



A Palm Sunday Reflection

Maybe This Time

We shouldn't think of these palms as just one more "Catholic thing" hanging on the wall or tucked behind a holy picture. These palms tell another part of the story that we just read. It is our story, yours and mine.



Five weeks ago, we stood in the church and received ashes. We were reminded of our mortality, our sinfulness, our need for penance and prayer. But those ashes weren't just scraped together from the bottom of someone's fireplace. They were the remnants of burned palms.

Today we stand here again, five weeks older. Maybe, hopefully, five weeks wiser. And we hold in our hands new palms. New growth. And it begs the question. How have we grown since that one Wednesday in *March*?

What have we learned? How have we changed? And what will we do with the promise, the potential that we now hold in our hands?

Our hope and our prayer is that we have been renewed during these weeks. And, just maybe, these leaves can serve to remind us of that.

Lent is bracketed, bookended, by palms, the loss and destruction of them at the beginning, and the green leaves – restoration – at the end. Ultimately, that is what these weeks are about – burning away, clearing out, and cultivating something new. That is Lent.

So, take these palms. Let them be a reminder of this week that we are beginning, the holiest week of the year. But we shouldn't leave it at that. Don't just tuck them behind a holy picture or take them for granted. Let them also serve as a challenge. And a remembrance.

They challenge us to remember Christ's suffering and death – the triumph of that ride into Jerusalem and the tragedy of Calvary.

They challenge us to remember our role in that passion – that what Christ suffered, he suffered for us. But they also challenge us to remember what will become of these palms...and become of us.

As we heard five weeks ago: Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return. The ashes were washed away. But these palms stay with us, offering silent testimony, bearing witness, calling us not to forget what we are and what we will be. This is what our Lenten pilgrimage has been about.

My prayer this Palm Sunday is that we carry that idea with us, just as we carry these palms.

Because in a sense, each of these days holds our future in our hands.

What will we do with it?

Deacon Greg Kandra, [Hungry, and You Fed Me: Homilies and Reflections for Cycle C](#)

MASS SCHEDULE

Nativity of Our Lord Church
 633 Orchard Street, Scranton
Holy Name of Jesus Church
 1414 E. Elm Street, Scranton

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil	4:30 p.m.	Nativity
Sunday	8:30 a.m.	Holy Name
	10:00 a.m.	Nativity
	12:30 p.m.	Nativity-Spanish

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday	12:10 p.m.	Nativity-Novena
Tuesday	8:00 a.m.	Holy Name
Wednesday	8:00 a.m.	Holy Name
Thursday	8:00 a.m.	Nativity
Friday	8:00 a.m.	Holy Name

HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE

Holy Day Vigil	5:30 p.m.	Holy Name
Holy Day	5:30 p.m.	Nativity
	7:00 p.m.	Nativity-Spanish

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:30-4:00 p.m. Nativity Lower Church
 Anytime by appointment

WELCOME Your presence is an encouragement to our parish community. It is our hope that you have experienced the joy of our Eucharistic Celebration and that you feel welcome with a desire to join us again. If you are new to the community and wish to join our parish, call the parish office at 344-6159.

BIENVENIDOS Su presencia es un gran animo hacia nuestra comunidad de la parroquia. Es nuestra esperanza de que hayan gozado la experiencia de nuestra Celebración Eucarística y que se sientan bienvenidos con el deseo de unirse a nosotros otra vez. Si usted es nuevo en la comunidad y desea unirse a nuestra parroquia contacte la oficina al numero 344-6159.

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We the people of St. John Neumann Parish see the Eucharist as source and summit of our joyful faith. Our united purpose is building a deeper spirituality through loving neighbor and witnessing the Gospel to the world.

Nosotros la gente de la Parroquia a de San Juan Neumann vemos la Eucaristía como una fuente y manantial de fe gozosa. Nuestro propósito de unidad es construir una profunda Espiritualidad a través de amar al vecino y ser testigos de Evangelio hacia el mundo.

