



# *St. Mary, Mother of God Church*

*A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg*  
*A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust*  
Roman Catholic Church  
608 High Street ~ Freeport, PA 16229

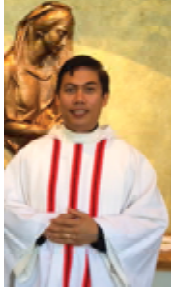


# Palm Sunday

March 25th, 2018



## From the Pastor's Desk



One thing I'm sure that you will remember this Sunday is the palms that you and everyone else will be holding while the priest goes around blessing them. Do you know why we have palms this Sunday and why the priest blesses them?

Well to begin with, this Sunday is commonly known as *Palm Sunday* or *The Passion Sunday*. *Palm Sunday* commemorates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem where people praised Him as king of the Jews while waving palms along the road where He was passing. But that recognition and welcome was changed when He was put on trial for accusations which were purely religious in nature, and through the instigation of the religious leaders, people were swayed and shifted their cry of hosanna to "crucify him! crucify him!". This is what we commemorate in the second part of the liturgy, the passion of Jesus.

So there are two events we can see in our liturgy this Sunday: the commemoration of the triumphal entry into Jerusalem by Jesus as we wave our palms, and the passion narratives that we will be hearing from the liturgy of the word within the mass.

Now, having the celebration of Palm Sunday, it signifies the beginning of Holy Week and the final Sunday in the Lenten Season. During the holy week, we will be introduced to different liturgical activities that will lead us into the Easter Triduum. We will have the Chrism mass on Maunday Thursday where all the diocesan priests, along with the bishop, gather at the cathedral for a solemn mass to renew the vows and bless the oils that will be used for the celebration of the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and anointing of the sick for the year. On that evening, mass of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated in the parish to commemorate the Lord's Supper. During that mass, washing of the feet of twelve people will be reenacted to commemorate the washing of the feet that Jesus did for his twelve disciples after their supper. The following day, Good Friday, there will be no mass. Instead, celebration of the word with communion service and veneration of the cross will be held. Tenebrae service will also be celebrated that evening to recreate the emotional aspects of the passion story that leads to the extinguishing of the light in the Church, but it is left unfinished because the story is not over yet until Easter Sunday. On Holy Saturday, there will be no service except for the blessing of Easter baskets at 12:00 Noon and the preparation in the evening for the 8:30 P.M. Easter Vigil.

All of these liturgical activities will help prepare us for the celebration of Easter, from sorrow to joy, from darkness to light, because the story of the passion of Jesus did not end there but with the resurrection, which we celebrate on Easter Sunday.

And so, as we enter into the holy week, let us open our heart and willingly participate in all the liturgical activities in our Church to appreciate what Jesus did for us.



FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

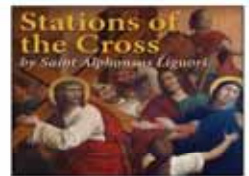
### Stations of the Cross

By Saint Alphonsus Liguori

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[Listen on formed.org](https://www.formed.org)



"Holding a crucifix while meditating on the Stations of the Cross... so moving. Thank you, Jesus, for the Cross."

—Marcia R, St Teresa's Church

FORMED THE CATHOLIC PATH FORWARD

### Dynamic Catholic Best Lent Ever

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EVER

A free email program that has been one's guide on an incredible 40-day journey, helping you to become the-best-version-of-yourself, making this a truly life-changing Lent. It began on Ash Wednesday (February 14th), receiving daily emails with short inspirational videos from Matthew Kelly, practical tips to incorporate into your everyday life, and personal stories from Dynamic Catholic team members. Our lives change when our habits change. It's not too late to sign up! Your last week of Lent can be an incredibly transformative experience because you can learn simple, yet powerful ways to become the person God created you to be. Sign up today at [DynamicCatholic.com/40Days](https://DynamicCatholic.com/40Days).

## Lenten Penance Service at Concordia Nursing Home



**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. **Deadline is 12:00 Noon on Monday, March 26th.**



The Teen Ministry will hold their annual Easter Egg Hunt on Holy Saturday, March 31st, at 1:00 P.M., at St. Mary Cemetery (weather permitting). All children, from preschool to 3rd grade, are invited to attend. *If you have not yet signed up your child(ren), please do so today to ensure that enough prizes are available for the children.*



**Pick-up date** for anyone who ordered popcorn will be **Wednesday, March 28th, from 4:00 to 7:00 P.M. or on Holy Saturday, at the Easter Egg Hunt.**



**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 8th). 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.



**Do you like working outside?** Our cemetery is in need of someone to help with the grass trimming and light labor work—one or two days a week from April to November. If interested, call our caretaker, Richard Bertino, at 724-295-3632 (home) or 724-602-5986 (cell). *If you want your Christmas wreaths and decorations, please remove them by March 31st. If you don't, the caretaker will remove and destroy them.*

## Diocesan Lenten Appeal



Diocesan Target - \$39,816.68  
 Parish Target - \$30,183.32  
 Combined Target - \$70,000.00  
 Pledges to Date - \$56,759.00  
 Paid to Date - \$44,642.00  
 Number of Donors - 180  
 Diocesan Target Achieved!!!

