

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

April 5, 2020

The Sanctuary Candle will burn this week in memory of Joe Guardiola, Sr.

Prayer List

Contact Theresa Bordovsky at 293-3124 or
Ann Marie Bludau at 798-2959.

This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14—27:66

Your Gift to God: March 29th

St. Joseph Parish Support	\$2,355
Online Giving Parish Support	\$1,730
Helping Hands	\$540
St. Ann Parish Support	\$200
Online Giving	\$108

May God reward your generosity!

Weekly Contributions

Your weekly contribution envelope may be dropped off at the parish office during regular business hours, placed in the drop box (left of the office front door), mailed to P. O. Box 734, or you may simply wait until Masses resume and drop them in the collection.

Ever consider online giving? Visit the parish website, click on the Online Giving icon and follow the instructions to setup your online giving account.

Holy Week/Easter Office Schedule

The parish office will be closed Thursday, April 9th and reopen on Tuesday, April 14th.

Please note: The parish office is no longer open in the afternoon. Office hours are 8:00 A.M. to noon until further notice.



Holy Week Schedule of Live-streamed Liturgies

Tuesday: Chrism Mass, 10:00 A.M.
May be viewed through the diocesan website:
www.victoriadiocese.org

The Sacred Triduum

Available on Parish Facebook (accessible through parish website: www.stjcatjolicchurch.com)

Holy Thursday: 6:00 P.M.
Good Friday: 12:30 P.M.
Holy Saturday Easter Vigil: 5:00 P.M.
Easter Sunday: 9:00 A.M.

Easter Flower Memorials

As we now know there will be no public Easter services, the planned decorations will be very limited. What is being proposed is to publish the listing of donors and memorials as we've done in the past--and then be able to use the flower money to arrange for flowers throughout the weekend Masses when we return--especially the weekends we celebrate First Communion, Confirmation, Christian Initiation (RCIA), etc. If any donor would like to have their memorial Easter floral offering returned, simply call the parish office.

"At the name of Jesus every knee should bend, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord."

*"My God, my God,
why have you abandoned me?"*

Simple in Observance--Rich in Mercy

This Palm Sunday we enter into our annual week of remembrance of the Paschal Mystery by which we are redeemed. It is traditionally one of the most solemn, ritually beautiful and significant times of the entire liturgical year. At its center is the love and mercy of our Creator who gives His Son in sacrifice for our sins. The sanctifying power of the Spirit enriches us with grace as we acknowledge and renew our commitments as sons and daughters of God.

This year's observances will be markedly different and simple in light of the shared experience of living in this time of pandemic. Although abbreviated due to the lack of a congregational presence and active participation, we still have the opportunity to reflect and praise God for these momentous and salvific experiences through our accompaniment from our homes in the midst of our families. There will be live-streaming of our Triduum Liturgies and Easter Mass. Even though unable to attend the Church commemorations, we should still enter into the environment of these special days with fervent and penitent hearts.

Check the Parish Facebook and website for updated information as it is posted.

Looking Ahead....

Acknowledging just what uncharted a course we are living...it's quite natural to look ahead in the coming weeks at things that have been scheduled (sometimes over a year in advance to occur) and have questions as to when or if they occur as scheduled. Such certainly would apply to many special parish moments in particular--such as Baptisms, First Communion Interviews, First Reconciliation and Eucharist, Confirmation (RCIA and CCD students) etc.--just to name a few upcoming events. At this point it is impossible to verify the dates/times as set will occur with certainty on the expected date and time. One thing for sure is that once we return to Masses with a congregation that those who have been preparing for these precious sacramental experiences will be advised as soon as possible as to when we will celebrate with them. The delay--as well as CCD/Faith Formation being cancelled--will not serve as a reason that those who have been enrolled will not be able to celebrate these important advances in the faith. Once our "routine" is re-established, dates will either be verified (if the originally planned has not already passed) or rescheduled with a bit of time for informing loved ones to plan (sponsors as an example). We're not going to withhold from those who had been preparing--or delay their celebrations--resulting in their not being able to have these special sacramental moments when it is safe to gather again as the people of God around His holy Altar.

Holy Week at Home

Adaptations of the Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday Rituals for Family and Household Prayer are available. Visit the Liturgical Press website – litpress.org – and click the link for the free pastoral resources for praying together even when we are apart. Holy Week at Home is a resource for individual and family prayer. It is available in Spanish as well.

A limited amount of English and Spanish copies are available at the back of the church.

These prayers are not intended to replace the liturgies of Holy Week. Rather, they are a sincere effort to cultivate some of the rituals and spirit of Holy Week in our own homes when public celebration might not be possible.

A Prayer for Act of 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.

Emmaus Center

The *Emmaus Center* is open, but the counselors are now conducting virtual sessions via *TeleHealth*. Also, without the availability of the regular reception of the Sacraments, and the cancellation of so many in-house Twelve Step meetings, the level of stress and anxiety that some are experiencing has risen exponentially. We want to ensure the sobriety of those who fight against addictions. This is to serve as a reminder that Twelve Step Meetings are available online.

Alcoholics Anonymous
Sexaholics Anonymous
Overeaters Anonymous
Narcotics Anonymous