



CHURCH OF ST·PETER  
*Roman Catholic Community*

*Church of St. Peter  
2600 N. Margaret St.  
North St. Paul, MN 55109  
651-777-8304*



**SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2020**

# PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD



"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord." - Mt 21:9



## PALM SUNDAY

Dear brothers and sisters,

Palm Sunday is like a luminous gate that introduces us to the dimmed lights of Holy Week, to the apex of the liturgical year in which we are called to walk with Jesus and relive with him the central mysteries of his life. **Christ's passion, death and resurrection are in fact the heart of our faith and the source from which the life of the Church and the salvation of each one of us originate.**

Before approaching the mystery of pain and suffering that the Son of God will endure throughout the week, before reaching the highest peak of salvation history, when all that has been promised is to be fulfilled, the Church, in her motherly wisdom, gives us a foretaste of his glory. Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem with the songs of those who welcome and accompany him – *Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!* (cf. Mt 21: 9) – reveal to us that Jesus is truly the long-awaited Messiah who is going to accomplish his mission.

This year, unprecedented circumstances force us to follow Christ as if from afar, as if we were not allowed among the crowd escorting him to the holy city. It saddens my heart that we cannot celebrate this mystery together at Church. And yet, while I was thinking of this unfortunate condition, a thought suddenly popped up into my heart: not all Jesus' disciples and friends had the opportunity to walk with him as he was entering for the last time the earthly Jerusalem. Let's not forget that not all of them had the chance to be there also in many other moments of Jesus' life. And yet they were not any less closer to Jesus' heart. Think of Lazarus, Martha, and Mary from Bethany, for instance; even though they were most of the time bound home, with their friendship and prayers they played a central role in Christ's mission.

Even more striking is the example of Mary, the mother of Jesus. We can only imagine how eager she was to hear about her Son's preaching, miracles, and his disciples when He was far from home. How painful it must have been for her to hear the rumors about the clash between Jesus and the Temple's leadership! Yet, she was at peace. At peace, because she knew she was where the Father asked her to be. At peace, because all her life had become an obedient and selfless "yes" to Someone else's will. At peace, because **over time she had learned a much deeper way of being united with her Son. The source of their intimacy was no longer just their physical closeness, but much more the sharing in the love of the Father.** St. Catherine of Siena writes somewhere that Mary was so identified with the Father's will and his plan of salvation for the world, that if there had been no other way to lift up Jesus to the cross, she would have been willing to transform herself into a ladder to bring him there.

May the mystery of this obedient freedom, made of silence and gladness, pain and blood, accompany us during the Holy Week towards the joy and light of Easter. May this time bring each one of us to the same intimacy with Jesus that Mary perfectly embodied.

Fr. Daniele Scorrano, *Parochial Vicar F.S.C.B.*

## MASS INTENTIONS

Week of April 5 - April 12, 2020

Sunday: 8:00 AM †David Nielsen  
 10:30 AM †Cammy Bounphithack  
 6:00 PM Church of St. Peter Parishioners  
 Monday: 8:00 AM †Karen Rohweder  
 Tuesday: 8:00 AM Reparation for offenses against  
 the Holy Eucharist  
 Wednesday: 8:00 AM †Gary Gardner  
 Thursday: 7:00 PM Church of St. Peter Parishioners  
 Friday: 7:00 PM Good Friday-No Mass  
 Saturday: 8:00 PM Church of St. Peter Parishioners  
 Sunday: 7:30 AM †Lenard Sears  
 9:00 AM †Rosendo & Charlotte Elizondo  
 11:00 PM Church of St. Peter Parishioners

**These intentions are being honored  
 by the priests at their daily Mass**

## Readings for the week of April 5, 2020

**Sunday:** Mt 21:1-11/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20,  
 23-24 [2a]/Phil 2:6-11/Mt 26:14—27:66 or 27:11-54

**Monday:** Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14 [1a]/Jn 12:1-11

**Tuesday:** Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17  
 [cf. 15ab]/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

**Wednesday:** Is 50:4-9a/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-  
 34 [14c]/Mt 26:14-25

**Thursday:** Chrism Mass: Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9/Ps 89:21-  
 22, 25 and 27 [2]/Rv 1:5-8/Lk 4:16-21  
 Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/Ps  
 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18 [cf. 1 Cor 10:16]/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  
 [Lk 23:46]/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1—19:42

**Saturday:** Vigil: Gn 1:1—2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a/Ps 104:1-2,  
 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 [30] or Ps 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13,  
 20-22 [5b]/Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps  
 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11 [1]/Ex 14:15—15:1/Ex 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-  
 6, 17-18 [1b]/Is 54:5-14/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 [2a]/  
 Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [3]/Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4/Ps  
 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [Jn 6:68c]/Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28/Ps 42:3,  
 5; 43:3, 4 [42:2] or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3] or Ps 51:12-  
 13, 14-15, 18-19 [12a]/Rom 6:3-11/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17,  
 22-23/Mt 28:1-10

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of  
 Nicholas John Schoenecker who passed away this week.



