Palm Sunday

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Matthew 21:9
Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, so we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace. Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.

Jesus Christ, heal us.

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DAILY MASSES ONLINE

- On **weekdays**, the Mass will be broadcast at **12:10pm, 3:00pm, and 7:00pm** on CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton.
- On **weekends**, the **Saturday Vigil Mass** will be broadcast at **4:00pm** and **rebroadcast on Sunday** morning at **10:00am**, also on CTV.

Masses will also be available to stream online through the Diocese of Scranton’s website (www.dioceesofscranton.org), and are set to be made available on their social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and will be accessible on their YouTube channel as well.

Word on Fire will be offering daily Mass for the foreseeable future. Join Bishop Barron or Word on Fire CEO Fr. Steve Grunow at www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass

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BEING REMEMBERED...

As previously noted, private Masses are being celebrated by Msgr. Quinn or Fr. Stephen in honoring the Mass intentions already requested at the Church of Our Lady of the Snows.

**MONDAY | APRIL 6TH**..............................William Clarke
**TUESDAY | APRIL 7TH**..............................Ann James
**WEDNESDAY | APRIL 8TH**............................Thomas Rose

May those whom we can never forget continue to inspire and strengthen us by their life stories.
In these uncertain and worrisome times with the coronavirus, it certainly can feel as though God has abandoned us. Yet listen to the Passion of Christ as it unlocks the door that brings us to the true meaning of human life. Holding what seems like opposite polarities of human existence, it weaves us through the darkest of tragedies and the highest of triumphs. As we witness and meditate upon Jesus’s last days on earth, we see most vividly that God is present in and through it all.

God is not only the glue that holds all of life’s seemingly opposing experiences together, but He is the One who offers incredible promise and hope on our road to fulfillment and eternal life. It was only through experiencing the burning agony of suffering’s loneliness and heart-wrenching pain that Jesus experienced the joyful exultation of His resurrected self. He has not abandoned us and never will.

Adding to the sadness of these uncertain times was the news this past week of the unexpected death of one of our most well known and beloved priests, the Reverend Joseph F. Sica, of the Church of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. In recent months, he had been dealing with cardiac health issues.

As Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, our Shepherd, noted: “For thirty-eight years, Father Sica served the Diocese of Scranton and its people with incredible love, immense generosity and laughter rooted in the joy that he had come to know through faith.” And he did. For those who knew Father Sica, joy was indeed the hallmark of his entire sixty-four years of his all too short life.

Some twenty years ago, the parish community of Our Lady of the Snows came to learn that happy spirit of his firsthand when Father Sica was assigned to serve this parish. He was with us for just a year, but his joyful energy and lively preaching will be long remembered by all.

In recent years, our parish has been blessed each and every Lent with individual copies of Fr. Sica’s Lenten booklets. They were written anew by him for each year and were enthusiastically received by countless people all over our country because they were real and relevant and were filled with insights and counsel for all who were seeking to live their faith in deeper and more meaningful fashion.

It is interesting to reflect on the very first of his writings for this year’s booklet, Lenten Blessings Await. In it, Father Sica noted: “I like to ask people a question — If today were your last, how would you live it? Inevitably, their answers are the same. They either want to tell people ‘I love you’ or ‘I’m sorry’ … Most people tell me there is something they would do to make their lives complete. My question is: Why wait? Why not do it now? .... Quit making excuses. Today is waiting to be experienced and enjoyed .... So make today count.”

In every way, Father Sica did do his best to make each and every day count. May God’s peace now be his.

Once again this week, we hope to connect to your home with a Sunday Mass directly from Our Lady of the Snows Church. This Palm Sunday Mass will be celebrated by Msgr. Quinn. Parish lectors and musicians will help us all enter into Holy Week 2020.

You and your family can join us for this Mass, with access beginning on Saturday at 4pm, in the following ways:

- OLS Website: OLSParish.net
- OLS Facebook: Like "OLSParishNet"

Our Lady of the Snows Church and the Church of Saint Gregory remain open daily for private prayer from 10am to 6pm.

As anticipated, both First Communion (April 25th) and Confirmation (May 13th) have been postponed and will be rescheduled in the Fall.
2020 Holy Week
...AT HOME

HOLY THURSDAY | APRIL 9
- 8:30 am Morning Prayer: CSG Online
- 7:00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper: CTV/EWTN

GOOD FRIDAY | APRIL 10
- 8:30 am Morning Prayer: CSG Online
- 3:00 pm The Lord's Passion: OLS Website/Facebook

HOLY SATURDAY | APRIL 11
- 8:30 am Morning Prayer: CSG Online
- 8:00 pm Easter Vigil Mass: CTV/EWTN

EASTER SUNDAY | APRIL 12
Mass at any time on Sunday from Our Lady of the Snows Church via:
- OLS Website (OLSParish.net)
- OLS Facebook (olsparishnet)

"I have arisen and I am with you still... Alleluia!"

OLS: OLSParish.net
CSG: TheChurchofStGregory.com
CTV/EWTN: DioceseofScranton.org
WORKS OF MERCY

Our thanks to all who so generously supported this year’s Lenten Little Works of Mercy. The amazing goodness of so many members of the parish have helped the ongoing work of the Women’s Resource Center, Scranton.

We offer our special thanks to our own Women’s Guild at Our Lady of the Snows, who once again so kindly coordinated this year's efforts.

FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS

Our support of local food banks becomes even more critical in this time of crisis. Your food donations can be dropped off at the front door of Our Lady of the Snows between 10am and 6pm each day.

SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH

During these challenging times, your support of your parish means more than ever. As you know, more than 90% of our parish revenues come by way of Sunday Offerings.

With Public Masses currently suspended, our revenues continue to diminish. It makes us only all the more grateful to those kind souls who are mailing in their weekly offerings and Easter gifts to the Parish Center or dropping them off at the Center itself.

Remember also that your weekly gift can be offered through our online giving program. Visit OLSParish.net and click ‘Online Giving.’

Thank you!

YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE.