



Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

March 28, 2021



SATURDAYS 5:00 PM
SUNDAYS 10:30AM MASS
Watch it live!!

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WEEKEND MASSES:
SATURDAYS AT 5PM
SUNDAYS AT 10:30AM

DAILY MASSES:
TUESDAYS &
THURSDAYS 8AM

RECONCILIATION:
SATURDAYS 3:30 - 4:30PM

HOLY HOUR:
WEDNESDAYS 6 - 7PM

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FURTHER NOTICE.**

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MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 27

8:00am: Margarita Aragon
5:00pm: Maria Mora
Luis Soler

Sunday, March 28

10:30am: Parishioners of Immaculate
Conception Parish
Loretta Manfredini

Monday, March 29

8:00am: Frank Waldeck

Tuesday, March 30

8:00am: Anna Marie Caponegri

Wednesday, March 31

8:00am: Rev. David Cortesi
Ameilia Vena

**Thursday, April 1**

7:00pm: Parishioners of Immaculate
Conception Parish

Friday, April 2

Good Friday

Saturday, April 3

7:00pm: Parishioners of Immaculate
Conception Parish

Sunday, April 4

8:00am: Parishioners of Immaculate
Conception Parish
10:30am: Parishioners of Immaculate
Conception Parish

CALLING ALL GARDEN ENTHUSIASTS

We are in need of volunteers to help with the Meditation Garden. The plan is to help beautify and maintain this garden throughout the season. What a great way to bring our IC community together outdoors, observing current restrictions.



We will be beginning this project the week after Easter. Please consider giving your time, resources and gardening talent for this project. You don't have to be a gardener to participate.

All ages are welcome. Confirmation students will have an opportunity for service hours.

If you are interested, please contact Midge Berardi.
midgeberardi@comcast.net or 224-619-5864

Father Mike's Homiletter – March 28, 2021 Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Scripture: Isaiah 50:4-7; Psalm 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24; Philippians 2:6-11; Mark 14:1 – 15:1-39

Today, we begin the holiest week of the year, during which we commemorate the Passion and Death of Jesus for our sakes. Many of us have lived through a good number of Holy Weeks, at times when we could devote different amounts of time and attention to the meaning of the feasts. Last year, I imagine most of us were surprised by the closure of our churches for public worship. This year, we have public worship back, but on a different basis: limited attendance and simpler liturgies may not be as satisfying as the more uplifting ceremonies we remember. But the mystery we celebrate is the same as ever, and perhaps more relevant this year than we would have thought for some time. We have endured a lot this year, pared down many of our activities, and had some additional time for reflection on what is important in our lives.

In our first reading, Isaiah describes the price of being a prophet – unpopularity, big time! Yet, anchored as he is in his belief in his God, he can say he will continue because he knows God is with him. St. Paul's letter to the Philippians describes Jesus' fulfillment of a similar role: He gave everything, humbling Himself to the point of an ignominious, painful, extended death. God knows the meaning and value of giving everything freely out of love – Jesus Christ is Lord of all! While St. Paul tells us the meaning of Jesus' actions, St. Mark gives us an account of Jesus' last days, the days during which He completed a gift begun long before.

St. Mark's is the earliest Gospel, and the shortest, and might be expected to be the simplest. Yet in one way it is rather subtle: Mark's account of the Passion often describes the reasoning, emotions, and motives behind the events rather clearly – sometimes in more detail than in describing the actual events themselves. We learn that the chief priests and elders wanted Jesus out of the way, but did not want to create an uproar during the impending Passover feast, during which thousands of outsiders would come to Jerusalem to worship at the temple and whose attachment to Jesus they feared. And they did not want to be perceived as the villains of the effort. Let's get the Romans to do the dirty work.

During the week, Jesus is in Bethany at a dinner, when a woman comes in and pours a wildly expensive jar of perfumed oil on his head. This gets some of the group angry – “we could have used that for the poor” sounds noble, but was that really the motive behind the protest? Judas, not identified here as the protestor, immediately goes and makes arrangements to betray Jesus to the chief priests. Interestingly, Mark doesn't comment on Judas' motives here. But motives matter.

At the Passover supper, Jesus announces that one of the Twelve would betray Him – to the vigorous protests of the Twelve. Jesus blesses the bread and wine and gives it to them – no indication Judas was excluded from this – and warns them that their faith will be shaken, but that afterward, He will go before them into Galilee. It sounds like He expects them to go back to their old lives after the terrible events Jesus sees coming, but He will get there before them – He knows that they will be unable to confront the evil which is coming, but forgives them beforehand. They go out to the garden at Gethsemane, where Jesus asks Peter, James and John to keep him company while He prays, agonizing over the events to come, but accepting the necessary suffering as God's will. He finds His companions too weary to stay awake. “Could you not keep watch for one hour” sounds terribly disappointed. Then Judas arrives with a crowd arranged by the chief priests – a mini-mob, looking for a rumble. Jesus goes with them to the high priest, who is busy trying to concoct false testimony against Jesus. Mark tells us these “leaders” couldn't even organize a coherent set of lies. Eventually, they ask Jesus directly if He is the Christ, and He says, “I am”.

