praying with them, and not only maintaining but fulfilling His cultural story. I feel so grateful every day to walk into a community of people who are dedicated to their shared prayer. It is a community which has faced the challenges of this year—environmental, political, financial, personal—by lifting each other up, honoring our educational heritage and cultural traditions, and ensuring that every member is rooted in the holy presence of God.

As I consider the Triduum stories this year, I see how Holy Thursday is the first part of the crux of what it means to be Catholic, and in that, the core of what it means to be Lasallian. Further still, we find what it means to be a Phantom. In so recognizing, I feel blessed in a new way to have the privilege of working with every member of our community. All the strengths and weaknesses of each person, teacher, staff, student, parent, alumni enrich our story and reinforce our work towards building the kingdom one student at a time. This year for me, that is the unassuming holiness of Holy Thursday.

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