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## Birthday Corner:

### APRIL

Sr. Aprilia Untarto, SSpS	April 2
Sr. Luu Thi Nguyen, LHC	April 3
Karen Young	April 5



## THE PRESIDENT

Fr. Tom Ascheman, SVD

### The Way to the Kingdom

After years of living in large metropolitan areas like Chicago, Washington D.C., Mexico City, and Rome, I am now happy to have the small-town of Epworth as my home. One charming feature of small-town life is the sight of “kids on bikes” throughout the summer. Our police chief once joked that he has one of the best intelligence services in the state; he can always ask one of the youngsters on “bike-patrol” if they’ve spotted any trouble in town!



When I see our young bike riders, the following story always comes to mind:

A boy about ten years old was riding his bike along Main Street when a car pulled over. The driver, a newcomer, asked for directions to the post office. The boy pointed toward an American flag further down the street and told the man that the post-office was right there.

The man thanked the boy, and added: “I’m the new preacher here in town. If you come to church on Sunday, I can show you the way to heaven.” The boy responded: “How can you know the way to heaven? You don’t even know the way to the post office!”

Fortunately, we have Jesus as our guide to the Kingdom. He does truly know the way. The days of this Holy Week remind us of some of the specific steps along the journey.

**Hosannas.** This past Sunday, with palms in our hands and hosannas ringing out, we set out in procession to accompany Jesus into Jerusalem. In the coming days of Holy Week, we will follow him toward Golgotha and the empty tomb.

**Gratitude and Conspiracy.** On Monday we recall a remarkable gesture of Mary of Bethany. Overcome with gratitude for the raising of her brother, Lazarus, she anointed Jesus’ feet. Judas, in contrast, complained, his heart turning toward conspiracy with the chief priests.

**Confusion.** On Tuesday, we remember Peter’s discovery of the gathering conspiracy, and his impulsive promise to die for Jesus. The Lord noted that while Peter wasn’t ready yet, he would follow him on the difficult journey to the Kingdom.

**Betrayal.** On Wednesday, we contemplate Judas’ betrayal of Jesus and of his fellow disciples. While protesting his innocence, Judas left the gathering and put his plan into action.

**Humble Service.** On Thursday, we gather with Jesus and his disciples in a Passover feast. Amidst the celebration of centuries of God’s abundant mercy, Jesus takes on the task of a slave, washing the disciples’ feet. He reminds them, “If I have washed

your feet, you ought to wash one another’s feet...” At DWC, we may not often wash feet; but every day we do wash dishes, clean bathrooms, sweep floors, and help one another.

**Real Courage.** On the Friday we call Good, we hardly know how to react as we meditate on Jesus being stripped and nailed, on his giving away his mother to the care of a disciple, and his final words “It is finished.” For our sake he surrenders dignity, family and life itself.

**Tomb.** Pope Francis used to insist that we must enter the tomb with Jesus to enter into the mystery of the Kingdom of God. We must put off our “old selves” and our familiar ways in order to share in the transforming mystery. Our own deaths become the doorway to new life.

We might wish the journey we share with Jesus were as simple as heading toward a flag down the street. But the way to the Kingdom is not as easy as finding the way to the post office. However, **we do have a good guide.** Jesus knows the way and directs our steps. His Way of the Cross leads past milestones of Joy, Gratitude, Confusion, Betrayal, Humility, Real Courage, and Dying. It is our way home to the Father.



## Student Success Quality Initiative Committee

The full reaccreditation of Divine Word College by the Higher Learning Commission in September comes with the expectation that we will continue to develop initiatives to promote student success. In order to help meet this challenge, I am appointing the following persons to the **Student Success Quality Initiative Committee**. They bring wide experience from the faculty, the formation program and the staff.

Chair – Dr. Mathew Kanjirathinkal  
 Dr. Cathleen Cleary  
 Sr. Thoa Nguyen LHC  
 Fr. Betenora Boka Liba SVD  
 Br. Brian McLaughlin SVD  
 Mr. Larry Udry

The committee will work to develop a broad-based initiative to directly benefit the students at DWC. My gratitude to all the members of the committee, and to all the rest of our community, as we collaborate in imagining and implementing this initiative during the coming months and years.

