



CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

SAN FRANCISCO DE ASIS

Committed to living and proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ within the Catholic tradition, we are blessed to have as our patron saint someone who continues to call us to reach out to others in charity and compassion.

Church of

St Francis of Assisi

1114 Third Street SE
Rochester, MN 55904
507.288.7313
<http://stfrancis-church.org>

Parish Center Hours

Mon-Fri: 8AM - 4PM

Weekday Mass:

Tuesday - Friday 7AM

School Mass:

Tuesday 9:30AM

Weekend Mass:

Saturday 4:30PM
Sunday 8AM, 10AM

In Spanish:

Thursday 7PM
Sunday 12PM

Misa En Español:

Jueves 7PM
Domingo 12PM

Pastor

Rev. Jim Berning

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Luis Vargas



*“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord.
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.”*

- Luke 19:38

A MESSAGE FROM FR JIM BERNING



PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD. We have been on a journey together this Lent to Holy Week and the Easter Triduum with the renewal again of our Baptismal Promises. It has been a time of reaching out to others, renewing ourselves and being in the presence of God. A piece of palm leads us to remember the story of Jesus and His final hours. The One to whom we shout Hosanna as we begin the liturgy is the One who "emptied himself, taking the form of a slave" and who "humbled himself, becoming

obedient to the point of death, death on a cross."

THANK YOU! MUCHAS GRACIAS! We are so grateful to the 99 parish families that have contributed **\$42,445** towards our 2022 Catholic Ministries Appeal goal of \$49,661. Participation is the key to reaching our goal. If you have yet to make a contribution, please prayerfully consider doing so. Please note, 100% of the monies reached over our goal will be returned to the parish for our designated building project - refinishing the pews, woodwork and cabinetry. Let us reach our goal quickly - and exceed it - to help fund our own project!

RECONCILIATION. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered today, Sunday, April 10, at the Co-Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist at 3:30PM. Fr. Luis and myself are also available by appointment.

CHRISM MASS. The Chrism Mass, the blessing of the oils by the bishop, will take place tomorrow, Monday, April 11, at Pax Christi Church at 4PM. All are invited to attend!

SACRED TRIDUUM. The 3 days of the Easter Triduum are the culmination and summit of the entire Church year in which we celebrate the great mysteries of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus. All are invited to our Sacred Easter Triduum:

- ✘ Our Holy Thursday Mass (trilingual) of the Lord's Supper will be at 7PM.
- ✘ Good Friday Services will be at 3PM (English), 5PM (Spanish/Live Stations in the school gym) and 6PM (Spanish). A special collection will be taken to support the work of the Franciscans in the Holy Land. Your support helps the church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools and offer religious education. Thank you for your generosity!
- ✘ Saturday's Easter Vigil will be at 8PM with our RCIA/RICA candidates being baptized and received into the church. Congratulations and blessings to them and their sponsors, godparents and families. Thanks to their catechists who have helped by their witness and formation.
- ✘ Easter Sunday Masses will be at 8AM and 10AM (English), 12PM (Spanish) and 2:30PM (Vietnamese).

We invite everyone to come and participate in our Holy Week Masses and Services - and invite others to come with us!

A Blessed Holy Week to all!

Fr. Jim C. Berning

WELCOME

Welcome to the Church of St. Francis of Assisi. Our church has helped to bring Jesus Christ to the city of Rochester since 1937. We seek to foster the spiritual growth of our parishioners through the celebration of the Sacraments, catechesis, community life, and personal prayer. Like our patron saint, we strive to rebuild the Church and to console the heart of Jesus by serving our neighbors in need.

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Center Office

(507) 288-7313

Pastor (x 202)

Rev. Jim Berning

Parochial Vicar (x 203)

Rev. Luis Vargas

Parish Administrator (x 204)

Sarah Kinsman

Office Manager (x 201)

Michelle Ibarra

Financial Secretary (x 205)

Paula Oates

Director of Music/Liturgy (x 301)

Hope Giesen

Faith Formation (x 207)

Mark Nuehring

St. Francis of Assisi School

(507) 288-4816

Principal

Andrew Poterucha

Trustees

Bruce Anderson

Rosemary Bengal

Knights of Columbus

Bruce Anderson

Calvary Cemetery

Steve Flynn, Director

(507) 273-0140

Catholic Charities

(507) 287-2047



PROGRAMACION DE SEMANA SANTA

✘ **DOMINGO DE RAMOS: 10 DE ABRIL.** La Bendición de las palmas será en el Gimnasio de la Escuela de donde daremos inicio a la procesión de Domingo de Ramos.
 ✘ **SABADO:** 4:30 PM (En Ingles),
 ✘ **DOMINGO 8:00 y 10:00 AM** (En Ingles). 12:00 PM (En Español)

✘ **JUEVES SANTO: 14 DE ABRIL.** Misa de la Última Cena de Señor. 7:00 PM. Celebración Bilingüe. Se trasladará el Santísimo Sacramento al santo monumento, donde tendremos adoración durante toda la noche.

