ST. ANN CHURCH
AND NATIONAL SHRINE
4940 Meadowdale St., Metairie, LA  70006
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Website: stannchurchandshrine.org - Email: stannmet@bellsouth.net

CHURCH HOURS
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 6:00 am - 5:00 pm
Tuesday 6:00 am to 8:15 pm

WEEKEND EUCHARIST
Saturday: 7:30 am Mass
4:00 pm Vigil Mass
Sunday Masses:
8:00, 9:30, 11:00 am and 5:00 pm

WEEKDAY EUCHARIST
Monday - Friday: 6:30 am & 8:45 am
Tuesday: 7:00 pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Tuesday: 9:30 am to 6:00 pm
ending with Benediction
First Friday: 9:30 - 10:30 am

RECONCILIATION
Tuesday: 6:00 to 6:45 pm
Saturday: 3:00 to 3:45 pm
5:00 to 5:30 pm

ISSUE 12
MARCH 20, 2016

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Mission Statement
St. Ann, a Roman Catholic Parish of the
Archdiocese of New Orleans, is a faith family
serving the needs of the parishioners and
the wider community.
Home to the National Shrine of St. Ann, we
are committed to providing opportunities to
all for worship and service, evangelization
and education, stewardship and ministry.
St. Ann Parish welcomes and invites all
people to join us in proclaiming and living the
Gospel values of Jesus Christ.
Today the King comes to take possession of his Kingdom. Who is this King? God's only Son, the Anointed One, the Messiah, Jesus Christ. What is his Kingdom? The eternal, everlasting Kingdom where God himself rules every heart. The King's triumphal entry into Jerusalem is the first act of the sacred drama of Christ's greatest work: his passion, death, and resurrection, by which he would redeem the world and establish his everlasting Kingdom, the Paschal Mystery itself. Today, as we begin this Holiest of weeks, we celebrate this triumph with the ancient symbol of victory: palm branches. It is right that we should, but are we only spectators? No. We are called to be involved in Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The clue to this fact, that we are called to be more than just spectators, is the way Christ entered Jerusalem; on a donkey colt.

That means a bunch of things. It means that Christ is fulfilling his Father's will, because Zechariah had prophesied that the Messiah would enter Jerusalem on a colt. It means that Christ is the Prince of Peace, because when kings in ancient times bringing peace, they rode on donkeys, but when they came bringing war, they rode on horses. Most importantly of all, it is a parable. Jerusalem stands for every human heart. Just as Jerusalem was surrounded by huge stone walls, every human heart too is surrounded by walls. Jesus wants to go through those walls and win over those hearts. He doesn't want to do it alone either. He could have walked into Jerusalem on his own feet, but he didn't. He chose to need the colt. In the same way, in order to bring his Kingdom into people's hearts today, he chooses to need you and me. We are the donkey colts, carrying Christ into every city of the world, into every heart. Jesus wants to conquer the world through us.

This is how Jesus has chosen to bring his victory into the world; through ordinary, everyday instruments. He makes his triumphant entry into Jerusalem by riding on a normal, ordinary donkey colt. As we celebrate that triumph today and reclaim our share in that victory, we are called to remember that when we were baptized, we became sharers in Christ's own mission. We became children of the King and soldiers of the Kingdom. We are called, therefore, to consciously carry Christ's victory into every city of the world, every community, every household, and every human heart. We can only fulfill this mission by doing what Christ did on the first Palm Sunday, by riding ordinary donkey colts. In other words, we can extend his victory and his Kingdom by living the ordinary things of life with extraordinary love and faith. Our daily responsibilities, our day-to-day relationships, our everyday troubles and sufferings - these are the donkey colts that we can use to bring Christ into our worlds, where he so desperately wants to go.

As we celebrate Christ's triumphant entry and his victory over evil and sin, let's thank him for coming in on an ordinary donkey colt, and let's promise him that, with his grace, we will carry the palm branches not just with our hands, but with our whole lives. All we have to do is live them with patience, with self-governance and generosity; with faith and fidelity.

Reflection by Fr. Travis
Walking Through the Triduum
A guide to the three-day celebration of the Church by Julianne Wallace

The Triduum is the time of the Church year when we celebrate the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This three-day celebration begins with the Holy Thursday Mass and continues on Good Friday with the Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion. At the end of this liturgy, we leave the church in silence, waiting to celebrate the glory of our Lord’s resurrection. Then, on Saturday at sun down, the Church re-gathers to celebrate the final, and most grand, moment of the Triduum: the Resurrection of our Lord. The Triduum is somewhat like a three-day prayer marathon, and if you are a novice there may be some rituals that are unfamiliar to you. This guide will help you walk and pray through the liturgies of the Triduum.

