

Palm Sunday - March 27 & 28, 2021



“Each year we are gifted with this joyful season that we might be better prepared to celebrate the Easter mystery of your love with heart and mind renewed.”

BISHOP OF ALBANY DIOCESE:

Edward B. Scharfenberger

BISHOP EMERITUS: Howard Hubbard

PASTOR: Fr. Tom Zelker

tomzelker@gmail.com

OFFICE MANAGER: Sue Hyde

+OUR PARISH OFFICE & MAILING ADDRESS

67 Main Street

Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

PHONE: 518-686-5064

E-MAIL: immconcept@roadrunner.com

OFFICE HOURS: Monday—Friday 9:00 AM - 3:30PM

WEBSITE: www.icchoosickfalls.com

Facebook page: Immaculate Conception Hoosick Falls

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS SCHEDULE:

CELEBRATED IN IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH HALL

SATURDAY, 4 PM & SUNDAY, 9 AM

TRUSTEES: Christina Angell & Ellen Scott

FINANCE COUNCIL:

Krissy Fauler, Dave Stagnitti, & Linda Billert

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Virginia Cuddihy, Mike Brewster

Jerry D'Acchille, Rick Ferrannini, Karen Kaufman,
and the two Trustees

MUSIC MINISTRY: Richard Cherry

WORSHIP AND ENVIRONMENT: Lynne Mango

Palm Sunday - March 27 & 28, 2021

Liturgy Schedule:

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Saturday, March 27,
4PM Mass

For the homeless and anyone who is hungry

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Sunday, March 28,
9AM Mass

For immigrants and farm workers

Holy Thursday

April 1,

6pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper

For living the Holy Memory

Good Friday

April 2

12 noon - Quiet walk of the Cross

Beginning with prayer at First United
Presbyterian Church, down Main Street,
led by the Cross and drums to Wood Park

3pm - Stations of the Cross

6pm - Passion of the Lord

Liturgy of the Word,
Veneration of the Cross,
and Holy Communion

Easter Vigil

Saturday, April 3,

7:30pm Mass

(No 4pm Mass)

For Rebirth in our Parish

Easter Sunday

April 4,

9am Mass

For healing our wounds and fears

The Three Days - The Sacred Paschal Triduum

What, really, do the liturgies of the triduum celebrate? Most all of us believe we know the answer. We assume that Thursday commemorates the day Jesus instituted the eucharist; Friday commemorates the day he was executed on the cross; and the vigil commemorates his emergence from the tomb. We assume, further, that the liturgies of these days are dramatic "reenactments" of events - by turns touching, tragic and triumphant - which happened during Jesus' last days and culminated in his victory over death. We assume, in other words, that the paschal triduum is simply springtime's parallel to winter's Christmas. As it gathers on these days, the liturgical assembly is often thought to be engaged in acts of historical "reconstruction" that recreate scenes in the "upper room," on Calvary, and at the tomb. People are encouraged to imagine they are "actually present" at these events—comforting Jesus during his fearful watch in Gethsemane, walking with him along the via crucis, and witnessing his miraculous "return to life" on Easter morning. This view may frequently be reinforced by popular hymns that focus on the "historical facts" of the celebration.

But is "history" the central focus of celebration during the Triduum? Certainly, the early Christian creeds anchored belief in the historical, this-worldly circumstances that accompanied Jesus' suffering and crucifixion "under Pontius Pilate." Jesus' life, career and death were, in other words, attached to a specific time, in a specific place. His proclamation of God's arrival in the present moment (God's "reign"), his bold challenge to understand God in and as one's neighbor, his rejection of "religion" as a means of social or political control—all this took place not in some cosmic cloud of unknowing but in a remote province of the later Roman Empire at a time of sociopolitical transition.

Precisely because these faith-anchoring events are historical, however, they cannot be repeated or "reenacted." That is why the church's long tradition insists that what happened once in history passes over into the mystery of the assembly's liturgical/ sacramental celebrations. What the paschal triduum actually celebrates is the mystery, not history; anamnesis, not mimesis. The liturgies of these days do not "take us back" to the upper room or the path to Calvary. Their ultimate purpose is not to retrace or relive the last hours of Jesus' life—nor to catch sight of him emerging from the tomb at Easter's dawning. They celebrate not what once happened to Jesus but what is now happening among us as a people called to conversion, gathered in faith, and gifted with the Spirit of holiness. They celebrate God's taking possession of our hearts at their deepest core, recreating us as a new human community broken like bread for the world's life—a community rich in compassion, steadfast in hope, and fearless in the search for justice and peace.

