



Saint Maria Goretti Church

Reverend Seth Wasnock, Pastor

Reverend Dr. Michael Imbrogno - Deacon

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MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 4:30PM Sunday: 9:30AM Weekdays M-W-F (only): 8:00AM

Holy Days of Obligation: SEE BULLETIN

WELCOME

A warm welcome is extended to all who visit our faith community. We hope you have received a warm greeting as you entered our church today for worship. Carry our blessings home with you and be a light to your family.

PENANCE/RECONCILIATION

Every Saturday 3:30PM-4:00PM; First Friday's from 8:30AM to 9:00AM or anytime by request or appointment. Please do not hesitate to approach Father Seth at any time concerning your desire for confession.

ST. MARIA GORETTI NOVENA

Every Wednesday following the 8:00AM Mass.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday from 9:00AM to 2:00PM.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptisms are scheduled by appointment. Please call the Parish Office at 570-655-8956.

ROSARY

The Fatima Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet are recited each Friday morning after Mass (except on the First Friday of each month). We invite men and women to join us in these beautiful acts of charity.

FIRST FRIDAY

A Holy Hour with Benediction, Exposition and prayers is held the First Friday of every month 8:00AM - 9:00AM. Confessions are offered from 8:30AM TO 9:00AM



PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

So they brought the colt to Jesus and put their cloaks over it. And he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. - Mk 11:7-8

March 28, 2021 – Palm Sunday of the Lord

PASTORAL NOTES

SCRIPTURE INSIGHTS: Despite his apparently dispassionate reporting style, Mark gives an intensely theological portrayal of Jesus, inspired by the figure of the suffering servant, who “did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45). The focus of Mark’s passion story is the crowning of the King. Because Jesus’ coronation takes place through suffering, the story is unrelentingly ironic. Jesus’ subjects flee (14:50); his court repudiates him (14:64); the state condemns him (15:15); soldiers pay mock homage with the crown and cloak (15:16-20); his royal title sits atop the instrument of execution (15:26); his enthronement as Son of God occurs only at the moment of his death (15:39).

Paul’s letter to the Philippians contains an early Christian hymn, already widely used in Paul’s time, only thirty years after Jesus’ crucifixion. Its theology of the passion unfolds in a sequence: (1) Christ begins in glory, equal with God, referring either to his divinity or perhaps to his perfect humanity in God’s image; (2) he descends to a humiliating slave’s death on the cross; (3) then, because he “humbled himself,” God lifts him up again to unimaginable glory.

The prophet’s ancient words poetically convey the inner experience of the suffering servant, personifying the narrative of Mark and the theological structure of Paul. The anonymous writer composed four “servant songs” (Isaiah 42:1-4; 49:1-6; 50:4-7; 52:13-53:12), perhaps based on the life of Jeremiah; this is a portion of the third song. The servant speaks in the first person, reflecting on the certainty of his mission and the strength he receives from the Lord. Jesus quoted and alluded to many Old Testament themes and figures to interpret his mission. But he especially adopted and fulfilled the persona of the suffering servant as a key to his passion. In this mysterious figure, we come close to Jesus’ inner life and the meaning that he gave to his work.

LITURGY AND LIFE: It is hard to stay awake to the sin and suffering in this world. Even Jesus’ disciples failed to keep watch with him in his deep sorrow. But the Gospel urges us to keep trying. It asks us to go with Christ to the heart of sorrow and to stand awake and in solidarity with the poor and suffering, who are Jesus in disguise. Our culture offers us many escapes, many ways to “sleep”, but it is by encountering those who suffer, and by bringing God’s love to them, that we come to know Christ and his cross and can look with hope to Resurrection.

LIVE THE LITURGY (Inspiration for the week): 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!

