

A decorative border of green palm fronds frames the central text. The fronds are detailed with light and dark green tones, giving them a realistic appearance.

# *Palm* SUNDAY



HOSANNA IN  
THE HIGHEST.

- MATTHEW 21:9

St. Michael  
**Netcong, New Jersey**

**The Church of Saint Michael**  
**April 2, 2023**  
**Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**



Please remember in your prayers those who have died.

Please remember in your prayers the sick of our parish: May Lee, Special Intention, Lucy Pintos, Karlene Yapple, Joseph Conklin, Marysia Hancock, Bev Couter, Kathy Conklin, Charlie Raffay, Beth Couter, Special Intention, Carmen Pina, Paula DiElsi, Avila De La Rama

**Weekly Memorial**

Sanctuary Lamp:

For All Living & Deceased Parishioners

**Readings for the week**

**Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**  
**Sunday**

Mt 21:1-11; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11;

Mt 26:14— 27:66 or 27:11-54

**Monday**

Is 42:1-7; Jn 12:1-11

**Tuesday**

Is 49:1-6; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

**Wednesday**

Is 50:4-9a; Mt 26:14-25

**Thursday**

Chrim Mass: Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9; Rv 1:5-8; Lk 4:16-21

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14;

1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15

**First Friday**

Is 52:13—53:12; Heb 4:14-16, 5:7-9;

Jn 18:1—19:42

**Saturday**

Easter Vigil: Gn 1:1—2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a; Gn 22:1-18 or

22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ex 14:15—15:1; Is 54:5-14;

Is 55:1-11; Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4; Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28;

Rom 6:3-11; Mt 28:1-10

**Mass Intentions for the Week**

**Saturday, April 1, 2023**

10am Maria Eckert

5pm Paul D'Olivo, Pat Buckley

**Sunday, April 2, 2023 Palm Sunday**

7am Pauline & Carmine Milone

9:30am Santina & Vincenzo Fratangelo, Donnie LaBell

11:30am Orrie Martino, Chet Verdi

1:30pm Intention of Carmen Pina,  
 Marina Mazuera de Marmolejo

**Monday, April 3, 2023**

10am Donald LaBell

**Tuesday, April 4, 2023**

10am Anne Dowd

**Wednesday, April 5, 2023**

10am Mary Brodo

**Thursday, April 6, 2023 Holy Thursday**

8am Morning Prayer

7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper – Bilingual  
 For All Living & Deceased Parishioners

**Friday, April 7, 2023 Good Friday**

8am Morning Prayer

2:15pm Stations of the Cross

3pm Passion, Veneration & Communion

5pm Passion, Veneration & Communion in Spanish

**Saturday, April 8, 2023 Holy Saturday**

8am Morning Prayer

7:30pm Easter Vigil Mass - Bilingual  
 For All Living & Deceased Parishioners

**Sunday, April 9, 2023 Easter Sunday**

7am For All Living & Deceased Parishioners

9:30am For All Living & Deceased Parishioners

11:30am For All Living & Deceased Parishioners

1:30pm For All Living & Deceased Parishioners

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## From Fr. Mike

**Preparing for Easter:** Easter is not only a date and time on our calendars each year, but more importantly, it is an **event**! An event that should be celebrated in the life of every Christian, especially us Catholics. At Easter, something happens which is called the “**Paschal Mystery**.” However, in order to celebrate this mystery, this event, we need to be prepared in body, mind and spirit. Hopefully, this week and the weeks to follow will give you food for thought in order to help you celebrate this special **event** in your lives.

The term “**Paschal Mystery**” is not a new term that has been used only since the Second Vatican Council, but it was a term that was used frequently by the early Church Fathers and was easily seen in the Opening Prayer and Prayer after Communion of the Mass. This Scriptural and historical outlook on our faith was soon replaced by the systematic and juridical (based on the law) philosophies of the scholastic theologians (e.g. Anselm of Canterbury, Peter Abelard, Albertus Magnus, Duns Scotus, Saint Thomas Aquinas, etc.). These philosophies and theologies soon made their way into catechisms, sermons, popular devotions and ways of thinking, that many people grew up with in the 50's and 60's.

It is the view that sees our redemption in the form of a “payment” of a debt (reparation) or a pardon given to us, because Christ took upon Himself the sufferings which we really deserved for our sins (penal expiation). Of course, these ideas are found in many Scriptural passages that supported this theology. However, the theology and philosophy of the early Church Fathers were a more radical approach to our salvation, which sees our salvation as **transformation**. It was the intention of the Second Vatican Council that this former notion of transformation be highlighted. Therefore, in order to understand more fully what this transformation (the Paschal Mystery) means, we have to look more closely into the meaning of these words.