Beloved Parishioners,

Five weeks into Lent perhaps is a great time to assess how we are doing on this journey. This time for renewal is appropriate as we come off a year of reexamination of everything we knew and likely took for granted. Seasonally, it is a time for planting, a time for growth...a time for hope. Can you feel it? Lent is the springtime of our lives with God.

The seed of the word of God was planted in our hearts. It has been there waiting to come forth...Lent is the time when we grasp this word and let it see the sunlight of life. The winter cycle must be mixed with spring. Lent is the time to let God sow and reap. It is the time to listen. This is the meaning of Lent: to let the seed of new life planted within us by God blossom in prayer, fasting and good works. As the reading from the prophet Joel reminds us, it is not only for us as individuals but as a community: "Order a fast, proclaim a solemn assembly."

We walk this time of newness together or we do not walk it at all. The sense then is of the entire Church looking to God and asking for the grace to re-commit to grow and to remember the great things He has done for us. But this is not about passive reflection – *we are called to share our gifts* – your blessings of time and talent have great value to all of us, a realization more evident after this past year. And we are also called to philanthropy:

He glanced up and saw the rich putting their offerings into the treasury, and also a poor widow putting in two copper coins. At that He said, "I assure you, this poor widow has put in more than all the rest. They make contributions out of their surplus, but she from her want has given what she could not afford – every penny she had to live on."
LUKE 21:1-4

Won't you join me in active investment in our parish and Diocese to perpetuate our unified strength and growth throughout our full Catholic community? As this past year has proven, we are stronger together. Your church, *our* Church needs all of us in order to thrive and serve. The time is now...if you have not yet made your gift, please give prayerful consideration of the ask amount in your Diocesan Appeal mailing and respond promptly with the reply envelope, (2020-21 Appeal closes on June 30, 2021), make your gift online at <http://donate.thediocesanappeal.org> or mail a check payable to *Diocesan Appeal* to 40 N. Main Ave., Albany, NY 12203. Please also evaluate the personal importance of our parish as you contemplate your parish offertory gift which can be made via church envelopes or automatic electronic withdrawal. (Contact our parish office to sign up.) We are a partnership, our parish & our Diocese, honored to serve you and your family through this Lenten season and all the seasons of your family's lives.

With gratitude & God's blessings,

Fr. Tom Zelker



HATE HAS NO HOME HERE

"When I was in prison you visited me" Parish Prison Ministry

Simply write a general letter of encouragement and compassion to a person incarcerated on plain loose leaf or typing paper and drop it off at church or our office. Do not include specific family information but a letter of wisdom and hope. Use regular pens; no crayons. Letters will be mailed in official Church envelopes. Thank you for remembering.

Comfort & Hope Group

Monday, April 5 at 6:30 pm in the Church Hall kitchen area. A faith-filled support group for anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one. We are not alone in our grief, our shared stories bless us with Christ among us. Masks are required.

If you would like to receive ICC emails, please call the parish office at 518-686-5064 or email to:

Immconcept@roadrunner.com

"Better to light one candle than to curse the darkness"

Three day votive candles are in our lower church. The donation is 25cents. Please be considerate of others when lighting a candle.

Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land

Pope Francis has asked our parish to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land. Your support helps the church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools and offer religious education. It also helps to preserve the sacred shrines.

The wars, unrest and instability have been especially hard on Christians. In these times of crisis, the Pontifical Good Friday Collections provides humanitarian aid to refugees.

When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you become an instrument of peace and join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land.

Thank you again for your assistance with this important effort

Baskets will be available at Church for your offerings.

▪ Faith Formation News ▪

As part of our Family based focus these are this week's and Next week's readings so you and your family can think about those lessons.

Readings for Sunday, March 28

Gospel: Mark 11:1-10

1st Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

2nd Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel: Passion of Christ, Mark 14:1-15:47

Readings for Sunday, April 4

1st Reading: Act of the Apostles 10:34a, 37-43

2nd Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

Gospel: Mark 16:1-7

Here is this weeks YouTube video that you can share and discuss with your family. Go to YouTube and search for the following:

The Role of Hope in Holy Week

▪ **Holy Week** ▪

Holy Thursday

April 1, 6pm

Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday

April 2

12 noon - Quiet walk of the Cross

Beginning with prayer at First United Presbyterian Church, down Main Street, led by the Cross and drums to Wood Park

3pm - Stations of the Cross

6pm - Passion of the Lord

Liturgy of the Word, Veneration of the Cross, and Holy Communion

Easter Vigil

Saturday, April 3, 7:30pm Mass

(No 4pm Mass)

Easter Sunday

April 4, 9am Mass

Please sign up for these times of prayer at our office. Readers are needed; please sign up at our office. Services are in our lower Church.