More information on Students Success Quality Initiatives is available at HLC: <https://www.hlcommission.org/accreditation/cycles-and-processes/standard-and-open-pathways/quality-initiative/>

# ASSESSMENT LOOP

Ms. Kimberly Burnett-Hackbarth

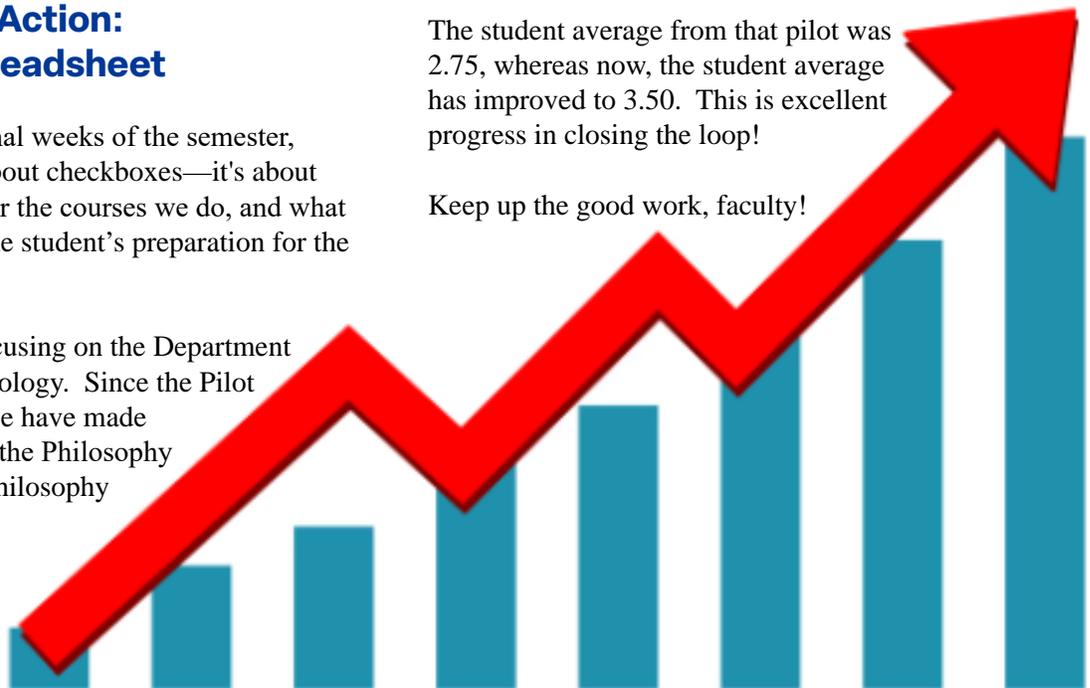
## Assessment in Action: Beyond the Spreadsheet

As we head into the final weeks of the semester, assessment isn't just about checkboxes—it's about the 'why.' Why we offer the courses we do, and what impact they make in the student's preparation for the future.

This month, we are focusing on the Department of Philosophy and Theology. Since the Pilot phase of 2022-2023, we have made significant progress in the Philosophy BA/1/2/3 outcomes (Philosophy Capstone assessment).

The student average from that pilot was 2.75, whereas now, the student average has improved to 3.50. This is excellent progress in closing the loop!

Keep up the good work, faculty!



## Mission Starts With Encounter

Last week, we were fortunate to welcome former Divine Word College student **Fr. Anthony Le Duc, SVD**, who gave a presentation titled “Ecological Conversion: Awakening to Renewed Creation.” (If you missed it, you can watch it on the [College YouTube Channel](#)). We are also grateful that Fr. Anthony will stay with us through Holy Week and celebrate Easter here on campus.

Fr. Anthony said his visit is both a homecoming and an opportunity to give back. Now serving in Thailand, he was born in Nha Trang, Vietnam, and came to the United States as a child. He later studied biochemistry and Asian Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. After a Come and See visit, he entered formation with Divine Word Missionaries and enrolled at DWC in 1998.