✘ **VIERNES SANTO: 15 DE ABRIL.** Pasión del Señor y Adoración de la Santa Cruz.
 ✘ 3:00 PM (En Ingles)
 ✘ 6:00 PM (en Español)
 ✘ **VIACRUCIS EN VIVO.** 5:00 PM (En el Gimnasio de la Escuela)

✘ **SABADO SANTO: 16 DE ABRIL.** VIGILIA PASCUAL.
 ✘ 8:00 PM. Celebración Bilingüe. En Esta ceremonia tendremos la bendición del Agua y del Fuego,

✘ **DOMINGO DE PASCUA: 17 DE ABRIL.**
 ✘ 8:00 AM y 10:00 AM (En Ingles)
 ✘ 12:00 PM (En Español)

ALTAR DEL SANTO MONUMENTO. Nuevamente tenemos la alegría de poder tener el Altar del Santo Monumento en la zona de hospitalidad. En esta ocasión queremos decorar un jardín de orquídeas, por tal motivo les estamos invitando a quienes quieran tener ese gesto de amor al Santísimo Sacramento para que donen una planta de orquídea de diferentes colores, las estaremos recibiendo en la oficina o durante la misa la próxima semana, les agradecemos su cariño y generosidad.

ESCUELAS CATOLICAS. Estamos muy orgullosos de tener un distrito escolar católico en la ciudad de Rochester y somos mas afortunados aun de tener la escuela Católica en nuestra parroquia de San Francisco de Asís, queremos invitarlos para que como comunidad hispana nos demos la oportunidad de conocer la escuela y tener la gran posibilidad a su vez de matricular a nuestros niños latinos en nuestra Escuela Católica, por eso los estamos invitando a quienes estén interesados en conocer la escuela y el sistema que se maneja para pertenecer a ella, para que después de la misa de Domingo de Ramos, nos quedemos a compartir como comunidad. Habrá comida mexicana y un tour por las instalaciones de la escuela.



MASS INTENTIONS

For the Week of April 11, 2022

MON Apr 11		NO MASS
TUES Apr 12	7:00 AM	Khanh Luu †
	* 9:30 AM	Xarlex Abreu (Birthday)
WED Apr 13	7:00 AM	Mao Nguyen †
THU Apr 14	7:00 AM	NO MASS
	7:00 PM	Bev & Phil Marek †
FRI Apr 15	7:00 AM	NO MASS
	3:00 PM	John Nemes †
	** 6:00 PM	Tom Steichen †
SAT Apr 16	8:00 PM	Holy Souls in Purgatory
SUN Apr 17	8:00 AM	Viola Kerr †
	10:00 AM	Janela Hubka
	** 12:00 PM	For the Parish
	2:30 PM	Vietnamese Mass

* School Mass ** Spanish Mass

MASS INTENTIONS

You are welcome to stop by the Parish Office and schedule a Mass intention during normal office hours.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 10, 2022

Sunday: Lk 19:28-40/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 [2a]/Phil 2:6-11/Lk 22:14—23:56 or 23:1-49
 Monday: Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14/Jn 12:1-11
 Tuesday: Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
 Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34/Mt 26:14-25
 Thursday: Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/Ps 116:12-13, 15-16abc, 17-18/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15
 Friday: Is 52:13—53:12/Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1—19:42
 Saturday: Vigil: Gn 1:1—2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a/Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 [30] or Ps 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20-22 [5b]/Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11 [1]/Ex 14:15—15:1/Ex 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18 [1b]/Is 54:5-14/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 [2a]/Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [3]/Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19 [12a]/Rom 6:3-11/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/Lk 24:1-12
 Next Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 [24]/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Lk 24:1-12 or, Lk 24:13-35

LAS LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA DEL 10 DE ABRIL DE 2022

