

## Passion Sunday

Readings: Is 50:4-7 ; Psalm 22; Phil 2: 6-11; Gospel Mt. 26: 11-54

The Church introduces the Lord in his suffering. Looking at Him will result in our healing, reconciliation, and redemption. Proper participation in the Holy Week liturgy will deepen our relationship with God, increase our faith and strengthen our lives as disciples of Jesus. Today's liturgy combines contrasting moments -- one of glory and one of suffering - the royal welcome of Jesus in Jerusalem and the drama of His trial culminating in His crucifixion, death and burial. The Church celebrates this sixth Sunday of Lent as both Palm Sunday and Passion Sunday. This is the time of year we stop to remember and relive the events which brought about our redemption and salvation. What we commemorate and relive during this week is not just Jesus' dying and rising, but our own dying and rising in

Scripture lessons: Today's first reading, the third of Isaiah's four Servant Songs, like the other three, foreshadows Jesus' own life and mission. The Second Reading, taken from Paul's letter to the Philippians, is an ancient Christian hymn representing a very early Christian understanding of Who Jesus is, and of how His mission saves us from sin and death. The first part of today's Gospel describes the royal reception which Jesus received from His admirers, who paraded with Him for a distance of two miles: from the Mount of Olives to the city of Jerusalem. In the second part of today's Gospel, we listen to the Passion of Christ according to Matthew. We are challenged to examine our own lives in the light of some of the characters in the Passion story -- like Peter who denied Jesus, Judas who betrayed Jesus, Pilate who acted against his conscience as he condemned Jesus to death on the cross, Herod who ridiculed Jesus and the leaders of the people who preserved their position by getting rid of Jesus.

Messages for our own lives: We need to answer 5 questions today: 1) Does Jesus weep over my sinful soul as He wept over Jerusalem at the beginning of His Palm Sunday procession? 2) Am I a barren fig tree? God expects me to produce fruits of holiness, purity, justice, humility, obedience, charity, and forgiveness. Am I a barren fig tree? Or do I continue to produce bitter fruits of impurity, injustice, pride, hatred, jealousy and selfishness? 3) Will Jesus have to cleanse my heart with His whip? Jesus cannot tolerate the desecration of the temple of his Holy Spirit in me by my addiction to uncharitable, unjust and impure thoughts words and deeds; neither does He approve of my business mentality or calculation of loss and gain in my relationship with God, my heavenly Father. 4) Do I welcome Jesus into my heart? Am I ready to surrender my life to Him during this Holy Week and welcome Him into all areas of my life as my Lord and Savior? Let the palms remind us that Christ is our King and the true answer to our quest for happiness and meaning in life. 5) Are we like the humble donkey that carried Jesus, carrying Jesus' universal love, unconditional forgiveness and sacrificial service to our families, places of work and communities by the way we live our lives?

### The Gospel on Palm Sunday

**The first part of today's Gospel** describes the royal reception which Jesus received from His admirers, who paraded with Him for a distance of two miles: from the Mount of Olives to the city of Jerusalem. Two-and-a-half million people were normally present to celebrate the Jewish feast of Passover. Jesus permitted such a royal procession for two reasons: 1) to reveal to the general public that He was the promised Messiah, and 2) to fulfill the prophecies of Zechariah (9:9) and Zephaniah (3: 16-19): "Rejoice heart and soul, daughter

of Zion.... see now your King comes to you; He is victorious, triumphant, humble and riding on a donkey..." (Zech. 9:9). (The traditional "Palm Sunday Procession" at Jerusalem began in the fourth century A.D. when the Bishop of Jerusalem led the procession from the Mount of Olives to the Church of the Ascension). **In the second part of today's Gospel**, we listen to the Passion of Christ according to Matthew. We are challenged to examine our own lives in the light of some of the characters in the story like Peter who denied Jesus, Judas who betrayed Jesus, Pilate who acted against his conscience, Herod who ridiculed Jesus, and the leaders of the people who preserved their position by getting rid of Jesus.

