

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Palm Sunday

April 5, 2020

Dear Parishioners:

Today we begin bringing our Lenten journey to an end and we would normally be preparing to celebrate as a community our Holy Week (Passion Week) journey with our beloved Jesus. However, because of the COVID-19 pandemic we will not be able to journey together publicly but we can still journey with our Jesus in our individual hearts and souls. Over the next few days we will focus on the events of the **Paschal Mystery**-Jesus' passion, death and resurrection. Jesus' **Paschal Mystery** is a mystery of dying and rising, a mystery of humiliation and exaltation, a mystery of suffering and glorification, a mystery of death and new life and a mystery of defeat which is crowned with victory. Jesus' **Paschal Mystery** is really the heart of **our** salvation. Jesus' **Paschal Mystery** offers us comfort, support and hope as we journey with our brothers and sisters through this global Coronavirus pandemic.

We begin our journey of Holy Week by focusing on the readings of our Palm Sunday liturgy. Our readings provide us with a glimpse at what will come as we progress through our journey with Jesus and anticipate His **Paschal Mystery**. We begin with Matthew's retelling of the arrival of Jesus and His disciples to the village of Bethphage which is just outside of the holy city of Jerusalem. Jesus instructs His disciple to procure a donkey so that He can ride into Jerusalem. By doing so, Jesus fulfills the divine prophecy of Zechariah 9:9. Jesus indeed is the king referred to in the prophecy but He will enter Jerusalem neither dressed in fine clothing nor riding on a war horse. As the humble Jesus rides triumphantly into Jerusalem a large crowd of people honor him by spreading their cloaks on the ground. Others cut palm branches, waving them enthusiastically and crying out loudly: "Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest."

Our liturgy readings then moves us from Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem with palm waving and shouts of joy to the haunting words of the prophet Isaiah (found in our first reading) who describes a future prophet who will be humiliated and put to shame. This prophet is known as the Suffering Servant who encounters harsh resistance from his own people in the form of beatings, buffets, spitting, and ridicule. Of course we know this Suffering Servant to be our Jesus. Next we hear the comforting words from



Paul in our second reading in which he describes how Jesus completely emptied Himself, taking on a form like us, suffering and dying for our salvation. And then in our Gospel passage from Matthew's passion narrative, we hear an account of Jesus' last days, beginning with Judas's betrayal, Peter's denial, and the other apostles' abandonment of Him. We will journey with Jesus from His agony in the garden, to the mock trials with Herod and Pilate, to the angry crowds shouting "Crucify Him!" to the scourging and crowning of thorns, to the painful journey of carrying a cross along the streets of Jerusalem, leading eventually to His crucifixion and death at Golgotha and to His burial in a tomb.

Today, as we begin our Holy Week journey with Jesus, the questions Jesus asks us and the challenges He puts before us are rather simple. Are we ready to walk the road that lies ahead with Him by loving unconditionally as He did, by completely emptying ourselves of our sins, by setting aside our divisions and seeking unity, and by bringing our fears, pains and grief to His cross? Let us place our worries and fears about the Coronavirus at the foot of Jesus' cross knowing that our pain and sufferings are united with His. Have a blessed Holy Week.

Love & prayers,
Fr. John

Weekend Masses

Sat Apr 4	4:00 p.m	For our parishioners
Sun Apr 5	10:00 a.m.	Nora & Allison Yeagle
Sat Apr 11	4:00 p.m	Rosemary Meyer, Jim Alt, Sue Schlumbohm & Kent Bullman
Sun Apr 12	10:00 a.m.	Kathy Sehlhorst, Carolyn Yeagle

Daily Mass

All Masses in Ohio are suspended at least through Easter Sunday. See the statement from Bishop Thomas here:
[https://toledodiocese.org/images/uploads/page_assets/Coronavirus%20Statement%204%20Final\(1\).pdf](https://toledodiocese.org/images/uploads/page_assets/Coronavirus%20Statement%204%20Final(1).pdf)

SUNDAY COLLECTION



*Thank you for your generosity!
Thank you also to those who give
electronically!!*

Readings for April 12, 2020 Palm Sunday

1st Reading: Acts 10:34, 37 – 43
2nd Reading: Colossians 3:1 – 4
Gospel Reading: John 20:1 – 9

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Palm Sunday

April 5, 2020

To participate in Mass via TV, Live Stream, or Radio Broadcast, please follow this link to see the various options around the Diocese:

<https://toledodiocese.org/Live-Stream-Masses-Diocese-of-Toledo.pdf>

St. Gerard's in Lima live streams Mass throughout the week at 8:30 a.m., on Saturday at 5 p.m., and on Sunday at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. To view this live stream, go to their website:

<http://www.stgerardchurch.org/> and click on the icon on the right side of the page that says "Live Webcast Watch Here"

Holy Week Schedule at St. Gerard's:

- *Palm Sunday:* Saturday at 5 p.m., Sunday at 8:30 and 11 a.m.
- *Holy Thursday:* 7 p.m.
- *Good Friday:* 3 p.m.
- *Easter Vigil:* 8 p.m.
- *Easter Sunday:* 8:30 and 11 a.m.

Follow this link for resources on how to celebrate Holy Week at home:

<file:///C:/Users/Dell/Downloads/Holy%20Week%20at%20Home.pdf>

Follow this link to access the Liturgies of Holy Week:

<file:///C:/Users/Dell/Downloads/Litugies%20of%20Holy%20Week%20-%202020.pdf>

Since we have to refrain temporarily from attending Holy Mass and the reception of the Most Holy Eucharist, I would like to share a simple prayer with you that you can pray on a daily basis. The prayer is from St. Alphonsus Liguori's (founder of the Redemptorists) book entitled Visits To The Most Blessed Sacrament And The Blessed Virgin Mary:

Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe you are really present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you more than anything in the world, and I desire to receive You into my soul. But since I cannot receive Holy Communion at this moment, feed my soul at least spiritually. I unite myself to you now as I do when I actually receive you. Never let me drift away from you. Amen.

New Parish Hours:

In response to the Coronavirus/COVID-19, the church will be open for a limited amount of hours for individual private prayer on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Fr. John will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday from 3 – 4 p.m. or by appointment during the week. Please use your best judgment and refrain from coming if you, or anyone you have been in contact with, have symptoms.

We know that this time may be a time of financial uncertainty for many, but if you are able, please continue to remember our parish. You can send your envelopes in the mail, or give online by following this link:

https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco_ver3.vps?appver3=wWsk24ZJSTZKsGd1RMK1g0BDvsSG3VIWQCPJNNxD8upkiY7JIDavDsozUE7KG0nFx2NSo8LdUKGuGuF396vbbTpChmfNbhzHx8xPU2s5sRX7sm9wYZo2onRxYng5iCQvEEUgbeapsAG1d1O5A7L11HEasYeBPLeVLqkBUb4MjnA=&ver=3 Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

Countless lives are touched by every contribution to the 2020 Annual Catholic Appeal. Children, seminarians, the sick and aged—they all depend on our generosity. Our parish goal is \$11,500, and we are currently 53% of the way there, which helps continue these programs and services! For more information or to donate online, visit toledodiocese.org/ACA

P.R.E.P

Children's Liturgy of the Word is suspended

K-6: Class is cancelled for the time being

Jr High: Class schedule to be determined.



God Squad--High School Youth Group



God Squad High School Youth schedule TBD. Stay healthy!