Domingo: Lc 19, 28-40/Is 50, 4-7/Sal 21, 8-9. 17-18. 19-20. 23-24 [2]/Flp 2, 6-11/Lc 22, 14—23, 56 o 23, 1-49
 Lunes: Is 42, 1-7/Sal 26, 1. 2. 3. 13-14/Jn 12, 1-11
 Martes: Is 49, 1-6/Sal 70, 1-2. 3-4. 5-6. 15 y 17/Jn 13, 21-33. 36-38
 Miércoles: Is 50, 4-9/Sal 68, 8-10. 21-22. 31 y 33-34/Mt 26, 14-25
 Jueves: Misa Vespertina de la Cena del Señor: Ex 12, 1-8. 11-14/ Sal 115, 12-13. 15-16. 17-18/1 Co 11, 23-26/Jn 13, 1-15
 Viernes: Is 52, 13—53, 12/Sal 30, 2. 6. 12-13. 15-16. 17. 25/Heb 4, 14-16; 5, 7-9/Jn 18, 1—19, 42
 Sábado: Vigilia: Gn 1, 1—2, 2 o 1, 1. 26-31/Sal 103, 1-2. 5-6. 10. 12. 13-14. 24. 35 [30] o Sal 32, 4-5. 6-7. 12-13. 20-22 [5]/Gn 22, 1-18 o 22, 1-2. 9-13. 15-18/ Sal 15, 5. 8. 9-10. 11 [1]/Ex 14, 15—15, 1/Ex 15, 1-2. 3-4. 5-6. 17-18 [1]/Is 54, 5-14/ Sal 29, 2. 4. 5-6. 11-12. 13 [2]/Is 55, 1-11/Is 12, 2-3. 4. 5-6 [3]/ Bar 3, 9-15. 32—4, 4/Sal 18, 8. 9. 10. 11/Ez 36, 16-28/ Sal 50, 12-13. 14-15. 18-19 [12]/Rom 6, 3-11/Sal 117, 1-2. 16-17. 22-23/ Lc 24, 1-12
 Domingo siguiente: Hch 10, 34. 37-43/Sal 117, 1-2. 16-17. 22-23 [24]/ Col 3, 1-4 o 1 Co 5, 6-8/Jn 20, 1-9 o Lc 24, 1-12 o Lc 24, 13-35



RCS SUMMER CARE PROGRAM.

Registration for our Summer Care program for ages 3-12 is open! The registration link can be found on the RCS website. Summer Care will be held at Holy Spirit Catholic School. For families interested in Summer tutoring and Summer

Academy, registration will open at a later date.

THE NEST PRESCHOOL AT RCS IS EXPANDING IN 2022-2023!

The Nest preschool is growing and will feature expanded offerings including programs at all five of our convenient RCS locations for the fall of 2022. New offerings include an all-day Pre-Kindergarten (Age 4) program at our St. Francis of Assisi and Lourdes High School campuses. In addition, we have added a Pre-school (Age 3) classroom at the Co-Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist Middle School, and opened an Early Preschool (Age 2) program at Holy Spirit Catholic School! Our classrooms are filling - learn more and register today by visiting rcsmn.org/thenest

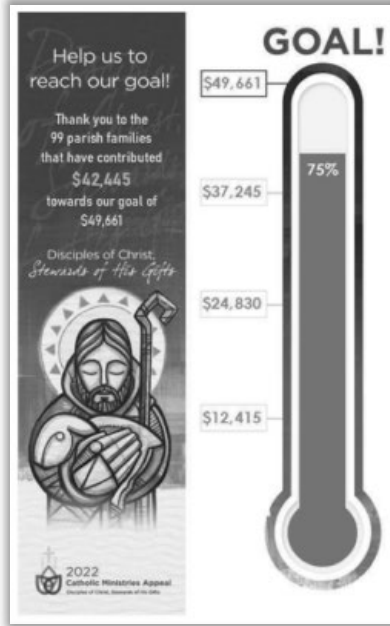


The Sacred Triduum

During Holy Week, we celebrate the "high holy days" of our Catholic faith – the Triduum. These are the most important liturgies of the church year! This is the week when everything else stops so that we can focus on the Dying and Rising of Christ. We invite you to make these evenings a priority so that you are able to participate fully in these sacred liturgies.

