

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

From the Pastor's Desk

Today we observe Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week. This is the most Solemn Week of the Church year. With great solemnity we enter into the mysteries of our salvation. This year we will not be able to celebrate Holy Week as we have in the past. Last year we were not able to celebrate it at all as a parish. Just the same, with some adjustments we will observe the liturgies as best we can keep our focus on the mysteries of our salvation. The primary focus is to keep in mind that Holy Week is the most important week of the Church Calendar. You have heard me before, and I will say it again, this is not a week for fun, games and vacations. Spiritually this is the most intense week. This week deserves our due attention, devotion and prayerfulness. We have already scaled down our activities, voluntarily or involuntarily, over the last year. This week we need to continue this with added reflection and pray worthy of Holy Week. Adapting to the present situation things will be a little different this year. However, our liturgies will be focused on the essentials.

Please note well in this bulletin the scheduled times and events for Holy Week.

On Monday the diocese of Columbus declared a Day of Reconciliation and suggested to the priest of the diocese to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. The idea is based upon the belief that people are aware that others are receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation at this time that there will be a unity of spirit among the Catholic community throughout the diocese. I will be in the confessional from 4:30 – 6:30 and possibly longer if there are more confessions to be heard. As you are well aware, I have offered numerous times throughout the Lenten season for the Sacrament. Just the same, you are welcome to take advantage of this opportunity.

Tuesday the priests of the diocese will gather around the Bishop for a day of prayer and reflection. The Chrism Mass will not be celebrated at the cathedral this year. We will gather at another parish that will accommodate all the priests while observing the current protocols. The Chrism Mass will be celebrated for the conclusion of the day of reflection. During this mass the Bishop will consecrate the oils we use for various sacraments for the year. The *Oil of the Infirm* is for the anointing of the sick. The *Oil of the Catechumens* is used for anointing at Baptism which marks off those who are followers of Jesus Christ. The oil known as *Sacred Chrism* is for anointing at Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders. It is the oil that empowers the Christian with the ministries of Priest, Prophet and King. These oils are consecrated at the Chrism Mass. Also, during this mass, the priests will also renew their ordination promises to the Church and the Bishop during this liturgy.

Holy Thursday we will celebrate in the parish the *Liturgy of the Lord's Supper*. With this liturgy we mark the official end of Lent and the solemn beginning of our Easter Triduum. The *Liturgy of the Lord's Supper* is an important and solemn liturgy. This Liturgy focuses on the Last Supper when Jesus instituted both the Eucharist and the Priesthood. Recalling the story of the Last Supper is only one part. There is more. With the institution of the Priesthood, this gift of the Eucharist remains an abiding Presence in the Church. It is the priest who receives the words "Do this in memory of me." The priest makes present both in his person and in the Eucharist the abiding presence of the Lord. These are great gifts given to the Church from Jesus himself. If you have not attended a Holy Thursday Liturgy in the past you are encouraged to join us this year.

At the conclusion of the Mass there will be an abbreviated procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the *Altar of Repose* for Adoration. This recalls Jesus' going with his disciples

to the Mount of Olives and the Garden of Gethsemane where he was in intense prayer with the Father. As followers of Jesus we are invited to join Him in prayer. The church will remain open for personal prayer and adoration until 10:00 pm. Please feel free to stop in the Church throughout the evening for personal prayer and reflection, even if you were unable to attend the evening mass.

Good Friday the liturgy of the Lord's Passion will be celebrated at 2:00 in the afternoon. Again, this solemn liturgy draws us deeper into the suffering and death of the Lord. The Good Friday service consists of the Liturgy of the Word, with the reading of the Passion according to St. John, prayers, veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion. For a deeper engagement in this solemn liturgy it would be good to read from the Old Testament the Prophet Isaiah chapter 53 and Psalm 22. These Old Testament words foreshadow and are fulfilled in Jesus: the hoped-for Messiah. It is also good to read the Passion Narrative from the Gospel of St. John. Again, if you have not been to this liturgy in the past you are encouraged to join us.

The Easter Vigil begins at sundown on Holy Saturday: no sooner than 8:30 pm. Ordinarily we welcome Catechumens and Converts into the Church during this Liturgy. However, this year, as unusual as it has been, we did not have an RCIA class. We will not be celebrating the Sacraments of Initiation at the Vigil this year. We will have an extended liturgy of the Word in which we listen to a number of readings from the Old Testament that tell the story of Salvation History and our anticipation of the coming of the Messiah and His mission. After the reading of the Gospel that proclaims the Resurrection, we will bless the water of the baptismal font and renew our Baptismal promises as we usually do for the Easter Celebration. We will also renew our Baptismal promises at the masses on Easter Sunday morning.