MASS INTENTIONS Week of: April 15-21

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Monday | 12:10 p.m. Timothy Burke |
| <i>at Nativity</i> | <i>By Edward Lynn & Judy Freeman</i> |
| Tuesday | 8:00 a.m. David Sawicki |
| <i>at Holy Name</i> | <i>By Mary Stuchlak</i> |
| Wednesday | 8:00 a.m. Paul Caviston |
| <i>at Holy Name</i> | <i>By Dr. Lawrence & Jennifer Gallagher</i> |
| Holy Thursday | 7:00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper |
| <i>at Nativity</i> | |
| Good Friday | 12:00 n. The Lord's Passion (Eng) |
| <i>at Nativity</i> | 4:00 p.m. The Lord's Passion (Spn) |
| Holy Saturday | 8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass |
| <i>at Nativity</i> | |
| Sunday | 9:00 a.m. Easter Mass |
| <i>at Holy Name</i> | |
| Sunday | 11:00 a.m. Easter Children's Mass |
| <i>at Nativity</i> | |
| Sunday | 12:30 p.m. Easter Spanish Mass |
| <i>at Nativity</i> | <i>(Spanish)</i> |

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Michael Bryant, Pastor
 Rev. Ryan Glenn, Assoc. Pastor
 Deacon Albert Giacometti
 Sr. Susan Armbruster, IHM

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mbryant@stjnparish.org
rglenn@stjnparish.org
albgia@msn.com
sarmbrusterihm@gmail.com



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Music Ministry: 2 IMPORTANT REQUESTS

Holy Thursday and Easter Vigil Choirs: Holy Week is here! Choir practice for Holy Thursday and Easter Vigil is this Tuesday at 6:30pm. Contact Ryan Caviston if you are available to sing. ALL are welcome. We encourage members from the Hispanic community to participate as well. Ryan's number is: 570-702-5926.

Choir for Ordination to the Diaconate

Seminarian Jonathan Kuhar along with two other seminarians will be ordained to the Diaconate Saturday, May 25, St. Jude Church, Mountaintop. Our parish has been invited to participate in a combined choir for this special occasion. Ryan Caviston will conduct practices here at STJN to teach the music and then there will be combined practices the week before the ordination in Mountaintop. If you are interested in participating in this choir, please see Ryan Caviston as names need to be submitted. Jonathan spent last summer here with us as a seminarian.

Cantors practices continue to be held on Tuesday evenings 6:30pm, upper church. Cantors are needed for ALL weekend Liturgies. Call Ryan Caviston at: 570-702-5926 if you have any questions.

Liturgical Ministry Opportunities

Please take time to sign up at one of the parish masses. The red sign-up binders are located on the piano in each church. Sign-up sheets are now set up for the months of April, May and June. If you are not a minister but would like to become a Eucharistic Minister, Lector or Altar Server, see one of the ministry team members we would love to add you to our team!



GRADUATES! Mass to honor YOU June 9

If you are a rising graduate (high school or college) or if you have a son or daughter reaching one of these milestones, then we want to celebrate with you! Our parish mass to honor our graduates is **10:00 am, Sunday June 9**. Please contact Sister Suzie: 570-344-6159 ext. 161, or email: sarmbrusterihm@gmail.com with current mailing address, email, phone number, and school of graduation. Invitation letters will be mailed late April so please give us your information as soon as possible.

Blessing of Food Baskets

There are two opportunities for Easter Food Baskets to be blessed which is a rich tradition in many of our families. BOTH churches will be open on Saturday, April 20, and the blessing will be at 1:00 pm.

WORD



FAITH FORMATION

— *Ready, Set, Grow!*

4-14: Classes RCIC2, RCIT - 11:20-12:30pm
4-14: Classes Grade 6, CP1, CP2 - 5:00-6:00 pm
4-14: **Whole Family Mass ALL Grades 10:00AM**
4-17: Classes EP1-Grade 5 - 5:30-6:30pm
4-21: **NO CLASSES EASTER SUNDAY**
4-24: Classes EP1-Grade 5 - 5:30-6:30pm
4-28: Classes RCIC2, RCIT - 11:30-12:30pm
4-28: Classes Grade 6, CP1, CP2 - 5:00-6:00 pm
4-29: **EP2, RCIC2 required practice** 5:30-7:30 pm
5-01: **EP2, RCIC2 required practice** 5:30-7:30 pm
5-01: Classes EP1-Grade 5 - 5:30-6:30pm
5-05: **First Eucharist EP2, RCIC2 10:00 Mass**
5-05: Classes Grade 6, CP1, CP2 - 4:00-5:00 pm