**Exegetical notes:** 1) **Jesus rides on a lowly donkey:** In those days, kings used to travel in such processions on horseback during wartime, but preferred to ride a donkey in times of peace. I Kings 1: 38-41 describes how Prince Solomon used his father David's royal donkey for the ceremonial procession on the day of his coronation. Jesus entered the Holy City as a King of peace, fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah. The Gospel specifically mentions that the colt Jesus selected for the procession was one that had not been ridden before, reminding us of a stipulation given in I Samuel 6:7 concerning the animal that was to carry the Ark of the Covenant.

2) **The mode of reception given:** Jesus was given a royal reception usually reserved for a King or military commander. I Maccabees 13: 51ff describes such a reception given to the Jewish military leader Simon Maccabaeus in 171 BC. II Maccabees 10:6-8 refers to a similar reception given to another military general, Judas Maccabaeus, who led the struggle against the Roman commander, Antiochus IV Epiphanes, and liberated the Temple from the Romans in 163 BC.

3) **The slogans used:** The participants sang the "Hallel" psalm (Psalm 118), and shouted the words of Psalms 25 and 26. The Greek word "*hosiana*" originally meant "save us now" (II Samuel 14:4). The people sang the entire Psalm 118 on the Feast of the Tabernacles when they marched seven times around the Altar of the Burnt Offering. On Palm Sunday, however, the people used the prayer "Hosanna" as a slogan of greeting. It meant "God save the King of Israel."

4) **The symbolic meaning of the Palm Sunday procession:** Nearly 25,000 lambs were sacrificed during the feast of the "Pass Over," but the lamb which was sacrificed by the High Priest was taken to the Temple in a procession four days before the main feast day. On Palm Sunday, Jesus, the true Paschal Lamb, was also taken to the Temple in a large procession.

5) **Reaction of Jesus:** Before the beginning of the procession, Jesus **wept over** Jerusalem (Lk.19:41-42), and when the procession was over, He **cleansed** the Temple (LK 19:45-46). On the following day, He **cursed** a barren fig tree.

The Sixth Sunday of Lent

The Church celebrates this sixth Sunday in Lent as both Palm Sunday and Passion Sunday. It is on Palm Sunday that we enter Holy Week, welcoming Jesus into our lives and asking Him to allow us a share in His suffering, death and resurrection. This is the time of the year when we stop to remember and relive the events which brought about our redemption and salvation. The Holy Week liturgies present us with the actual events of the dying and rising of Jesus. These liturgies enable us to experience in our lives here and now what Jesus went through then. In other words, what we commemorate and relive during this week is not just Jesus' dying and rising, but our own dying and rising in Him, which result in our healing, reconciliation, and redemption.

Just as Jesus did, we too must lay down our lives freely by actively participating in the Holy Week liturgies. In doing so, we are allowing Jesus to forgive us our sins, heal the wounds in us caused by our sins and the sins of others and transform us more completely into the image and likeness of God. In this way, we will be able to live more fully the Divine life we received at Baptism. Proper participation in the Holy Week liturgies will also deepen our relationship with God, increase our faith and strengthen our lives as disciples of Jesus. But let us remember that Holy Week can become "holy" for us only if we actively and consciously take part in the liturgies of this week. During this week of the Passion -- passionate suffering, passionate grace, passionate love and passionate forgiving -- each of us is called to remember the Christ of Calvary and then to embrace and lighten the burden of the Christ Whose passion continues to be experienced in the hungry, the poor, the sick, the homeless, the aged, the lonely and the outcast. Today's liturgy combines two contrasting moments of glory and suffering - the welcome of Jesus into Jerusalem and the drama of His trial culminating in His crucifixion and death. Let us rejoice and sing as Jesus comes into our life today. Let us also weep and mourn as His death confronts us with our sin. The African-American song asks the question, "*Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they nailed Him to a tree?*" The answer is yes, a definite yes. Yes, we were there in the crowd on both days, shouting 'Hosanna!' and later 'Crucify Him!'