## SACRIFICIAL GIVING

As of March 23 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020

Collected for Week: Envelopes & Plate	\$17,040.
Collected for Week: Electronic Giving	\$5,037.
<b>Total Amount Collected for Week</b>	<b>\$22,077.</b>
Amount Budgeted for Week	\$17,232.
Collected to Date: Stocks & Special Gifts	\$942,521.
Budgeted to Date: Stocks & Special Gifts	\$904,306.
<b>Percentage Above (or Below) Budget</b>	<b>4.23%</b>
Amount Above (or Below) Budget	\$38,215.

## Current Fiscal Year Capital Improvement Fund

**Donations Received as of March 24,  
 2020:  
\$62,700.47**

**Thank you for Supporting St. Peter Parish!**

## STEWARDSHIP AS WAY OF LIFE STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

### A special Thank You

To a donors that give a total of \$10,000. If we have not received the \$10,000 gift, we would have only received 70% of our weekly budgeted collection amount.

Also, thank you to the 11 new online donors who gave this week!

Please consider donating online to help us continue our ministries. To donate online, click "Donate Now" on our parish website or go to [giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/stpetersns](http://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/stpetersns) or try our new text to "Give" number at 651-240-6260.

**EXTRAORDINARY MOMENT OF PRAYER  
IN TIME OF  
EPIDEMY PRESIDED BY THE HOLY FATHER  
FRANCIS  
SAGRATO OF THE BASILICA OF SAN PIETRO,  
FRIDAY 27 MARCH 2020**

*The Holy Father:*

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. R /. Amen.

Let's pray.

Almighty and merciful God,

look at our painful condition:

comfort your children and open our hearts to hope,

because we feel

your presence as a Father among us.

Through Christ our Lord. R /. Amen.

**Gospel of Mark 4: 35-41**

*The Calming of a Storm at Sea.*

35 On that day, as evening drew on, he said to them, "Let us cross to the other side."

36 Leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat just as he was. And other boats were with him.

37 A violent squall came up and waves were breaking over the boat, so that it was already filling up.

38 Jesus was in the stern, asleep on a cushion. They woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"

39 He woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Quiet! Be still!" The wind ceased and there was great calm.

40 Then he asked them, "Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?"

41 They were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?"

**Allocution of the Holy Father**

"When evening had come" (Mk 4:35). The Gospel passage we have just heard begins like this. For weeks now it has been evening. Thick darkness has gathered over our squares, our streets and our cities; it has taken over our lives, filling everything with a deafening silence and a distressing void, that stops everything as it passes by; we feel it in the air, we notice in people's gestures, their glances give them away. We find ourselves afraid and lost. Like the disciples in the Gospel we were caught off guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm. We have realized that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other. On this boat... are all of us. Just like those disciples, who spoke anxiously with one voice, saying "We are perishing" (v. 38), so we too have realized that we cannot go on thinking of ourselves, but only together can we do this.

It is easy to recognize ourselves in this story. What is harder to understand is Jesus' attitude. While his disciples are quite naturally alarmed and desperate, he stands in the stern, in the part of the boat that sinks first. And what does he do? In spite of the tempest, he sleeps soundly, trusting in the Father; this is the only time in the Gospels we see Jesus sleeping. When he wakes up, after calming the wind and the waters, he turns to the disciples in a reproaching voice: "Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?" (v. 40). Let us try to understand. In what does the lack of the disciples' faith consist, as contrasted with Jesus' trust? They had not stopped believing in him; in fact, they called on him. But we see how they call on him: "Teacher, do you not care if we perish?" (v. 38). *Do you not care*: they think that Jesus is not interested in them, does not care about them. One of the things that hurts us and our families most when we hear it said is:

“Do you not care about me?” It is a phrase that wounds and unleashes storms in our hearts. It would have shaken Jesus too. Because he, more than anyone, cares about us. Indeed, once they have called on him, he saves his disciples from their discouragement.

The storm exposes our vulnerability and uncovers those false and superfluous certainties around which we have constructed our daily schedules, our projects, our habits and priorities. It shows us how we have allowed to become dull and feeble the very things that nourish, sustain and strengthen our lives and our communities. The tempest lays bare all our prepackaged ideas and forgetfulness of what nourishes our people’s souls; all those attempts that anesthetize us with ways of thinking and acting that supposedly “save” us, but instead prove incapable of putting us in touch with our roots and keeping alive the memory of those who have gone before us. We deprive ourselves of the antibodies we need to confront adversity. In this storm, the façade of those stereotypes with which we camouflaged our egos, always worrying about our image, has fallen away, uncovering once more that (blessed) common belonging, of which we cannot be deprived: our belonging as brothers and sisters.

“Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?” Lord, your word this evening strikes us and regards us, all of us. In this world, that you love more than we do, we have gone ahead at breakneck speed, feeling powerful and able to do anything. Greedy for profit, we let ourselves get caught up in things, and lured away by haste. We did not stop at your reproach to us, we were not shaken awake by wars or injustice across the world, nor did we listen to the cry of the poor or of our ailing planet. We carried on regardless, thinking we would stay healthy in a world that was sick. Now that we are in a stormy sea, we implore you: “Wake up, Lord!”

“Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?” Lord, you are calling to us, calling us to faith. Which is not so much believing that you exist, but coming to you and trusting in you. This Lent your call reverberates urgently: “Be converted!”, “Return to me with all your heart” (Joel 2:12). You are calling on us to seize this time of trial as a *time of choosing*. It is not the time of your judgement, but of our judgement: a time to choose what matters and what passes away, a time to separate what is necessary from what is not. It is a time to get our lives back on track with regard to you, Lord, and to others. We can look to so many exemplary companions for the journey, who, even though fearful, have reacted by giving their lives. This is the force of the Spirit poured out and fashioned in courageous and generous self-denial. It is the life in the Spirit that can redeem, value and demonstrate how our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people – often forgotten people – who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines nor on the grand catwalks of the latest show, but who without any doubt are in these very days writing the decisive events of our time: doctors, nurses, supermarket employees, cleaners, caregivers, providers of transport, law and order forces, volunteers, priests, religious men and women and so very many others who have understood that no one reaches salvation by themselves. In the face of so much suffering, where the authentic development of our peoples is assessed, we experience the priestly prayer of Jesus: “That they may all be one” (Jn 17:21). How many people every day are exercising patience and offering hope, taking care to sow not panic but a shared responsibility. How many fathers, mothers, grandparents and teachers are showing our children, in small everyday gestures, how to face up to and navigate a crisis by adjusting their routines, lifting their gaze and fostering prayer. How many are praying, offering and interceding for the good of all. Prayer and quiet service: these are our victorious weapons.

“Why are you afraid? Have you no faith”? Faith begins when we realize we are in need of salvation. We are not self-sufficient; by ourselves we founder: we need the Lord, like ancient navigators needed the stars. Let us invite Jesus into the boats of our lives. Let us hand over our fears to him so that he can conquer them. Like the disciples, we will experience that with him on board there will be no shipwreck. Because this is God’s strength: turning to the good everything that happens to us, even the bad things. He brings serenity into our storms, because with God life never dies.

The Lord asks us and, in the midst of our tempest, invites us to reawaken and put into practice that solidarity and hope capable of giving strength, support and meaning to these hours when everything seems to be floundering. The Lord awakens so as to reawaken and revive our Easter faith. We have an anchor: by his cross we have been saved. We have a rudder: by his cross we have been redeemed. We have a hope: by his cross we have been healed and embraced so that nothing and no one can separate us from his redeeming love. In the midst of isolation when we are suffering from a lack of tenderness and chances to meet up, and we experience the loss of so many things, let us once again listen to the proclamation that saves us: he is risen and is living by our side. The Lord asks us from his cross to rediscover the life that awaits us, to look towards those who look to us, to strengthen, recognize and foster the grace that lives within us. Let us not quench the wavering flame (cf. *Is* 42:3) that never falters, and let us allow hope to be rekindled.

Embracing his cross means finding the courage to embrace all the hardships of the present time, abandoning for a moment our eagerness for power and possessions in order to make room for the creativity that only the Spirit is capable of inspiring. It means finding the courage to create spaces where everyone can recognize that they are called, and to allow new forms of hospitality, fraternity and solidarity. By his cross we have been saved in order to embrace hope and let it strengthen and sustain all measures and all possible avenues for helping us protect ourselves and others. Embracing the Lord in order to embrace hope: that is the strength of faith, which frees us from fear and gives us hope.

*“Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?”* Dear brothers and sisters, from this place that tells of Peter’s rock-solid faith, I would like this evening to entrust all of you to the Lord, through the intercession of Mary, Health of the People and Star of the stormy Sea. From this colonnade that embraces Rome and the whole world, may God’s blessing come down upon you as a consoling embrace. Lord, may you bless the world, give health to our bodies and comfort our hearts. You ask us not to be afraid. Yet our faith is weak and we are fearful. But you, Lord, will not leave us at the mercy of the storm. Tell us again: “Do not be afraid” (*Mt* 28:5). And we, together with Peter, “cast all our anxieties onto you, for you care about us” (cf. *1 Pet* 5:7).