SACRED TRIDUUM LITURGIES

- ✘ **Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper**
Holy Thursday, April 14 @ 7PM
- ✘ **Celebration of the Lord's Passion**
Good Friday, April 15 @ 3PM (English)
6PM (Spanish)
- ✘ **Easter Vigil**
Holy Saturday, April 16 @ 8PM
- ✘ **Easter Sunday**
Sunday, April 17
8AM, 10AM (English)
12PM (Spanish)
2:30PM (Vietnamese)



CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL.

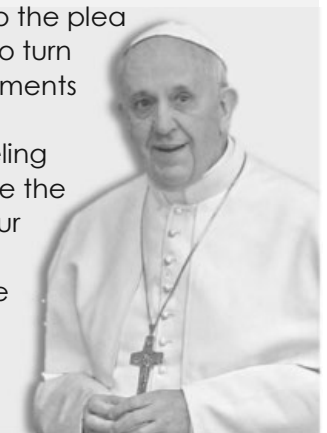
As Catholics, we are blessed to be strengthened and united by Christ in the Eucharist and sent forth to bring the peace and joy of our Triune God to all those we encounter. As individual members of the Body of Christ, we all possess different gifts and talents for furthering the ministry of Christ and His Church. During this year, may we all strive to be Disciples of Christ, Stewards of His Gifts throughout

the Catholic community, using our personal gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

2022 CMA APPEAL PRAYER. *"Heavenly Father, may we become Your disciples through our support of the 2022 Catholic Ministries Appeal. We thank you, Lord, for the many blessings of our lives. We cherish the gifts of time, talent, and treasure that each member of our universal Church family makes to build up Christ's Church in love. We ask you, Lord, to send us forth in this spirit of love to serve our communities and our world with open hearts. Amen."*

Please support the 2022 CMA so that we may be Disciples of Christ, Stewards of His Gifts. Every gift makes a difference! To give: www.catholicismn.org

INVOCATION OF PEACE. God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarreling into forgiveness. . . Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that. . . our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam! Amen.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT! On Saturday, many of the High School students who are participating in our summer Mission Trip, put their service heart to work at Saint Francis by deep cleaning the Church for Easter. They wanted to do this to say "thank you" to the parish for your prayers and financial support as they prepare for this summer's trip. Right now, there are 22 youth signed up for this trip and 14 of them are from Saint Francis.



JEREMIAH PROJECT DEADLINE: APRIL 11.

Our deadline for collecting items for Jeremiah House will be Monday, April 11. Please look at the list of 4 items identified as "real need" items recently by Jeremiah house: Set of Pots/Pans, Dish Drying racks, 16 gallon garbage cans/garbage bags. You can also visit our Amazon gift list for a complete list of "Welcome Basket" items. The Amazon list can be viewed by going through the QR code.

TOTUS TUUS UPDATE: JULY 10-15. We recently got a new date (July 10-15) from the Diocese of Winona to host Totus Tuus. Totus Tuus is a summer program for grade 2 – 12th grade students similar to VBS, but with much more content. The day program is for elementary students and the evening program is for middle and high school students. You can register by going to our website and looking under the YOUTH tab.

AN INVITATION... We are lucky to have 10 adults and 3 youth being brought into the Catholic Church during our Easter Vigil. This is a sign of a very healthy Church to be welcoming so many new people into the Church. The Easter Vigil is a very special liturgy and I would like to invite you to join me at this Mass to welcome these new Catholics. One significant aspect of being Catholic is supporting each other on our spiritual journey. Let's witness that love to these newly initiated Catholics during this special liturgy.

Please email me if you have any questions!

- **Mark** (youthminister@stfrancis-church.org)



The St Francis of Assisi Knights of Columbus Council 14170 meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 7- 8PM in the St Clare Room in the basement of the church. We invite all men of the parish to join us to find out more about the KC's and about the men who belong to Council 14170. Questions? Please contact Bruce Anderson at branderson781983@gmail.com or 507-358-5478. We look forward to seeing you!

CANTORS AND CHOIR MEMBERS NEEDED! St. Augustine said that when we sing, we pray twice. If you are a singer and are interested in sharing your gift by singing in the choir at St. Francis, please join us as we start up our choir for Palm Sunday and Holy Week liturgies.