ABOUT PALM SUNDAY: No other Sunday in the liturgical year reflects such dramatic contrast as today. What begins with songs of triumph quickly shifts into remembrance of the Lord’s passion. His royal entrance into the holy city of Jerusalem was also an entrance into the mystery of his suffering, death, and Resurrection. As we enter this holiest of weeks with Christ, may our participation in each solemn liturgy draw us into deeper union with him and with one another.

RICE BOWLS: These containers can be placed in the collection to be taken up on Holy Thursday, which will be for the need that is designated for these funds.

PENANCE/RECONCILIATION: Every Saturday 3:30PM-4:00PM or anytime by request with appointment. Please do not hesitate to contact Father Seth at any time concerning your desire for confession. **N.B.:** Father Seth will also be hearing Confessions during the First Friday Holy Hour beginning at 8:30am and ending at 9:00am.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK: What cross do I find difficult to shoulder myself? Whose burden have I been unwilling to share? How can I help someone else and/or allow myself to be helped?

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. MARIA GORETTI

THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU: Father Seth will be hearing confessions in the church from 5:30pm to 6:00pm on Monday, March 29th and also as listed below.

CONFESSIONS: Friday, April 2, 1:00pm — 2:30pm

Saturday, April 3, 10:00am — 11:30am

EASTER BASKET BLESSING: Saturday, April 3, 12:00pm

Our Parish Office will be closed on Monday, April 5th.

March 28, 2021 – Palm Sunday of the Lord

Due to the early submission of the bulletin, the collections for March 20 and 21 will appear in next week's bulletin.

Thank you for your continued generosity in supporting your parish.

PONTIFICAL GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

Pope Francis has asked our parish to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land. Your support helps the church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools and offer religious education. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines.

The wars, unrest and instability have been especially hard on Christians. In these times of crisis, the Pontifical Good Friday Collection provides humanitarian aid to refugees.

When you contribute to the Pontifical 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 generous.

For more information about Christians in the Holy Land, visit www.myfranciscan.org/good-Friday.



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday– Saturday, March 27th:	4:30PM*
Palm Sunday– Sunday, March 28th:	9:30AM*
Holy Thursday–Mass of the Lord's Supper:	7:00PM
Good Friday–Liturgy of the Lord's Passion:	3:00PM
Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil):	8:00PM
Easter Sunday:	9:30AM & 11:00AM*

*Reservations required.

PASTA DINNER THANK YOU!!



Thank you to everyone who purchased dinners, volunteered time and supported our Pasta Supper last weekend. We could not have done it without you.

Profits will be reported when all bills have been received. You truly are a blessing to this parish. Thank you.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

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 ©LPi

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 28th, 2021

Sunday 3/28: Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 [2a]/Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1—15:47 or 15:1-39

Monday 3/29: Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14 [1a]/Jn 12:1-11

Tuesday 3/30: Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17 [cf. 15ab]/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday 3/31: Is 50:4-9a/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34 [14c]/Mt 26:14-25

Thursday 4/1: Chrism Mass: Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9/Ps 89:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [2a]/Rv 1:5-8/Lk 4:16-21

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18 [cf. 1 Cor 10:16]/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15

Friday 4/2: Is 52:13—53:12/Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25 [Lk 23:46]/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1—19:42

Saturday 4/3: 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 [Jn 6:68c]/Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28/Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 [42:2] or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3] or Ps 51:12-13, 14-15,

18-19 [12a]/Rom 6:3-11/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/Mk 16:1-7

March 28, 2021 – Palm Sunday of the Lord

Notice Regarding Reporting Sexual Abuse of a Minor

It is the policy of the Diocese of Scranton to report any allegation of sexual abuse of a minor to law enforcement. If you are a victim of sexual abuse committed by a priest, deacon, religious or lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton, you are encouraged to immediately report the matter to law enforcement. If any priest, deacon, religious, lay employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Scranton has cause or reason to suspect that a minor has been subjected to any form of abuse, including child sexual abuse, the matter will be reported to law enforcement. It is also the policy of the Diocese to adhere to all civil and state regulations. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Child Protective Services Laws, reports of suspected child abuse should also be made immediately by phone to the 24-Hour Child Abuse hotline (ChildLine) at 1-800-932-0313 or electronically at www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis. To this end, the Diocese is equally committed to adhering to the norms of the Code of Canon Law and to upholding the tenets of the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which includes supporting victims of sexual abuse in their pursuit of emotional and spiritual well-being. As such, information regarding an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor should also be reported to the Victim Assistance Coordinator, Mary Beth Pacuska at (570-862-7551).

Lighter Side



Palm Sunday *See what happens when you miss going to church?*

One Palm Sunday, a little boy had a sore throat and had to stay home from church with a sitter. When the rest of the family came home, they were carrying palm branches. The little boy asked what they were for.

His father told him that people held them over Jesus' head when he walked by.

In a sad, disappointed voice, the little boy said, "Wouldn't you know it? The one Sunday I miss, Jesus shows up!"

VIRTUAL GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

This can be a difficult time to navigate grief, particularly during this ongoing period of social distancing. Please consider joining the virtual grief support group offered by Cathedral of Saint Peter Parish in Scranton. *Anyone is welcome; you do not have to be a member of the parish to participate.* The group will convene online, Wednesday evenings 6:30 to 7:30. The dates of the virtual meetings will be April 7, 14, 21 and 28. For more information, please contact Deacon Ed Shoener at 570-814-5133 or at 570-344-7231.

In Loving Memory

John Baran

Regina Baran

Eileen Hoban Clancy

Anthony N. Colonna

Elizabeth Colonna

James L. Conlon, Jr.

James A. Dougherty

William J. Emmel

Robert Faber

Mary & Martin Gallagher Family

James J. Giamas

Walter & Celestine Gottlieb

Stanley Harenza

Thomas L. Mahle

Cheta & Mario Malvizzi

Helen Marykwas

Leonard & Gen McHale

Chester & Mary Pietras

Giuseppe Rinaldis

Mr. & Mrs. William Shea

Michael P. Yazurlo

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**ST. MARIA GORETTI
&
ST. MARK
PRAY FOR US!**



RELIGIOUS SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Monday, March 29, 2021

8:00am Catherine Fries by Carmel Insalaco
 5:30pm to 6:00pm THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU
 (CONFESSIONS IN THE CHURCH)

Tuesday, March 30, 2021
 NO MASS

Wednesday, March 31, 2021

8:00am Helen Elbrich by John & Susan Zingaretti

Thursday, March 1, 2021
Holy Thursday
Mass of the Lord's Supper

7:00pm Priest's Intentions
 (Reposition in the Chapel until 10:00pm)

Friday, April 2, 2021
Good Friday

8:00am NO MASS
 1:00-2:30pm Confessions
 3:00pm Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

Saturday, April 3, 2021

10:00-11:30am Confessions
 12:00pm Easter Basket Blessing
 Easter Vigil
 8:00pm People of the Parish

Sunday, April 4, 2021
Easter Sunday

9:30am Joseph Bachkosky by Mark & Carol Smith
 11:00am Robert Sieminski by Paul & Sue Shovlin



 **ALTAR CANDLES FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 2021**

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
 † Alberto A. & Ruth Ann Agostini
 by Maria Elena Agostini

† Celestine & Walter Gottlieb by Susan & Dan Bechetti
 † Salvatore Conigliaro
 by Wife, Ann Marie & Sister-in-Law, Addie
 † Henry Pascucci, Sr. by Family

 **SANCTUARY CANDLES FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 28, 2021**

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
 † Pauline & Ray Verdine by Family
 † Charles & Helen Cavelle by Family

IN LOVING MEMORY We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Albert Snarski who entered into eternal life this past week.


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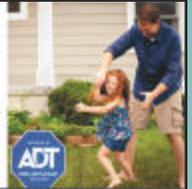


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