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## VIRTUAL HOLY WEEK RETREAT

**Date(s):** Sunday, April 5 – Saturday, April 11

**Location:** Online

This week-long virtual retreat begins Palm Sunday (April 5) with Mass from the Saint Paul Seminary and culminates with the Easter Vigil Mass from the Cathedral of Saint Paul April 11. Each day has two parts:

Mass or prayer at 9 a.m. followed by directed *Lectio Divina*.

Evening session at 7 p.m, consisting of conferences from Archbishop Bernard Hebda, Bishop Andrew Cozzens, Father Charles Lachowitz and Father John Ubel.

All of the events will be live streamed or recorded and available on this page ([archspm.org/holyweek](http://archspm.org/holyweek)) for all who would like to participate.

**BECAUSE OF THE DESIRE OF UNITY TO FOLLOW THE Virtual Holy Week Retreat WITH OUR ARCHDIOCESE THERE WILL BE NO LIVE STREAMING ROSARY FROM THE PRIESTS OF THE CHURCH OF ST PETER DURING THE HOLY WEEK STARTING PALM SUNDAY.**

**Join our priests on EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 12 2020 for REGINA COELI at noon** followed by midday prayer (*sexta*) and a brief homily by one of the priests of the Church of St Peter.

We will resume the **Holy Rosary** as its live streamed from **Easter Monday April 13 at 7:00 p.m.**



## Walking with Christ

### Sixth Sunday of Lent

### Palm Sunday

*“As they were marching out, they came upon a man of Cyrene, Simon by name; this man they pressed into service to carry his cross.” Matthew 27:32*

The Lord calls us to love God and to love our neighbor. Every day we are presented with opportunities to love our neighbor and help him “carry his cross”. These opportunities aren’t usually big events, they are usually ordinary occurrences like helping someone carry their groceries or holding the door open for them. The key is putting the other person’s needs before our own and not expecting anything in return. How can you help others “carry their cross” in these times of quarantine?

## PALMS AND THE MAGNIFICAT

Dear parishioners and readers since our desire is to empower you with meaningful tools for Holy Week 2020 and Easter we have asked 500 copies of the Magnificat for April and Holy Week along with 200 copies of MagnifiKid, a colorful Sunday Missalette for children ages 6-12. Thank Magnificat for the generous donation in this time of trial and charity. Please stop and pick one up for your families in the parking lot on:

Saturday, April 4 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 5 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

**Please drive into the CIRCLE and pick up your palms and magnificat copies (one per family). A parish staff or priest will be directing you.**

**You may also bring your much needed Sunday collection envelopes or donations.**

## CATHOLIC BISHOP ABUSE REPORTING SYSTEM

The new Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting (CBAR) service became operational Monday, March 16. The Bishops of the United States approved the national reporting system following Pope Francis’ May 2019 apostolic letter, *Vos estis lux mundi* (“You are the light of the world”), to address the issue of sexual abuse and bishop accountability in the global Catholic Church.

CBAR is one way to report allegations, operated by Convercent, Inc., an independent, third party entity that provides intake services to private institutions for reports of sensitive topics such as sexual harassment, through a secure, confidential, and professional platform. Individuals may make a report by accessing [ReportBishopAbuse.org](http://ReportBishopAbuse.org) or calling (800) 276-1562. Reports are taken 24 hours a day in English and Spanish. More information may be found at [archspm.org/ReportBishopAbuse](http://archspm.org/ReportBishopAbuse).

## VICTIM/SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE

PROMISE TO **PROTECT** - PLEDGE TO **HEAL**

A SAFE PLACE TO COME FORWARD

ARCHDIOCESE VICTIM ASSISTANCE: 651-291-4475

## EMAIL OR TEXT SCAM AFFECTING PARISHES

**With the coronavirus there is new attempts!**

**The Archdiocese has been notified that several local parishes have been affected by an email and text scam. Using Fr. Ettore’s or a staff members name the scammer will create a new email address or text, contact the staff members, parishioners, or volunteers via email or text and then ask for a favor.**

**Fr. Ettore or a staff member at St. Peter would never contacted anyone via email or text message asking for money or gift cards as a favor. Please Do not respond to these emails.** If you receive such a fraudulent email or text from the parish or any staff member, please contact Jeff Peterson, [jpeterson@stpetersnsp.org](mailto:jpeterson@stpetersnsp.org) and notify the North St. Paul Police. **DO NOT RESPOND TO THE EMAIL OR TEXT.** In the case of any email or text asking for funds or appearing to be suspicious, **IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO CONTACT THE PERSON DIRECTLY BY PHONE OR IN PERSON TO MAKE SURE IT IS AUTHENTIC.**