

Sunday Connection
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord



Gospel at the Procession with Palms: Matthew 21:1-11

Jesus enters Jerusalem as the crowd waves palm branches and shouts, "Hosanna!"

Gospel Reading: Matthew 26:14-27:66

Jesus is crucified, and his body is placed in the tomb.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we begin Holy Week, the days during which we journey with Jesus on his way of the cross and anticipate his Resurrection on Easter. Today's liturgy begins with the procession with palms to remind us of Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem.

The events of Jesus' Passion are proclaimed in their entirety in today's Liturgy of the Word. Those events will be proclaimed again when we celebrate the liturgies of the Triduum - Holy Thursday's Mass of the Lord's Supper, the Good Friday of the Lord's Passion, and the Easter Vigil. In communities that celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation with catechumens, these liturgies take on special importance because they invite the catechumens and the community to enter together into the central mysteries of our faith. These days are indeed profound and holy.

In Cycle A, we read the Passion of Jesus as found in the Gospel of Matthew on Palm, or Passion, Sunday. (On Good Friday, we will read the Passion of Jesus from the Gospel of John). The story of Jesus' Passion and death in Matthew's Gospel focuses particularly on the obedience of Jesus to the will of his Father. As Jesus sends his disciples to prepare for Passover, he indicates that the events to come are the will of the Father (Matthew 26:18). In Jesus' prayer in the garden, he prays three times to the Father to take away the cup of suffering, but each time, Jesus concludes by affirming his obedience to the Father's will (Matthew 26:39-44). Even Matthew's description of Jesus' death shows Jesus' obedience to the Father.

Another theme of Matthew's Gospel is to show Jesus as the fulfillment of Scripture. Throughout the Passion narrative, Matthew cites and alludes to Scripture to show that the events of Jesus' Passion and death are in accordance with all that was foretold. And if the events were foretold, then God is in control. In addition, Matthew is particularly concerned that the reader does not miss the fact that Jesus is the Suffering Servant of the Old Testament.

Jesus acts in obedience to the Father even in death, so that sins may be forgiven. Matthew makes this clear in the story of the Lord's Supper. As Jesus blesses the chalice, he says: "... for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins." (Matthew 26:28)

While the Gospels of Matthew and Mark have many parallels in their narrative of the Passion, there are a few details worth noting that are unique to Matthew. Only Matthew indicates the price paid to Judas for betraying Jesus. The story of Judas's death is also found only in Matthew, as is the detail that Pilate's wife received a warning in a dream and that Pilate washed his hands of Jesus' death. Finally, Matthew's Gospel alone mentions the earthquakes and other phenomena that happened after Jesus' death.

Matthew places the responsibility for Jesus' death on the Sanhedrin, the chief priests and elders who were responsible for the Temple. However, the animosity that those Jewish leaders and the Jewish people demonstrate toward Jesus is not to be interpreted in ways that blame the Jewish people for Jesus' death. Throughout Matthew's Gospel, the narrative reflects the tension that probably existed between the early Christian community and their Jewish contemporaries. At the Second Vatican Council, the Council Fathers made clear that all sinners share responsibility for the suffering and death of Jesus and that it is wrong to place blame for Jesus' Passion on the Jewish contemporaries of Jesus or on Jewish people today.

There are many vantage points from which to engage in Jesus' Passion. In the characters of Matthew's Gospel, we find reflections of ourselves and the many ways in which we sometimes respond to Jesus. Sometimes we are like Judas, who betrays Jesus and comes to regret it. We are sometimes like Peter, who denies him, or like the disciples, who fell asleep during Jesus' darkest hour but then act rashly and violently at his arrest. Sometimes we are like Simon, who is pressed into service to help Jesus carry his cross. Sometimes we are like the leaders who fear Jesus or like Pontius Pilate, who washed his hands of the whole affair. Jesus dies so that our sins will be forgiven.

The events of Jesus' Passion, death, and Resurrection are called the Paschal Mystery. No amount of study will exhaust or explain the depth of love that Jesus showed in offering this sacrifice for us. After we have examined and studied the stories we have received about these events, we are left with one final task-to meditate on these events and on the forgiveness that Jesus' obedience won for us.

