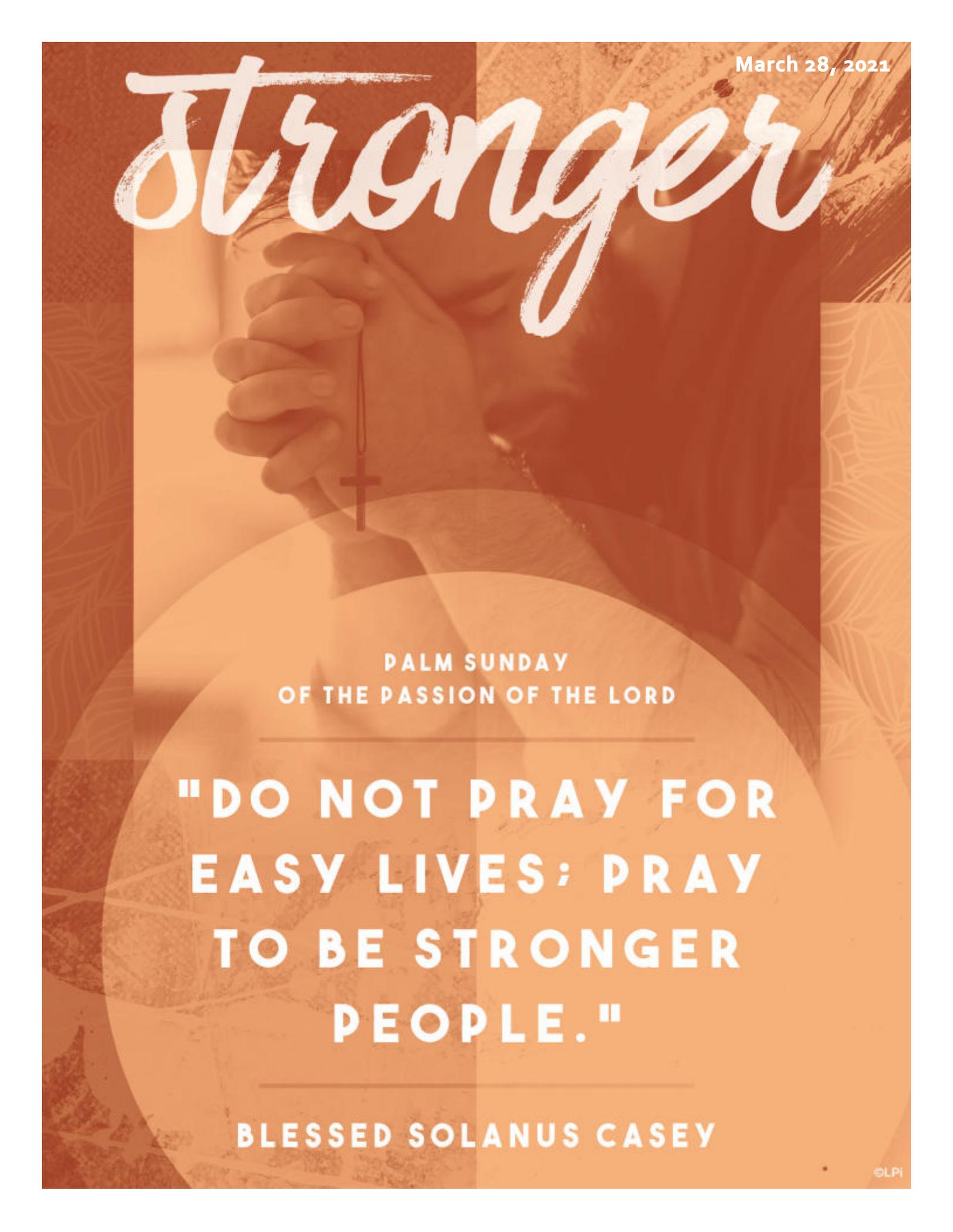


March 28, 2021

Stronger



PALM SUNDAY
OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

**"DO NOT PRAY FOR
EASY LIVES; PRAY
TO BE STRONGER
PEOPLE."**

BLESSED SOLANUS CASEY

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Holy Spirit Catholic Community enkindles the fire of God's love in our lives
through worship, discipleship and service.

