



Hosanna!

HOSANNA is the first word. It means “Grant salvation!” or “Save, we pray!” It is a salutation, exultation, jubilation, celebration word, a good word for greeting a leader, a lord, a hero, a popular person. “Hosanna!” gets Holy Week off to a rousing start. In the beginning, they are enthusiastic: "Hosanna, Son of David, alleluia king, prophet." There are flowers, trumpet blasts, nervous animals, dancing children, cloaks, colors, royal purple. In the end, he is hanging on the cross: "Away with him, get lost, impostor, fall dead, perish." Gall, pain, sweat, spittle, the dark smell of blood on the earth, wailing, mourning, and he himself shouting: "Lama, lama Sabatini?" ("My God, my God, why have you deserted me?")

What a radical change, from the flowers to the mud, from the headlines to a cold, humid cave. How often has this story repeated itself in human history? Is it not, in a way, our very own story, the story of every country, every person, every presidency, of the whole world? All the good intentions at the beginning, the new life, the fresh start, the first blessings, are often hemmed in by betrayal and sin, pride and greed, lust and ill-will. He underwent it all. When they shouted alleluia, even some in his company said: "Tell them to be quiet." He underwent it all when he stood before his judges. He underwent it all when they pressed his last drop of courage, his last drop of blood, out of his body and he shouted: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" But there was no help that time. He bent his head and died.

If Jesus had remained dead, if his death were the end of his story, there would be no Christ to follow, there would be no Church, no Christianity. It is only because God raised Jesus from the dead that he is a success. His success, his role as Christ, his name of 'Lord' were given to him after his death. Indeed, without the resurrection, there would be no Gospels, because there would be no 'good news' to tell. But Christians do not see Jesus from the purely human perspective and in the light of mere human history; they see him with the eyes of faith and in the light of his resurrection.

The lesson which all Christians should draw from Jesus' suffering which leads to success is that there can be no limit to the service which they are invited to render to their fellow human beings. If Jesus served others to the point of death, so should his disciples.

Can a true disciple of Jesus - to whom Jesus says 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me' - really be successful by human standards?

How successful are you in following the Lord?





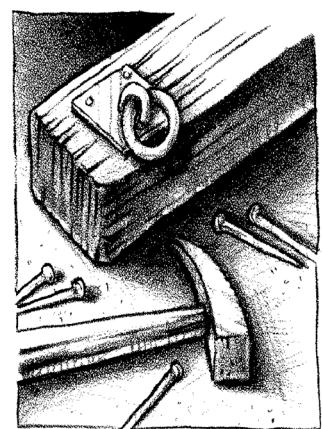
In Christian tradition, Holy Week retells the story that begins with Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and ends in Resurrection Sunday, or Easter. But it's really more than just a revisiting of an ancient narrative. It's an intensely theological journey that speaks deeply about God's initiating work of love in and through Jesus, for the sake of the world. In a way, this story summarizes God's mission in the world.

On Palm Sunday, Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey, inspiring misplaced hope, disillusionment, and disinterest. The ones crying "Hosanna" very likely anticipated a Messiah of their own design, one who would come in the kind of power that would expel the Romans and re-establish Israel as its own nation. Others would catch on, turning away from this would-be Messiah riding humbly on a donkey rather than galloping in with troops and weapons. The Romans seem to be disinterested, because they take no action against this peasant who seems to present no threat to the empire.

Palm Sunday shows that God's intentions are played out in ways that are counter to what people anticipate. The work of God often scandalizes human expectation. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week are considered days to reflect on a variety of events that lead up to Maundy Thursday, the day that commemorates what we have come to call The Last Supper.

At the table of Jesus on Maundy Thursday, Jesus engages his disciples, first of all, in a very human way—he eats with them. It's a basic thing that human beings do. In that meal, Jesus shares a common humanity through a common meal. It is also a theologically symbolic meal in two ways. First, it is a meal that takes the symbols of the Jewish Passover and reframes them in what God is about to do in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Second, the meal is celebrated at a table that not only represents all of Israel (12 disciples, 12 tribes of Israel), but also represents the entire broken world that God loves. The disciples represent a humanity that is simultaneously devoted, confused, misdirected, cowardly, and treacherous. Yet they are all invited to Jesus' table, regardless of their lack of pious qualifications.

On Friday Jesus experiences that which is inevitable for all human beings: Death. We recognize that in this death something more is happening than just the expiration of a life. Something in this death changes the landscape of the entire cosmos. Yet, on the surface, it appears that once again sin and death have had their way with another righteous person. And, indeed, they have.



Saturday is when all goes silent. It is the day of sadness and disillusionment. It is a day of doubts and heartbreaks. It is the place where the dark night of the soul is born. It is its own kind of sacred space, one which will, at one time or another, be inhabited by all. And yet it remains part of the week that we call Holy.

On Sunday the tomb opens and Jesus is raised from the grave. Sin and death did their work on Friday, but it was all undone on Sunday. Sin and death continue to do their work in the world, but it is clear that they do not have the last word. In the Resurrection of Jesus he is reborn, so to speak, by the Spirit and in him the people of God are reborn and re-launched into the world. In this new life is the possibility of new life for all, a life where hope trumps fear.



