hosanna
he is here
blessed

Palm Sunday
9th April 2017
This Sunday, we celebrate Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord that marks the beginning of Holy Week in which we commemorate the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Hailed during Palm Sunday, ridiculed during Good Friday, but exalted on Easter Sunday. All of these events we will unfold this week, especially as we enter into the Triduum. But the question is, how can we make this week holy in order to get into the paschal mystery that Jesus endured for us?

Let me share with you the thoughts of Fr. Jerry Orbos, an SVD priest, who came up with a meaning for every letter of the acronym HOLY WEEK. Hopefully this can be of help to us. He said:

H – Halt! Stop for a while or at least slow down, especially this week.
O – Off with your worldly concerns. Turn off your cellular phones if you have to, so that you can focus on your spiritual life this week. Don’t let the world and its cares disturb the tranquility of your mind and soul this week. Let the world go by and let the Lord take care of everything.
L – Listen. If you are in the Off or Silent Mode, then you can really listen, pray and meditate. Take time to listen to God and tell Him what’s happening with your life. Allow the Father to wrap His loving arms around your shoulders once again and just listen. Is there something you are missing in your life? Is there something more you need to do in your life?
Y – Yield to God. Let go of your grip on your own life. Be on the lookout for His road signs as you travel on. Listen to His instructions and you will find your way.
W – Warm up your Relationships. Time to allow your loved ones feel that warm-and-sunny spring you, not the cold-and-cloudy-winter you. Reach out to the people you have taken for granted or left out altogether. Time to call a friend or family members. Call, text, write, smile and hug. Use anything that will help you repair, restore and revitalize your relationships.
E – Erase the burdens of guilt and sin with a good, honest and humble confession. Heed God’s call: “Come back to me with all your heart. Don’t let sin keep us apart. Long have I waited for your coming home to me.” In response to God’s love, may we also say to God, especially this week: “Create a clean heart in me, O God. Give back to me the joy of your salvation.” Time also to erase hurts, resentments, anger and ill feelings. Forgive people who hurt you and ask for forgiveness from people you have hurt, cheated, used or abused in any way.
E – Express your love. Whatever you do, especially this week, like praying, fasting, works of penance and deeds of charity, let them all be expressions of your love and gratitude to God. Let them be done, not out of fear or out of obligation.
K – Kneel down. In humility, kneel down in prayer before God and thank Him for suffering so much, for dying on the cross and for rising again for our salvation. Somebody died for you and me. Let us not allow this week to pass without personally thanking Him.

Have a HOLY WEEK!

Below is our schedule for HOLY WEEK:

**Holy Monday** - Regional Penance Service here at 7:00 P.M.
**Holy Tuesday** – Meeting with Ushers and Greeters at 6:30 P.M.
**Holy Wednesday** – Mass will be at 8:00 A.M.
**Holy Thursday** – **CHRISM MASS** – Blessed Sacrament Cathedral at 10:00 A.M.
Mass of the Lord’s Supper with the Washing of the Feet at 7:00 P.M.
Adoration until 11:00 P.M.
Night Prayer at 11:30 P.M.
**Good Friday** – Liturgy of the Word/Veneration of the Cross/Communion Service at 1:30 P.M.
Tenebrae at 8:30 P.M.
**Holy Saturday** – Altar Server Practice at 10:00 A.M.
Blessing of the Easter Food Baskets at 12:00 Noon
Easter Egg Hunt at St. Mary Cemetery (weather permitting) at 1:00 P.M.
**Easter Vigil** - 8:30 P.M.
**Parish News**

**Calendar of Events**

- **April 10th**: Lenten Penance Service (Here) - 7:00 P.M.
- **April 11th**: Greeters/Ushers Meeting - 6:30 P.M.
- **April 12th**: 8:00 A.M. Mass—No Evening Mass
- **April 13th**: Parish Office Closed
  - 7:00 P.M. - Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper
  - Adoration until 11:00 P.M.
- **April 14th**: Parish Office Closed
  - Divine Mercy Novena Begins
  - 1:30 P.M. - The Lord’s Passion
  - 8:30 P.M. - Tenebrae
- **April 15th**: 10:00 A.M. - Altar Server Practice
  - 12:00 Noon - Blessing of the Food Baskets
  - 1:30 P.M. - Easter Egg Hunt - St. Mary Cemetery
  - 8:30 P.M. - Easter Vigil Mass
- **April 16th**: No Religious Education Classes—Easter Break
  - No Choir Practice

**Diocesan Lenten Appeal**

- Diocesan Target - $43,279.00
- Parish Target - $68,279.00
- Pledges to Date - $57,408.00
- Number of Donors - 181

- **Diocesan Target Achieved!!!**

- Due to the early submission of the April 9th bulletin, there is no update available from last week’s totals.

