



Office of the President

# Ateneo de Zamboanga University

The Jesuit University in Western Mindanao, Philippines  
Since 1912

In Consortium with:  
Ateneo de Davao University  
Xavier University - Ateneo de Cagayan

Fr. Eusebio G. Salvador, S.J. Campus,  
La Purisima Street, 7000 Zamboanga City, Philippines  
Web Site: <http://www.adzu.edu.ph>

Tel: (+63) (062) 991-0871 loc 1002  
(+63) (062) 991-1151  
Fax: (+63) (062) 991-0870  
E-mail: [president@adzu.edu.ph](mailto:president@adzu.edu.ph)

## UNIVERSITY MEMORANDUM

MEMO NO. : Memo 25-26:42  
DATE : March 27, 2026  
TO : The AdZU Community  
SUBJECT : **Lenten Message and Holy Week Schedule**

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The Lenten season invites us once more into a sacred journey of reflection, repentance, and renewal. This year, **we enter Holy Week amid a world marked by conflict, anxiety, and uncertainty.** The continuing war in the Middle East, together with its effects on energy, prices, and daily life even in our own country, reminds us that faith does not take us away from reality. Rather, it teaches us how to face reality with greater honesty, hope, and compassion.

In his Message for Lent 2026, **Pope Leo XIV reminds us that Lent is a time for listening and fasting.** He invites us to make room once more for the word of God, to listen to the cry of those who suffer, and to practice a fasting that leads to a more sober, disciplined, and generous life. He also calls us to greater care in the use of language, so that our words may not wound or divide, but instead make space for truth, respect, and hope.

This spirit is worth carrying into our own life as a university community. In these difficult times, **we are asked not only to pray more deeply, but also to live more simply, listen more carefully, and treat one another with greater patience and charity.** Holy Week offers us precisely this grace: to return to what is essential, to accompany the Lord in his Passion, and to **allow His death and resurrection to renew the way we think, speak, and live.**

While Holy Week is a Christian observance, its call to reflection, compassion, self-discipline, and solidarity remains meaningful for the whole AdZU community, including those from other faith traditions and those who do not share the Christian faith.

As we prepare to commemorate the central mysteries of our faith, I would like to invite the entire University community to **participate in the following Holy Week recollection and liturgical celebrations:**

### **Paschal Triduum Recollection**

**April 2–4, 2026**

**Theme:** *The Shadows and Silences of Holy Week*

**Facilitator:** Fr. Joel Liwanag, SJ

**Time:** 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

**Venue:** University Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

**Maundy Thursday**

*Mass of the Lord's Supper*

**April 2, 2026 | 5:00 PM**

Celebrated by Fr. Bert Boholst, SJ

**Friday of the Lord's Passion**

**April 3, 2026 | 3:00 PM**

Celebrated by Fr. Tex Paurom, SJ

**Easter Vigil**

*Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord*

**April 4, 2026 | 6:00 PM**

Celebrated by Fr. Joel Liwanag, SJ

**Easter Sunday Mass**

**April 5, 2026 | 10:30 AM**

Celebrated by Fr. Rene Tacastacas, SJ

Each of these celebrations offers us an opportunity to journey with Christ through suffering, silence, fidelity, and hope. As one Ateneo community, may we take this time to deepen our faith, renew our spirit, and strengthen our commitment to live our mission with greater love, discipline, and generosity.

As there will be **no classes and work during this period (April 2-5, 2026)**, members of the University community are encouraged to **make good use of this time for prayer, recollection, rest, and participation in the Holy Week liturgical celebrations.**

May this Holy Week become for all of us a time of deeper listening, renewed trust in the Lord, and a more generous love for others.

*(ORIGINAL SIGNED)*

**Fr. Ernard M. Andal, SJ**

University President