**Are you a donkey with a Christian name or one carrying Christ?** An interesting as well as challenging old fable tells of the colt that carried Jesus on Palm Sunday. The colt thought that the reception was organized to honor him. "I am a unique donkey," this excited animal might have thought. When he asked his mother if he could walk down the same street alone the next day and be honored again, his mother said, "*No, you are nothing without Him who was riding you.*" Five days later, the colt saw a huge crowd of people in the street. It was Good Friday, and the soldiers were taking Jesus to Calvary. The colt could not resist the temptation of another royal reception. Ignoring the warning of his mother, he ran to the street, but he had to flee for his life as soldiers chased him and people stoned him. Thus, the colt finally learned the lesson that he was only a poor donkey without Jesus to ride on him. As we enter Holy Week, today's readings challenge us to examine our lives to see whether we carry Jesus within us and bear witness to Him through our living or whether we are Christians in name only.

# Welcome to St. Joseph Catholic Church- Zwolle St. Ann Chapel- Noble

## Father Joseph C. Ampatt, Pastoral Administrator

### Parish Staff

**Sandy Lovelady**

**645-6845/ 315-5092 for after hours & weekends ONLY**

Secretary

**Luci Jo Parrie**

Religious Education Coordinator

**Diamond R. Adair**

Bulletin Editor

**Thelma Small**

Matrimonial Tribunal Lay

Advocate

**Gary Sepulvado**

Maintenance

### Parish Volunteers

**Anna Garcie**

**Lee McCann**

Parish Trustees-- Finance Council

**Cindy Ezernack**

Pastoral Council Chairperson

**Gatha Martinez**

**Ione Durr**

St. Vincent de Paul Society

**Colleen Britt**

Council of Catholic Women

**Andie Sepulvado**

**Candace Wilson**

Altar Server Directors

**Kelli Boydston**

Liturgy Coordinator

April 4 & 5, 2020

### **MASSES are suspended until further notice.**

Anticipated Mass: Saturday 4:00 PM (St. Joseph)

Sunday: 8:30 AM (St. Joseph)

11:00 AM (St. Joseph)

5:00 PM (St. Ann)

Tuesday-Friday: 7:30 AM (St. Joseph)

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday: 10:00 AM at Toledo Nursing Center

**Baptism:** Children should be baptized within the first few months after birth. Baptism should take place in one's proper parish. Registered parishioners should contact the Office for information about scheduling a baptism class, regarding the selection of Godparents, any required preparations, and the date and time of Baptism.

**Reconciliation: Confessions are normally heard on Saturdays before the mass from 3:15—3:40 PM. Other opportunities are possible by appointment by calling Father Ampatt.**

**Eucharistic Adoration:** Spend a refreshing hour before the Lord in prayer in our daily chapel, from the conclusion of morning Mass until 3:00 PM on Thursdays.

**Marriages:** Either the bride or the groom must be a registered parishioner of St. Joseph/ St. Ann Parish. At least six months of preparation time is required in our Diocese. Weddings are never booked by phone or by third-parties; **a personal interview is required.** Call the office for an appointment.

**Funerals:** Contact the office to make necessary arrangements for the funeral liturgy.

**New Parishioners:** Welcome! To register, fill out one of the blue forms located at the church office or in the church foyer and return it to the church office or drop it in the weekly collection basket. Change of address or phone number? Please provide your updated information to the church office as soon as possible.

### **Parish Office Information**

Hours: Monday 1:00 – 4:00 PM, Tuesday-Friday 8:00 AM- 4:00 PM,

Lunch 12:00-1:00 PM

**P.O. Box 8/ 307 Hammond St. (Physical)**

**Zwolle, Louisiana 71486**

**Phone: 318-645-6155**

**Fax: 318-645-9852**

**Rectory: 318-645-9198**

**st\_joseph\_zwolle@bellsouth.net**

**Website: [www.StJosephZwolle.org](http://www.StJosephZwolle.org)**

**Diocesan Web Site: [www.dioshpt.org](http://www.dioshpt.org)**

# April 4 & 5, 2020

**\*\*During the mandatory suspension of masses, Fr. Ampatt is continuing to say the mass intentions.**

## Mass Intentions:

### April 4, Saturday

St. Joseph  
 Matha Trong †  
 Nancy Nimmo †  
 Cleve and Theresa Sepulvado †  
 Rogers and Ruth Loupe †

