March 28, 2021

PALM SUNDAY



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91 Stillhouse Rd., Millstone Twp., NJ 08510 732-792-2270



MASS MASS

Saturday

5:00 PM

SUNDAY

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Mon. Tues. Wed. Fri.

9:00 AM

Masses are also livestreamed

SERVED BY

Rev. Michael P. Lang, Pastor

frmikestjoseph@optonline.net

Chris Chandonnet, Deacon

chrisstjoseph@optonline.net

Carmen Santos, Pastoral Associate carmenstjoseph@optonline.net

Genevieve Semanchick

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Jeanstjoseph@optonline.net

CONNECT

Fax: 732-792-2271

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www.stjosephmilistone.org

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@frmikestloseph

Some thoughts from Fr. Mike...

Dear Friends,

Palm Sunday is the start of Holy Week. Palm Sunday is a day of glory and impending tragedy. The scene is set with Jesus making a triumphant journey from Bethany to Jerusalem which would bring everything together through his death, crucified as a common criminal on a cross. The sight of Christ riding into Jerusalem on a donkey with people waving palm branches shouting "Hosanna" and acclaiming him as a conquering king, made the visiting crowds, gathered for the festival, stop in amazement. Little did they know that the rejoicing would quickly be swept aside. Before long, as triumph turned to tragedy, those palm branches were replaced by a cross and the hosannas became jeers and calls for his death.

Holy Week is the most sacred time of the Church year. The week ahead highlights the peak moments of Christ's love for us, gives us an opportunity to look at our lives and accept responsibility for our sins. The Passion story spells out the last events of the life of Jesus and makes clear the price he paid for our sinfulness. Jesus was betrayed by Judas, denied by Peter and abandoned by all. Filled with the feeling of complete and total loneliness, Jesus reached to God the Father for support. Jesus' death on the cross reminds every Christian that there is a God towards whom we journey and whose friendship and support we seek. We also become aware that in life we must be ready to meet the same fate as Jesus. We must always be ready to share in the suffering and death of Christ in order to share in Christ's glory. The road to eternal life will never bypass the hill of Calvary in one way or another.

This final week of Lent offers us an opportunity to bring our hearts and minds into harmony with Christ. The Liturgies of Holy Week call to us enter into the events of Jesus' passion and death, so that we can understand that our sins are just as responsible for the torment Jesus went through as everyone who participated in the actual event. Peter, Judas, Pilate and everyone else should cause us to reflect on the treachery and evil that sleeps within us all. No one can follow Jesus through the events of Holy Week without the truth dawning anew in our hearts and a better appreciation of the fact that Jesus loves us with a love that cost him death on a cross.

Peace, prayers and love to all of you,

Fr Míke

Mass Schedule + Readings

Saturday March- 27 Lenten Weekday

(Ez 37:21-28 Jn 11:45-56)

5:00pm Bernadette Lang 1/b Her Family

Sunday March- 28

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

 $(Mk\ 11:1-10\ or\ Jn\ 12:12-16\ ls\ 50:4-7\ Phil\ 2:6-11\ Mk\ 14:1-15:47\ or\ 15:1-39)$

9:00am Michael Schwenk 1/10 The Ladies of St Joseph

11:00am Albert Donnelly 1/10 The Gilch Family

Monday March- 29 Monday of Holy Week

(Is 42:1-7 Jn 12:1-11)

9:00am Chaekoehan Vadakke Puttram Parambil

r/b Val & Babu Perumpail

Tuesday March- 30 Tuesday of Holy Week

(ls 49:1-6 Jn 13:21-33; 36-38)

9:00am Al DeRosa 1/10 Frances DeRosa

Wednesday March- 31 Wednesday of Holy Week

(Is 50:4-9a Mt 26:14-25)

No Mass

Thursday April- 1 Holy Thursday

Mass of the Lord's Supper (Ex 12:1-8; 11-14/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15)

7:00pm Alina Naydenskaga 1/10 Anthony Buono

Friday April- 2 Good Friday

The Passion of the Lord

3:00pm (ls 52:13—53:12 Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9 Jp 18:1—19:42)

Saturday April- 3 **Holy 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 Mk 16:1-7)

7:00pm Luke David Bautista 1/16 Grandma

Sunday April-4 Easter Sunday

Resurrection of the Lord

(Acys 10:34a, 37-43 Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8 Jn 20:1-