Because of his academic background, Fr. Anthony only studied in Epworth for one year. Still, he says the experience left a lasting impression.

During his visit, he noticed several changes on campus. He mentioned improved facilities, better technology, and greater cultural diversity. He also shared that the food is better—especially the coffee!

At the same time, he reflected on what stood out most from his time as a student. He remembers public spaces, like the Pour House and the student lounge, as places where students regularly gathered, talked, and built relationships. He emphasized that formation for mission does not happen only in the classroom or chapel. Some of the most important lessons are learned in everyday interactions. A lot of what it means to live in community is learned by spending time with others—simply talking, listening, and being present.

At a place like Divine Word College, these moments are especially important. Students come from many countries, cultures, and congregations.

“This is like a real-life laboratory for mission,” he explained. “If you’re going to work cross-culturally and interreligiously in the future, this is where you begin.”

He encourages students to take full advantage of this

opportunity by spending time together and engaging with one another outside of scheduled activities.

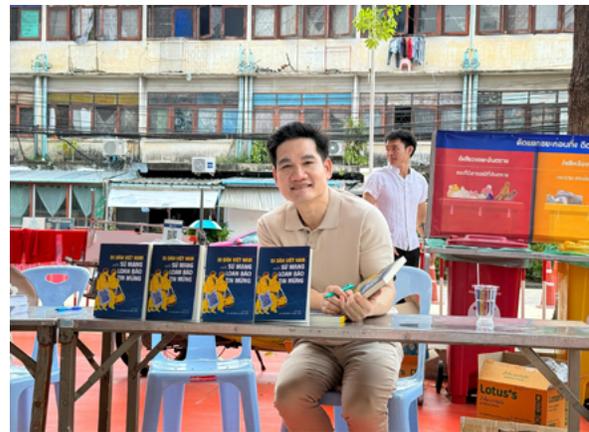
Fr. Anthony’s own missionary journey reflects this global and intercultural spirit. After his ordination in 2006, he was assigned to Thailand. There, he served in parish ministry and worked closely with people living with HIV/AIDS.

He helped build inclusive communities where people of different backgrounds—Thai, Vietnamese, migrant, HIV-positive and non-HIV—worshiped together. Mass, meals, and youth activities were shared by all, without separation.

His later academic work grew from these experiences. He completed a doctorate in religious studies in Bangkok in 2015, focusing on Buddhist environmental spirituality. This continues to shape his teaching and research today.

Fr. Anthony now serves as a professor, researcher, and Executive Director of the Asian Research Center for Religion and Social Communications. His work focuses on ecology, religion, migration, and technology.

Drawing from this work, his presentation reminded the us that care for creation is not new. It is an essential part of the Church’s mission. You cannot separate care for the environment from care for the poor, for migrants, or for future generations. They are all interconnected.



For Fr. Anthony, returning to Divine Word College was also about relationships. It was a way to give back and share what he has learned.

His visit offered both a reminder and a challenge: the mission begins here—not only in study and prayer, but in the everyday choice to encounter one another.



## VICE PRESIDENT FOR FORMATION/DEAN OF STUDENTS

Fr. Tuan Hoang, SVD

### Holy Week and the Easter Triduum

The Easter Triduum and Holy Week offer us a profound opportunity to reflect on the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. My hope is that we can all find moments of quiet prayer this week to let God's merciful love touch our hearts and deepen our faith.

While this is a busy week of preparation for the three-day re-enactment of Jesus' final days, let's stay focused on the journey toward His Resurrection. I will post the full schedule, including rehearsal times and Thursday's workday assignments, on the Student Bulletin board. Please check it regularly for updates.

We will also gather for a Lenten Reconciliation Service on **Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at 7:30 pm** in the main chapel—a beautiful time to prepare our souls for the Triduum.



*The Holy Week Schedule and General Cleaning Assignments can be found at the end of this issue of The LOG.*



### Summer Placement Program Orientation

Thank you to all who applied for the Summer Placement Program! We are reviewing applications this week and will send out notifications soon.

For those accepted, please mark your calendars for a mandatory orientation on **Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at 1:00 pm in Room 107**. Please note that attendance is required to remain eligible for summer work.



**VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADMISSIONS**

**Len Uhal**

**Come and See Visitors**

This week and next, the Vocation Office welcomes several young men who are discerning a religious vocation and want to learn more about the Divine Word Missionaries and Divine Word College. During Holy Week, we will have ten visitors on campus and we will have three during the First Week of Easter. Thank you in advance for helping our guests feel at home in our community. Those visiting include:

**March 31 - April 5, 2026**

Visitor	City/State
Botao Ding	Santa Clara, CA
Johnathan Dang	Marcos, CA
Bao Long Nguyen (ESL)	Skokie, IL
Francis Hoang	Pflugerville, TX
Alexander Nguyen	Pflugerville, TX
Tan Nguyen	Leander, TX
Raphael William Choiseul Praslin	Coral Gables, FL
Duy Hoang Pham (ESL)	Glendale Heights, IL
Daniel Murillo	Memphis, TX
Barnabas Khanh Tam Vu	Timpson, TX

**April 8-12, 2026**

Visitor	City/State
My Dinh Tran Hoang	Georgetown, TX
Carlos Ramirez	Stockbridge, GA
Tony Pedroza	Los Angeles, CA



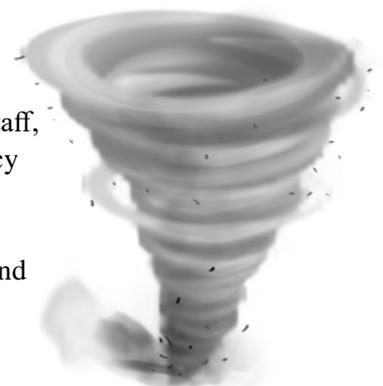
**VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS**

**Steve Winger**

**Severe Weather Awareness: Tornado Safety At Divine Word College**

As we move into severe weather season, Divine Word College reminds all faculty, staff, and students of our tornado safety procedures, as outlined in the College’s Emergency Procedures in the Policy Handbook.

Tornadoes can develop rapidly, so it is important that everyone knows where to go and what to do if a tornado warning is issued.



## What To Do During A Tornado Warning

When a tornado warning is announced over the PA system:

- Go immediately to a designated interior shelter area.
  - Main Building: **Hallway near the Art Room**
  - Megan Hall residents: **South end of the basement**
  - Arkfeld House residents: **Basement**
- Stay away from windows and exterior walls.
- Gather with your formation group when applicable.
- Remain in the shelter area until the “all-clear” signal is announced.

Do not leave your shelter area until official instructions are given, even if conditions appear to improve.

## Staying Informed About Severe Weather

Timely information is critical during severe weather events. Faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to monitor reliable weather sources, including:

- NOAA Weather Radio and local emergency alerts
- Local television and radio stations
- National Weather Service (NWS) forecasts and warnings
- Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) sent automatically to mobile phones

In addition, Divine Word College will communicate severe weather messages via **text message through Populi**, as well as through the PA system, email, and other official College communication channels as appropriate.

For drills, the Populi text message will clearly indicate that it is a **Tornado Drill**. If there is a **real emergency**, the text message will clearly state that it is a **real emergency**.

## Upcoming Tornado Drill

Divine Word College will be conducting a Tornado Drill in the near future, in accordance with state requirements and campus emergency planning protocols. Your cooperation during drills is essential and appreciated.

Taking a few moments to review these procedures now helps ensure that, if severe weather occurs, we are prepared to respond calmly, quickly, and safely.

# external affairs

## Core Competency

## Week One Winners



Congratulations to **Monica Meissen** and **Sr. Mai Lien Thi Nguyen, LHC**, who were randomly chosen from all entries in Week One of the Core Competency Quest. Each winner received a \$15 gift card!

### Week Two Challenge

Here is the task for Week Two:

1. Find the **Intercultural Competency** display.
2. Scan the QR code to meet Fr. Zachary Smith, SVD
3. **Read the article**
4. **What is the name of the parish where Fr. Zachary is the Associate Pastor?**
5. Send your answer to Ms. Sandy Wilgenbusch at [wilgenbu@dwci.edu](mailto:wilgenbu@dwci.edu) by noon on Monday, April 6.