### April 5, Palm Sunday

St. Joseph  
 Thomas J. Sepulvado, Jr. †

St. Joseph  
 For the Parishioners

St. Ann  
 Anthony W. Sepulvado †

### April 6, Monday

### April 7, Tuesday

Chrism Mass at Cathedral will be on Facebook live~ The Cathedral of St. John Berchmans 6:00 PM

### April 8, Wednesday

Glen and Casi Ebarb †  
 John Earl Ebarb †  
 Benny Ray Rivers †

### April 9, Holy Thursday

### April 10, Good Friday

### April 11, Holy Saturday

St. Joseph  
 For Vocations

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

St. Joseph  
 For our Bishop, Francis I. Malone

St. Joseph  
 For the Priest that have served us

St. Ann  
 For all Parishioners

## Readings for this week:

- † **Monday:** Monday of Holy Week  
 Is 42:1-7/ Jn 12:1-11
- † **Tuesday:** Tuesday of Holy Week  
 Is 49:1-6/ Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
- † **Wednesday:** Wednesday of Holy Week  
 Is 50:4-9a/ Mt 26:14-25
- † **Thursday:** Holy Thursday  
 Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/ 1 Cor 11:23-26/ Jn 13:1-15
- † **Friday:** Good Friday  
 Is 52:13-53:12/ Heb 4:14-16, 5:7-9/ Jn 18:1-19:42
- † **Saturday:** Holy Saturday  
 Gn 1:1-2:2/ Gn 22:1-8/ Ex 14:15-15:1/ Is 54:5-14/ Is 55:1-11/ Bar 3:9-15, 32-4:4/ Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28/ Rom 6:3-11/ Mt 28:1-10
- † **Sunday:** Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord  
 Acts 10:34a, 37-43/ Col 3:1-4/ Jn 20:1-9



Please take a moment each day to read and reflect on these passages from Sacred Scripture. It is a wonderful way to join our personal prayer to the public prayer of the church.

## We pray for:



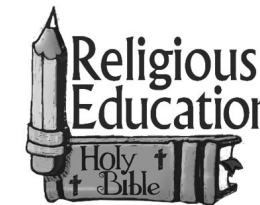
Jackie Craig; K.C. Sepulvado; Lula Mae Sepulvado; Thomas "Tin Man" Foster; Maurice Martinez; Annie Rivers; Amanda David; Raymond L. Ebarb; Juanita Manshack; Delma Rivers; Linda Sepulvado; Paul L. Rivers; Martin Crooks; Greg Crooks; Kathy Ebarb; Boyd Miles; Priscilla Walraven; JoAnna Presseau; Carolyn Cuthright; Helen Laroux; Staci Anderson; Catherine Hammon; Marilyn Laroux; Mary Martinez; Benny Remedies; Frances Sepulvado; Gary Bozzell; John D. Ebarb; Elaine Henderson; Pedro Ebarb; Abra Lachaussee; Van Martinez; Elaine Henderson; Wanda J. Rivers; David Louis Moore; Joe Garcia; Doyle Hagieh; Linda Meshell; Draven T. Ebarb; Sue Ellen Remedies; Gerald L. Sepulvado, Jr.; Monica E. McManus; Pedro Ebarb; Derrick Jordan; Allen Ray Garcia; Fr. Williams; Jeanette Garcia; Dagel Ebarb; Mattie B. Sepulvado; Kenneth McCormick; Billy Wayne Procell; Sammy Procell; Elsie Ezernack; Robbie Meshell; Tina L. Sepulvado; Phillip & Laura Jones; Vernon & Doris Ebarb; Cheryl Ebarb; Chandler Ebarb; Ann Rivers; Rose Meshell; Yvonne Maskai; Anne Bryant; Laurie & Reinardo Montero; Jimmy Brown; Ace Bowling; Richard Doggett; Ashlie & Eli Nolan; David Nichols; Kevin Leone; Norman & Jeannie Arbuckle; Celena Rivers; Rosella Sepulvado; Michael Dewayne Ebarb; Felicia Whitlow; Jackie Rivers; John Douglas Malmay; Felicia Whitlow; Maggie Manshack; Ronnie Brummerloh; Debbie Rutherford; Judy Ebarb; Tommy Leone; David Meshell; Robert Hersberger; Ricky Cryer; Jacob Wooley; Lucy Burns; Judy Ebarb; Joseph C. Sepulvado; Mark Austin; Benny Ray Sepulvado; Edward Pastureau; Howard Rivers; John LeRoy Meshell; Hosea Meshell; Eddie Remedies; Chris Adair