Readings for the Week



- Monday: Is 42:1-7; Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14; Jn 12:1-11
Tuesday: Is 49:1-6; Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17;
Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a; Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34;
Mt 26:14-25
Thursday: Chrism Mass: Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9; Ps 89:21-22,
25, 27; Rv 1:5-8; Lk 4:16-21
Lord's Supper: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14; Ps 116:12-13,
15-16bc, 17-18; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15
Friday: Is 52:13 -53:12; Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16,
17, 25; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1 - 19:42
Saturday: a) Gn 1:1 - 2:2 or Gn 1:1, 26-31a; Ps 104:1-2,
5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 or Ps 33:4-5, 6-7,
12-13, 20 and 22;
b) Gn 22:1-18 or Gn 1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18;
Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11;
c) Ex 14:15 - 15:1; Ex 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18;
d) Is 54:5-14; Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13;
e) Is 55:1-11; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6;
f) Bar 3:9-15, 32 - 4:4; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11;
g) Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28; Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3-4 or
Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 or Ps 51:12-13, 14-15,
18-19;
h) Rom 6:3-11; Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23
Mt 28:1-10
Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23;
Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8; Jn 20:1-9

Memorials

The sanctuary lamps were donated in memory of **Bud Nugent** by Jean and Sue Kusnic.

The altar candles were donated in memory of **Kevin Spatz** by Chrissy and Jim Tiedemann.

The altar bread was donated in memory of **Anthony Ray, Sr.** by his family.

Remember in prayer

... those in need of healing...

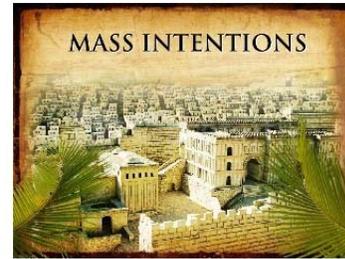
Luigi Vene, Margaret and Quinn McVeigh,
Walter Wyssenski

... those who have entered new life...

Janine Klewin

... those serving our country...

all men and women in our military,
stationed both here and abroad



During the time of the suspension of services the daily Mass intentions are fulfilled by the priests of the parish at private celebrations in the rectory oratory, ordinarily at 7:30 a.m. Parishioners are encouraged to unite in prayer with the Eucharistic Sacrifice being offered and make a spiritual communion when and where possible.

Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Saturday, April 4

Marilyn Long req. Linda & Dan Conway

Sunday, April 5: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Rose Abrams req. the Sherry family

Living & deceased members of the An family
req. Yoomi An

Idania Maury req. the Hernandez family

Monday, April 6: Monday of Holy Week

Mary & Ben Trigani req. the Trigani family

Tuesday, April 7 Tuesday of Holy Week

Kathleen Contillo req. the Windt family

Wednesday, April 8: Wednesday of Holy Week

Enriquito Marquez req. the Cuilao family

Thursday, April 9: Holy Thursday

People of the Parish

Saturday, April 11

People of the Parish

Sunday, April 12: Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

People of the Parish

People of the Parish

People of the Parish

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Following is the *Litany of Supplication* prayed with the Holy Father Pope Francis at the *Urbi et Orbi* Blessing on Friday, March 27, 2020.

May Jesus, who is the Resurrection and the Life, give us solace and hope.

Litany of Supplication

True God and true man, truly present in this Holy Sacrament
Our Saviour, God-with-us, faithful and rich in mercy
King and Lord of creation and history
Victor over the Sin and Death
Friend of Man, risen and living at the right hand of the Father

We adore you, O Lord
We adore you, O Lord

Only begotten Son the Father, descended from Heaven
for our salvation
Heavenly Doctor, who bends over our misery
Sacrificial Lamb, who offered yourself to redeem us from evil
Good Shepherd, who gives life to the flock that you love
Living Bread and medicine of immortality, who gives us eternal life

We believe in you, O Lord
We believe in you, O Lord

From the power of Satan and the seductions of the world
From pride and the presumption of being able to do without You
From the deceptions of fear and anguish
From unbelief and despair
From the hardness of heart and the inability to love

Free us, O Lord
Free us, O Lord
Free us, O Lord
Free us, O Lord
Free us, O Lord

From all the evils that afflict humanity
From hunger, famine and selfishness
From disease, epidemics and fear of the other
From devastating madness, ruthless interests and violence
From deception, misinformation and manipulation of consciences