I cannot stress it enough the solemnity of this week. It is very important that we keep a sense of quiet reflection and prayerfulness especially on Good Friday. I encourage everyone to turn off the TVs, the radios and to avoid the unnecessary activities and travels (especially on Good Friday) and allow yourself to be drawn into the sacred tone of this Holy Week.

As we pray during this Holy Week we reflect upon God's absolute faithfulness and His tremendous Love for us revealed in and through Jesus Christ. In response, with contrite hearts we seek His forgiveness and mercy for our lack of faith and our lack of love. We seek His mercy and grace which is so generously poured out from his wounded side as he hung upon his holy cross. As we share in his passion, through our sorrow for our sins, and recall his death, we pray that we may also share in his Glorious Resurrection. This is there for the receiving.

Let us enter into these sacred mysteries as we prepare to celebrate the glory of Easter.

Have a blessed Holy Week
Fr. Ralko



This week we pray Week II of the Liturgy of the hours.

*We pray for those who have died recently:
Virginia Morozowsky*

Church Support

March 21, 2021	
OFFERTORY	\$7,032.00
Diocesan Tax	\$(770.00)
Fenwick Subsidy	\$(2,635.00)
Rosecrans subsidy	\$(485.00)
Available for Parish Operations	\$3,143.00
Parish Operating Expenses	\$(7,825.00)
Religious Education Expenses	<u>\$(890.00)</u>
Other Income	<u>\$1,855.00</u>
Weekly deficit	\$(3,717.00)

May God bless you for supporting your parish!

Youth Ministry News!

Catalyst Nights – Students grades 7-12 are invited to a Catalyst Night at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in the activity center on **SATURDAY, MARCH 27TH at 6:00 p.m.** The event will begin immediately following the 5:00 p.m. Mass. The evening is led by the National Evangelization Team (NET), college age missionaries. The night includes dinner, presentations, games, skits, prayer, friends and fun. This is a joint, St. Thomas and St. Nicholas youth event and all teens grades 7-12 regardless of affiliation are invited. Parents are welcome!

CONFIRMATION STUDENTS AND FIRST COMMUNION STUDENTS ARE REMINDED TO RETURN THEIR COMPLETED FORMS BY MARCH 30TH.

THE GRIEF RECOVERY METHOD – GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP –

Maybe it just happened or maybe it was a year or more ago. Grief knows no time. Help is available. An 8-week program led by Becky Joseph begins **Tuesday, April 13th**. Two opportunities are available, 1:00 -2:00 p.m. or 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Meetings will be held in the Parish Office. Pre-registration is requested to aid in planning. Please call Patty (740) 453-0597 for more information or to reserve your spot.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT TO MAKE NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2021 CATHOLIC MAN OF THE YEAR! The Catholic Men’s Luncheon Club is accepting nominations for the **Diocese of Columbus 2021 Catholic Man of the Year**. The Catholic Man of the Year is awarded to one layman who, through his daily actions, words, and prayers, exemplifies the “good and faithful servant.” For details, nomination instructions and the required online nomination form, go to www.catholicmensministry.com/cmlc. Submit your nomination and let us know why your husband, father, son, uncle, brother or friend is the Catholic Man of the Year! **The nomination deadline is near!** All nominations must be made by **Wednesday March 31, 2021**. Bishop Robert J. Brennan will announce the 2021 Catholic Man of the Year on May 7, 2021.



The Parish Office will be closed on Good Friday, **April 2** and Easter Monday, **April 5**. Fr. Ralko and the Parish Staff wish everyone a Blessed Easter.

Employment Opportunity at Blessed Sacrament

Blessed Sacrament, 394 E. Main St., Newark, is seeking a full time Bookkeeper. This candidate will be responsible for performing, but not limited to, bookkeeping and accounting duties. This candidate must be proficient in QuickBooks and Microsoft Office Suite/Excel. Nonprofit experience is helpful, associate’s degree or equivalent with 3-5 years related experience or combination education and experience, excellent verbal and written communication skills. Job offer is contingent on the successful passing of the mandatory background screening and completion of the Virtus “Protecting God’s Children” program. Compensation commensurate with experience and ability. For more information about this position, go to blsac.net and click on “Hiring”. Send cover letter and resume, salary requirement and references (3) to Jim Weisent, Business Manager at busmgr@blsac.net.



