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Catholic holy week starts today

By Lacey A.C. Martinez
Pacific Sunday News
lcmartinez@guampdn.com

Today marks the start of Holy Week, a time of reflection, penance and prayer for Lawrence Borja and many other Catholics on island.

Palm Sunday for Catholics is the day when Christ was welcomed into Jerusalem, where he was later crucified. Palm Sunday also begins the last week of the 40 days of Lent.

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"Lent is the time when I go to the sacrament of reconciliation, being a little more receptive to giving to those in need, and that's what it means to be a Christian," the 24-year-old said.

And although the Easter season is often characterized by the Easter Bunny, egg hunts and pastel dresses, Borja said he follows the holiday's more religious traditions, such as abstaining from meat on

Fridays and attending Mass during Holy Week.

Relics of the Passion Tour
<p>Today</p> <p>9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Agana Shopping Center, center court</p> <p>7 p.m. Dulce Nombre De Maria Cathedral-Basilica</p> <p>Holy Week services at the Hagåtña Cathedral-Basilica</p> <p>s April 1: Palm Sunday</p> <p>Regular Sunday Mass schedule: 5:45 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. Solemn Palm Sunday celebration, presided by Archbishop Anthony Apuron; 11:30 a.m.; and 7 p.m.</p> <p>s April 2: Holy Monday</p> <p>Masses: 5:45 a.m.; 12:10 p.m.; 6 p.m.</p> <p>s April 3: Holy Tuesday</p> <p>Masses: 5:45 a.m.; 12:10 p.m.; 6 p.m.</p> <p>s April 4: Holy Wednesday</p>

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"It's really like it's in our family," Borja said. "Jesus, being our brother and our father -- preparing for Easter, it's almost like someone preparing for someone passing away."

On Good Friday, many of the island's faithful will take to the southern part of Guam for a spiritual trek up Mount Jumullong Manglo. The tradition began in the 1970s, representing the suffering Christ endured before being crucified.

With just a week left until the Lenten season is over, Borja said he'll continue to add prayer and reflection to his sacrifice by visiting today with the Relics of the Passion.

He will also participate in special Masses and services during the Holy Week. The services include reenactments of what Jesus went through during his last days on earth.

"I welcome him on Palm Sunday and I betray him Holy Thursday and shout to crucify him on Good Friday," Borja said. "Then on Easter Sunday he rises and he still says 'Lawrence, peace be with you.'"

STORYCHAT

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Comments by: **Retired**

Posted: Mon Apr 02, 2007 8:29 am

By catholic, does the PDN mean Roman catholic or all who adhere to the Nicean Creed?

Comments by: **crimefighter**

Posted: Mon Apr 02, 2007 6:53 am

Yes, Catholics/Christians must keep the faith knowing that the Son of God died for all mankind regardless of religion or lack of it. All one has to do is to seek His ways and get to know, love, and serve Him. I have done this on a personal level and I can't ask for any more in this world. To the unbelievers, He died for you anyway.

Comments by: **char4os_chick**

Posted: Sun Apr 01, 2007 9:20 pm

Many don't remember holy week as the time of Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection. Nowadays it is all about spring break and having fun. It is good to look back on your faith and be reminded of your beliefs.

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Mass of the Chrism and renewal of vows to the priesthood of all priests on Guam at 6:30 p.m.

s April 5: Holy Thursday

5:45 a.m. Tenebrae

7 p.m. Holy Thursday Mass, followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 11:45 p.m.

11:45 p.m. Stations of the Cross

s April 6: Good Friday

5:45 a.m. Tenebrae

1 p.m. Stations of the Cross

1:30 p.m. The Seven last Words

3 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy and Veneration of the Cross

s April 7: Holy Saturday

5:45 a.m. Tenebrae

9 a.m. Day of reconciliation

8 p.m. Easter vigil Mass and rite of renewal of fire and water

s April 8: Easter Sunday

Regular Sunday Mass schedule: 5:45 a.m., 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 7 p.m.


For more information, call 477-1842 or 472-6201

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