(The names on the prayer list go through a cycle. Once they make it to the top they are removed as new names are added, to keep the prayer list current. Contact the office to add, re-add, or remove names from the list. Thank you.)

# Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

- In the near future there will be ad space on the back of the bulletin. If you are interested in advertising your business please leave a name and contact number with the office. Ray from the company has been making calls to some of the local businesses and leaving messages to those he was not able to speak to.


All classes are suspended until further notice.



**Baptism class** for parents and Godparents will be **rescheduled for a later date..** Please call 508-0203 to have your name added to the list and you will be informed at a later time of the date and time. Baptism class must be completed before you can schedule your child's baptism date. Any questions please call or text 508-0203.

- We will post information as we receive it on our Facebook page and website.
- Although we can not have an actual mass we are leaving the church open from 7 AM until 5 PM at St. Joseph for those to have private Adoration and prayer.
- Thank you to those who have continued to respond with contribution envelopes.
- **Anyone in need of spiritual help during this time, Fr. Ampatt can be reached at 318-426-0142.**

**BISHOP FRANCIS MALONE**



LIVE FROM  
**THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN BERCHMANS**

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**HOLY WEEK AND EASTER**

- April 5 - Palm Sunday - 9:00 a.m.
- April 7 - Chrism Mass - 6:00 p.m.
- April 9 - Holy Thursday - 6:00 p.m.
- April 10 - Good Friday - 3:00 p.m.
- April 11 - Easter Vigil - 7:45 p.m.
- April 12 - Easter Sunday 9:00 a.m.
- April 19 - Divine Mercy Sunday - 9:00 a.m.

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From Pope Francis regarding Holy Week:  
 "The faithful should be informed of the beginning times of the celebrations so that they can prayerfully unite themselves in their homes.  
 Means of live (not recorded) telematic broadcasts can be of help."  
 Join via Facebook LIVE at The Cathedral of St. John Berchmans

### Week of: April 5

**Sanctuary Candle**  
 In Memory of  
**Monroe Ebarb**

**St. Joseph Candle**  
 Health of  
**Fr. Ampatt**

**Blessed Mother Candle**  
 For the  
**Toledo Nursing Center Patients**

**St. Ann's Candle**  
 In Memory of  
**Elmer and Marie Procell family**

<b>Collections:</b>	
Last weekend at St. Joseph	
St. Joseph Church Support	\$ 2,790.00
Weekends since March 7 & 8 at St. Ann	
St. Ann Support:	\$ 2,865.00

Please remember as you pray...  
 The family of:  
**Mrs. Ann Rivers**

Diocesan Stewardship Appeal 2020 (3/31/2020)	Fam.	Donors	% Fam. Pledged	Goal	Pledged	% Goal Pledged	Pledge Paid	% Pledge Paid
St. Joseph, Zwolle	750	105	14%	\$62,500	\$42,865	68.58%	\$23,235	54.21%
St. Ann, Ebarb	125	26	21%	\$17,000	\$9,310	54.76%	\$3,020	32.44%