**(Totals are as of Wednesday, March 14th)**

## First Communion Workshop

First Holy Communion Workshop will be held on Wednesday, April 4th, from 7:00 to 8:30 P.M. in our Fellowship Hall. *Parents and children must attend!*

## ATTENTION ALL ALTAR SERVERS

Practice

On Holy Thursday, there will be practice at 10:00 A.M. for the Holy Thursday evening mass at 7:00 P.M.  
 On Good Friday, there will be practice at 12:00 Noon for the 1:30 P.M. Service and Tenebrae at 8:30 P.M.  
 On Holy Saturday, there will be practice at 10:00 A.M. for the Easter Vigil at 8:30 P.M.

## Holy Week Schedule

*Below is our schedule for HOLY WEEK:*

**Holy Monday - Regional Penance Service here at 7:00 P.M.**

**Holy Wednesday** – Mass will be at 7:00 P.M.

**Holy Thursday** – Altar Server Practice for Holy Thursday - 10:00 A.M.

**CHRISM MASS – Blessed Sacrament Cathedral (Greensburg) at 10:00 A.M.**

Mass of the Lord's Supper with the Washing of the Feet at 7:00 P.M.

Adoration until 11:30 P.M.—Night Prayer at 11:30 P.M.

**Good Friday** – Altar Server Practice for Good Friday at 12:00 Noon

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 for the Easter Vigil 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.

Easter Sunday - Mass at 8:30 & 11:00 A.M.



*We cannot thank you enough for your amazing hospitality. From the moment you invited us to come, to the time shared checking out the church, and all the way through the end of our evening there we felt so "welcomed". The deacon was amazing and everyone was so kind and warm. Your parish and members were also very generous.*

*Thanks again for everything! May God continue to bless all of you.*

You're so kind.  
I'm so thankful.

*In Christ,  
Andrew Huber  
and  
SFYM  
team*

I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you.  
ROMANS 1:8-11

**GOOD FRIDAY**  
HELP CHRISTIANS  
IN THE HOLY LAND

**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.

**CHURCH TOUR** Holy Family Parish, Latrobe is offering guided tours of their newly restored church from 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. on the following Saturdays: April 7th and May 12th. The Church will be decorated for Easter in April. Reservations are not required. Each tour is approximately 45 minutes. Group tours of any size may also be scheduled on weekdays and some Saturdays. Groups of fifteen or more may make arrangements to purchase a homemade lunch which will be served in the church social hall at a cost of \$8.00/person. To schedule a group tour with/or without lunch, contact Charlene Nicholson at: [cmnicholson54@gmail.com](mailto:cmnicholson54@gmail.com) or you can call 724-532-4135. Future tour dates will be announced. Look forward to seeing you.

**Protecting Our Children**

If you have any suspicion about the sexual abuse (or any other type of abuse) of a minor child by anyone — contact PA Childline immediately at 1-800-932-0313. If the alleged abuser is functioning in a parish, school or diocesan position as clergy, religious, paid staff or volunteer, you are also requested to contact the Bishop's Delegate for Matters of Sexual Misconduct after you have called the Childline number and made the report. The Bishop's Delegate may be reached at 724-837-0901, Ext. 1221.

**Divine Mercy Liturgy and Benediction** will be celebrated at 3:00 P.M. on Divine Mercy Sunday (April 8th) at Christ, Prince of Peace Church, 736 Fourth Avenue, Ford City. Liturgical aids with Divine Mercy Novena daily prayers and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy are provided in the vestibule of Christ, Prince of Peace Church for private/individual prayer on Good Friday (March 30th) and Holy Saturday (March 31st) and public devotion daily at 3:00 P.M. from Easter Sunday (April 1st) through the following Saturday (April 7th).

The Diocese of Greensburg will host FamilyFest 2018 on June 2nd, at Hempfield Park. The day of fun, food and worship begins at 11:00 A.M. No admission fee. To visit and for updated information, visit: [www.familyfestgreensburg.org](http://www.familyfestgreensburg.org).

The new parish directories have arrived. If you had your picture taken last fall for the directory, please pick up your copy in the Fellowship Hall this weekend after Mass.