- **The Divine Mercy Novena** begins on Good Friday. It is a nine day prayer (Novena), in preparation for the Divine Mercy Feast Day, celebrated on the Sunday after Easter (April 23rd). This Novena and chaplet may be prayed in church or at home. Pamphlets will be available at each entrance of the church. What better way to celebrate the Easter Season than spending fifteen minutes each day asking Our Lord for mercy for ourselves and the entire world.

**Our DLA is in progress and I thank those who have given to this appeal. If you have not yet made your pledge, please prayerfully consider doing so. If you did not receive or have misplaced your DLA letter/pledge card, commitment envelopes are located at all of the church entrances. Please take one of these envelopes home with you, fill them out, and drop in the collection basket next weekend, mail in or drop off at the Administrative Office. If anyone needs help in filling out their envelope, call the parish office at 724-295-2281 or stop by (9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.) and assistance will be provided.**

**Easter Flower Offering Envelopes** - Remember your loved ones this Easter by making a donation for flowers and decorations for the sanctuary during the Easter season. Envelopes were included in your monthly packet. **Deadline is Monday, April 10th, at 12:00 Noon.**

**The Donuts and Beverage Social** will be held in the Fellowship Hall today, immediately following mass. Please remember to stop in and extend a friendly hello to your fellow parishioners.

**The Teens Ministry** will hold their annual Easter Egg Hunt on Holy Saturday, April 15th, at 1:00 P.M., at St. Mary Cemetery (weather permitting). All children, from preschool to 3rd grade, are invited to attend. **Please sign-up your child on the sign-up sheet located at the rear of the church TODAY, to ensure that enough prizes are available for the children.**

**St. Mary, Mother of God Membership Request / Change**

- **Name:** __________________________
- **Address:** __________________________
- **Contact Number:** ____________________
- **New Registration**
- **Change Address/Phone**
- **Moving**

- **Becoming a Member of St. Mary, Mother of God Church**

Welcome! It is a great joy to welcome new members to our parish community. Please register as soon as possible in order to participate in our various programs, ministries and activities. Just drop this form in the collection basket and we will send you a detailed registration form. If you are already a member and have changed any of your personal information (address, phone number, name, etc.), please return the changes on the form below. It is important to keep our records up to date.

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**If you have any questions, please contact Beth Macurdy at: bmacurdy@ufcw.org or call her at 724-295-9411.**

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Click on Register and create your FREE account by entering your Parish Code and email address.

Your Parish Code is: VNX4G6

Get inFORMED with great content from virtually any device . . . anytime, anywhere.

**If you have any questions, please contact Beth Macurdy at: bmacurdy@ufcw.org or call her at 724-295-9411.**
Bishop Edward C. Malesic will lead a Divine Mercy Sunday outdoor service and Eucharistic procession on April 23rd at 3:00 P.M., in St. Clair Park, Greensburg. In the event of inclement weather, the service will be moved to Blessed Sacrament Cathedral.

**Are you trying to cut down on the paper you use? Is the check you write to our parish one of the few checks that you write anymore? You can give greener by using Online Banking. You can set up the amount that you would like to give on a schedule that meets your needs and you never have to worry about writing another check, forgetting your envelope, or having cash in your wallet. Keep God at the top of your giving list! **When you sign up, please remember to provide your envelope number.

**Freeport Meals on Wheels** is in desperate need of drivers for delivery routes in Freeport, Sarver, Cabot and Saxonburg. Anyone interested in volunteering an hour or two of their time, one or more days a month, should contact Betsy Olsen at 724-353-1424 for details. Meals are delivered on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

**St. Mary, Mother of God**

**Tenebrae**

Good Friday
April 14th, 2017

A non-denominational evening service of Tenebrae will begin at 8:30 P.M. with a Lenten musical presentation beginning at 7:45 P.M. The evening’s service will dramatically reflect in meditation and song on the readings from the passion of Jesus Christ, leading into the darkness of the Crucifixion.

We are pleased to have guest vocalist, Jamie Phillips, and guest organist, Susan Myford...

Service is open to the entire community!