CONVERGING ROADS™

Join us for the **first Converging Roads medical ethics conference** presented by the St. John Paul II Foundation, the Diocese of Columbus, and the Catholic Medical Association of Central Ohio.

On the topic of **Health Care and Human Dignity**, this one-day conference offers continuing education for healthcare professionals rooted in the Hippocratic and Catholic ethical tradition.

Saturday, April 24, 2020 | 8:30 AM – 7:30 PM
In Person and Online | Pontifical College Josephinum | Columbus, OH

Mass Celebrant: Most Rev. Robert J. Brennan, Bishop of Columbus

Speakers: Greg Burke, MD, FACP; Thomas W. McGovern, MD; Robin Pierucci, MD, MA; Claudia R. Sotomayor, MD, DBE; and more!

In-Person Registration ranges from \$69-\$149 based on CME/CNE inclusion.

Online Registration ranges from \$39- \$119 based on CME/ CNE inclusion.

Student scholarship rate is \$15 for In-Person attendance and \$0 for Online attendance.

For more information, please visit convergingroads.com or email sara@forlifeandfamily.org.

Spring cleanup –Mt. Olive Cemetery will begin cleaning off wintertime decorations in preparation for mowing at the end of March. Families are advised to remove any personal keepsakes they wish to retain before March 31.

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ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS

St. Nicholas Church has a convenient way to make your regular offerings. With our electronic giving program, you can easily set up a recurring giving schedule. If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. Even when something prevents you from attending services, our church will continue to receive your contributions on an uninterrupted basis. To become an electronic giver, call or visit the church office or our website: stnickparish.org.

Our thoughts and prayers remain with those serving our country currently and with their loved ones at home. We pray for a safe homecoming and that the world may one day be at peace.

PLEASE REMEMBER ST. NICHOLAS PARISH IN YOUR WILL. CALL THE PARISH OFFICE AT 453-0597 FOR MORE DETAILS.

Please join us each Monday at The St. Nicholas Parish Office Chapel at 2:00 p.m. as we gather to pray the Rosary asking Our Lady's Intercession or the many needs of our nation, community, and parish.

INCOME TAX

If you would like to have a record of your donations to the Church for tax purposes, please fill in your envelope number, name and address or email and place it in the collection basket. A statement will be sent to you.

Envelope No. _____

Name _____

Address _____ or

Email address _____

What's Happening in Our Parish

MONDAY, March 29

8:00 a.m., Mass: Jeff Armbrust, Church

2:00 p.m., Rosary: Parish Office

7:00 p.m., Mercy Bible Study, Parish Office

TUESDAY, March 30

9:00 a.m., Mass: St. Thomas Intention, Church

WEDNESDAY, March 31

9:00 a.m., School Mass: Dee Joseph, Church

THURSDAY, April 1 Holy Thursday of the Lord's Supper

7:00 p.m., Mass: A. J. Nader, Church

FRIDAY, April 2, Good Friday

Parish Office Closed

2:00 p.m., Celebration of the Passion of the Lord, Church

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

SATURDAY, April 3, Holy Saturday

Eater Vigil at Nightfall, Mass: Mary Jo Dooley, Church

SUNDAY, April 4, Easter Sunday

8:15 a.m., Mass: St. Nicholas Parishioners, Church

10:45 a.m., Mass: Irene Dillon, Church

Readings for Week of April 5

Mon.	Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62	Jn 8:1-11
Tues.	Nm 21:4-9	Jn 8:21-30
Wed	Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95	Jn 8:31-42
Thurs.	Is 7:10-14; 8:10	Lk 1:26-38
Fri.	Jer 20:10-13	Jn 10:31-42
Sat.	Ez 37:21-28	Jn 11:45-56
Sun	Mk 11:1-10	Mk 14:1- 15:47

Cantor Schedule

April 1 (Holy Thursday of the Lord's Supper)

Sr. Bernadette

April 2 (Good Friday)

Kevin McCarthy

April 3 Vigil Kerby Staker and Sr. Bernadette

April 4 (Easter Sunday)

8:15 a.m. Janet Moses

10:45 Sr. Bernadette