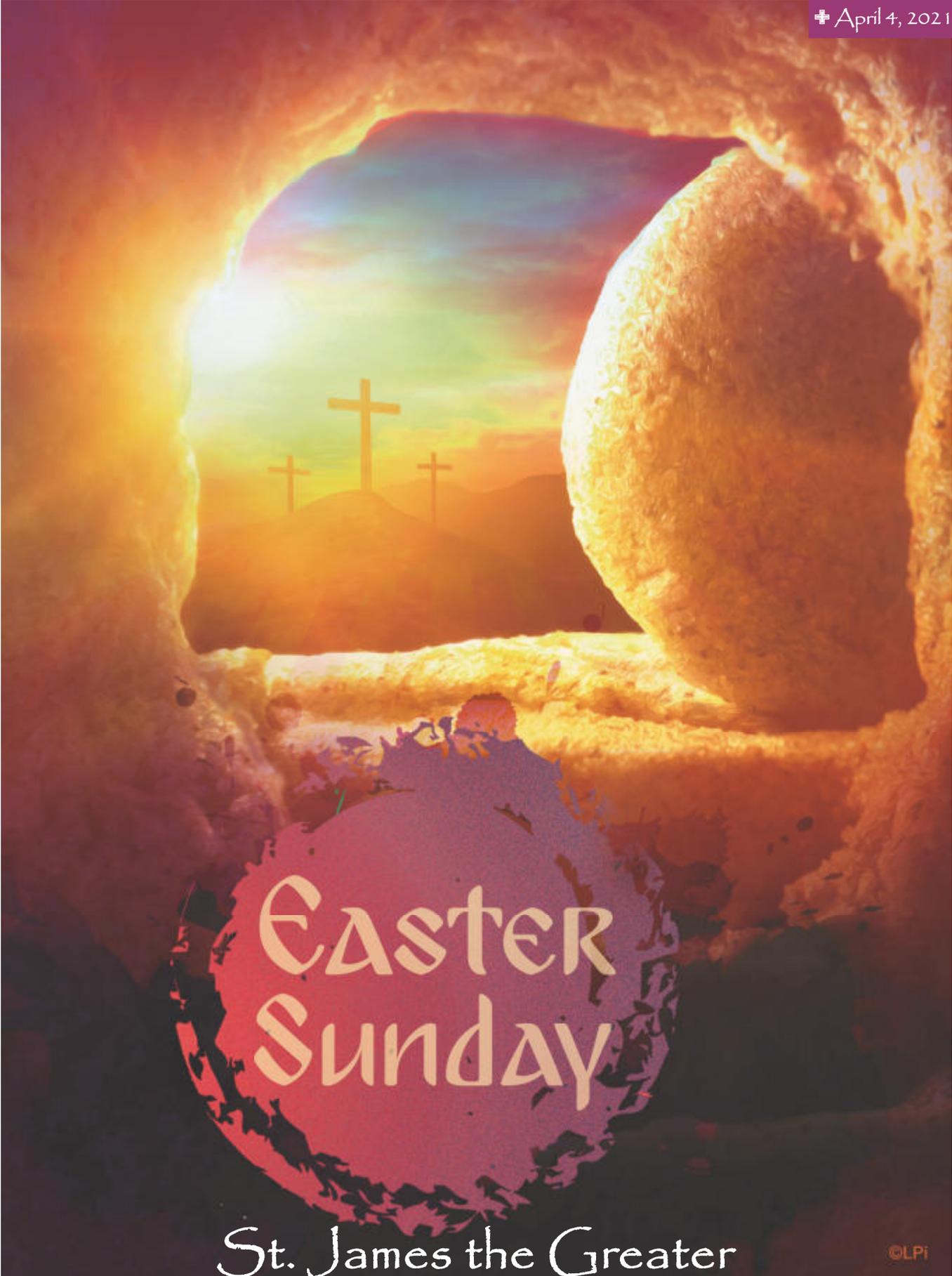


✝ April 4, 2021

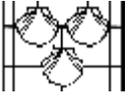


Easter Sunday

St. James the Greater

©LPI

Where All Are Welcome



Message from Fr. Tom

Happy Easter! I'm writing this the weekend before, actually the late afternoon of Palm Sunday. I just came from church where I spent the last hour doing something that makes me now feel very much at peace. One of the many perks of working for the parish, is that I have 24-hour access to the church. Thanks to the wonders of blue-tooth technology, I was able to play an hour of Gregorian chant from my phone that came through our speakers as I sat in the second row of pews. With me I had a scissors and three palms, and as I listened to the soul-touching music I got to work trying to remember once again **the weaving pattern that my dad taught me when I was a little boy.**

