

Today we begin the celebration of Sacred Paschal Triduum, the three last days of Lent ... the three days leading up to the celebration of Easter Sunday.

Holy Thursday commemorates the institution of the ordained priesthood and the institution of the Eucharist.

The Gospel today relates the episode of Jesus washing the feet of His disciples. But if that is where we stop in our understanding of this passage, we have missed the point.

Saint John's 13th chapter begins:

[Jesus] loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end.

And that is very true.

But this is not the end.

The end of this evening's Gospel has Jesus saying:

*I have given you a model to follow,
so that as I have done for you, you should also do.*

But this is not the end.

This is only the beginning.

Jesus' example begins with His debasement ... His example of humility ... in the washing of the feet.

His example continues with the Cross.

Tomorrow, we will hear St. John's Passion narrative.

And those who would think that is the end ... would be wrong.

Saturday evening, we will enter this building in darkness. We will recount the stories of God fulfilling His promises throughout salvation history in the Old Testament.

And then we will celebrate Our Lord's resurrection.

Jesus, indeed, loves His own ... unto the end.

But this ...

This is only the beginning.