# On View in the Gallery

This week, art is all over campus. Via Creativa will be with us for a little over two more weeks with an April 17 closing date.

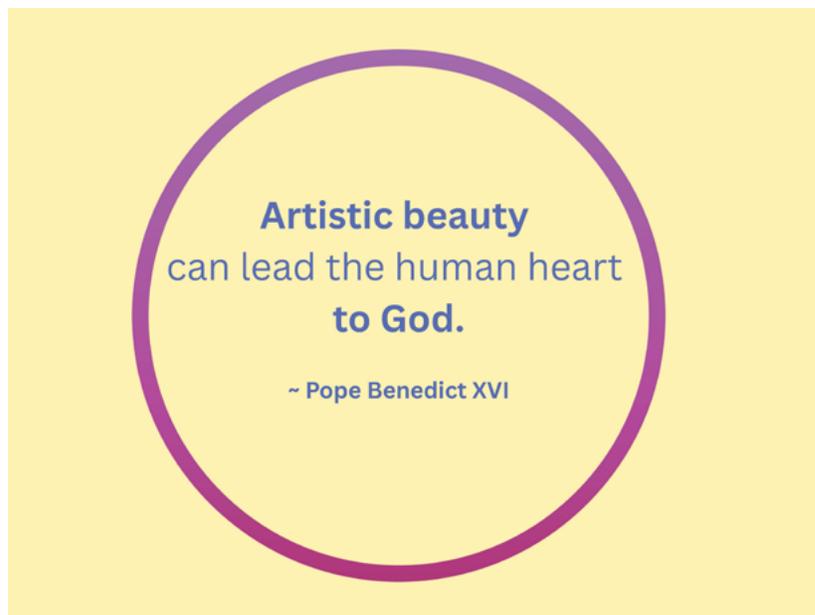
Make sure to visit if you've not yet done so, and please sign the guest book. Artist Catherine Quehl-Engel wants to encourage everyone to connect with her paintings through emotions instead of from the analytical mind. She suggests standing in front of the artwork and noticing how the image, color and energy of the piece makes you feel. Does it evoke memory or open you to inspiration?

We're installing **Words in Flame** in the first floor hallway across from the Core Competency display this week too. This exhibit's intent is to raise awareness about the recent destruction of libraries and loss of books in Ukraine.

Father Sam informed me earlier there will be Easter Egg decorating this weekend. Art 275 / Photojournalism students will be photographing the events of Holy Week for their Photo Essay assignment, and please know they will do this respectfully at such a sacred time.



And finally, an invitation goes out to ESL teachers and faculty members. If anyone would like an on campus field trip to the gallery with a scavenger hunt or brief talk about the artwork, please reach out to Erin.




 Matthew Jacoby Library

opac.dwci.edu

## Library Usage Snapshot: March 2026

The library continues to see steady in house use across campus, with particularly strong activity in core subject areas aligned with the college's curriculum.

### In House Library Use

**Total transactions\* for March 2026: 453**

This represents a noticeable increase from January (213) and February (240), reflecting a typical mid semester rise in on site research, reading, and course related use.

\*Transactions include checkouts and renewals.

### Use by Patron Type

Library use this month was primarily driven by students, followed by faculty and staff.

- **Students:** 161 transactions (27 unique borrowers)
- **Faculty/Staff:** 73 transactions (8 unique borrowers)
- **SVD members:** 5 transactions
- **ILL (external lending):** 9 transactions
- **Community members:** 1 transaction

These figures reinforce the library's role as a **student centered academic space**, with consistent faculty and staff use supporting teaching, research, and ministry.

### Collection "Hot Spots": Where Use Is Concentrated

In addition to overall circulation, a Hot Spots analysis shows where in the physical collection items are being used most heavily.

#### High Use Areas

- ESL Collection
- **New Books**
- **Religion, 200–299**
- **Philosophy & Psychology, 100-199**
- **Social Sciences, 300-399**



Overall, the Hot Spots data highlights strong engagement with religion, philosophy, and ESL materials, closely mirroring course offerings and formation priorities.