He would always get the base started, and I would complete the work by a repetitive over-under weave with four strips of palm, all attached to the same base. I felt most like my dad just now when I slit the palm with my thumbnail and then whisked it upward toward the narrow end, and then two times more until I had the four strips to work with. In the end, if it's done correctly, you get something that looks like a helicopter, which is what I called them as a boy. I see now that at the top of the "helicopter" the four strips of palm are at right angles to each other; they make a cross. I succeeded, and I have three of these woven palm crosses, one for the crucifix in the office entryway, one going someplace still to be determined, and one for the crucifix in the rectory, the same crucifix that hung in my mom and dad's bedroom.

And so now I contemplate the week ahead: our low-key liturgies on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and then preparations and celebration of the Sacred Triduum, starting with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Thursday. Again this year **I will miss what had become a solid tradition** here at St. James of reserving space at the **Pizza Ranch** for a "Feast Before the Fast." We typically think of Good Friday at a day of fasting, and so it has been legislated by the Church for people between the ages of 18 and 59, but **the more ancient tradition is to fast from the start of the Sacred Triduum until it is over**—from the start of the Mass of the Lord's Supper until the end of the Easter Vigil.

One new practice this year will be to take the Blessed Sacrament in procession at the end of the Mass of the Lord's Supper and **place it on the table of our Last Supper Sculpture** where it will be until 10:30 or so for people to come and pray. So, you could have a seat at the sculpture or you could bring a lawn chair to sit or kneel against at a greater distance. Unfortunately, the moon will not have risen yet, but it should still be a beautiful place to pray. The sculpture is lit at night, in case you didn't know.

It will be interesting to have our second Good Friday Prayer outside on the lawn. The weather is supposed to be good for both that and for Easter Sunday morning. **I'm sorry that our outdoor plans for this Palm Sunday at 10:00 did not work out.** At 7:55 we decided it was just too cold and windy, and I imagined all the work that goes into hauling all the equipment out there with much fewer people showing up than could easily fit in the church. I know at least one family drove up and then drove away after hearing mass would not be outside. As with so much during these Covid times, we are trying new things, some of which work out and some not as well. We appreciate people's patience and understanding when things to do get planned as you would like.

Hopefully you hung onto the latest issue of *Catholic Life* that was likely mailed to you last week. If you still have it, check out page 22 and look upon some familiar faces! The **beautiful photograph of Mary and Mike Kolstad**, one on the piano bench and the other standing with guitar ready to play, is worth a thousand words. The article is very good as well, capturing their spirit of joy in how they serve us here at St. James. I think you'll be inspired by learning more about their life stories--Check it out! (We have extra copies at the office if you lost track of yours. It can also be accessed online.)

I guess I didn't say too much about Easter for this Easter Sunday bulletin! The good news is that we have fifty days ahead of us to celebrate the Resurrection of our Crucified Lord. May this day and the season which follows be a blessing in your life. **May it bring you an increase in hope, faith and love, and confidence that into the next life and even in this life, again and again, he will raise you up.**

28 March 2021, Fr. Tom's Homily

Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Mark 14:1 through Mark 15:47

There is a religious image, an icon, that has pride of place these first days of Holy Week in the Eastern Orthodox Churches. It is of Christ, in his scourging and mocking, captive, crown of thorns on his head, a humble reed scepter in his hand, and his hands are tied together by rope. He looks despondent.

The name of this icon is "Christ the Bridegroom."

Why? Grooms are joyful; why is this an image of a groom waiting for the wedding? Who is Jesus getting ready to marry? Us.

It is Jesus wanting to love us with the deepest love—to be wedded to us. The crown is a symbol of Christian marriage in the Orthodox Church, and the ropes binding Christ's hand are a near-universal symbol of marriage. Instead of a divine judge, this image for Holy Week is more of rejected lover who wants to be with his beloved but is spurned instead.