Mar. 28, Palm Sunday

9 a.m. Rachel McNamara & family

Mar. 29

Mar. 30

7:30 a.m. Holy Spirit teachers

Mar. 31

7:30 a.m. Holy Spirit students

Apr. 1, Holy Thursday

7 p.m. Sr. Rosalind Gefre, CSJ

Apr. 2, Good Friday

Apr. 3, Holy Saturday

8 p.m. Victims of natural disasters

We are "back on track" this year for the **Holy Land collection on Good Friday**. The wars, unrest and instability continue to be especially hard. Also, the Holy Land is struggling with the effects of the COVID-19 epidemic. In these times of crisis, Pope Francis is encouraging us all to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection which helps the Franciscan community minister in parishes, sustain Catholic education, maintain Holy Land shrines and provide medical and housing assistance for the poor and elderly. A percentage of the collection will also provide aid to our partner Archdiocese of Damascus, Syria, as they struggle to rebuild from years of conflict. When you contribute to the Good Friday Collection, you become an instrument of peace and join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. Please be as generous as you are able!



CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Question: Why haven't Catholic Churches gone the way of disposable cups for wine distribution?

Answer: If a Catholic has ever attended a Protestant worship service and saw the communion service that was offered for that community, one of the things that might have stood out was the use of small, disposable cups for distributing the wine or grape juice. This is in stark contrast to the precious metal chalices used in Catholic churches during the Mass.

Although practices for Protestant Christians can vary (ranging from large shared chalices, to personal-use cups, to dipping the bread in the wine/grape juice), the norms governing Catholic practices are fairly direct: "Sacred vessels are to be made from precious metal. If they are made from metal that rusts or from a metal less precious than gold, then ordinarily they should be gilded on the inside. In the Dioceses of the United States of America, sacred vessels may also be made from other solid materials that, according to the common estimation in each region, are precious ... they are to have bowls of nonabsorbent material" (nos. 328-330). Rather than being a commentary on the beliefs or practices of those other communities, these rules are intended to highlight the reverence that Catholics have for the bread and wine consecrated at Mass, which become the Body and Blood of the Lord.

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Tuesday–Friday

7:30 a.m. Mass

Saturday

3-4 p.m. Penance | 4:30 p.m. Mass

Sunday

9 a.m. Mass

Father Daniel Haugan, Pastor
haugand@holy-spirit.org

Office Hours: Mon.–Fri. 8 a.m.–3:30 p.m.



DON'T DELAY—REGISTER FOR NIGHT OF SPIRIT TODAY!

Register for our virtual event by Apr. 9 to participate in the early and night-of online auctions and donate to Fund-A-Need. Online bidding is \$10 per bidder.

[Visit nightofspirit.org](http://nightofspirit.org) for more details

GET YOUR SWAG!

Register as a premium online bidder for \$50 and you'll receive a swag box of goodies to enjoy during Night of Spirit!

Night of Spirit will be livestreamed on Saturday, Apr. 24!



Photo by Anny Djahova/Catholic Relief Services

SERVING THE SUFFERING CHRIST

As we enter Holy Week and celebrate Palm Sunday, let's reflect on how our Lord suffered from our indifference: those who proclaimed him king of Jerusalem were the same who called to crucify him. We recognize we are all one human family. **Are we contributing to the suffering of our sisters and brothers with our indifference to their realities?** How does our faith inspire us to care for them and share the gifts that God has bestowed on us? Visit csricebowl.org to learn more.

UPCOMING EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

My name is Jack Fyten. I am an Eagle Scout candidate with Troop 82, a junior at Saint Thomas Academy and an alumnus of Holy Spirit Catholic School.