"The Church needs musicians. How many sacred works have been composed through the centuries by people deeply imbued with the sense of the mystery! The faith of countless believers has been nourished by melodies flowing from the hearts of other believers, either introduced into the liturgy or used as an aid to dignified worship. In song, faith is experienced as vibrant joy, love, and confident expectation of the saving intervention of God." - Pope Saint John Paul II

May all our voices join together to proclaim the goodness of the Lord!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 16/17:

	Reader	Hospitality Minister	Minister of Holy Communion
Sunday, 8:00 AM	Steve Baule	Pat Stern [open]	Gwen Cameron
Sunday, 10:00 AM	Cris Charlesworth	Lesa Patek Steve Patek	Sherri Kirk

- **Hope** (liffranc@stfrancis-church.org)



Due to attrition and especially COVID, we are presently in very great need of additional Ministers of Holy Communion, Hospitality Ministers and Readers.

If you can share your time with the parish community, please contact the Parish Center Office at 288-7313. Everyone Confirmation age and older is asked to prayerfully consider this request. Training provided. We try to schedule per your request and no more than twice a month. Thank you!

PARISH NOTES



PARISH LENTEN OPPORTUNITY.

During Lent the Church invites us to participate in three traditional practices – prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. The Resource ROOM is dedicated to providing love, hope and a new beginning for persons in need. We invite you to give to our neighbors in one of two ways. Either purchase an

item from the list below for the Resource Room or make out a check to Neighbors in Need and place it in the collection basket. Thank you for your incredible generosity!

Silverware	Frying Pans	Crockpots
Toasters	Paper Towels	Dish Soap
Laundry Soap	Toilet Paper	Hand/bar Soap
Toothbrushes	Toothpaste*	Shampoo*
Conditioner*	Deodorant*	Cleaning Supplies
Sheets (Queen)	Blankets (Queen)	

Easter Flowers

If you would like to donate Easter flowers or decorations for our church, either as a gift or in memory of a loved one, please complete and return this form with your donation either in the collection or to the Parish Center. Thank you!

Your Name: _____

In Honor of/Memory of: _____



THE GREATER CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



#MERCYINMOTION CAMPAIGN.

The last year has been filled with many challenges, whether physical or spiritual, personal or societal. In the face of so many difficulties, we can feel helpless to make a difference in our world. But we are reminded of the

words of Mother Teresa of Calcutta, "If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one." Inspired by this "little way," Catholic Charities is inviting you to join us in our second annual #MercyInMotion Campaign. Like last year, we will focus on one of the Corporal Works of Mercy each week. To learn more, visit www.ccsomn.org/mercyinmotion

GIVE ALMS TO THE POOR: "I tell you truly, this poor widow put in more than all the rest; for those others have all made offerings from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has offered her whole livelihood" (Lk. 21: 3-4). This week, answer Christ's call to Give Alms to the Poor by 1) Using Lectio Divina to pray with the Judgment of the Nations (Mt. 25: 31-46); 2) Fasting from any unnecessary spending this week; 3) Giving to anti-poverty organizations such as Catholic Charities, Catholic Relief Services, and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

DIOCESAN CHRISM MASS: April 11. The Diocese of Winona-Rochester will be celebrating the Chrism Mass on Monday, April 11, 2022 at 4PM at Pax Christi Church in Rochester. Bishop Quinn will bless the oil of the catechumens, the oil of the infirm, and the holy chrism which will be used throughout the year in administering sacraments. All are welcome to this celebration!

TENEBRAE SERVICE AT PAX CHRISTI: April 13. Pax Christi Church will present "Song of the Shadows," a Tenebrae service featuring music by Joseph Martin on Wednesday, April 13th at 7PM. This dramatic work reflects on the life of Christ from His entrance into Jerusalem to His passion on the cross. This service includes powerful music by choir, orchestra, and soloists with dramatic readings. Join us in this great opportunity to prepare for the Sacred Triduum!

ROSARY RALLIES UPDATE. NO Rosary Rally at the Government Center on **Easter Sunday**, April 17 and **Divine Mercy Sunday**, April 24. Weekly Rosary Rallies for our country, conversion, and peace continue through Palm Sunday, April 10, and then will resume on Sunday, May 1 at 3PM near the Government Center at the corner of 4th Street SE and 3rd Avenue SE. They last 35 minutes and include the Patriotic Rosary and Divine Mercy Chapel. Families are welcome. Please join us! Questions: Contact Janela Hubka at daveandjanela@gmail.com or 507-282-6090.



FAMILY CONNECTION.

Palm Sunday, also called Passion Sunday, marks the beginning of Holy Week. During this week, we prepare ourselves for Easter by prayerful reflection upon the events of Jesus' passion and death. During this week, your family might display a crucifix in a prominent place as reminder of

salvation Christ won for us. This can also serve as the focal point for family prayer during Holy Week.