Holy Thursday
The Mass on Holy Thursday is commonly known as the Feast of the Lord’s Supper. This Mass is a time for Catholics to remember the Last Supper where Jesus and his apostles gathered to celebrate Passover. In the Holy Thursday celebration, two ritual actions stand out among the rest: the Washing of the Feet and the Celebration of the Eucharist.

The Washing of the Feet
At the Last Supper, Jesus took a basin and a towel, got down on his hands and knees and washed the feet of all of his apostles. After this action he commanded the apostles, “I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do” (John 13:15). This is Jesus’ commandment: Just as Jesus has been a servant to his apostles, so the apostles must go out into the world and be servants to everyone around them. We are called to do the same in our daily lives. The action of washing one another’s feet reminds us of the call to humble servitude. Foot washing is not a re-enactment or re-creation of a past event, but rather, it is a commemorative action that reminds us that God calls us first and foremost to be servants to others in our daily lives. The ritual washing of the feet can take place in many ways. Some churches choose to have 12 people, who represent the apostles, have their feet washed by the priest presiding over the celebration. Other churches invite the entire gathered community to have its feet washed. However the ritual takes shape (whether 24 or 600 feet are washed), foot washing should always be a reminder that Christ has called us to be servants to the entire world.

The Celebration of the Eucharist and the Eucharistic Procession
At the very first Last Supper, Jesus also instituted the Eucharist for the Church. At this Holy Thursday celebration, we are reminded of who we are in Jesus Christ and that, through the sacrament of the Eucharist, we are and we become even more the Body of Christ together. At the conclusion of the Holy Thursday celebration, there is no concluding prayer. Once the celebration of the Eucharist is completed, there is a Eucharistic Procession (where the Eucharist that is left from Communion is processed to a Chapel of Reservation). This procession to the Chapel of Reservation reminds us of Jesus’ time in the garden of Gethsemane, when he prayed so fervently through the night. The entire community is invited to join in this procession and then join in the silent prayer and adoration until night prayer is prayed and the Eucharist is put in the Tabernacle. The gathered community leaves in silence only to return in prayer the next day for the Good Friday celebration.

Good Friday: Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion
In this solemn celebration, we remember the Passion and Death of Our Lord. The service is marked by several important rituals including the proclaiming of the Passion according to John, the Veneration of the Cross, an extended form of General Intercessions and finally, the distribution of Communion (reserved from the Holy Thursday celebration of the Eucharist). For our purposes here, we’ll describe the Veneration of the Cross and the expanded General Intercessions.
The Veneration of the Cross  It seems strange that in the Good Friday liturgy, Catholics choose to venerate, or adore, the very instrument that was used to crucify Jesus. The veneration of the cross reminds us that through this cross, the Glory of the resurrection emerges. So, on Good Friday, we come forward to show our great reverence and respect for the Cross. People have various traditions when they approach the Cross. Sometimes they kiss the cross, kneel before the cross, or even just touch it in some fashion. As you participate in this ritual, venerate the cross in whatever way feels most normal. And most of all, just take in the experience of the gathered community coming so close to such a tragic, but integral, event in our faith.

The General Intercessions  If you enjoy spiritual aerobics, then this ritual is for you! In this expanded form of General Intercessions, the presider and the deacon work together to pray 10 intercessions. These intercessions are the same intercessions the entire Church prays on Good Friday and they include praying for the Holy Church, praying for the unity of all Christians, praying for the Jewish people, praying for people who do not believe in Christ or in God, praying for people in public office, and praying for people who are suffering or facing difficult times. These prayers recognize how universal our Church is and that we should be aware of all of the faiths and traditions in the world that are different from our own.

The Easter Vigil  The celebration of the Easter Vigil tells the whole story of our salvation — from creation to resurrection and beyond. Because of all the ritual moments, this service tends to be on the lengthy side (an average Easter Vigil will last at least 2-2 1/2 hours). But don’t let the length of the celebration detract you from participating. The Easter Vigil includes the lighting of the Easter Fire and Paschal Candle (the large candle that we will use throughout the year), the singing of the Exsultet (the Easter Proclamation), the expanded Liturgy of the Word that traces time through Salvation History (the story of our Salvation), the Liturgy of Initiation (where new people come into the Church), and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. All these rituals come together for one purpose: to remember and recall the saving deeds of our God on our behalf. Here’s an explanation of two moments from the celebration.