Why does He suffer? Because of human sin. The betrayal of Judas, the denial of Peter, the hatred of the crowd, the cowardice of Pilate, the cruelty of the Romans: this is why Christ appears as He does. Indeed, in the timelessness of this week, we can see our sins as part of his sadness.

But most of all, Jesus is called the bridegroom this week because it leads to the great wedding, which is the crucifixion. The Last Supper, the Eucharist, is the wedding feast and the crucifixion is when he consummates his union with all of us.

To be with us, to love us, he has entered into the mess, the brokenness, the sorrow of human life. Just as a good friend proves himself or herself to be a good friend to us when we are hurting, Jesus binds himself to us by entering our pain fully, even unto death.

This Icon, this image of the Bridegroom, shows us nothing more than what the Roman soldiers who spat upon Christ saw. For them it was sport. What do we see? Can we see beyond the bloody, brutalized, man before us and recognize our divine spouse? I see Jesus giving himself totally to us, holding nothing back, and waiting for our response.



Last Fish Fries

Apr. 9 - St Olaf
Apr. 23 - St Olaf

What's happening at St. James Elementary:

April 5 - No School Easter Monday
April 12 - Lifetouch Spring Pictures
April 20 - Jeans for Jesus (Lenten Mite Boxes)
April 28 - Early Release 1:30 PM

Amoris Laetitia Family



On March 19, 2021, the Church celebrated the fifth anniversary of the publication of Pope Francis's apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, on the beauty and joy of love in the family. On this same day, Pope Francis launched the year "Amoris Laetitia Family," which will con-

clude on June 26, 2022, during the X Meeting of Families in Rome with the Holy Father.

Pope Francis announced the year of "Amoris Laetitia Family" during his Angelus Message on the Feast of the Holy Family on December 27, 2020. He ended his address invoking the Blessed Mother, "May the Virgin Mary grant that families throughout the world be increasingly fascinated by the evangelical ideal of the Holy Family, so as to become a leaven of [a] new humanity and of a genuine and universal solidarity."

For more information on the year of "Amoris Laetitia Family" or to read the full text of *Amoris Laetitia*, please visit the Vatican website.

St. Peter's Chicken Dinner

St. Peter's Catholic Church in Tilden will be having a Chicken Dinner on Wednesday, April 21, from 4-7 PM or until gone. The price of the meal is \$10. The meal features chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, cabbage salad, and more. This event is drive-thru only. Co-sponsored by Catholic Life Insurance. Please contact Kathy Blum for more information: 715-288-6471.

Parish Staff

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Beth Cerny Crd. of Religious Ed elizabethcerny@hotmail.com

Mass Intentions & Schedule

Weekday masses are at 9:00 AM Tuesday-Friday.
Wednesday and Friday have limited seating when school is in session.

Masks & social distancing are required.

Sat. April 3 8:00 PM People of St. James
Sun. April 4 8:30 World Peace
10:30 People of St. James
Tue. April 6 Mary Bauer
Wed. April 7 Helen Steinmetz
Thu. April 8 Eddie Barnett
Fri. April 9 Lyle & Arlee Berg
Sat. April 10 4:30 PM Theresa Maenner
Sun. April 11 8:00 Tom BaDour
10:00 People of St. James

New Parishioners/Pastoral Visitations/Prayer Tree/Elizabeth Ministry: Please contact Christine if you would like to join the parish, be visited at home or at the hospital, have a prayer request, or if you or someone you know is expecting and would like to be supported by volunteers.

Sign up for Mass Cancellations

If you have a sign up for mass and cannot make it, PLEASE let Christine know.
Masses are filling up, and no-shows are preventing someone else from being able to come to church.

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Sermon on the Amount | March 21, 2021 |
| Sunday Adult Envelopes (169) | \$17,063.00 |
| 2020 same week (64) | \$4,730.00 |
| Students | \$0.00 |
| Plate | \$133.00 |
| Total | \$17,196.00 |

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Year to date Adult Env./CPL Income through Feb. 28, 2021: | |
| Actual (July 1-Feb. 28) | \$436,032.14 |
| Budgeted (July 1-Feb. 28) | \$417,320.00 |

Long term maintenance & facilities improvement fund and Past*Present*Future Campaign income for Mar. 21 was \$45.00 for a total since July 1, 2020 of \$50,236.36.