Save us, O Lord
Save us, O Lord
Save us, O Lord
Save us, O Lord
Save us, O Lord

Look at your Church, as she crosses the desert
Look at humanity, terrified of fear and anguish
Look at the sick and dying, oppressed by loneliness
Look at the doctors and health workers, exhausted by fatigue
Look at the politicians and administrators,
who bear the weight of choices

Console us, O Lord
Console us, O Lord
Console us, O Lord
Console us, O Lord
Console us, O Lord

In the hour of trial and confusion
In temptation and fragility
In the fight against evil and sin
In the search for true good and true joy
In the decision to remain in You and in Your friendship

Give us your Spirit, O Lord
Give us your Spirit, O Lord

Prayed by millions of Catholics across the world on Friday 27 March 2020, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, together with the Holy Father, Pope Francis.

If Sin oppresses us
If hatred closes our hearts
If pain visits us
If indifference anguishes us
If death annihilates us

Open us to hope, O Lord
Open us to hope, O Lord

Annunciation's Parish Center is open Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Parish Center Directory

Name	Title	E-mail	Phone
Fr. Jim Teti	Pastor	jamest@annunciationchurch.org	Ext. 105
Jim Carlo	Director of Music	jvc333@optonline.net	Ext. 111
Judy Fanelli	Parish Secretary and Bookkeeper	judyf@annunciationchurch.org	Ext. 100
Diane Flacomio	Administrative Assistant for Faith Formation	dianef@annunciationchurch.org	201-261-4119
Donna Muscarella	Technology Coordinator	donnam@annunciationchurch.org	Ext. 114
Gladys Pozza	Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation	annunciationfaithformation@gmail.com	201-261-4119
Chris Vaughn	Director of Maintenance		Ext. 109

BAPTISM

The sacrament of Baptism is celebrated for infants on the second and fourth weekends of each month, except during the Lenten season. The celebration may take place during the 10:30 a.m. or 12:00 p.m. Mass on Sunday, or at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday. Parents are invited to contact Judy Fanelli, even before your baby is born, so that participation in our preparation program can be arranged and the baptism planned.

RECONCILIATION

The sacrament of Reconciliation is offered in the church on Saturdays between 4:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Personal appointments for other times are available and can be made by contacting Father Jim.

During the Lenten Season, a communal Celebration of Reconciliation is offered in conjunction with Our Lady of the Visitation parish.

VOCATIONS

Are you being called to priesthood or religious life? As you discern God's calling, explore www.rcan.org/vocation.

MINISTRY TO THE ILL AND HOMEBOUND

At times, physical injury, old age, or debilitating disease prevents our parishioners from participating regularly in the celebration of the Eucharist. During such times, contact with the community of faith is needed more than ever before. We can arrange for you to receive the Eucharist, the sacrament of Reconciliation, and/or the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick in your home or hospital room. Please call the Parish Center if you wish to be visited.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

If you are new to the parish, please submit a completed parish census form. Blank forms are available in the Gathering Space and on our website. Families already registered with the parish are encouraged to keep current their membership information.

INITIATION INTO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

The *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (RCIA) is a process of formation and initiation for those (age seven and older) who have never been baptized and wish to become members of the Roman Catholic Church.

Formation and initiation opportunities also exist for adults baptized into the Roman Catholic Church as infants, but who have not received the sacraments of Confirmation and/or Eucharist.

Christians baptized in Eastern Orthodox Churches or in communions other than Roman Catholic who wish to enter into the fullness of Catholic communion may also participate in the RCIA formation process.

For more information, please contact Father Jim.

VISITATION ACADEMY

Parents wishing to provide their children with a quality Catholic education are encouraged to consider Visitation Academy, a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. Located in Paramus and supported by the Catholic parishes of Paramus and Rochelle Park, Visitation Academy offers classes for Grades pre-K3 through eight. For more information, please visit www.visitationacademyparamus.org or call 201-262-6067.

INTENTION REQUESTS

We can spiritually remember an anniversary of marriage, ordination or death, birthday, or other significant milestone for the living or deceased by dedicating the items we use for worship: the sanctuary lamps which burn constantly before the Blessed Sacrament in the church and Holy Family Chapel, the altar candles which remain lit during each liturgical celebration, the bread and wine consecrated at Mass, the Advent wreath candles, and the Paschal candle. Masses may also be offered for a special intention.

A set donation is requested for each intention, a card is provided, and the intention is printed in the bulletin. To request an intention, please visit the Parish Center.