

MANY PEOPLE SPREAD THEIR CLOAKS ON THE ROAD,
AND OTHERS SPREAD LEAFY BRANCHES THAT THEY
HAD CUT FROM THE FIELDS. - MK 11:8

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

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Ss. Cosmas & Damian Parish

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814-938-6540

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Mass Intentions for This Week

Saturday, March 27

4:30 p.m. Richard Butler -- John & Mariann Griffiths

Sunday, March 28

8:00 a.m. Parishioners

11:00 a.m. Angeline DeChurch -- Doyle Starry

Monday, March 29

8:00 a.m. Frederick Hardick -- Family

Tuesday, March 30

8:00 a.m. Thomas Gigliotti -- Ken & Toie Neal

Wednesday, March 31

8:00 a.m. Mary M. Felix -- Pat Stewart

Holy Thursday, April 1

7:00 p.m. Evening Mass of The Lord's Last Supper

Good Friday, April 2

1:00 p.m. Liturgy of The Lord's Passion

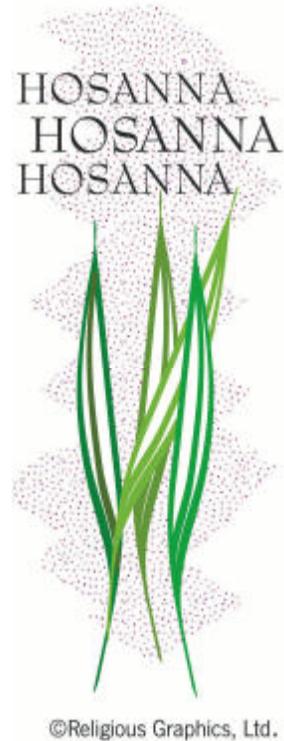
Holy Saturday, April 3

8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass

Sunday, April 4

8:00 a.m. Parishioners

10:00 a.m. Stanley Piekielek -- Tony & Patty West



This Week

Today, Sunday, March 28 -

3:00 pm - Confessions - Church

Wednesday, March 31 -

10am - Bible Study - Meeting Room

Holy Thursday, April 1 -

Following the 7pm Mass until 10pm -
Adoration, closing with Night Prayer

Saturday, April 3 -

1:00pm - Blessing of Easter Food - Church

The Church encourages frequent, even daily, Holy Communion, but if at any time we cannot go to Mass, in or out of this season of the coronavirus, we can still unite ourselves to the Eucharist by making a spiritual Communion. When we make an Act of Spiritual Communion, we express our faith in Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist and ask him to unite himself with us.



My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least
spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



Palm Sunday

Dear Parishioners,

...At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last....

The Cross of Christ has been a potent symbol throughout the ages. Its vertical axis, it was said, joins heaven and earth, and its horizontal axis joins all ages and races of humankind; everything meets in the broken body of Christ.

The Christian faith without the Cross is nothing. The Cross tells us that our goodness is not good enough. We cannot 'achieve' God by our own efforts: that would be to try to possess God as a sort of ornament on a life of achievement. Our ego would indeed love to do this and is always ready to imagine that it has done so in fact. A popular writer of spiritual books that never mention the Cross of Christ said in an interview that for him the Cross was like a question-mark, or a giant hook, reaching up to heaven for an answer. Christ is not necessary to such a spirituality. It is well to explore the aesthetic aspects of the faith, but "we preach Christ crucified," wrote St Paul (1 Cor 1:23).

The grave is a narrow place, and to suffer is distressing. But this is the narrow road that leads to life. First of all, the Scriptures, and then the saints and mystics, vouch for this. First the narrow way, then the opening out. Here are a few of the many texts that could be quoted to illustrate this:

"The gate is narrow, and the road is hard that leads to life" (Mt 7:14).

Meister Eckhart said, "The more the soul is collected [focused], the narrower she is, and the narrower, the wider."

Mde Guyon, the 18th-century French mystic, wrote, "How very narrow is the gate which leads to a life in God! - and how little one must be to pass through it; it is nothing else but death to self! But when we have passed through it, what enlargement we find! David said, (Ps 18:19) 'He brought me forth into a large place.'"

Her mentor, Bishop Fénelon, wrote, "When we are faithful in instantly dropping all superfluous and restless reflections, which arise from a self-love that is totally different from charity, we shall be set in a large place even in the midst of the straight and narrow path." He also wrote, "We are in a narrow place, indeed, when we are enclosed in self, but when we emerge from that prison, and enter into the immensity of God and the liberty of his children, we are set at large."

