



Let Us Pray for Our Brothers and Sisters:



Marlene Koon, Ruth Word, Diane Millsaps, Joan Culp, Allen Junk, Juana Calzada, Anita Andres, Daniel Guldner, Mike Niehues, Casey Moore, Concepcion Ramirez, Olivia Ramirez, Janna Alves, and for those with health complications, the homeless, for all those who serve and their family. For all the intentions of the families not listed.

We Pray to the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:
Psalm 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24
“My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?”

-First Reading
Isaiah 50:4-7
Chapters 40-55 of the Book of Isaiah contain the message of a prophet who spoke to God’s people during their exile in Babylon. Several times the prophet speaks about a servant who will one day deliver God’s people. Because the servant is portrayed as suffering, Christians have traditionally identified Jesus with this suffering servant.

-Second Reading
Philippians 2:6-11
In the years following Christ’s death and resurrection, Christians began to develop the prayers and hymns that would become part of their rituals. In today’s passage from the letter to the Philippians, Paul appears to be quoting an early Christian hymn celebrating the dying and rising of Christ.



We are going to commemorate the passion of our Savior; let us strive to prepare ourselves for it by great purity of heart. We shall see him during this coming Holy Week, on the tree of the cross, consumed with love for us, opening his heart to place us therein.

St. Jane Frances de Chantal

Mass Schedule & Intentions:

Date	Time	Int	Name
Sat. 4/4	10:00am (Facebook Live)		-All Souls
Sun. 4/5	9:00am	+	Marlene Torres+
	12:00pm (Facebook Live)		Maria del Refugio Adellana+
Mon. 4/6	10:00am (Facebook Live)		-All Souls
Tues. 4/7	10:00am		-Liturgy
Wed. 4/8	10:00am (Facebook Live)	+	Barbara Rose+
Thurs 4/9	6:00pm (Facebook Live)		-All Souls
Fri. 4/10	3:00pm (Facebook Live)		-All Souls

St. Monica Parish News & Announcements:

Mass Schedule via Facebook Live

Palm Sunday, April 5th:
9:00am English
12:00pm Spanish

Holy Thursday, April 9th:
6:00pm Bilingual (No washing feet)
Adoration 7-8pm

Good Friday, April 10th:
1:30pm Stations of the Cross
3:00pm Bilingual Liturgy

Holy Saturday, April 11th:
8:15pm Bilingual Saturday Vigil

Easter Sunday, April 12th:
9:00am English
12:00pm Spanish

Confessions will be held every Sunday at the Church from 10:15-11:45am and from 4:00-5:00pm.

**HOMILY FOR PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD’S PASSION
BY FR. CIRILO CERVANTES
ST. MONICA PARISH, WILLOWS, CA**

“I SAY TO YOU, UNLESS A GRAIN OF WHEAT FALLS TO THE GROUND AND DIES, IT REMAINS JUST A GRAIN OF WHEAT; BUT IF IT DIES, IT PRODUCES MUCH FRUIT”.

Today, Sunday is like a Friday. Why do I say this? Because, today is Passion Sunday, and the readings show us pain and suffering as if it were a Friday. We are entering into Holy Week, the most important week of the liturgical year to relive the mysteries of our faith. We had been preparing during the Lenten season by purifying our hearts through prayer, fasting and almsgiving so that we could live these sacred mysteries of our faith with a humble spirit.

At the Transfiguration of our Lord on mount Tabor, it says that Jesus was speaking with Moses and Elijah about his passion. The commentaries for this scripture passage say that Moses and Elijah represent the Law and the prophets and that Jesus came to fulfill all that was written in them.

Therefore, the prophet Isaiah, in the first reading, shows the Suffering Servant of Yahweh: “I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; my face I did not shield from buffets and spitting”. We also can identify this sufferings to that which Our Lord Jesus endured in his Passion reflected in today’s gospel of Matthew. On Good Friday, the very day when Jesus died, we will read again the Passion of Jesus according to John; The Church want us to emphasize the importance of these mysteries of our faith. It does not mean that we just focus on death, on the contrary, we see how the Salvific plan of God unfolds through these events and mysteries.

St. Paul would resonate in the second reading, an ancient hymn which he came in contact with, and he records it in his letter to the Philippians: “Jesus Christ, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness.” This has been known as the Kenosis or “emptying” of himself, from his Glory, when he took on human nature. In Christmas, when the birth of Jesus is celebrated we can see this emptying of the Word. St. Paul would continue to quote the hymn saying that Jesus “humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross”. Obedience will be the food of Jesus, even when he will suffer terribly, he will obey his Father. “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will”. Three times Jesus prayed to his Father like this; and even though the silence continued in his prayer and throughout his passion; as we can see in today’s psalm: “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?” God the Father was always with him, no doubt, he was his beloved Son!

The voice of the Father was not heard again like when Jesus was baptized and in the Transfiguration: “a voice came from the heavens, saying, ‘this is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased’”. But we can be sure that these words continued to be said despite the pain and sorrow of the moment.

God was planting the seed in silence, saying:

“UNLESS A GRAIN OF WHEAT FALLS TO THE GROUND AND DIES, IT REMAINS JUST A GRAIN OF WHEAT; BUT IF IT DIES, IT PRODUCES MUCH FRUIT”.

The Psalmist would agree to the Father’s choice. “Those who sow in tears will reap with cries of joy. Those who go forth weeping, carrying sacks of seed, will return with cries of joy, carrying their bundled sheaves. (Ps. 126)

Yes, today seems like a Good Friday, but it is Sunday. Yes, now we are living sad times with the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, and it seems that we are not heard; but like Jesus, let us entrust ourselves to God who knows that this is just for time being, and that his voice continues to resonate in our hearts.

Paul says that because of the obedience of Christ and his acceptance to the salvific plan of God: “God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.”

Like for Jesus our Lord, we can be sure that God will bring so much good out of this situation. So, you who fear and love the LORD, praise him.

God bless you all!



Pope Francis has asked the Virgin Mary to watch over the world in this current moment of crisis. “O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus’ pain, with steadfast faith. You, know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father’s will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.”

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Follow us on Facebook at St. Monica Catholic Church to watch Masses via live stream. If for any reason we are not able to go live at the exact times listed we will inform you via media.

Thank you for your generosity and your contribution to Saint Monica Parish!