First, let us look at the word “**mystery**.” Usually, we understand this word to mean something that is beyond our understanding which God has revealed to us. But mystery also means “an action done by God in carrying out some plan” (e.g. the mysteries of the Rosaries, which refer to some action of Christ's life which we contemplate while praying ten “Hail Mary's,” one “Our Father” and a “Glory Be”). Of course, these two definitions are not distinct from each other, but rather, work hand in hand.

The main point about a mystery, according to the Scriptures, the Church Fathers and the Vatican Council, is that it has three qualities: 1.) It is

something that is done (an event). 2.) It is something that is accomplished by God Himself. 3.) It is something done by God for our salvation.

The second word that needs to be looked at is “**Paschal**.” The original Passover was a historic event when the Angel of the Lord **passed over** the land of Egypt to inflict death on the first-born of the Egyptians in order to free the Israelites from their slavery (Exodus 12:13ff). This event allowed the Israelites to **pass over** the Red Sea and go to Mount Sinai where God made a covenant with them, saying “*I will be your God and you will be my people*” (Exodus 6:7). For the Israelites, this was a change in their status, from being an enslaved people with no laws, no rights, no privileges, only looking forward to death, to becoming a free people, a chosen people, looking forward to life in the Promised Land. They **passed over** from slavery to freedom, from death to life. This event was the most marvelous and important of all the wonderful things that God had done for His people in the Old Testament. However, this was only a prelude to the work of Christ in His redemption of all people.

When Christ suffered, died, rose from the dead and ascended to His Heavenly Father, this too was a Passover, similar to what the Israelites experienced. For Christ also underwent a change in status; once assuming the nature of a fallen creature, He now became a new man, glorious and immortal. He has **passed over** from the state of slavery to the state of freedom, from death to the newness of life. This transition (or transformation) is the **Pasch** or the **Passover** of Christ. Therefore, it is correctly called the “**Paschal Mystery**” because it was something done by God, to achieve our salvation and is of its nature, a **Passover**!

And just as it was a Passover for Christ, so it can be for us as well. Our salvation is our transformation from that which enslaves us to sin to freedom. This becomes our paschal event in our lives. Because of the sin of our first parents, our lives are now subject to death. We all possess a life that will one day die out, by our very living, our lives are expended. It is in the words of Saint Augustine, life is “A prolonged process of dying.” We all want an immortal life, but until our present life is transformed, this will never happen. And the fact is that no mortal man (or woman) can change this type of life which we presently possess. However, when God becomes a man in the person of Jesus Christ, this extraordinary man is born with divine powers. This man did transform the kind of life that we possess. He took it upon Himself, this imperfect life, mortal



and subject to death, and by his own suffering and death destroyed death and His Resurrection, restored our lives. For He did not rise to a mere continuation of his former life (like Lazarus did when He raised him from the dead) but to a new kind of life, not subject to suffering or death. He transformed human life by passing from one state to another, from death to life; this Passover becomes our Paschal Mystery!

## FAITH FORMATION



**For ALL teens/young people in Confirmation Prep (Confirmation II, Middle School Confirmation and NET group)**

*Reminder:* you are expected to attend the Triduum masses/services on Holy Thursday

(4/6 mass at 7 pm), Good Friday (4/7 service at 3 pm) and any Easter Mass (Vigil on Saturday 4/8 at 7:30 pm OR regular Sunday Mass schedule on 4/9). Please bring your mass sheets and have them signed by Father, a Deacon or Mrs. Rogalo.

\*there was a typo on the dates in last week's bulletin; these are the correct dates

### **Confirmation I, II and NET:**

Service forms due:

- For Confirmation I: forms for service completed in *Jan, Feb, March due 3/31*
- For Confirmation II and NET: forms for service completed monthly through Feb.28 are due now. *Form for March is due 3/31 and for April is due 4/30*

**Family Session today:** for Levels K-6.

Families attend 9:30 am Mass and stay for short presentation.

Confirmation I (Level 7) will be meeting Mrs. Bollinger at the Food Pantry for some service work.



There are no Faith Formation Class Sessions next week, Easter Sunday, 4/9. Classes resume 4/16 with Mass and class for Levels K-7, Class and Mass for NET and Confirmation II.

## **Adoration Chapel**

If you're looking for something to "give" — not "give up" for Lent, consider giving an hour of peace to yourself by signing up for an adoration hour. We have the following hours in need:

**Monday - 3:00 p.m. Partner**

Of course, any hour can be taken. Contact:

Andrea 201-874-8769; Marie 732-885-7972



## **YOUTH MINISTRY**

Youth Ministry meetings are on Mondays at 7:00pm in the Youth Ministry room.

If you would like to join or if you have any questions, please email me at

[youth.ministry@stmichaelnetcong.org](mailto:youth.ministry@stmichaelnetcong.org)

-Nicole

## **Come Pray the Rosary**

Monday through Saturday

9:30am in Church, before the 10am Mass

## **Knights of Columbus**

### **" FORTY CANS FOR LENT"**

Thank you to our fellow parishioners for helping the Knights of Columbus in our Forty Cans for Lent project. Because of your generosity, the parish food pantry has collected over 1,700 canned goods and other nonperishable food items. But, the need remains great. Please continue to donate as part of your Lenten sacrifice.