Palm Sunday and Easter Mass will also be available on the Immaculate Conception Church's Facebook page.

▪ **Lent: Service and Prayer** ▪

Please consider donating food to our Pantry. People are hungry here in Hoosick Falls. Any food items may be left at Church or the Pantry.

Rice Bowls

The people of our Church help the poor and hungry throughout our world. Please drop off donations or Rice Bowls by Sunday, April 18 at Church or our office.

HACA Ecumenical Annual Meeting

Monday, March 29 at 6pm in the kitchen area of Immaculate Conception Church Hall. You are welcome to hear about our community services.

Virtual Lenten Retreat - "God's Healing in Us"

We are offering a Virtual Retreat for Lent, "God's Healing in Us" by Fr. Richard Fragomeni, a native of Schenectady and beloved priest of our Diocese. If you would like to receive this online retreat, please email the office and we will send it to you. This thought provoking retreat consists of three 30 minute segments.

A Holy Week Prayer

O God of all worshippers,
I offer you this prayer.
Ordained in my mother's womb,
anointed by the Spirit
before the sun burned bright,
I am a servant of all people as was Jesus, your son.

"This is my body, this is my blood."
I silently say these words with reverence,
in each act of holy sacrifice
poured forth with love this day
for family and friends,
for stranger and foreigner.

Awaken me during this week
to my sacred calling as a disciple of Jesus,
that by sacrificial gift,
I have the love to lift up a fallen world
and to bring to fullness your divine dream
of a whole, united and healed cosmos.

Like precious jewels upon a cord,
I link my crosses this day,
my sufferings and self-denials,
with those of your countless other lovers, O God.

And I join these millions of gifts of love
with the one great sacrifice
of the holy priest of Nazareth
who suffered upon his timeless tree of the cross
that our old and beloved world
might be healed and cleansed of sin and division,
might come to wholeness and oneness in you.

**Palm Sunday
March 27 & 28, 2021**

**YOUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS
& ATTENDANCE
For March 20 & 21**

Regular Offertory.....\$2,858.00
Total \$2,858.00

Attendance:

Saturday, March 20.....63
Sunday, March 21.....55

Total118

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Barbara Bouplon, Billy Benkoski, Cheryl McLaughlin, Dave Hanselman, Dawn Myers, Donny Hayden, Dorothy Roy, Dr. Marcus Martinez, Felicia Martelle, Fr. Joe Manerowski, Gary Grogan, Harley Conte, Jeff Babson, Jesse Stevens, Judy Brownell, Judy Quackenbush, Linda Kane, Marie Slattery, Matt Waytkus, Melissa Cleary, Mike Stone, Nancy Hathaway Mahoney, Neil Waytkus, Paulette Sukuskas, Peter Kane, Sally Williams, Stacy Rogers, and all those who are ill or hurting. Those who have been on the prayer list for quite some time will still be prayed for, but will not appear in the bulletin. If you are in need of prayer for yourself or someone else, please call Margaret O'Malley at 518-686-7835.



HACA Food Pantry will be open normal hours, however, they will give out pre-packaged bags at the door to one family at a time. All normal items will be included. Additional Items Needed: Ramen noodles, oatmeal, canned dinners (spaghetti, chili, stew), pancake mix, rice/pasta boxed mixes (Rice a Roni), shampoo, toothpaste and brushes, and feminine hygiene items.



Food Pantry Volunteers...We are looking for volunteers to help. For information and training, contact Dianne Hosterman at 518-686-5310.

- Any food donations may be brought to church, our office, or directly to the Food Pantry.



- ♦ Wednesday mornings at 10 AM: Bulletin proofreaders. **Call the office.**
- ♦ Sunday morning: Collection Counters. **Call the office.**
- ♦ Lectors (readers) at Mass: **See Gloria Shufon, or call the office, 518-686-5064.**

ELECTRONIC GIVING

Our automatic withdrawal system is working well. This may be an easy way for you to support our parish. Please contact our office for more information.