8:00am Danuata Kulessa 1/10 Her Family

10:00am gason Sawicz Mb His Family

12:00noon Al DeRosa 1/10 Frances De Rosa

Sanctuary Candle... this week

Michael Schwenk r/b Jim & JoAnn Kronenthal

To dedicate a Sanctuary Candle in memory of or for the intention of a loved on. Please call the office @ 732-792-2270. The donation is \$10.00

Prayer Chain Contacts:

Patty Hileman 732-446-7651

Mary Costagliola 732-446-4255

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER LITURGY SCHEDULE

****PLEASE NOTE - There will not be morning Mass on Wednesday, March 31 *****

HOLY THURSDAY – April 1

7:00PM

HOLY SATURDAY - April 3

1:00PM Blessing of Food (Drive Up) 7:00PM – Easter Vigil (No 5:00PM Mass)

GOOD FRIDAY – April 2 3:00PM Liturgy

8:00 AM 10:00 AM 12:00 NOON

SOME INFORMATION ABOUT HOLY WEEK

It will indeed be a blessing that we are able to gather for the Liturgies of Holy Week this year. Last year, we did not have that option. While progress has been made, there are still some limitations that require some adjustments for our Holy Week Liturgies.

<u>HOLY THURSDAY</u> — We gather together to remember the Last Supper. The realities of what Jesus did and commanded us to do not change. This year, we will not be able to physically do the washing of the feet as is customary to remind us of the great command of service that Jesus gave us. However, it does not change the reality that we are called to serve one another. We will also not be able to process to an area of Reposition as we normally do and have people come throughout the night to sit with the Blessed Sacrament. But this does not diminish the fact the we are still called to reflect on the actions of Jesus and what He has given us.

GOOD FRIDAY – On Good Friday we gather to remember the Passion of Jesus. Part of the Liturgy is the Veneration of the Cross. This year we will not be able to have people come forward to touch the cross. Even without touching the cross, we are still called to accept the sacrifice Jesus made. There will still be time to reflect on the same thing.

EASTER VIGIL - This year we will not have the Easter Fire or the procession of everyone into the Church. We will also not have the sprinkling rite. However, we still acknowledge Jesus as the light of the world and we will still recommit ourselves to our Baptismal promises. The real focus of the Easter Vigil does not change in any way – Jesus is risen!

Indeed, some things will be different. However, the real focus of gathering together will not change. Holy Week is still holy. God still calls us to remember all that has been done for us. Maybe abstaining from some of the customs is not an entirely bad thing. Perhaps next year, when we are able to add those customs back into our celebrations, those actions will bring a renewed sense of meaning. When it comes to faith, challenges are not a new thing. While we adapt to the situation we face, we recognize that God will always be God and will lead us through the challenges to discover the new life that can only come from God.

<u>PALM SUNDAY</u> — While there will be public Masses on Palm Sunday, I understand some people are not ready to be in public settings. For those who would like palms but are not ready to be at public Mass, I will be in front of the Church at about 1:30PM to give Palms to those who want to drive up. I will stay around until 2:00PM.

<u>BLESSING OF EASTER FOOD</u> — It is tradition for some to have the food for Easter blessed. It is not advisable to have food brought into a public place. Therefore, as I did last year, I will be outside in front of the Church between 1:00PM and 1:30PM to bless food. Just drive up, open the window or pop the trunk (wherever the food is), and I will bless the food.

DONATION STATEMENTS

Anyone who needs a statement of donations for tax purposes is asked to send a self-addressed envelope to the parish office.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Due to the decrease in the cases of the Coronavirus, the number of people permitted in the church has increased. We have changed from permitting seating in every third pew to every other pew. All other policies remain in effect — masks must be worn and social distancing must be observed. We will continue to seat people and space people in the pews. It is good to see the number of cases drop, but we must still be careful so that the numbers do not climb again. There is reason to be hopeful as more people receive vaccines so let us continue to pray that we remain on the path that will put this behind us.

