



Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion



April 5, 2020

ATTENTION

**All scheduled masses and events are cancelled due to the ban.
As a Parish Family we pray for all who are affected by COVID-19.
The Church/Rectory will remain closed until further notice.**

**If you had a mass scheduled or offered the Bread and Wine or Sanctuary Candle for a loved one, for this week or the upcoming weeks, please call the rectory to reschedule to a later date.
We apologize for the inconvenience.**

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

**PALM SUNDAY
"PASSION OF THE LORD"
(Matthew 26: 14-27: 66)**

With palms on the hands and prayers of joy the Church remembers the triumphal entry of Jesus into the Holy City, Jerusalem. The reading of the Passion has a bitter-sweet flavor since it reminds us of the story of Jesus who, shortly after eating the paschal meal with his disciples, was arrested, tried, condemned, and condemned to death. But far from being in the shadow of death and in the darkness of the tunnel, Jerusalem is also the city where the true light shines and seen at the end of the tunnel. Jerusalem is the city where Jesus is exalted by his Father God with his resurrection.

Saint Ignatius invites us to contemplate the Passion of the Lord with a petition prayer: "it is proper to ask for sorrow with Christ in sorrow, anguish with Christ in anguish, tears and deep grief because of the great affliction Christ endures for me." Far from being a pious request, Saint Ignatius wants the believer to kneel before Jesus on the Cross and in an intimate dialogue ask himself/herself: "What have I done for Christ, what am I doing for Christ and what should I do for Christ." The Ignatian spirituality therefore proposes us to be contemplative in action. That is, that we identify with the suffering faces of Christ and come to his help.

In this suffering time and at the beginning of this Holy Week, the challenge is to look at Christ in our neighbor who is helpless, who does not have enough to eat or who feels abandoned. Let us make a firm resolution to heal the wounds of those around us. If we have a sick brother or sister, we should encourage him/her with our comfort. If someone is in prison, a phone call is already a way of living compassion. If on the other hand you live in a situation of pain due to the breakup with your partner, or your children do not understand you, start to pray and also share your pain with the various church support groups. If you are in need of spiritual healing and want a good confession, now is the time to make a direct dialogue with God in the solitude of your home. Christ awaits you this Holy Week and wants you to change and do something to ease his pain. So from the bottom of our hearts and with our hands together let us repeat: "What have I done for Christ, what do I do for Christ and what should I do for Christ."

May the suffering that we all experience in these moments of the pandemic be alleviated by our unity in prayer. Jesus who, being God, wants to unite himself with the suffering people of all times, even in pain and death. He wants to enable us to experience the salvific effects of his passion.

Fr. Hernán, S.J.

Weekly Memorials

**Bread & Wine
Tabernacle Candle
Memorial Candle
Memorial Candle**



~ **For the People of
our Parish Community**
~ † **For all the lves lost to
the COVID-19 Virus**



SCRIPTURE READINGS

These readings are found complete on our parish web page (www.olmcsi.org). Click on "USCCB Daily Readings."

April 5: Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Isaiah 50:4-7
Psalm 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24
Philippians 2:6-11

April 12: Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Acts 10:34A, 37-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23
Colossians 3:1-4



We Apologize. The Archdiocese of New York has instructed all churches NOT to DISTRIBUTE PALMS. This is in accordance with the Diocese of Brooklyn and other nearby dioceses which have also cancelled palm distribution this year.

CONNECT WITH US ON FACEBOOK

Fr. Hernán and Fr. Marc and Fr Luis Mario are offering virtual Masses and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament through our Facebook page.

**Connect and follow us to see these transmissions in your homes. Facebook Page: Olmc Si Masses on Sundays; 10:00 am (English); 11:30 am (Spanish)
Masses from Monday to Friday; 12:00 pm (Spanish)**

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; daily at 7:00 pm (Spanish)

THE HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE IS POSTED ON OUR CHURCH'S WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE.

YOUR CONTINUED FINANCIAL SUPPORT – How can you continue supporting your parish? **1)** You may mail us your weekly contribution envelopes. **2)** You may drop off your weekly contribution envelopes. **3)** Register for online giving. The financial stress of no collections will put the physical and staffing needs of the parish in **SERIOUS JEOPARDY**. We are all together in this crisis, and our family of faith that we call the Our Lady of Mount Carmel – St. Benedicta – St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, has always been and will continue to be with you through this. Please let us know if there is anything we can do for you in these trying times.

REGISTER for ONLINE GIVING - ParishPay.com/WeShare allows parishes to receive online gifts and give their parishioners a safe and easy way to do so. You are able to set up recurring donations and manage your online giving accounts. If you've never donated online before, signing up is easy! Customer service number 1-800-950-9952.

1. Visit <http://www.paritypay.com> and register for a new account.
2. Click on the collection you wish to donate to.
3. Click Recurring Donation, then enter your donation amount and frequency.

Once you've added your account information, donations will automatically deduct from your account. It's that easy!

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION - It has long been a Catholic understanding that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion, which is a source of grace. Spiritual Communion is an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament and lovingly embrace him at a time or in circumstances when one cannot receive Him in sacramental Communion. The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend Mass. Acts of Spiritual Communion increase our desire to receive sacramental Communion and help us avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive Holy Communion worthily.

PRAYER FOR SPRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,

Come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace you as if you were already there, And unite myself wholly to you.

Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Today is Palm/Passion Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week. Although we can't celebrate it as we would like to due to the COVID-19 virus, it is still the week that changed the course of history. We celebrate those days that Our Lord, Jesus Christ, suffered, died, and rose again for us. Palm/Passion Sunday is also the day when we remember that it was the same people who knelt down adoring the Lord and laying palms before him, would in a few days be the ones cursing him, spitting on him and screaming for his death. How fickle the followers of the Lord can be. As we begin Holy Week, let us ask Lord for the grace to give us open and undivided hearts that we may be his faithful followers, not just when it is easy, but also when it is difficult, especially now. Even though we cannot attend Mass there are still many things we can do to prepare ourselves for the coming celebration of Easter: Be completely faithful to your Lenten observances during Holy Week. **1)** Take time to meditate on Jesus fidelity to his Father's will, especially Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-46). **2)** Pray the Rosary each day, with your family if possible. **3)** Ask the Lord for the graces you and your family need to be faithful to Him and to each other. **4)** Read and pray on the Mass readings each day this week. You can find them at in our weekly bulletin. **5)** Pray for those affected in anyway by COVID-19 and ask the Lord in his mercy to free us from this pandemic. **6)** Thank God each day in a prayer for His love. Remember the price for us to go to be forgiven... Christ