Assuming this can't be true, they immediately accuse Him of blasphemy, and decide they have enough to turn Him over the Pilate for execution. Mark tells us Pilate knows they are jealous of Jesus' popularity with the people, but he is just interested in keeping the peace. He offers to free Jesus, as he usually frees a prisoner at Passover, but the chief priests, expert at manipulation, incite the crowds to demand a murdering insurrectionist – just the sort of person everyone wants out in the neighborhood. Eventually, Pilate sends Jesus to be crucified, a horrible, extended form of death, intended to be terrifying to anyone of a mind to cause trouble. Several different groups are described as watching the spectacle. Among them, the women who had accompanied Jesus – still following Him, though the other disciples seem to have scattered. And we do not hear about their emotions. Their silent sorrow is the most eloquent response to this evil. Imagine their pain.

Sometime this week, I encourage you to go back over Mark's account of the Passion, noticing all the times he describes the motives, intentions, reactions, and feelings of each of the actors in the story. Think about how we would respond if we had been in the place of one of these souls. Had we been one of the leaders of the Jewish community, would we have resented Jesus' popularity and His message? Would we have run away in the face of the group which came to arrest Him? Would we have joined the soldiers who mocked Him? Would we have called for the insurrectionist's release? Would we have paid any attention to the spectacle if we were walking into Jerusalem for the Passover feast? Would we have stood by and watched His suffering for six long hours? Would we have been brave enough to request His body? Are we brave enough to answer such questions honestly? Do we encounter situations today which raise the same kind of questions in twenty-first century clothing?

I wish you a fruitful Holy Week. I hope you will spend some of it in Church praying with our community.

Father Mike

Food for Thought...

Let us go together to meet Christ on the Mount of Olives....Let us spread before his feet, not garments or...olive branches...but ourselves, clothed in his grace. We who have been baptized into Christ must ourselves be garments that we spread before him.

-Andrew of Crete



HOLY THURSDAY*

April 1, 2021

7pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper
8:30 - 9:30pm Eucharistic Adoration

GOOD FRIDAY*

April 2, 2021

3pm Liturgy of the Lord's Passion & Death
7pm Stations of the Cross

HOLY SATURDAY*

April 3, 2021

The Blessing of the Food can not take place this year because of COVID restrictions.

7pm Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY

April 4, 2021

8 and 10:30am Easter Sunday Masses

**There is NO 8am Morning Mass on Holy Thursday, good Friday or Holy Saturday*

To reserve your seat in church, please click here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054ea4ad28a1f49-holy1>

ALL HOLY WEEK SERVICES WILL BE LIVE-STREAMED ON OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.ICPARISH.ORG OR [HTTPS://VIMEO.COM/ICPARISH](https://VIMEO.COM/ICPARISH)



RECONCILIATION

Monday from 7 - 8pm
March 29

LENTEN FASTING & ABSTINENCE



Fasting	Abstinence
Ash Wednesday Good Friday	Every Friday during Lent
Ages 18-59	Ages 14+

How do we fast?

When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal.

Am I excused from fasting and abstinence?

Those that are excused from fast and abstinence outside the age limits include the physically or mentally ill including individuals suffering from chronic illnesses such as diabetes. Also excluded are pregnant or nursing women.

For more information on fasting and abstinence, visit usccb.org.



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EASTER FLOWER MEMORIALS



If you care to remember your deceased loved ones with a contribution toward the cost of the flowers and Sanctuary decor, we welcome your gift. Father McMahon will remember your loved ones in prayer.

Please complete the form provided below and place it with your offering in an envelope marked "Flower Memorials". You may place the envelope in the regular Sunday collection basket or mail/drop off your envelope to the Parish Center Office.

