

April 5, 2020

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD



The Glory of the Cross
Today, we remember the shocking event that changed the world. As we read the passion of Christ, we cannot but realize that the cross is a central mystery in our faith. Suffering is part of every

person's life, just as it was part of Jesus' life. However, Jesus' suffering led to the resurrection. Through his suffering Jesus redeemed the human race from sin. If we join in his suffering we will also join in his victory over death.

The Paschal Triduum of the Death, Rest and Resurrection of the Lord



Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

9:00 a.m. God's Deliverance From The Corona Virus

Holy Thursday of the Passion of the Lord

6:30 p.m. For Vocations to the Priesthood

Holy Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)

2:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross
Celebration of the Lord's Passion

The Easter Vigil

6:30 p.m. The Welfare of Parishioners

Sunday of the Resurrection

9:00 a.m. The Welfare of Parishioners

The services will be live-streamed from either the Praha or the Moulton Church for viewing on our website www.stmaryspraaha.org.

Blessed palms will be available for pick up in the church after the Sunday service.

Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy



Next weekend is *Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your bible.

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 10:34a, 37-43

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 118

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8

Gospel: John 20:1-9

2019 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

March 23, 2020

Dear Pastor,

Listed below is the information pertaining to your Parish's 2019 Diocesan Services Appeal (DSA):

St. Mary's Church, Praha	
Parish Goal	\$7,813
Total Number of Parishioners Pledging	36
Total Amount Pledged by Parishioners	\$6,950
Total Amount Contributed by Parishioners	\$6,950

The Total Amount Contributed by Parishioners includes all contributions received through February 29, 2020. In order to meet your 2019 Parish Goal, a total of **\$863** is due and payable to the Diocese of Victoria on or before April 15, 2020.

Last month the 2020 DSA Brochure and Pledge Card were mailed to your Parishioners from Victoria. The 2020 DSA Appeal runs from March 1, 2020 through February 28, 2021. Please note that any payments received after February 28, 2020 will automatically be applied to the 2020 Diocesan Services Appeal. For your information, **your Parish's 2020 DSA Goal is \$8,179**

Sincerely,
Rene Garcia

St. Mary's Restoration Endowment Fund Maintaining & Preserving Maticka Praha

We thank the following for their recent contribution:

Sheri Ohrt - \$20

In Memory of Margie Cernosek - \$20

James Austin Pinedo, Houston, Tx - \$50

Belinda & Rudy Flores, Angleton, TX - \$24

In Memory of Jalen Botello, Maylyn Suniga, Alejandra

Martinez: Luz & Mark Keiser, Mesquite, TX - \$20

In Thanksgiving to God For The Hard Work That Many of The Locals Do To Keep This Church So Beautiful

Kathy & Paul Marek, Houston, TX - \$500

ST. MARY'S MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of Josephine Mikulik

In Memory of Genevieve Lockstedt

Mary & Charlie Bartos

The Sanctuary Light

will be lit this week
in memory of Henry J. Migl.



REFLECTION

The Loving Nature of God

As Matthew's version of the passion and death of Jesus is proclaimed (Gospel) every evil tendency of humankind will be revealed. We will be told of Judas' betrayal and of Peter's denial. We will listen to how the disciples are so oblivious to Jesus that they fall asleep when he needs their support. We will hear the lies told about Jesus, as well as the people's mockery of him. We will sense the fierceness of the crowd, the weakness of Pilate and the hypocrisy of the chief priests and elders. Then, in the most horrifying but sacred moment when Jesus gives up his spirit on the cross, the evils of humankind, grave through they are, will be eclipsed by a love that is at once intense and pure. It is this great love of God that has seen Jesus through each of his days and nights. This loving nature of God was reflected in Jesus' gentle way with sinners, in his willingness to welcome children, in his outreach to foreigners and outcasts. God's loving nature was evident each time Jesus healed the sick and forgave sinners. This love was revealed most eloquently at the last supper Jesus shared with his friends, when he gave himself as food. After his death and resurrection, the disciples knew him to be present in the breaking of the bread.

As we celebrate these most holy days, let us remember, as we break open the bread of life, that God's nature continues to be revealed to us. May we also live in such a way that God's nature is revealed through us.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



March 25 – Martin Svatek
March 18 – Staci MacDonald
April 6 – Carl Henke
April 10 – Rory Lesikar

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



April 8 – Margaret & Michael Hanslik

THE CHRISM MASS – APRIL 7



On this day the Bishop will celebrate Mass and bless the Holy Oils: *The Oil of the Catechumens, The Sacred Chrism, The Oil of the Infirm.* The Mass, normally concelebrated with all the priests of the diocese, will be live-streamed on the diocesan website at 10:00 a.m. The priests

will not be in attendance. The oils will be distributed to the priests at a later date.

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

The Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ



Today we begin Holy Week, the days during which we journey with Jesus on his way to the cross and anticipate his wondrous and glorious resurrection on Easter. On this Palm Sunday, we focus on Matthew's account of the Passion of Christ.

The first thing we notice is how Matthew structures the content of his Passion Narrative. Matthew unfolds the passion narrative in six parts.

- Beginning with a brief prelude about Judas as "selling out" Jesus, the story begins with the Passover supper wherein Jesus institutes the Eucharist (26:17-29).
- The second scene puts Jesus and his disciples at the Mount of Olives, where Peter's denial is foretold and Jesus undergoes a stressful agony in view of his approaching death (26:30-56).
- The third scene is a complicated, so-called trials before the Jewish Sanhedrin (26:57-68).
- The fourth scene moves Jesus to another trial situation before Pilate; Jesus will ultimately be condemned, and Judas commits suicide (27:1-26).
- The fifth scene is the crucifixion itself, where Jesus is mocked and hung on the cross to die (27:27-44).
- In the final scene, Jesus dies and is buried in a tomb provided by Joseph of Arimathea (27:45-66).

This narrative highlights three important themes.

- First, Jesus is the Son of God, and he is clearly the master of his own fate. This is shown in all six scenes listed above.
- Second, for Matthew, the Church (now consisting of Jews and gentiles) has inherited the promises of Israel.
- Third, Jesus is the model of righteous behavior throughout every part of the Passion Narrative.

As we retell the story of the passion of our Lord, this is our story as well because the Holy Spirit now dwells with us. As we enter into this week, the holiest week of the entire year, let us pray for the grace to have hearts open to all that the Lord teaches us this week. Let us pray for the grace to resist temptation and to live our lives in a holy way. And let us be ready to greet him when he comes again.

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