EP2 AND RCIC2

Parents of students in **EP2** and **RCIC2** classes, banner kits and photo envelopes were distributed at our last parent meeting as well as "everything else" you need to know about your child's receiving this very special sacrament! The children are VERY excited!! If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call Sister Suzie 344-6159 ext. 161.

RECONCILIATION OPPORTUNITIES

Our children in our Faith Formation Program have had the opportunity to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation these past two weeks during class time. Many students took advantage to go to confession. During Lent we have prayed together: ***Maybe this time...*** Whatever "***Maybe this time***" has meant to you this Lent, maybe this time God is calling you, us to experience the gift of forgiveness. Our parish reconciliation service is: **Wednesday, April 17 at 7:00pm, Upper Church.** There will be several priests available to hear individual confessions or just come and pray for a bit, ***maybe there is one more "this time" God is speaking in your heart.***

EASTER SUNDAY

Moms and Dads, the children in our Faith Formation Program have done an awesome job learning about ***Lent, reconciliation, the Stations of the Cross, and Palm Sunday!*** This week during class, they will have their own prayer celebration around the ***Last Supper.*** They have learned the Whole story of Holy Week and Easter. NOW it is up to you to continue sharing the story! We invite you and your families to take time to come and join us for our Triduum and lets help your child continue to experience and understand better all that Jesus' journey is about! Join us for our different services this week and share the REAL story of Easter as a family. We look forward to worshipping together as a STJN parish family. See the schedule in the bulletin.

COMMUNITY

CONFIRMATION SPONSOR FORMS

We are getting there! If you have been asked to be a "sponsor" for a Confirmation candidate here at STJN parish or elsewhere, you are required to present a sponsor letter/card stating that you are at least 16 years of age, have received the Sacrament of Confirmation, is a practicing Catholic in the parish of registration. These forms are available through all parish offices.

If your sponsor is unable to come during daytime office hours, we are now open 4:00-7:00 pm on Wednesday evenings. Candidates and families, please remind your sponsor of this obligation.

Women of Faith - Tea and Prayer

Something special to do during Lent? Join us for a cup of tea and together let us share faith and good conversation. Our April gathering is this Wednesday, April 17, 12:30-1:30pm in the rectory dining room. Our prayer will have a Holy Week theme. This is a great opportunity to join other women who desire to grow in faith and get to know one another. Please RSVP by April 15.

Hands of Hope - Prayer Shawl Ministry

If you crochet or knit we are in need of "prayer shawls" i.e. lap blankets. We can provide yarn (given by a generous donor). Prayer shawls are truly gifts from the heart to the heart of the receiver. If you can help, please contact Sister Suzie 344-6159 ext. 161.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

The Diocese of Scranton is happy to announce a Community/Share Group opportunity for couples who have participated in a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend. The purpose of the Group is to provide ongoing support for marital relationships and family life. The Group meets regularly, usually on a monthly basis. A presentation is given, followed by a 10/10 and optional sharing. The meeting ends with a prayer, socializing and refreshments. Interested? Call or email Joanie Walsh: 719-339-9970 or joaniewalsh528@hotmail.com

OTHER COMMUNITY NEWS...

Saint Catherine of Siena Church— April 26, 2019

"Tastings & Tapas" 7:00-10:00 p.m. in Kelly Hall, 220 Church Street in Moscow. Call 570-842-4561.

Jog for Jude: 5K Run/1mi.Walk—April 28, 2019

9:00 a.m. Dunmore Community Center. Raising awareness for S.I.D.S. (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) and to benefit Boston Children's Hospital and St. Joseph's Baby Pantry. *Sign-up online at Runsignup.com/jogforjude*

St. Joseph's Center Auxiliary—May 3, 2019

A Night at the Races-\$10 Per Horse, \$100 Race Sponsor, Tickets \$10, Devine Mercy Parish Hall, 312 Davis St., Scranton, Must Be 21, Doors open at 6:00 First Race 7:00. *RSVP by April 26.* Advance Reservations only. Call Katie Weinschenk 570-207-6656.