A Christianity without the Cross has never worked, and it is never likely to do so. It doesn't do justice to the awesome depths of human life and death. It takes a crucified Church to bring a crucified Christ before the eyes of the world.

God Bless!

Msgr. J. Riccardo

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

This afternoon, March 28, beginning at 3pm, there will be 3 priests available in church to hear confessions.

This will be a good opportunity for you to receive the sacrament of Penance before Easter.



BLESSING OF EASTER FOOD

We will have our traditional Blessing of Easter food on Holy Saturday, April 3, at 1pm in church. Our procedure will be slightly modified this year to allow for distancing.

When you come into church, you will take a seat; families can, of course, stay together. Please keep your basket of food with you throughout the blessing service. Masks are required to be worn.



A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

The Passion of Jesus makes it clear, no one escapes suffering. Suffering is inevitable, but no one should suffer alone. That is one of the primary roles of families, to stand with and support each other in suffering.

EASTER FLOWERS

Anyone wishing to make a donation toward the flowers for Easter may still do so. There is an envelope in your packet for this purpose or you can just use a plain envelope.

If you are making your donation in memory of a loved one, please write his or her name in the space provided.

To be included on the list which will be posted in church on Easter, please have your donations in to the office by this Tuesday, March 30th.



LENTEN REGULATIONS

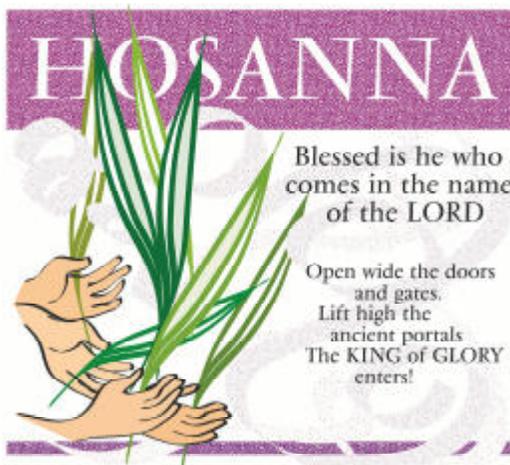
Ash Wednesday, all the Fridays of Lent, and Good Friday are days of **abstinence** from meat for those 14 years of age and older. **Ash Wednesday and Good Friday** are also days of **fasting** for those ages 18 to 58 inclusive. On those days, those bound by the law of fasting may take one full meal and two smaller meals. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids including milk and fruit juices are allowed. When health or work is seriously affected, the law does not oblige.

OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you for your continued support throughout this past year.

One way for you to easily support our parish is through on-line giving. There is a link for you to access this on our parish website, sscdchurch.com.

If you prefer to mail your offertory envelopes to the office, drop them in the mail slot in the breezeway, or put in the collection basket at church, please continue to do so. Thank you!



SAINT VINCENT DePAUL WEEKLY FOOD DONATION

Food Donation next Sunday, **April 4 - Chicken Soup**. Thank you for your support!

SAINT VINCENT DePAUL VOLUNTEERS Saturday, April 3 -

Mary Lou & Franklin Stockdale



For the benefit of those who are unable to, or who are concerned about returning to Mass at this time, SSCD is live streaming Mass twice a week. Look for this graphic on our parish website, sscdchurch.com, and click the link on Fridays at 9am and Sundays at 11am to join.

If you have any questions, just call the office.

SCRIP PROGRAM

Scrip Cash and Carry is available in the School Office.

Please use the walk up window next to the principal's office to purchase your Scrip, Monday - Friday, 8:00am - 2:20pm

You can also use the Scrip "PrestoPay" feature that provides electronic delivery options (i.e. electronic credit to spend online or refill a merchant's card that you already have in your possession). Questions about PrestoPay can be directed to the Scrip program coordinator.

Thank you for supporting SSCD School through your participation in the Scrip Program.



MUSIC AND PRAYERS AT MASS

Since we are not currently able to have our books in the pews, we are providing sheets with the hymns and prayers for your use at Mass.



Please pick one up from the table when you come in and then either take it home with you or throw it away after Mass. **Please do not return it to the table. They cannot be reused.** Each person will then have access to an unused hymn sheet when they come in to church.



CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

A sincere thank you to all who have made a pledge or gift to the 2021 Catholic Services Appeal. If you have not yet made a commitment, it is not too late. Just drop your pledge card in the collection basket or send it to the office. Please remember that all gifts, regardless of the size, are important, needed, and appreciated.

Please do what you can. I am grateful for your prayers and support - especially in these extraordinary times.



As part of our Lenten observance, we are participating in Catholic Relief Services' Lenten program, Operation Rice Bowl.

Since 1975 ORB has inspired Catholics in the United States to pray, fast, learn, and give as we increase our understanding of our global community. We encourage you to participate in Operation Rice Bowl at home with your family and loved ones.

There is an envelope in your packets for your ORB donations. Thank you.

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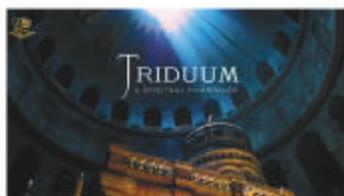
PICK OF THE WEEK

March 28, 2021

WATCH

TRIDUUM: A SPIRITUAL PILGRIMAGE

In Triduum: A Spiritual Pilgrimage, the viewer is brought deeper into the story, landscape, and reality of Holy Week. It draws those with open hearts and minds toward a deeper understanding of Christ's victory while offering rich meditations for the pilgrimage of daily life.



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Dear Parishioners,

As the Season of Lent draws to its conclusion, we enter upon the Solemn days of Holy Week. The Father summons us to walk with Jesus as He ascends the hill of Calvary in His great act of love for us - The Redemption.

We invite you to join with us in the beautiful Liturgies of Holy Week, that the glory of Easter may be more full, more meaningful. May the joy and peace which the first Christians felt as they looked upon the Risen Jesus be yours on Easter and in the months ahead.

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- Holy Thursday, April 1 -** 7:00pm -- Evening Mass of
The Lord's Last Supper,
followed by private adoration
until 10:00pm, closing with Night Prayer
- Good Friday, April 2 -** 1:00pm -- Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
- Holy Saturday, April 3 -** 1:00pm -- Blessing of Easter Food
8:00pm -- Easter Vigil Mass
- Easter Sunday, April 4 -** 8:00am Mass
10:00am Mass



**Prayer in Time
of Pandemic**

Lord Jesus,
You came to bring salvation
to our world. You humbled
yourself to accept death on a
cross. Be with us as we
confront the spread of the
coronavirus with courage
and hope. Be present to the
sick and to those who
accompany them
in their suffering.
Strengthen our medical
professionals and caregivers;
comfort families who are
separated from one another.
Protect those who
are at risk of the virus
in their work.

Grant wisdom to our civic
officials and perseverance to
scientists. Spare us from the
ravages of this illness and
console us in our uncertainty
and fear.
Unite us in hope, enlighten
us in faith, and give us the
grace as a Church
to love one another
as You have loved us.
Through the intercession of
our Heavenly Mother,
we make this prayer as we
place our trust in You.
Amen.

Imprimatur, April 8, 2020
The Most Reverend Lawrence T.
Persico, J.C.L., Bishop of Erie

REFLECT

FIRST READING
The prophet Isaiah reflects on his obedience to God's call regardless of personal suffering that he endured. Isaiah found strength in his faith and fidelity to God. How does your faith help frame your suffering?

SECOND READING
Paul speaks of Jesus' humility as central to his divine identity. What does this teach us about God's nature?

GOSPEL READING
We hear today Mark's account of the Passion of our Lord. What parts of the passion narrative are you drawn to?



PRAYER CHAIN

To add a name to the Prayer Chain, call Pat Rougeux, 814-938-4464 or Anna Smoczek, 814-427-2456.

If you are unable to reach either of them, you may call the office weekdays 9am - 4pm.

SANCTUARY CLEANERS THIS WEEK

SSCD - Bob Henretta, Katie Roberts, and Rita Yenzi.
St. Anthony - Susan Walker

OFFERTORY FIGURES

Because of an early deadline to submit this week's Bulletin to the publisher, our offertory figures do not appear on this page as they normally would.

Next week's bulletin will show figures up-to-date as of March 21.

Readings for the Week of March 28, 2021

Sunday: 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: Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14 [1a]/Jn 12:1-11
Tuesday: Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17 [cf. 15ab]/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34 [14c]/Mt 26:14-25
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: 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: 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
Easter: Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 [24]/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Mk 16:1-7 or Lk 24:13-35
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