Holy Week is an atonement week, where the events of these last days sum up all that God is doing in the world. God fully identifies with us in the very human life, suffering and death of Jesus. God's rescue mission for the world comes to us as God's preferences and intentions rather than in the framework of military or political power. The table of Jesus shows God's invitation to be broad and generous, preparing places for even the least of the righteous. And in the Resurrection we have new life, in this age and in the age to come. May God richly bless you in this Holy Week. May the reality of what God has done in and through Jesus Christ be a story that reconstructs the story of your life, and through your new life may God bring blessing to all the families of the earth.

The Sacred Triduum

Holy Thursday March 29,

Mass of the Lord's Supper 8:00 p.m.

Good Friday March 30

**8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer 12:00 Noon – 1:00 p.m. Time for Reflection
1:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross 2:00 p.m. Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ
5:30 p.m. Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross**

**Holy Saturday March 31,
8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer 8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil**

Easter at St. Christopher 2018

Sacrament of Reconciliation
March 27th, Tuesday at 7:00pm

March 29th, HOLY THURSDAY
Mass of the Lord's Supper 8:00 p.m.

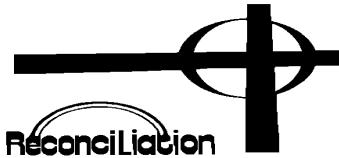
March 30th—GOOD FRIDAY

12—Noon—1:00p.m. Time for Reflection
1:00pm—Stations of the Cross
2:00pm—Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ
5:30pm-7:00pm—Soup Supper
7:00pm—Stations of the Cross

March 31st—HOLY SATURDAY
8:00pm EASTER VIGIL

April 1st—EASTER SUNDAY
6:30, 8:00, 9:30, 11:00a.m and 12:30p.m
No 6:00 p.m. Mass

Add'l Masses in Healy Hall for 8:00, 9:30, 11:00a.m



LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE

Please bring your families to our St. Christopher Lenten Reconciliation service on Tuesday, March 27TH at 7pm in the Church. It is a wonderful opportunity to join our sisters and brothers in Christ in asking for forgiveness and healing in preparation for Easter.

EASTER FLOWERS IN MEMORY OF LOVED ONES

The envelopes for Easter flower donations are placed near the entrances to the church. The name of your loved one will be placed in the bulletin.



Gilbert Catano, Sarah Carolyn DeCarli, Donald DeCarli, Steven DeCarli, Bernice DeCarli, Agnes Wallace, Edward Wallace, Mary Ann Wallace, Donald Wallace, Karen Wallace, Helen Blackford, Danny Blackford, Eva Hazen, Eleanor Alexander, Eugene, Marie, & Dino Kubiak, Suzanne Fournier, Sylvia Rankin, Joseph Ryniewicz, Anita & Pedro Roa, Elwood & Josephine Lausten, Louis & Carrie Lausten, Giuseppe & Lena Zinola, Josephine Emmite, Frank & Rose Emmite, Ignazio & Giulia Filice, Frank Emmite, Bud Cabral, Manuel & Evelyn Perry, Marlene Williamson, Jean Taddie, Harry Amoroso, Ramona Zuniga, William Simon, Paul & Mary Sue Simon, Bill & Loretta Bunce, John, Lena, James & Vernon Hickey, David Muller, Renate Duran, Susi Burdick, Carlos Escalfullery, Deceased members of the Harper and Levin Families, Eva Moses, Nicole, Damen, Ansha, Natrini, Jim, Jo, Janette, Jen, & Sukhndor

ADA 2018

ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL

A big **Thank You** to the 654 families who have already replied to the 2018 ADA. With your support we have reached our goal of \$222,522 that was set by the Diocese. If you have not yet responded to ADA your participation is more important now than ever. Why? Because all money donated over and above our goal is 100% rebated back to the parish.

Extra ADA envelopes can be found in the back of the Church as well as in the Parish Office. Or you can call the Parish Office at 269-2226 to have one mailed to you. Again, thank you all for your support and God Bless you and your family.

Good Friday "Soup Supper"

Friday, March 30th
5:30 – 7:00 pm
Healy Hall

Bring the whole family!

A variety of vegetarian soups, warm garlic bread, cookies and refreshments will be served.

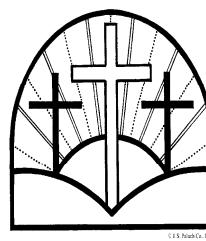
Come enjoy a delicious simple soup dinner with friends, family and fellow parishioners.

Monetary donations are appreciated at the door and proceeds go directly to the St. Christopher Community Outreach Program.

Please note that drinking is not encouraged in observance of Good Friday.

Volunteers for help are welcome!

Please contact:
Kerry Murphy @ 408-300-3185



Parish office will be closed Monday, April 2nd to Friday April 6th in observance of the Easter Holiday, and will re-open on Monday, April 9th. During that week Monday-Friday there will **only** be an 8:30am Mass No 6:30am Mass. Have a happy and safe holiday!!