### Most Used Library Titles Since 2017

Long term circulation data (2017–March 2026) continues to highlight sustained demand for theology, ethics, preaching, and historical resources.

#### Top circulating titles include:

- *Preaching the New Lectionary* – Dianne Bergant (61 transactions)
- *Catholicism* (multiple editions) (48+)
- *Virtue Ethics and The Cambridge Companion to Virtue Ethics* (41 each)
- *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home* – Pope Francis (38)
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (36)
- *Summa Theologiae* – Thomas Aquinas (29)
- *The Routledge Companion to Ethics* (25)

These long term trends align closely with this month's Hot Spots data, showing consistent, mission aligned use across years rather than one time spikes.

### Why This Data Matters

Library usage data helps inform:

- Collection development and replacement priorities
- Decisions about reserves and high demand subjects
- Placement and visibility of frequently used materials

Questions about the data, or recommendations for materials in high use areas, are always welcome.



# 2026 CLIMATE ACTION FESTIVAL



**WED APRIL 8TH 2026**  
4:30 – 6:30PM

**OUTSIDE @ ALUMNI COMMON**  
**UNIVERSITY OF DUBUQUE**

## **FREE WALKING TACOS** First 100 Students!

Free zero-waste meal from UD Dining Services for the first 100 students (bring your student ID!)

## **COLLABORATIVE ART** w/ Clarke University & Divine Word College

Explore your creativity & vision for a resilient future through art expression and crafting

## **CLOTHING SWAP** Sponsored by ProUD

Shop a FREE & inclusive clothing swap — open to ALL students! Starts at **3pm in Alumni Hall**

## **UPCYCLE STATION** Candace Eudaley-Loebach & Fiona Howard

Learn to creatively modify your clothes and craft accessories from recycled materials

## **REPAIR CAFÉ** Dubuque Rescue Mission Repair Shop

Bring clothes for buttons/patches, watches needing batteries, or other small items for fixes. Need a larger repair? Snap a pic and ask the team

## **CONNECT WITH COMMUNITY**

Explore local sustainability, art, research, conservation, and other efforts of Dubuque area organizations

## **LIVE MUSIC WITH BIG BLUE SKY**

Folk, bluegrass & reggae sound with musical writing inspired by wild places and a celebration of our natural heritage.

Featuring Jon Stravers with Folko Landvogt on guitar, Kristina Castaneda on vocals, and Jason McCullick on bass.



**Presented by the Dubuque Colleges Sustainability Coalition**  
A resource and strategy sharing network of Dubuque area institutions of higher education

Thanks to the University of Dubuque, Loras College, Clarke University, Divine Word College, and the Dubuque Metro Area Solid Waste Agency (DMASWA) for their partnership in this event. This effort is funded through a Sustainable Dubuque Grant through the City of Dubuque.



# HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE 2026

*Divine Word College Seminary*

## PALM SUNDAY, March 29

- 8:00 AM Breakfast  
10:00 AM Eucharist (*Gather first in the gym for blessing the palms*)  
7:30 PM Vespers—All students

## MONDAY, March 30

- 6:30 AM Breakfast  
8:00 AM **Eucharist**  
6:00 PM Evening Prayer—All Students  
7:30 PM Holy Hour

## TUESDAY, March 31

- 6:30 AM Breakfast  
8:00 AM **Eucharist**  
6:00 PM Evening Prayer—All Students

## WEDNESDAY, April 1

- 6:30 AM Breakfast  
8:00 AM **Eucharist**  
6:00 PM Evening Prayer—All Students  
7:30 PM **Lenten Reconciliation Service** (Main Chapel)—All Students.  
**(No Formation Group Meeting)**

## HOLY THURSDAY, April 2

- 8:00 AM Breakfast  
9:00 AM Morning Prayer (*Main Chapel*)  
9:30 AM General Spring Cleaning (*Check the assignments on separate sheet*)  
11:15 AM Practice for the Lord's Supper - Servers and Assistants (Main Chapel)  
12 NOON Lunch  
1:00 PM Liturgical Music Rehearsal (*see separate sheet*)  
5:30 PM Supper  
7:30 PM Celebration of the Lord's Supper – (*formal attire required*).  
8:45 PM Adoration in the Mother of Asia Chapel until midnight.  
*(Adoration schedule will be posted on the student bulletin board)*