Because of the length and complexity of the passion narrative, it is difficult for children to remain attentive when it is proclaimed in its entirety. Families can make it a tradition to read a portion of this Sunday's Gospel each day of Holy Week, providing ample opportunity for children to ask questions and respond to the events described there. In this way, the entire week can become a "way of the cross." Each day during Holy Week, the family can gather in a prayerful space with a crucifix as its focal point. After reading from the Gospel each day, the family might reflect on the reading together. Conclude by praying the Lord's Prayer.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection>

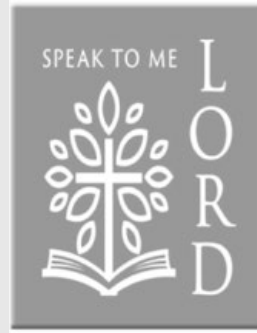
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disciples' protest against his arrest by noting that this is the "time for the power of darkness." Jesus engages and responds when brought before the Sanhedrin; his words speak about the "power of God" that will bring about the reign of the Son of Man. When questioned by Pilate, Jesus responds with just one phrase; yet before Herod, Jesus refuses to speak.

When Luke describes the Way of the Cross and Jesus' crucifixion, he calls to our attention many events that are not reported in the other Gospels. Throughout his Gospel, Luke has paid heed to the women who accompanied Jesus. Now, on the road to Calvary, Jesus speaks to the women who walk with him. Only Luke reports Jesus' words of forgiveness spoken from the cross. And only Luke reports the dialogue between Jesus and the good thief. Finally, in contrast with the Gospels of Mark and Matthew, Luke reports no words of abandonment spoken by Jesus on the cross. Instead, Jesus, in full command until his death, commends his spirit to his Father and takes his final breath.

Throughout Holy Week, we will continue to reflect on the events of Jesus' passion and death. As we meditate on the cross, we ask again and anew what it means to make the statement of faith that Jesus, in his obedient suffering and dying, revealed himself to us as God's Son and brought to fulfillment the Kingdom of God.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection>



This Sunday, called Palm or Passion Sunday, is the first day of Holy Week. Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday are called the Triduum, three days that are the highlight of the Church year. There are two Gospels proclaimed at today's Mass. The first Gospel, proclaimed before the procession with palms, tells of Jesus' triumphant entrance

into Jerusalem. Riding on a borrowed colt, Jesus was hailed by the crowds as they shouted blessings and praise to God. This event is reported in each of the four Gospels. Luke's Gospel is the only one to report the exchange between Jesus and the Pharisees as Jesus enters Jerusalem. Jesus' response shows that this event, and those yet to come, are part of a divine plan. We hear this echoed again in Luke's description of the Last Supper when Jesus speaks of Judas' betrayal, saying that the Son of Man "goes as has been determined."

At the Liturgy of the Word on this Sunday, the events of Jesus' passion are proclaimed in their entirety. In Lectionary Cycle C, we read the passion of Jesus as found in the Gospel of Luke. We will hear these events proclaimed again during the Triduum when we read the passion of Jesus from the Gospel of John.

Throughout Luke's Gospel we see that Jesus' words and actions proclaim the Kingdom of God. This motif continues throughout Luke's passion narrative. Jesus appears to be in total command of events at the Passover meal as he hands over the kingdom to his disciples. He welcomes them to the Passover meal announcing that this will be his last until the Kingdom of God is fulfilled.

As throughout Luke's Gospel, however, the disciples show little understanding of this kingdom that Jesus often announces. Following the meal, the disciples argue about who is the greatest. Jesus takes the opportunity to distinguish the meaning of leadership in the Kingdom of God from the forms of leadership seen in the world.

Jesus initiates a conversation with Simon and predicts his denial. Jesus then instructs his disciples to prepare themselves for the events that will follow. His words reveal an awareness of the challenges that all of them will face in the days ahead. As the disciples and Jesus enter the Mount of Olives, Jesus indicates the importance of the disciples' time in prayer, telling them that through prayer they will be able to face the challenges ahead. As he prays, Jesus is tested. In the garden, an angel is sent to strengthen him and to prepare him for the events ahead. After this moment, Jesus is again in charge of the events and circumstances.

In Luke's Gospel, Jesus is portrayed as active and vocal throughout his passion. When one of the disciples strikes the high priest's servant, Jesus heals the man, an event reported only in the Gospel of Luke. Jesus stops the ◀

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