SERVICE – STJN

STEWARDSHIP

"WHAT YOU DO FOR THE LEAST OF OTHERS... YOU DO IN MY NAME."

MAYBE THIS TIME

Brown Bag Ministry

Giving a HUGE thank you to everyone who had helped in any way with the past two lunch makings. They were a tremendous success! The recipients are beyond grateful. Our next brown bag ministry is scheduled for May 5 at 11:30. We hope you can join us! Keep an eye on the sign up sheets in the back of the church for volunteer or donation opportunities. Items we can use include small water bottles and snack type items (crackers, pretzels, cupcakes). If you have any questions you can call Carl or Tricia at 570-961-1555. Thanks again!

Community Garden

The dream for our community garden is evolving and we believe the first step is to start small and make it a kid-friendly garden! Our hope is to plant a small "flower cutting" garden that our families (young and not so young) can help maintain and share the flowers with parishioners. Gardening would take place on Sunday mornings between the 10:00 and 12:30 Masses. AND of course to make this one of our hospitality happenings sharing a glass of lemonade as well. If this interests you, contact Sister Suzie 344-6159 ext. 161. We are hoping to make this a raised bed. We are looking for donations of a raised garden bed, good soil, seeds/plants of cutting flowers and herbs, LONG gardening hoses, and some folks wanting a new earth friendly adventure. Everyone enjoys flowers don't you?

CRS Operation Rice Bowl

Rice Bowl Project: Encounter Christ are due this week. You may drop off your bowls or monetary donations to the parish office or place it in the basket marked **CRS Rice Bowl** in the back of church. Thank You!

Step Up to the Plate

"Step Up to the Plate" is one of our parish outreach ministries and this ministry provides a meal on the 3rd Saturday of every month to those at C.I.C. Consider signing up to provide something towards this meal. Sign-up boards are in the back of both churches. For more information contact our parish coordinators: Ann Talerico 570-614-3633 or Teri Millard 570-430-1690. During these cold months more folks drop in for a hot meal. Our April date is: **April 20**. Yes, this date is Holy Saturday, what better way to be mindful of those who are hungry.

FAITH QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Adults: When have you felt that you betrayed the confidence of another, as Peter did when he denied Jesus?

Kids: When have you let someone down who trusted you? How did you feel?



Only 2 weeks before...

BINGO EXTRAVAGAZA!

April 28, 2019

8	27	32	50	66
13	17	42	48	70
15	30	FREE BET SPACE	54	72
10	21	34	46	74
14	29	45	56	68

Invite your family and friends to join us for a day of fun and a chance to win some **GREAT prizes**—including a 50" TV, \$500 Landscaping Gift Card, Fire Pit, Drone, Portrait Package, Tablet, Car Spa, big Cash!

\$20 TICKETS ON SALE IN THE BACK OF THE CHURCH!!

For more information or to offer your help,
Please call... Debbi 650-3701; Eileen 885-4647;
Ann 614-3633; Sandy 885-2868; Patti 904-1920

INCOME / EXPENSE REPORT

	<u>03-31-19</u>	
Tithe \$	4,920.00	<i>No comparison from 2018 since it was Easter weekend.</i>
Loose \$	679.18	
Other \$	<u>14,636.75</u>	
Total \$	20,235.93	includes SSD utilities
<i>March 25-31 Expenses paid from general account \$11,660.68</i>		

We would like to thank

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for sponsoring an ad in our bulletin.

SAY THAT AGAIN...?

- ♦ Miners Refuse to Work After Death
- ♦ Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges
- ♦ Kids Make Nutritious Snacks
- ♦ Typhoon Rips Thru Cemetery; Hundreds Dead

That's funny!



We are planning to keep our parish office open 20 hours per week, but we need your help!