## GOOD FRIDAY, April 3

### PLEASE KEEP GENERAL SILENCE THROUGHOUT GOOD FRIDAY

8:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00 AM	Morning Prayer (Main Chapel)
10:00 AM	The Stations of the Cross – ( <i>Gather in the gym</i> )
11:30 AM	Practice for the Lord's Passion - Servers and Assistants (Main Chapel)
12 NOON	Lunch
12:45 PM	Readers Practice (Main Chapel)
1:45 PM	Presider, cantors & musicians Rehearsal (Main Chapel)
3:00 PM	The Lord's Passion in the Main Chapel—( <i>formal attire required</i> )
5:30 PM	Supper
7:30 PM	<b><i>Stabat Mater</i></b> —Prayer of the Sorrowful Mother (Main Chapel)

## HOLY SATURDAY, April 4

8:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00 AM	Morning Prayer (Main Chapel)
10:00 AM	Readers Practice
12 NOON	Lunch
1:00 PM	Practice for Easter Vigil – Presider, Servers and Assistants
4:30 PM	Cantors and Musicians Rehearsal (see separate sheet)
5:30 PM	Dinner
8:00 PM	Easter Vigil —( <i>formal attire required</i> )
	<b>Gather in the back courtyard if weather permitting</b>
	Social in the dining room after the Vigil.

## EASTER SUNDAY, April 5

8:00 AM	Breakfast
10:00 AM	Easter Sunday Mass —( <i>formal attire required</i> )
	Easter Egg Hunt after Mass (Student Senate)
11:00 AM	Brunch
5:30 PM	Dinner
	Sunday Vespers private

## MONDAY, April 6 (No Class)

8:00 AM	Eucharist (Large Community Mass)
7:30 PM	Holy Hour (Monday)

## GENERAL CLEANING ASSIGNMENTS

*Thursday April 2, 2026*

*In preparation for the Holy Tridium, DWC community will do a general cleaning. Each formation group/community will be assigned to complete the following assignments, beginning on **Thursday April 2, from 9:30 am-11:00 am**. All contact persons, please help plan and coordinate these assigned tasks. Students involved with music rehearsal or living off campus can be excused from doing community service.*

FORMATION GROUP/COMMUNITY	WORKING ASSIGNMENTS
<b>St. Francis of Assisi</b>	<b>Ground Floor</b> —From SVD Wing to music room, Martha’s kitchen, student lounge, & stair way by the student back door.
<b>Com. of St. Arnold Janssen &amp; Gaudete</b>	<b>First Floor</b> —from SVD Wing to the gym, stair ways, 1 <sup>st</sup> floor dorm restrooms and men’s public restrooms, exercise room and the gym— <i>Dry mop the floor/stage, the gym corridor and men’s lockers.</i>
<b>St. Joseph Freinademetz &amp; Br. Wendelin Meyer</b>	<b>Second floor</b> —from SVD wing to dormitory hallway, 3 stair ways & 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor dorm restrooms and men’s public restrooms
<b>Com. of St. Teresa of Avila</b>	<b>Megan Hall</b> ( <i>inside and outside—collect branches, sweep the porch and sidewalks</i> )
<b>St. Therese of the Child Jesus</b>	<b>Three Chapels &amp; Main Chapel</b> , Choir loft, backdoor to main entrance— <i>dry and wet mop the floor, vacuum the sanctuary, women’s public restrooms</i>
<b>Com. of St. John Vianney</b>	<b>Court yard &amp; college environment</b> — <i>pick up trash, collect the branches. Sweep the porch, the sidewalks.</i>

**Inspectors:** Fr. Tuan Hoang, Fr. Betenora Bako Liba, & Sr. Aprilia Untarto

*Thank you very much for your service to keep our community safe, healthy, and clean.*

*Fr. Tuan Hoang, SVD  
Dean of Students*