For my Eagle Project this spring, I am building a portable Gaga Ball Pit for the youth of the parish. The Gaga Ball Pit will feature 8 sides rising 3 ft. tall with safety guards to protect players from splinters. The Pit will also be portable making it easy to break down and set up according to weather conditions. The metal joints and safety guards will be colored red to match the Holy Spirit Flames. On the exterior of one of the walls will be a metal sign displaying the rules of play. This Gaga Ball Pit will allow kids from the Holy Spirit Catholic School, parish, and the community at large, to experience a new and exciting game for all.

For this project I need to raise \$1,500 by Apr. 18 to purchase the needed materials. I am asking for donations to offset the cost of the materials. If you would like to help me with this exciting project, please send donations to the parish office marked "Eagle Scout Project". Checks may be made out to: Church of the Holy Spirit. Thank you for your support!



HELLO, SPRING!

Shop safely and avoid the crowds at Gertens by ordering your plants and gift cards through Women of Holy Spirit's spring fundraiser.

Place your order by **Thursday, Apr. 22.**

Orders must be placed at gertensfundraising.com (enter ID: 189).

Contact Sue at cssmlyons@gmail.com or (651) 699-6878 with questions.



LIVE THE LITURGY

What an ironic twist of events! Jesus is hailed with palm branches as he comes down a street one minute and faces agonizing suffering and death on a cross the next. Does any of this make any sense? They shouted, "hosanna to our King," out of one side of their mouths and, "crucify him," out of the other. At first glance it seems like such hypocrisy. Yet, when we step back there may be more truth to the story than we care to admit.

We struggle with Jesus. We hail him in our churches but struggle to figure out what to do with him on our streets. We are fine when we hear pious renderings of his messages and preaching but wince when it gets to the part about changing the way we conduct business and becoming more sensitive to the disadvantaged, poor and marginalized. We invoke God's name when we want victory and keep silence when it comes to global solidarity. We talk out of both sides of our mouths too, looking only to what works or suits us at the time and leaving the rest. There exists in each one of us a person who hails our King with hosannas and a person who is all too willing to choose Jesus over Barabbas for the cross. Something to think about this Holy

Week!
©LPI

Hosanna!
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AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

22nd Annual "Living Stations of the Cross"

Apr. 2 | 10 a.m. | Church of St. Peter, North St. Paul

Apr. 2 | 6 p.m. | Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Maplewood

The Servants of the Cross will re-enact the Passion of Jesus Christ. Limited seating; reservations required. If homebound/unable to attend, join us via YouTube presentation. Free-will offering. Sign-up at servantsofthecrossmn.com.

Poetry's Prophetic Tending with Gwen Nell Westerman

Apr. 8 | 7-8:30 p.m. | Via Zoom

Poetry is a prophetic vessel through which the truth of any moment may be tended and brought to the surface where it can inform those changes that are calling us to action. Since February, the series has featured monthly evenings with poets returning to Wisdom Ways to engage in conversation about the place and importance of poetry in our time, share poems of their own and others that have inspired and spoken to them this past year, and answer participant questions. Their words tend to our deepest longings and serve as a prophetic witness within our uncertain times. Register at wisdomwayscenter.org/programs-art-exhibits/current-programs/poetrys-prophetic-tending.

Cor Jesu

Apr. 9 | 8 p.m. | Virtual event

Join us in adoring the Lord by being together in prayer, praise, and worship at [facebook.com/ASPMVocations](https://www.facebook.com/ASPMVocations). The Saint Paul Seminary Class of 2020 alumnus and recently ordained priest, Father Paul Hedman, will preside. Please send prayer requests to stpaulvocations@1000vocations.org or call the Office of Vocations at (651) 962-6890.

Divine Mercy Sunday Prayer Service

Apr. 11 | 2 p.m. | Church of St. Joseph, Rosemount

Celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday with a special prayer service which includes Eucharistic Adoration.

Catholics at the Capitol

Apr. 15 | Cathedral of St. Paul

There's no time more important than now to speak up for life and dignity. Join Catholics from across Minnesota for this year's Catholics at the Capitol, a day of prayer, education, and advocacy in St. Paul. Be formed in the faith, beginning the day with Mass. Be informed on the issues, as we hear from speakers like international pro-life advocate, Obianuju Ekeocha, and Archbishop José Gomez, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. And be sent on mission, joining a Eucharistic procession from to the Capitol before sharing your convictions with officials. Register at catholicsatthecapitol.org to learn more and secure your spot.