Please save your white Callalilies from your yards for Holy Thursday decorations in the church and for the Altar of Repose. We will have buckets set out at the front entrance to the church on Thursday, March 29th to put the flowers in by 9 am. Thank you.



SATURDAY, MARCH 24

- 4:30 Yvonne Pine, Paul Tedesco, Paula Belshaw, Lorraine Dipaolo, Harold Alphonse

SUNDAY, MARCH 25

- 6:30 Yvonne Pine, Ed & Evelyn Brandon
 8:00 Yvonne Pine, Michael Giammona, Erlinoa Mercado
 9:30 Yvonne Pine, Shirley Khor, Elizabeth Bedard
 11:00 Yvonne Pine, Bill Simon, Sam Imelli, Maietto Family, Gina Piazza, Arthur & Mary Volkman
 12:30 Yvonne Pine, Violante Martignetti
 6:00 Yvonne Pine

Ladies' Guild

Ladies' Guild is seeking women of our parish and school to serve on the Executive Board. Positions are available for 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer or Secretary.

In addition, Ladies' Guild is seeking 7 women to be on the Elections Committee to vote for the new Executive board. We need 3 Ladies' Guild members (school or non-school) and 4 board members (2 from school and 2 non-school).

For more information about these positions, visit www.stchrisladiesguild.org/join-the-board or contact Vicki Marchant, Ladies' Guild Parliamentarian, at vixcancook@gmail.com or 650-222-2279.



Pray for the ill in our Parish

Jeri Irvin
 Louise Romeo
 Shelly Erkel
 Mary Seebach Sleeper
 Patti Ernsberger
 Monroe Legg
 Bill Percy

Roz LeFevre
 Roy LeFevre,
 Martha Gregersen,
 Charles Gregersen,
 Dave Oliverio,
 Al Trznadel

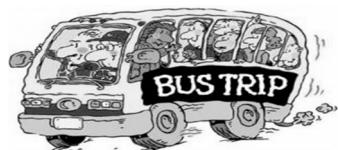


IN REMEMBRANCE
Let us pray for all who have died, that they may rejoice with the Risen Lord, especially:

Carol Rita Jaech,
 and Luisa Castillo

Over 50's

The April meeting and luncheon will be held April 6, 2018 one week earlier. Chicken Pot Pie will be served. The price is \$8.00. Please send you money to Lore McCoy by March 30, 2018. Also at this meeting the election of officers for 2018-2019 will be held.



Remember the Casino Bus trip to Cache Creek is April 4, 2018. There are still seats available. Contact Pat DeMarlo for more information.

God Bless and have a very HAPPY EASTER!.

A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus



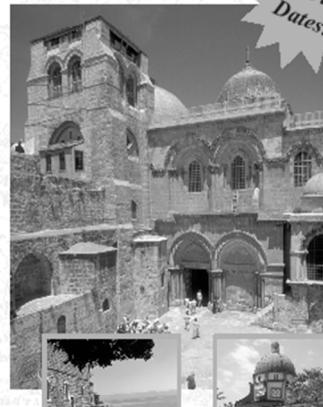
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- ❖ Nazareth - Site of Annunciation
- ❖ Boat Ride on Sea of Galilee
- ❖ Mt of Beatitudes & Capernaum
- ❖ Jordan River – Baptismal vow renewal
- ❖ Bethlehem – birthplace of Jesus
- ❖ Jerusalem – Mt of Olives & Mt Zion
- ❖ Upper Room & Garden of Gethsemane
- ❖ Via Dolorosa & Holy Sepulchre
- ❖ Plus much, much more



Pricing, Color Brochure and Registration available after November 15, 2017

To be placed on the priority mailing list to receive your full color brochure and registration form please contact:



Rev. Christopher Bennett
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 1576 Curtner Ave, San Jose, CA 95125
 Phone: 408-269-2226 ext. 202
 Email: revbennett@sbcglobal.net

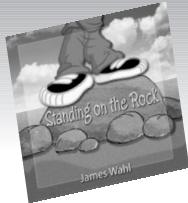


FYI

Starting April 2nd, the side walks in front of the Msgr. Allen center will be repaired. You will only be able to enter the parking lot on the Curtner Ave. side.

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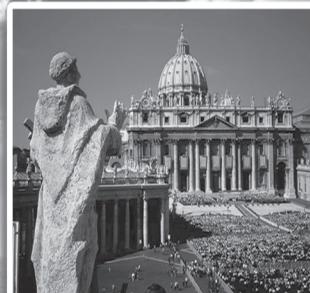
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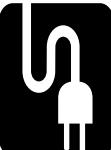
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Turning 65?

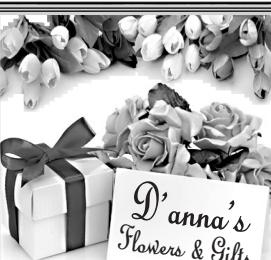
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