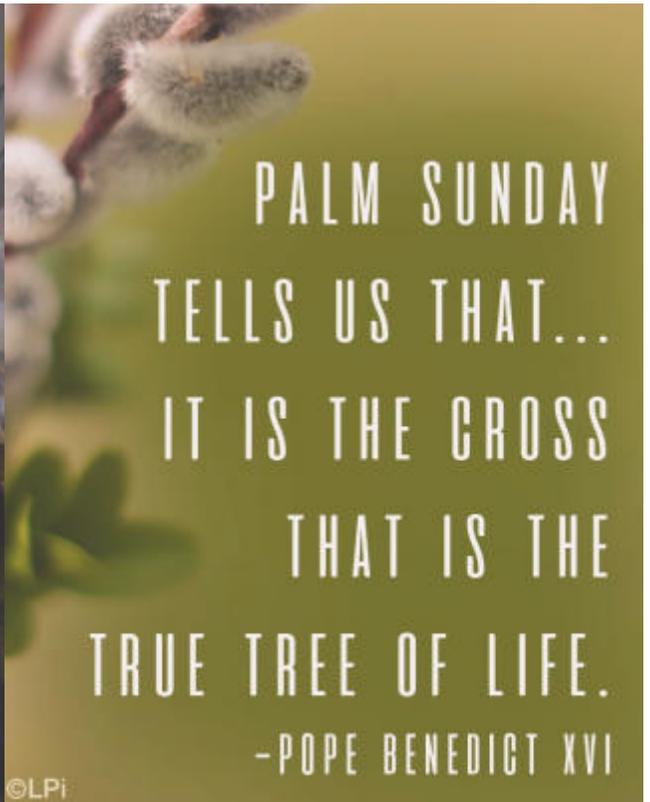
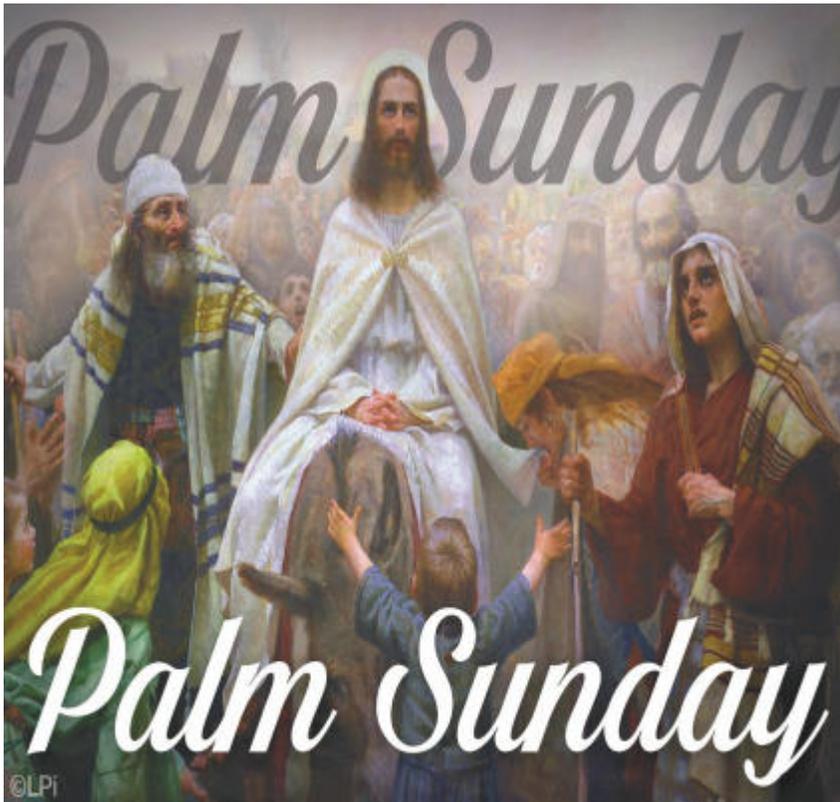
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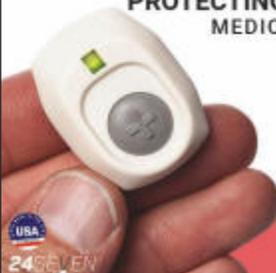
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A NOTE FROM FR. MIKE

Dear Parishioners,

As we journey together through Lent, we are called to do so within a joyful, loving community that supports one another and inspires others to seek an encounter with our Lord. This is why we are called together as a parish family. Your Easter gifts are an important part of bringing our parish's mission to life.

I humbly ask that you prayerfully consider making a one-time Easter gift to ensure that our parish ministries and operations can continue. You can send your gift to our parish office, or online at <https://www.givecentral.org/location/109/event/1294>

Our parish community has been able to creatively adapt how we reach out and offer the light and love of God from livestreamed Masses to new online prayer and faith formation groups and more.

And thanks to the commitment of our staff and volunteers, in-person worship at Mass, Holy Hour, Stations of the Cross and our Lenten Journey Series and more continue safely.

Please know that you are a gift to our Immaculate Conception family. Your presence, whether in spirit or in person, mean more to our local Church than you can imagine.

May the Lord be with each one of you during the Lenten and Easter seasons. I continue to pray for you and ask that you continue to pray for me.

God Bless,
Father Mike

