

Sunday, March 28, 2021 – Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Goal: As a community may we seek to be of one heart and one mind, to know, love and serve our Lord by Letting His love and light shine through each of us.

From the Cluttered Desk and Mind of Deacon Bob

Blessings to everyone here at St. John the Evangelist Church in Centerville-Saugerties. And welcome to the Sixth Sunday of Lent, also known as Palm Sunday.

We don't hear anything about palms today, or a triumphal entry into Jerusalem, with the people adoring Him, praising Him, proclaiming Him Lord. Instead, we hear about what happened afterward. It starts with the Passover meal, with unleavened bread and wine. But then Jesus changes the tradition, and declares that this bread, which He blessed, broke, and gave to them, was to become His Body. The wine, which He also blessed and gave to them, was to become His Blood, shed for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Still safe with Jesus there with them, the Apostles were brave and prideful, proclaiming they would never leave Him, never deny Him. But when Jesus is taken from them in the garden of Gethsemane, they all run, their courage gone, their boasting forgotten. Now they are on their own, and they are scared of what others will think of them or accuse them of being; a follower of that Jesus, the criminal, the charlatan.

Do we sometimes hide, when we feel like we're exposed, we have to explain what we believe and why we believe it? The Apostles have spent three years with Jesus, day in and day out, watching Him heal people, seeing Him drive out demons, listening to Him confound the teachers with their own words and laws. And yet they run away, scared, helpless. What can God expect of us, then, who have not had the example of Jesus in front of us, teaching us, leading us, showing what we have to do and how we are to act?

God expects of us no less than He expected of the Apostles in the first church, or what He expected of the faithful in the following centuries. He expects us to know Him and to love Him, to follow His example of love for every person, the righteous, the self-righteous, the sinner, the persecutor, the half-hearted believer. He expects us to know Him in His love for us, His mercy toward us, His forgiveness of our failings and neglect of Him, and in His kindness toward us.

But more than just having us remember that He loves us and forgives us of everything we do that hurts Him, He wants us to do the same to each person that we come in contact with. As the Apostles learned at Pentecost, God is with us. We have the strength of God at our side. We just need to remember that, when someone confronts us about our faith, our Church, our God. We don't need to be St. Thomas Aquinas, and blind them with our logic and rational arguments. We need to overcome them with our sincerity, our heartfelt belief, and our love.

As we go through Holy Week this week, let us use each day to learn more about our faith, the strength that God gives us in that faith, and the power He shares with us to bring that faith and hope to others.

God bless you.

RESERVED MASSES:

Sat 3/27 5:30 p.m. Birthday remembrance of
Ryan Panchak
Req. by Aunt Judy

Sat 4/3 5:30 p.m. NO MASS at St. John

COMMUNION SERVICES:

St. John's has a Communion Service every Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday at 8:30 AM. All are welcome. Morning Prayer is prayed immediately before the service at 8:15 AM. Please come.

Please call 845-217-3333 to reach Alison at the Parish Office or for Religious Education. To reach Fr. Chris in an EMERGENCY, please call 845-246-4913.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

This sacrament is one of the seven sacraments. As St. James says in his Letter, "If someone is sick, let him call the priest to pray over him and to anoint him with oil." If you or anyone you know would like to receive the Anointing of the Sick, please let Deacon Bob know, and he will try to arrange a priest to come and anoint them and pray over them.

HOLY WEEK/EASTER

All Holy Week activities and celebrations will take place at St. Mary of the Snow. We will have a Mass at St. John's on Easter Sunday, probably at 8 AM. I am hoping we can have an outdoor procession as we have had in past on Palm Sunday, just not out to Route 212.

CONTACTING MISSING PARISHIONERS

I'm sure you are aware that many people have not returned to church after the shutdown because of COVID. I would like to try and reach out to those who are not here, and see if they need assistance, encouragement, or support. Please try to remember who used to sit next to you, on either side, in front or in back of you, and give me, Deacon Bob, their names. With the help of other parishioners, I would like to contact them, by phone or by mail, and let them know they are missed, they are cared about, and see if there is anything we as a parish can do for them. Thank you for your help with this.

JACK ROSE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

For the next several months we will be collecting loose change at St. Joseph's, St. Mary's and St. John's. This spring we will be accepting applications from graduating seniors from these parishes who will be continuing their education. If you are interested in mailing in a donation, please send it to: St. John's Jack Rose Scholarship, 36 Cedar Street, Saugerties, NY 12477. Thank you!

COMMUNION CALLS

If you or someone you know would like to receive Communion at home, either because of illness or infirmity, or because they don't feel safe in church, please call me, Deacon Bob, and I will arrange for someone to come and bring Communion to them or to you. Call me at 845-706-1035. I have been contacted by a couple of people who would like to receive Communion. I do not have the time to do this. If anyone is willing to bring Communion regularly to two people or couples at their homes, please contact me, Deacon Bob, at 845-706-1035, and I will give you the details. If you are considering becoming an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist, please contact me. There is some instruction that is needed which I will be glad to provide. It is a most rewarding experience.

FOOD PANTRY

Great news about the food pantry. We have been accepted by the Regional Food Bank and will begin offering help to needy families on this coming Saturday, April 3, Holy Saturday. Gabby Baker is coordinating this outreach to the community. If you know someone who needs a little help, or if there is someone who would like to help in this corporal work of mercy, please let Gabby know. She can be reached at g.baker1@ppcsd.org

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

Assisting Fr. Chris this week will be Deacon Bob. Next week, Easter Sunday, Deacon Bob will also be at the 8 AM Mass with Fr. Chris.

ATTENDANCE

On March 13, we had 50 people at 5:30 Mass.
On March 20, we had 72 people at 5:30 Mass.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

We will have the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday here at St. John's at 7 PM. This will be the final Stations for Lent.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

All Holy Week activities and celebrations will take place at St. Mary of the Snow. We will have a Mass at St. John's on Easter Sunday at 8 AM. We will have a procession from the front porch of the Church into the Church tonight with our blessed palms.

- Reconciliation Monday, 3/29 from 4 – 8pm
 - At the Parish Center on Cedar Street
- Holy Thursday, 4/1, 7:30pm
 - No Morning Mass
 - No Tenebrae Prayer
- Good Friday, 4/2, 3:00pm
 - No Tenebrae Prayer
- Easter Vigil 4/3, 7:30pm
(**NO** 4pm or 5:30pm Mass on 4/3)
 - No Tenebrae Prayer



Holy Week

EASTER SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

- 8:00am – St. John the Evangelist
- 9:30am – St. Joseph
- 11:30am – St. Mary of the Snow



YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR:

Vincent Saturn, Gene Woodruff, Jane Fiore, Peter Kandora, John Lynch, Nancy Dwyer, Claire Miller, "Smokey" Woods, Zac Swart, Ann Deacon, Debbie Lieberman, MaryLou Dengler, Anne Monfrini, Joan O'Leary, Dan Kelly, Richard Teitter, Ann Nelson, Vinnie & Hilda McDermott, Loretta Beisel, Joanne Sussman, Brittney Ruskie, Thomas Houlihan Sr., Frankie Cullen, Walter Johnson, Charles Bowls, Joe Font, Debbie Volkle, Mike Leung, Pam Murphy, Debra Trees, Fred Belfance, John Bechtold, Paul Donlon, Olivia Trees, Joe Nista, Frances Riccio, Carol Loesch, Bruce Meservey, Mark Moore, Jill Trees

To place or remove name from sick list, please call 217-3333