RITE of Christian Initiation of Adults

The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is a wonderful faith journey for those who wish to be Baptized, those who are Baptized and are now interested are interested in joining the Catholic Church and those who have not completed the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation). The RCIA is a journey of faith where people are encouraged to discern God's call in their lives. It is not a typical classroom setting. Our Catholic beliefs are introduced and explained and participants in the RCIA are encouraged to see how our beliefs, practices, Liturgies and Sacraments can have an impact in everyday situations. Anyone and everyone is invited to "come and see" to find out if the RCIA process is what you are being drawn to in your life. RCIA sessions are ready to resume, although at this time the meetings will be help outdoors or via Zoom. If you are interested or would like more information, contact Fr. Mike – frmikestjoseph@optonline.net or 732-792-2270.

FOOD COLLECTION

You can still drop off donations in the box on the lower level or in the bin that is outside the front door to help those who may need something. The need for assistance continues to grow. Food banks are receiving more requests for assistance as people face financial challenges. Your donations are appreciated and your donations continue to reach those who are in need.

<u>SUNDAY MASS</u> – We do have public celebration of Sunday Mass on Saturday evening at 5:00 PM and Sunday morning at 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM. We only have one-third of the capacity in the Church. Please remember that masks must be worn and cover mouth and nose. Also, **doors are locked at the start of Mass** so that there is no need for people to wander around looking for a seat – so please arrive before Mass begins. Masses will also be live streamed at https://vimeo.com/event/106444, on our parish website at www.stjosephmillstone.org/live-stream on our Facebook Page www.facebook.com/stjosephchurchmillstone and on the Parish YouTube channel www.youtube.com/c/StJosephChurchMillstoneTwp (*** PLEASE NOTE, there have been some issues getting the live stream to stay connected to YouTube, if you normally watch the live stream on YouTube but do not see it, please try one of the other connections. Vimeo is the main location for the live stream.)

DAILY MASS

The public gathering for Mass takes place at 9:00 AM on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday with no more than 50 people. Mass will also be live streamed at 9:00 AM on those days. If you miss the live stream, it is recorded and available to watch later on. The links for the live stream of daily Mass are the same as those for Sunday Mass which you can find in the Sunday Mass announcement above this announcement.

PARISH GROUPS

Thankfully, the number of cases of the Coronavirus is once again dropping. It is now possible to allow groups that wish to meet to do so in the Parish Hall. All precautions remain in effect – masks must be worn and social distancing must be observed. If your group wishes to meet, be aware of the following:

- Only one group at a time can meet and all meetings will take place in the Parish Hall.
- You must contact Fr. Mike about your desire to meet
- No materials may be handed out or brought out (candles, statues, etc.
- No food is to be served
- After the meeting, a list of those who attended must be given to the parish office

A NOTE ON MASKS

Masks are required for all events in the Church. Masks must cover mouth and nose and form a barrier. Some people have started wearing clear plastic masks that are meant for food preparation. Those masks do not meet the criteria for helping to block the spread of disease. Those masks do not form a barrier at the nose. We are adhering to the recommendations prescribed by the professionals as well as the regulations of the Diocese. Thank you for cooperating and having a willingness to protect the health of others.

FOOD COLLECTION

You can still drop off donations in the box on the lower level or in the bin that is outside the front door to help those who may need something. The need for assistance continues to grow. Food banks are receiving more requests for assistance as people face financial challenges. Your donations are appreciated and your donations continue to reach those who are in need.

BAPTISMS

We are scheduling Baptisms. The number of people permitted at a Baptism is limited. Only one family at a time will be scheduled for Baptism. It is good news that we are welcoming God's little ones. Those who would like to schedule a Baptism, may call the parish office to schedule the Baptism of your child.

HELP US TO BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU

The Parish uses Flocknotes which is a program to send out email and text messages to parishioners. This will allow us to stay in touch about parish events, emergency closings and important information. To benefit from this, you must sign up with your cell phone number and/or email address. In the present time, it is important that we have a way to get news out to everyone. We will use Flocknotes to let parents know if Religious Education classes are canceled and we send out reminders about scheduled closings for holidays, etc. It is easy to be on the notification list – just text the code sjmill to 84576 and follow the prompts. You may also go to our website to be included – stjosephmillstone.org/flocknotes. Just enter your information and follow the prompts. You can then select the groups that you want information from. All information is confidential. Others are not able to view your information. Please remember that email and text message will be sent from Flocknotes. Thanks!

STAY CONNECTED - FIND THE LATEST NEWS

Don't forget to stay in touch with parish events through social media. Find out what is going on at our website at www.stjosephmillstone.org. Connect with the parish on Facebook. Give our page a like to keep informed about events. You can find the parish page on Facebook at St. Joseph Catholic Church Millstone Twp. NJ or @stjosephchurchmillstone. Stay informed — stay connected!



A convenient way to donate is through online

Parish Giving. This is offered free of charge to you so that you may make donations by credit card or transfer from your checking account. Check it out at www.stjosephmillstone.org and click on "Contribute/Donate" then click on the link for Electronic Giving. You can then set up an account or choose a onetime donation without an account. If you have any questions about this, please email or leave a message for Fr. Mike

SHOP AT AMAZON - SUPPORT THE PARISH

Help support the parish by designating St. Joseph

Church as the charity you wish to support. Eligible purchases will result in Amazon donating a portion to the parish. You do have to designate St. Joseph Church, Millstone Twp. as your charity. You also have to use the Amazon Smile site instead of the normal Amazon site.

Go to http://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-6103657

(a direct link) or go to our website and click the link. Thanks for your support!

Covid-19 Vaccine

If you know of any seniors who may not have technology to go online, please help them to be aware of the process or help them to know the information.

As of January 14, 2021, the following groups are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine:

- Paid or unpaid persons working or volunteering in a healthcare setting
- Residents of long-term care facilities and other congregate settings
- Frontline first responders
- Persons aged 65 and older
- Persons aged 16 to 64 years old who have at least one chronic medical condition that poses high-risk for severe COVID-19:

 - Chronic Kidney Disease Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

 - Heart conditions (e.g. heart failure, coronary artery disease, cardiomyopathies)
 - Immunocompromised (weakened immune system) due to organ transplant (consult with your doctor)
- · Obesity (e.g. body mass index of 30kg/m2 or higher)
- · Pregnancy (consult with your doctor)
- Sickle cell disease
- · Type 2 diabetes mellitus

These groups can start making vaccination appointments. More groups will become eligible in the coming weeks.

To register for a COVID-19 vaccine visit covidvaccine.nj.gov

For a list of open vaccination sites nearest to you and to learn more, visit covid19.nj.gov/vaccine



PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Office: 732-792-2270

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9:30AM - 2:30PM Mailing Address: 91 Stillhouse Road

Millstone Twp, NJ 08510

WWW.STJOSEPHMILLSTONE.ORG

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Michael P. Lang - Pastor frmikestjoseph@optonline.net

Chris Chandonnet, Permanent Deacon Chrisstjoseph@optonline.net

Jean Semanchick, Parish Secretary & Coordinator of Religious Education Jeanstjoseph@optonline.net

Carmen Santos, Pastoral Associate carmenstjoseph@optonline.net

Kristine Reide, Music Ministry Leader
Kris0373@aol.com

MASS TIMES

Saturday Evening - 5:00 PM

Sunday Morning - 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM

Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri - 9:00AM

Holy Days: as listed in the bulletin

Confessions: At this time, Confessions are Offered by appointment only.

<u>BAPTISM</u> – The Sacrament of Baptism is normally celebrated on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month at 12:30 PM. Parents are asked to register for a Baptism Preparation Session prior to the Baptism. Baptisms must be scheduled in advance by calling the Parish Office. Sponsors must obtain Sponsor forms from their home parish – Sponsors must be active practicing Catholics. The Sacrament of Baptism is not celebrated during the Season of Lent.

<u>Marriage</u> – Diocesan policy requires that arrangements for Marriage be made one (1) year in advance of the wedding. Refer any questions to the Pastor.

<u>Sick Calls</u> – Please contact the Parish Office when someone is seriously ill requiring a visit by a Priest. If someone is unable to attend Mass on a regular basis and would like to receive Communion please call the Parish Office

<u>Registration</u> – We are glad you are here and want you to feel like a full member of the parish. Registering as a parishioner helps us to know who you are and to stay in touch. Registration is required for sponsor forms.

<u>Sponsor Certificates</u> – This is a form required to be a Godparent or Sponsor for Confirmation. To receive a form, the following is required: -Be a registered, active (attends Mass) member of the parish (for at least 6 months); be at least 16 years of age; must have completed the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation; If married, have a valid marriage within the Church.

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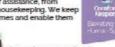
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