

In Today's Gospel

The call to be Christian is not an easy call. In today's gospel, Jesus tells us that "unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." (Jn 12:24) A seed has great potential. A seed can produce much fruit, and a seed will produce many more seeds to grow and produce even more fruit. But a seed does nothing if it sits on the shelf. It is not until that seed dies, until it is buried, as Christ was buried, that it produces much fruit.

Christ tells us that "Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be." (Jn 12:26) We must follow Christ; we must follow Christ to Calvary and to the tomb. We must die with him, and then we will rise with him, and if we rise with him, we will be like that seed, and produce much fruit.

Holy Week

Next Sunday, we enter into the most sacred week on the Church's calendar: Holy Week. We begin the week with Palm Sunday. On this day, we remember Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Christ goes into Jerusalem to the cries "Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest." (Mt 21:9) Less than a week later, many of those same people would cry out, "Crucify him, crucify him." (Lk 23:21)

During this week, we journey with Christ, as he enters into Jerusalem, as he celebrates the first Eucharist in the upper room, as he suffers the Agony in the Garden, and betrayal by those closest to him. We will walk with him on the road to Golgotha as he suffers his passion and death, but we will also be there to witness his resurrection, his victory over sin and death. Our Mass schedule during this week will be a little different than usual.

On Palm Sunday, our Mass schedule will be the same as on all Sundays. Palms will be available at both churches. On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, we will have our regular 9 AM Masses at St. Mary and St. Richard.

On Thursday, there will be no 9 AM Mass. This is the day when all the priests in the Archdiocese of Detroit gather with the Archbishop to celebrate the chrism Mass at the Cathedral. It was at the Last Supper, on Holy Thursday, that Christ instituted the priesthood. At this Mass, priests renew the promises we made at our ordination. Also, at this Mass, the holy oils that will be used in the Church for the next year will be blessed and distributed to all the parishes. Typically, this is one of the most popular Masses at the Cathedral. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, this year, the Cathedral will not be open to the public. The Mass will, however, be livestreamed by the AOD.

Thursday evening, we will celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper. This Mass will begin at 7 PM. Our two parishes will gather as one community at St. Mary to celebrate this Mass. For those who cannot attend in person, the Mass will be livestreamed. Following the Mass of the Lord's Supper, we will process from the Church to the Garden Altar of Repose where we will keep watch with Christ as the apostles did that night.

On Friday, there will be no Masses. We will gather at both churches at noon to participate in the Stations of the Cross. At St. Mary, the candidates from our confirmation program will lead us on this pilgrimage with Christ. At 1:00 we begin our Good Friday service. The service is divided into three parts, the Liturgy of the Word, the Adoration of the Cross, and Holy Communion. This service will be celebrated at both St. Mary and St. Richard, with the St. Mary celebration being livestreamed.

On Holy Saturday, there is no Mass. On this day, we remember the silence of the world between Christ's death and resurrection. There will be a blessing of food baskets at both churches at noon. There will be no confessions, and no Mass at 4 PM or 5:30 PM.

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The greatest liturgy on the Church calendar begins after sunset on the eve of Easter Sunday. This Easter Vigil service will begin at St. Mary at 8:30 PM. At this Mass we keep watch, waiting for the resurrection of Jesus. This liturgy will be livestreamed.

On Easter Sunday, we will have our typical Sunday liturgies at 8:30, 10:00, 11:30, and 2 PM. If you have not made it to the Easter Vigil, please join us for one of these services. Again, as usual, the 11:30 and 2 PM Masses will be live-streamed.

Help Wanted

As you saw above, we will be livestreaming several Masses and services during Holy Week. A lot of effort goes into livestreaming. While there are some dedicated people, especially Chris Hurley, who help with the livestream, we need more help. If you know anything about livestreaming, or video editing, or if you would like to learn, please contact me. I would like to get a group of people dedicated to our video ministry. If you want to be a part of this ministry, please contact me at **frsean-SMSRHF@usa.net**.

View this full bulletin under the *(Bulletin)* tab on our webpage ***stmarywayne.org***.