**Allegheny Valley Association of Churches**

**Volunteer Luncheon**

Date: Friday, April 27th, 2018  
Time: 11:30  
Place: First United Presbyterian Church  
913 Lock St.  
Tarentum, PA 15084

**Pastors - Please announce this to your congregation.**

You are cordially invited to attend our annual celebration for all our volunteers. We welcome volunteers from all programs as well as office and support volunteers. Church volunteers who assist with Hospitality Network are also encouraged to join us.

- Join us for an afternoon of fun, good food, entertainment and enjoyable fellowship!

**Please R.S.V.P. by April 16th to the AVAC office**

Phone: 724-226-0606  
Fax: 724-226-3197  
Email: [avac@avac.org](mailto:avac@avac.org)

**EASTER 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.**

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 Freeport Road  
Natrona Heights, PA 15065

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

**All donations will be acknowledged.**

# St. Mary, Mother of God

608 High Street - Freeport



Good Friday  
March 30th, 2018



*A non-denominational evening service of Tenebrae will begin at 8:30 P.M. with meditation music beginning at 8:00 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.*

*Portions of the Tenebrae Service will have live portrayals and enactments to reflect the readings*

*Service is open to the entire community!*



"A Community Time of Reflection"

# MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 29TH, 30TH, 31ST & APRIL 1ST, 2018

<i>Altar Servers</i>	<i>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</i>	<i>Lector</i>	<i>Greeters</i>	<i>Organist</i>	<i>Cantor</i>
<b>Holy Thursday - 7:00 P.M.</b>					
All Servers	Stella Aul; John Nemcek Debbie Baustert	Dave Brestensky	All Greeters	Dave Wesolosky	Choir
<b>Good Friday - 1:30 P.M.</b>					
All Servers	Andre Volek	Janice Meola (N) Karen Savage (S)	All Greeters	Dave Wesolosky	Choir
<b>Easter Vigil - 8:30 P.M.</b>					
All Servers	Lisa Isenberg; Bill Girardi Dave Brestensky	John Nemcek Judy Bergstrom Rob Svitek	All Greeters	Dave Wesolosky	Choir
<b>Easter Sunday—8:30 A.M.</b>					
All Servers	Fred Walker; Lisa Boylan Deb Showers; Rose Check Carol Carson	Susan Shea	All Greeters	Sue Myford	Jamie Phillips
<b>Sunday—11:00 A.M.</b>					
All Servers	Andre Volek; Patty Hughes Helen James; Bill Cogley Dan Lucovich	Marushka Steele	All Greeters	Dave Wesolosky	Choir


## Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK

### MASSES FOR PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

<b>SATURDAY:</b> 4:00 P.M.	<b>March 24th</b> ✦ Martin Hoffman (Ed & Jeannie Lepkowski)	
<b>SUNDAY:</b> 8:30 A.M. 11:00 A.M.	<b>March 25th</b> St. Mary Parishioners ✦ Baustert Family (Family)	
<b>MONDAY:</b> 8:00 A.M.	<b>March 26th</b> ✦ Berness Cribbs (Greco Family)	
<b>TUESDAY:</b> 8:00 A.M.	<b>March 27th</b> ✦ Paul Huth (Parents—Jim & Mary Huth)	
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b> 7:00 P.M.	<b>March 28th</b> ✦ Son—Richard & Mother-in-law, Mary (Mom & Dad)	
<b>THURSDAY:</b> NO MORNING MASS 7:00 P.M.	<b>March 29th—Holy Thursday</b> Evening Mass of The Lord's Supper (Adoration until 11:30 P.M.)	
<b>FRIDAY:</b> NO MORNING MASS 1:30 P.M. 8:30 P.M.	<b>March 30th—Good Friday</b> The Lord's Passion Tenebrae	

### MASSES FOR EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

<b>SATURDAY:</b> 8:30 P.M.	<b>March 31st—Easter Vigil</b> St. Mary Parishioners	
<b>SUNDAY:</b> 8:30 A.M. 11:00 A.M.	<b>April 1st</b> St. Mary Parishioners St. Mary Parishioners	



The Altar Bread and Wine  
were donated for this week  
in loving memory of  
**JANE ROSSEY**  
By  
*Bill and Doree Rossey & Family*

In acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ,  
The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn this week in  
loving memory of  
**PAUL BELLI**  
By  
*Cheryl Belli—Daughter*



## Collections

*Due to the early deadline for the submission of the March 25th bulletin, the weekly contribution report for March 18th was not available. It will be published in next Sunday's bulletin.*



Saturday, March 31st, 2018  
*Diane Grant and Susan Shea*

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