



## **WHY DO WE VEIL THE CRUCIFIX AND STATUES DURING LENT?**

*Veils over sacred images keep our minds on the promise of Easter.*

First, the Church uses veils to alert us of the special time that we are in. When we walk into church and notice everything is covered, we immediately know that something is different. These last two weeks of Lent are meant to be a time of immediate preparation for the Sacred Triduum and these veils are a forceful reminder to get ready.

Second, the theological significance of the veils is found in how they offer an outward and visible reminder of the penitential nature of the season. The veils obscure from our vision the beautiful and holy images that inform our worship life, and in doing so remind us that our sinful nature has obscured our vision of God's truth. The veils, therefore, call us to repentance.

Third, the tradition of veiling the crucifix and statues is in line with Lenten fasting. The practice is a sort of "fasting of the eyes" from sacred depictions which represent the paschal glory of our salvation. This deprivation of the senses produces a heightened sense of anticipation for Easter Sunday. This is further actualized when you attend daily Mass and see the veils each day. You don't want them to be there because they are hiding some very beautiful images. And therein lies the whole point: the veils are not meant to be there forever. The images need to be unveiled; it is unnatural for them to be covered.

The unveiling before the Easter Vigil is a great reminder of our own life on earth. We live in a "veiled" world, in exile from our true home. It is only when we come face to face with the Risen Lord in the beatific vision that the veil is lifted and we are finally able to see the beauty of everything in our lives.

On the fifth Sunday of Lent, Our Lady of Good Counsel will be veiling the Crucifix and statues in church. How are you doing on your Lenten journey?