The Singing of the Exsultet  The Exsultet, or the Easter Proclamation, is a hymn that is sung by a deacon, priest, or cantor. This hymn speaks of how God has interceded in our lives on our behalf. The Exsultet especially recalls the Holy Night when Jesus Christ rose from the dead. What makes this moment particularly dramatic is that the Exsultet is sung in a church lit only with the light of the Paschal Candle and other smaller candles, which people are holding. In order to pray this hymn along with the deacon, priest, or cantor, try reflecting on the words of the hymn throughout Holy Saturday.

The Liturgy of the Word  The Liturgy of the Word for the Easter Vigil is comprised of nine readings and seven responsorial psalms. The first reading begins with the story of Creation and then, each subsequent reading recounts the story of our faith-lives through history. You’ll hear the story of Issac and Abraham, you’ll hear the story of Moses and the Exodus, and more. All of these readings lead up to the singing of the Gloria, when all the lights come on in the church and then the final reading, the Resurrection of Christ, is proclaimed. Why so many readings? Again, like the singing of the Exsultet, the readings recount the many ways in which God has interceded on our behalf throughout history. Most churches do not do the entire set of nine readings (for time’s sake). But keep in mind that the point is to recall how God has interceded on humanity’s behalf from the very beginning of time and that through this Easter Vigil we celebrate that God is present and always working in our lives, even still today.

Easter  Throughout these three days we experience the highs and lows in our faith, ending with the ultimate high — the new life of the resurrection. The Easter Season begins with the Easter vigil and we enter a time (50 days) when endless “Alleluias” will ring out throughout all of our Liturgical celebrations. May you experience the joy of new life in your own way this Easter Season. Have a happy and blessed Easter!
Have a Generous Heart

As you make your way through the Bible, you discover a God both gracious and compassionate. As we choose to follow Him, He beckons us to follow His example and be kind and openhearted ourselves.

We continue to look at Bible verses that give us a glimpse into the generosity that God wants us to share:

2. Deuteronomy 15:7–8 Giving sufficiently

If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be.

Here we see a sentiment similar to the one we saw in Leviticus, but God widens its scope. If you know of a brother in need in any of the towns in your land, you are to lend him whatever he lacks.

Parish Calendar

3/21
9:30 AM COME AND SEE/ST. RAYMOND
7 PM MEN’S CLUB MTG./CAFETERIA
7 PM BAPTISMAL SEMINAR/ST. CECILIA

3/22
9:15 ADORATION
10 AM CHRISM MASS/CATHEDRAL
6 PM CONFESSION
6:20 PM PSR CAFETERIA & CLASSROOMS
7:30 PM BOY SCOUT 261/CAFETERIA

3/23
9:30 AM STATIONS OF THE CROSS GRADES 2-7 IN CHURCH
EARLY DISMISSAL FOR SCHOOL
1 PM SEWING SEAMS OF FAITH CLASS/ST. RAYMOND
7 PM REHEARSAL FOR HOLY THURSDAY IN CHURCH
7 PM YOUTH CHOIR IN CHURCH

3/24
HOLY THURSDAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSES AT NOON
8:45 AM MORNING PRAYERS
9:30 ADULT CATECHISM STUDY/ST. RAY
7 PM MASS OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

3/25
GOOD FRIDAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
8:45 AM MORNING PRAYERS
2 PM REHEARSAL FOR GOOD FRIDAY
3 PM PASSION OF THE LORD
7 PM STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN CHURCH

3/26
HOLY SATURDAY
8:45 AM PRAYERS
REHEARSAL FOR EASTER VIGIL AFTER 8:45 AM PRAYERS
10 AM RCIA RETREAT
8 PM EASTER VIGIL
EASTER SUNDAY WE REJOICE!

School News

The students viewed our annual St. Joseph’s Altar last week in the school cafeteria. Report card grades for the third quarter were posted this week. We are proud of our students’ academic performance and we are happy to offer secure electronic communication to parents. Please watch the WLAE tuition auction on Sunday. St. Ann School will be one the schools participating.

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday-Regular Mass Schedule
- Confessions 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM
- Living Stations of the Cross 7:00 PM - Gymnasium

Monday, March 21st
- Masses: 6:30 AM & 8:45 AM

Tuesday, March 22nd
- Masses: 6:30 AM & 8:45 AM & 7:00 PM
- 40 Hour Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: 7:00 AM to Wednesday, 10:00 PM in the Adoration Chapel
- Mass of Chrism at St. Louis Cathedral: 10:00 AM
- Confession 6:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Wednesday, March 23rd
- Masses: 6:30 AM & 8:45 AM

Tomorrow the only Mass permitted is the Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper.