MAR. 28 GOSPEL MEDITATION

Many struggle with Jesus. Some who consider themselves faithful hail him in their churches but still struggle to figure out what to do with him on our streets. The message is somehow more palatable when it echoes pious renderings and sentiments and involves singing hosannas during worship. It becomes a bit trickier when it gets to the part about changing the way we conduct the business of our lives, becoming more sensitive to the disadvantaged, poor, and marginalized, and living as servants of our Loving Creator. Ultimately, it is a struggle between wanting to be God ourselves and letting God be God as God is. That's why it's so easy to become hypocritical. We, like those who hailed Christ as he arrived in Jerusalem and sent Christ to the cross to die, also talk out of both sides of our mouths. We entertain what suits us at the time and walk away from the rest.

Many neglect God's beautiful creation because they prefer what humans have made instead. Progress isn't seen in preserving and enhancing what God has made but replacing it with something we believe is better and more useful. The earth, flowers, and animals are all expendable if they stand in the way of the "more" we want to achieve. We seek to remove as many obstacles and hurdles as possible in search of the easiest, quickest, and most efficient path we can find. We have created drugs and laws that preserve our free choice, even though it may mean setting aside God's vision and example. Why suffer when we can easily be put to rest? Why endure insult or injury when we can retaliate, eliminate or subdue? Why accept life when it is acceptable to choose otherwise? We want to be God and resist accepting the fact that our real Creator has already given us the blueprints for the life we need to live in the Beatitudes and in the example of his Passion. We don't like being stewards and managers and really want the power to do as we wish and desire. We want to create our own way.

Where has the true, effective Christian voice been through all of the wars and violence, prejudice and unjust conquests, abuse of human beings and attempted extinctions of nationalities, the establishments of procedures and protocols that serve only a few and not the many and all of the injustices and exploitations that are a part of our human history? A few courageous prophets have stood up and out throughout all of the comings and goings of our human journey with many receiving the same fate as the Crucified One we hail this week. Some still walk among us as shining stars showing us how it really can be. How would Jesus' journey have ended if he lived life as we do? Unless we encounter the good with the bad, the just with the unjust, the grace with the sin, the glory with the cross, the death with the life we most certainly risk rendering God obsolete. After all, haven't we already convinced ourselves that we can do better?

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WALK EVERY STEP WITH CHRIST

Holy Week is a week for being mindful. We must set loose the baggage of Lent, and not be deterred by the dazzling sunrise of Easter morning beckoning in the distance.

It's okay for us to be excited for Easter. We've waited so long, after all. In my opinion it's one of the best feelings there is: the yearning we have in our hearts for the Resurrection as we embark on Palm Sunday. And in a purely logical sense, many of us have Easter celebrations for which we are preparing, and practical considerations to contend with. It's going to be a busy week, one likely full of happy distractions.

But my friends, we simply must keep our feet on the ground. Let's not "skip" Holy Week. Resist the urge to flip to the last page of the book, to fast-forward to the final scene of the movie. Don't rob yourself of the journey. This week is a blessed opportunity. It is this week that teaches us who we are. In the span of the Triduum, we have the birthday of the priesthood, the institution of the Eucharist, the sacrifice on Calvary and so many other vivid and meaningful scenes.

It may sound strange, to advise someone to savor the moments of Holy Week. There are so many violent and heartrending moments, after all. But this is the valley of tears, remember — we are not in Heaven yet. And here, in our fallen, sin-filled world, it is the heartrending moments that seem to matter the most.

These are the moments that define us as Catholics. Live them. Cherish them. Be present for each one.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
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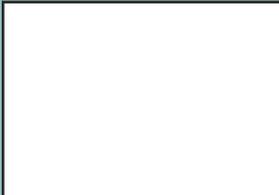
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