**A Community Time of Reflection**

**Holy Land Collection** - On Good Friday, our parish will take up the annual collection for the Holy Land. We ask you to please be generous. Your financial contribution will support the services and facilities of the Church in the Holy Land.

**EASTERN FOOD BASKETS**

The Allegheny Valley Association of Churches’ Food Bank will make an Easter witness this year with specially prepared food baskets. Each basket will contain a variety of food including fresh produce and a voucher with which to purchase meat. There will even be candy for their bunny basket!

AVAC’s cost per basket is $15.00. All donations will support this ministry. Philanthropist Shawn Alan Feinstein has made a challenge to all non-profit, anti-hunger agencies including AVAC. All funds raised during the months of March and April for the Food Bank are eligible for a matching grant from the Feinstein Foundation. Please consider this in your giving.

Yes, I want to make an Easter witness to the needy. Enclosed is my check for Payable to the “AVAC Food Bank”.

Please mail your check with this form to:

Allegheny Valley Association of Churches, Inc.
1913 Freport Road
Natrona Heights, PA 15065

| Name: __________________________ |
| Address: _______________________ |

All donations will be acknowledged.
MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK & EASTER

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<tr>
<th>Altar Servers</th>
<th>Extraordinary Ministers Of Holy Communion</th>
<th>Lector</th>
<th>Organist</th>
<th>Cantor</th>
<th>Greeters</th>
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<td><strong>Holy Thursday - 7:00 P.M.</strong></td>
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<td>All Servers</td>
<td>Andrea Camerlo</td>
<td>Jackie DeFelice</td>
<td>Dave Wesolosky</td>
<td>Choir</td>
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<td>Betty Lou Nemcek</td>
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<td>Patty Hughes</td>
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<td>All Servers</td>
<td>John Nemcek</td>
<td>Tim Fogarty (N)</td>
<td>Dave Wesolosky</td>
<td>Choir</td>
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<td>Janice Meola (S)</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday - Easter Vigil - 8:30 P.M.</strong></td>
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<td>All Servers</td>
<td>Betty Lou Nemcek</td>
<td>J. Nemcek; R. Svitek</td>
<td>Dave Wesolosky</td>
<td>Choir</td>
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<td>Dave Brestensky</td>
<td>Judy Bergstrom</td>
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<td><strong>Easter Sunday 8:30 A.M.</strong></td>
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<td>All Servers</td>
<td>F. Walker; L. Boylan</td>
<td>Laura Huth</td>
<td>Sue Myford</td>
<td>Jamie Phillips</td>
<td>All Greeters</td>
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<td>K. Holbein; R. Check</td>
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<td>C. Carson</td>
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<td><strong>Easter Sunday 11:00 A.M.</strong></td>
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<td>All Servers</td>
<td>A. Volek; D. Rossey</td>
<td>Marushka Steele</td>
<td>Dave Wesolosky</td>
<td>Choir</td>
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<td>L. Isenberg; B. Cogley</td>
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<td>D. Lucovich</td>
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MASSES FOR PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

**SATURDAY:** April 8th
4:00 P.M.  Judith Polana (Bill & Maryellyn Bale)

**SUNDAY:** April 9th
8:30 A.M.  Pat Pflugh (Ron & Linda Gallagher)
11:00 A.M. St. Mary Parishioners

**MONDAY:** April 10th
8:00 A.M.  Charles Huth (Ellen Huth & Family)

**TUESDAY:** April 11th
8:00 A.M.  Mary Kristine (Beth Macurdy)

**WEDNESDAY:** April 12th
8:00 A.M.  John Yousko (The Policicchio’s)

**THURSDAY:** April 13th—NO MORNING MASS
7:00 P.M.  Evening Mass of The Lord’s Supper

**FRIDAY:** April 14th—NO MORNING MASS
1:30 P.M.  The Lord’s Passion
8:30 P.M.  Tenebrae

MASSES FOR EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

**SATURDAY:** April 15th
8:30 P.M.  St. Mary Parishioners

**SUNDAY:** April 16th
8:30 A.M.  St. Mary Parishioners
11:00 A.M.  St. Mary Parishioners

The Altar Bread and Wine were donated for this week in loving memory of DANIEL B. HASTINGS
By Fred Walker & Forrest, Grey, Kaleb

In acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ, The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn this week in loving memory of LOVING SISTERS—CAROL & MARILYN
By Krumenacker Families (Brothers & Sister)

Due to the early deadline for the submission of the April 9th bulletin, the weekly contribution report for April 2nd was not available. This information will be published in next Sunday’s bulletin. THANK YOU!