Holy Thursday, March 24th
- Morning Prayer [Liturgy of the Hours] 8:45 AM
- Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper: 7:00 PM followed by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until Midnight. (Day Chapel)

Good Friday, March 25th
- Morning Prayer [Liturgy of the Hours] 8:45 AM
- Celebration of the Lord’s Passion: 3:00 PM
- Stations of the Cross: 7:00 PM

Holy Saturday, March 26th
- Morning Prayer [Liturgy of the Hours] 8:45 AM followed by RCIA Preparatory Rites
- Easter Vigil: 8:00 PM. The entire celebration of this Vigil should take place at night, that is, it should begin after nightfall and end before dawn. The Easter Vigil is not to be celebrated at the time of day that is customary to celebrate anticipated Sunday Masses. [No 3:00 PM Confessions or 4:00 PM Mass]

Easter Sunday, March 27th
- Masses: 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM [No 5:00 PM Mass]
This Week at Home

Monday, March 21, 2016
Anointing
Our Gospel today portrays Mary anointing Jesus’ feet, foreshadowing the burial anointing. Judas selfishly asks about the oil. Is this a sign that he has turned away from Jesus? The First Reading announces that God’s servant will bring justice and light to those in darkness. Does Mary’s anointing help us see Jesus as the Messiah who will redeem us? Use oil in your family prayer tonight and talk about Jesus, the Anointed One, and how oil is a part of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders. Today’s Readings: Isaiah 42:1–7; Psalm 27:1, 2, 3, 13–14; John 12:1–11.

Tuesday, March 22, 2016
Betrayal
Today, we hear the story of Judas’ betrayal. This Apostle spent so much time with Jesus and then turned away from him. All of us can identify with Judas, because even our small sins are a turning away from Christ. Jesus, the Light to the Nations, is always seeking to heal and reconcile with us. In preparation for Easter, light a candle and reflect on your Baptism. Today’s Readings: Isaiah 49:1–6; Psalm 71:1–2, 3–4a, 5ab–6ab, 15 and 17; John 13:21–33, 36–38.

Wednesday, March 23, 2016
Spy Wednesday
We again hear of Judas’ betrayal. Jesus indicates that it is necessary to fulfill God’s will. Like the servant in Isaiah, Jesus perseveres; he continues to preach the Kingdom of God. Jesus freely offers himself so that we might be saved. He is God’s servant, the chosen one of Israel who, though led to the slaughter like a lamb, triumphs over sin and death. Today’s Readings: Isaiah 50:4–9a; Psalm 69:8–10, 21–22, 31 and 33–34; Matthew 26:14–25.

Thursday, March 24, 2016
Holy Thursday
The Chrism Mass highlights Jesus as the Anointed One. At this Mass, the holy oils are blessed by the bishop and then brought back to each parish. The Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper commemorates the institution of the Eucharist and Christ’s washing of the Apostles’ feet. We are given a mission to serve others and share the Good News. After the evening Mass, spend time adoring Christ in the chapel. Today’s Readings: (Chrism Mass) Isaiah 61:1–3a, 6a, 8b–9; Psalm 89:21–2, 25 and 27; Revelation 1:5–8; Luke 4:16–21; (Mass of the Lord’s Supper) Exodus 12:1–8, 11–14; Psalm 116:12–13, 15–16bc, 17–18; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26; John 13:1–15.

Friday, March 25, 2016
Good Friday
Today’s liturgy invites us to ponder the mystery of Christ’s Death and how our lives are connected to it. Pay close attention to the Passion narrative and the solemn intercessions. When venerating the cross, linger a moment and rejoice that God’s goodness has saved us from death. Today’s Readings: Isaiah 52:13 — 53:12; Psalm 31:2, 6, 12–13, 15–16, 17, 25; Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9; John 18:1—19:42.

Saturday, March 26, 2016
Easter Vigil
Tonight’s liturgy is filled with rich symbols to tell the story of our faith. Settle in and listen attentively to the readings, which lead baptismal liturgy. This is the night, the holiest night in our Church year. We rejoice at Christ’s wondrous victory over death. Today’s Readings: Genesis 1:1— 2:2; Psalm 104:1–2, 5–6, 10, 12, 13–14, 24, 35; Genesis 22:1–18; Psalm 16:5, 8, 9–10, 11; Exodus 14:15 —15:1; Psalm: Exodus 15:1–2, 3–4, 5–6, 17–18; Isaiah 54:5–14; Psalm 30:2, 4, 5–6, 11–12, 13; Isaiah 55:1–11; Psalm: Isaiah 12:2–3, 4, 5–6; Baruch 3:9–15, 32 — 4:4; Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Ezekiel 36:16–17a, 18–28; Psalm 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4; Romans 6:3–11; Psalm 118:1–2, 16–17, 22–23; Luke 24:1–12.

St. Ann Church and Shrine

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Special Instructions: Please be advised that I am adding two extra pages to this bulletin. Thank You