St. John Neumann Parish is looking for help in our parish office. We need someone to answer phones, greet people at the door, use Word/Excel, enter information into our Parish Data System, and other assorted clerical duties. This **paid position** will be 8-10 hours per week. (Monday & Tuesday 4-5 hours each day).

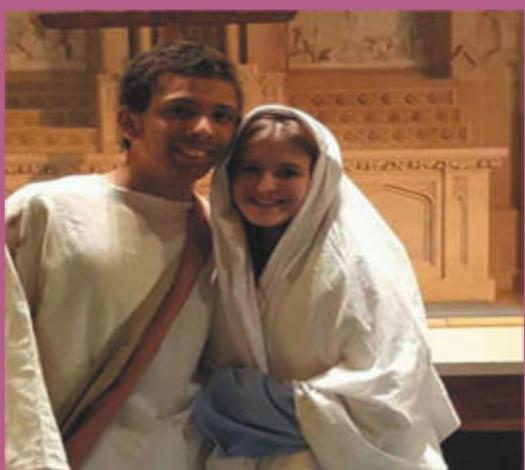
We are also looking for dedicated volunteers to help out with office work 2 to 4 hours per month (at home or in office). Interested? **Call** Father Michael 570-344-6159.

VIRTUS: A training for adults in the Protecting God's Children program is scheduled for **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2019, at 5:00 p.m., on the campus of Keystone College, LaPlume**. If you are an adult employee or volunteer who has direct contact or routine interaction with children, please make every effort to attend this training. Thank you. Safe Environment Office of Diocese.



Maybe This Time

Taking Time to be One Church



THE LIVING WAY OF THE CROSS

Practice continues Sunday night 6:00-8:15 pm for those participating in *The Way*. This is the 24th Anniversary of our youth and adults coming together to present this prayerful musical dramatization of the Passion of Christ offered on Good Friday evening. **Young Adults and Adults** are invited to come and participate by joining the choir for *The Way* practice is at the same time.

We invite all parishioners and friends to join us this **Friday evening April 19, 8:00pm, Upper Church** as our parish celebrates the 24th Anniversary of *THE WAY*. We continue to walk the journey of the Triduum, as our youth lead us in prayer through this beautiful and moving musical dramatization of the Passion of Christ.



HOLY THURSDAY April 18

7:00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper, Nativity, followed by Adoration
10:30 pm Night Prayer at Nativity

GOOD FRIDAY April 19

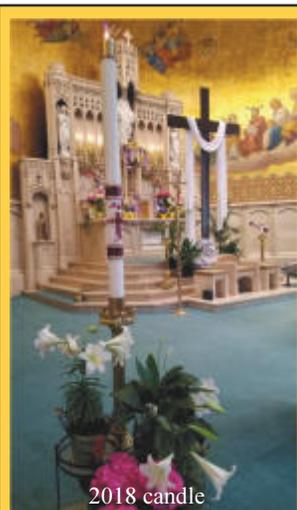
Day of Fast and Abstinence
8:00 am Morning Prayer at Nativity
12 noon Celebration of the Lord's Passion at Nativity
2:00 pm Walking Stations of the Cross
4:00 pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion at Nativity (Spanish)
8:00 pm The Way at Nativity

HOLY SATURDAY April 20

8:00 am Morning Prayer at Nativity
1:00 pm Blessing of Food Baskets at Holy Name & Nativity
8:00 pm Easter Vigil at Nativity

EASTER SUNDAY April 21

9:00 am Easter Mass at Holy Name
11:00 am Easter Mass Children's Liturgy at Nativity
12:30 pm Easter Mass at Nativity Spanish



The 2019 Paschal Candle

has been donated by Rosemary Boland in loving memory of

Msgr. James J. McGarry

2018 candle



Maybe This Time Parish Communal Reconciliation

April 17 – Wednesday of Holy Week
Nativity Church – 7:00 PM

Through these 40 Days of Lent and in these last three Sundays in particular, we have taken time to realize that Jesus gives us a second chance, waits for us to come home and invites us to sin no more. Join together in solidarity with all who are seeking God's mercy through the rising sun of Jesus.

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