This week, peanut butter, jelly, pasta, pasta sauce, rice and box and packaged potatoes are especially needed. Thank you.

## **Congrats to William O'Mahony**

Congratulations to Knight of Columbus William O'Mahony, who has received Knight of the Year Award for 2022. Presented by the Netcong Council Grand Knight Mike Rosa. William's many hours of hard work with the food pantry, family projects along with his many Financial Secretary duties earned him this award.

## Ecumenical Cross Walk

will be held on Friday, April 7th, 2023 at 11 AM. Please join us as we walk with our Protestant brothers and sisters through the streets of Stanhope and Netcong reliving the Passion of our Lord. At each station there will be a brief hymn and reading. We will begin at the First Presbyterian Church in Stanhope at 11:00am and walk to the Stanhope UMC and then on to St. Michael Church for the conclusion. There will be five total stops and the procession will last around 90 minutes. Please see Deacon Russ or Father Mike if you have any questions.



### DOMINGO DE RAMOS DE LA PASIÓN DEL SEÑOR

#### Primera Lectura: Isaías 50:4-7

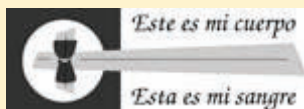
En un tono de calmada tristeza, Isaías describe los golpes e insultos dados al Siervo que Sufre. Este pasaje termina con un rayo de esperanza.

#### Segunda Lectura: Filipenses 2:6-11

Con gran gozo Pablo les dice a los filipenses que se regocijen pues Cristo se convirtió en hombre, murió en la cruz, se levantó de entre los muertos y está triunfalmente sentado a la derecha del Padre.

#### Evangelio: San Mateo 26:14—27:66

Esta es la solemne narrativa de la pasión y muerte de nuestro Señor Jesucristo. Mateo cuenta de la traición de Judas y luego describe los eventos de la Última Cena, culminando con la institución de la Eucaristía. Jesús soporta la agonía en el Jardín, luego es llevado frente a Caifás y Pilatos, y condenado a muerte. Luego de su resurrección, los centuriones gritaron: “¡En verdad este era el Hijo de Dios!”



### DOMINGO DE RAMOS DE LA PASIÓN DEL SEÑOR

#### Domingo

Mt 21:1-11; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11;  
Mt 26:14—27:66 or 27:11-54

#### Lunes

Is 42:1-7; Jn 12:1-11

#### Martes

Is 49:1-6; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

#### Miércoles

Is 50:4-9a; Mt 26:14-25

#### Jueves

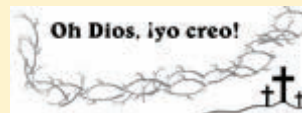
Misa Crismal: Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9; Rv 1:5-8; Lk 4:16-21  
Misa Vespertina de la Cena del Señor: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14;  
1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15

#### Primer Viernes

Is 52:13—53:12; Heb 4:14-16, 5:7-9;  
Jn 18:1—19:42

#### Sábado

Vigilia de Pascua: Gn 1:1—2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a; Gn 22:1-18  
o 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ex 14:15—15:1; Is 54:5-14;  
Is 55:1-11; Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4; Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28;  
Rom 6:3-11; Mt 28:1-10



### Domingo de Ramos de la Pasión del Señor 2 de abril de 2023

“Y si alguien les dice algo, respondan: ‘El Señor los necesita y los va a devolver en seguida’... El, que era de condición divina, no consideró esta igualdad con Dios como algo que debía guardar celosamente: al contrario, se anonadó a sí mismo, tomando la condición de servidor y haciéndose semejante a los hombres. Y presentándose con aspecto humano, se humilló hasta aceptar por obediencia la muerte y muerte de cruz.”

Es interesante la declaración: ‘El Señor los necesita.’ Hay una inversión de papeles, ya que Dios no nos necesita, sino que somos nosotros los que tenemos infinita necesidad de El. Por esto comenzamos la semana solemne, no por El sino por nosotros.

Nos embarcamos en una semana que llamamos santa, pero a través de nuestra oración, sacrificio y acción, hacemos que estos días sean realmente santos. Al reflexionar sobre las palabras de San Pablo, un himno de la temprana iglesia, estoy forzado a considerar qué grande fue el amor del Padre al mandarnos a Jesús como nuestro muy necesitado Salvador mientras que el derramaba Su sangre por nosotros, lo dió todo, pues lo necesitábamos. Se convirtió en uno de nosotros, excepto el pecado, para rescatarnos y traernos de regreso al Padre, que estaba y sigue esperando que respondamos. La inversión de papeles también incluye el hecho de que ‘El Señor nos necesita’ para continuar Su misión. ¿Está usted listo?

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