St. James School Phone: 715-830-2277

Jackie Lutz Principal, jlutz@regiscatholicschools.com
Shanna Donkers, Administrative Assistant, sdonkers@regiscatholicschools.com
Linda Schultz, Commission Rep.-RCS, linda1735@gmail.com
Bulletin deadlines: end of day Mondays.

Mixed Media Meditation

The St. James Choirs + Various Readers produced four "Mixed Multimedia Meditations" to be played as Holy Week unfolds. There are beautiful readings and songs that hopefully bring deep meaning during Holy Week. The first opened on Palm Sunday, the second on Holy Thursday, third on Good Friday and fourth the Easter Vigil.

These can be accessed through the St. James YouTube Channel.

Landon Cerny & Don Byrne have added beautiful photos and images of St. James for your reflection.

Contributors:

Production: Landon Cerny and Don Byrne

Written by: Laurie Osberg

Coordinated by Mary Kolstad

Readers: Jim Ulwelling; Barbar Wimunc-Pearson, Dave Oldenberg, Doreen Johnson,

Directors: Becky Santine, Val Knobloch, Louise Roach, Bob Lightfoot

Pianists + Violins: Laurie Osberg, Barbara Wimunc-Pearson, Patty Hare, Mary Kolstad;

Emma Campbell & Hannah Sternberg (Violin)

Guest Soloist: Father Tom Krieg

Choirs:

A.C.E. (Women's) Val Knobloch. (Director) Patty Hare (Pianist) Bev Dorr, Connie Kopaczewski, Fran Kegel, Alane Wick., Deb. Newman., Mary Kolstad, Joleen Schwartz, Gina Bloczynski.

Men's: Pre-recorded: Dan Kneer., Dennis Mack., Mike Kolstad., Dan Heit. Peter Bartl., Bob L., Tom Anibas., Adrian Salazar., Landon Cerny., Val Knobloch, Ben Gumz., Mike Roach.

Bell Choir: Louise Roach (Director). Deb Anderson, Judy Mirr, Mary Kolstad., Julie Hagman

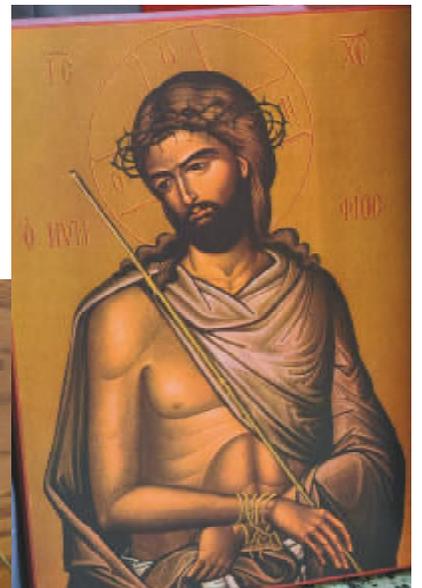
Adult Choir: Becky Santine (Director) Laurie Osberg (Pianist) Mary Clark, Vivian Holmes, Jane Schultz, Marlene Schildt, Deb Newman, Ron Herkowski, Peter Bartl, Moira Kneer, Tom Bachmeier, Wendy, Morgan & Jessie Smith, Jim Forster, Ben Gumz



THANK YOU to Jan & Bob Lightfoot for helping pull the music for the musicians. We are GRATEFUL to our skilled technicians and videographers Landon Cerny & Don Byrne. Look closely at the beautiful photos and images of St. James for your reflection. The musicians would like to THANK YOU, our parishioners for all of your support in the music. We hope we bring love and spirit to you through our music. May God Bless and have a beautiful EASTER!!
Mary



Scenes from Palm Sunday: Left: Mary Kolstad, our amazing music coordinator, on the organ, and Emma on the violin. Thanks to all of the talented musicians who make our liturgies so rich and meaningful. Center: a pyx that brought communion to the musicians, and a woven palm. Right: the icon Fr. Tom spoke about in his homily.



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