

**Palm Sunday**

**April 5, 2020**



**ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**15 St. Joseph Street Bonne Terre, MO 63628**



**Established  
In 1873**

573.358.2112

[www.saintjosephchurch.org](http://www.saintjosephchurch.org)



**The Archdiocese of St. Louis has mandated  
the suspension  
of all public Masses in order to slow the  
spread of COVID-19.**



**ST. ANNE  
CATHOLIC CHURCH  
FRENCH VILLAGE, MO**



**Established  
In 1828**



**VATICAN CITY -**

The prayer by Pope Francis for a special Mass and act of prayer asking Mary to protect Italy and the world during the coronavirus pandemic.  
[www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

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*O Mary,  
 you always shine on our path  
 as a sign of salvation and of hope.  
 We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,  
 who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your  
 faith firm.  
 You, Salvation of the Roman People,  
 know what we need,  
 and we are sure you will provide  
 so that, as in Cana of Galilee,  
 we may return to joy and to feasting  
 after this time of trial.  
 Help us, Mother of Divine Love,  
 to conform to the will of the Father  
 and to do as we are told by Jesus,  
 who has taken upon himself our sufferings  
 and carried our sorrows  
 to lead us, through the cross,  
 to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.*

*Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.*

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**Please tell your fellow parishioners who do not have computers or access to the internet that our parish bulletin will be available for outside pickup.**



*Fresh palms will be available outside in buckets of water at the top of the steps at St. Joseph Church on Palm Sunday, Monday & Tuesday.*

**Please remember that during these difficult days collections remain essential to even the limited operations of our parishes. We encourage you to mail in your contributions and special collection envelopes to our Parish Office. You may also drop your envelopes in the mail drop slot to the right side of the Rectory door or bring to the front door. Please do not place your contributions in the bulletin mail box. Thank you for your continued support.**

**Church Restoration**

Thank you for your pledges and donations to date for the restoration of our Church. We have formally started the process of painting the Church. We are very appreciative of your support and encouragement.



**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

**Please call the Rectory office if you have a need for an individual private confession. Confessions will continue to be heard Saturday afternoons from 3:15 – 3:45 pm**

**Bingo**

Due to the COVID-19 virus, Bingo has been cancelled until further notice in order to protect our workers and players.

**Your Gift to God**

*March 28 & 29, 2020*

	<b>St. Joseph</b>	<b>St. Anne</b>
<b>Envelopes</b>	\$2,297.00	\$260.00
<b>Loose</b>	-0-	-0-
<b>Church Restoration</b>	4,590.00	-0-
<b>Easter</b>	20.00	-0-
<b>Catholic Relief Serv.</b>	60.00	-0-

<b>2019-20 Budgeted Amounts</b>	
Envelopes/Loose	
St. Joseph \$3,644	St. Anne \$750
for 52 weeks	

**Palm Sunday – April 5, 2020**

## Jesus: Servant and Savior

During Holy Week, we come to the point where Jesus lives the paschal mystery at its most profound depth. In the selection of weekday Scriptures and the Good Friday liturgy, the Church presents a portrait of Jesus in which he is consistently depicted as Servant. We hear readings from what are called the *Servant Songs* from the second section of the Book of Isaiah (chapters 40–55). As we move through the week’s readings, we discover how this portrayal evolves.

On Monday, as the week begins, we hear the first of four consecutive passages from the Servant Songs. In Isaiah 42:1, God introduces the servant: “Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, upon whom I have put my Spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations.” As a mediator of justice, he will bring about God’s right relationship with the nations. He will do this by caring for the weak and needy: “A bruised reed he shall not break” (Isa 42:3a).

The servant speaks of his own personal struggles in Tuesday’s text, even questioning if he had toiled in vain to do God’s will (Isa 49:4). Then God speaks, affirming that these sufferings are redemptive; the servant not only will restore the tribes of Jacob, but also will be a light to the nations (Isa 49:6), bearing God’s salvation to the ends of the earth.

On Wednesday, Isaiah depicts the servant as a disciple waiting upon the word of his Master. “Morning after morning [God] opens my ear that I may hear; I have not rebelled, have not turned back” (Isa 50:5). The servant’s faith in God’s protection remains strong: “The Lord GOD is my help, therefore I am not disgraced; I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame” (Isa 50:7). We hear echoes of Sunday’s Passion account, which describes how Jesus was mistreated during his trial and afterwards: “I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; my face I did not shield from buffets and spitting.” Patient suffering characterizes both the Servant Song and the Passion.

The fourth and final Servant Song, a masterpiece of both theology and poetic imagery, is a most fitting text for Good Friday. “Through his suffering, my servant will justify many, and their guilt he shall bear. . . . He surrendered himself to death and was counted among the wicked; and he shall take away the sins of many, and win pardon for their offenses” (Isa 53:11b, 12b). This powerful poem prepares us to hear the Passion according to John. In a way, this Fourth Servant Song also serves as a prelude to Easter: the paschal mystery, as lived out by Jesus, God’s servant, brings the world its redemption through forgiveness of our sins. The servant has borne the weight of our misdeeds and brought us reconciliation with God.

Each day of Holy Week ushers us more deeply into the way in which Jesus models servanthood: as a mediator of justice, a faithful light of hope, a true disciple of God, and a suffering Redeemer. Such selfless service can only lead to glory!

—Abbot Primate Gregory Polan

*Gregory Polan, OSB, is Abbot Primate of the worldwide Benedictine Confederation. He served as abbot of Conception Abbey for twenty years before being elected Abbot Primate. He is also editor of The Abbey Psalms and Canticles and The Ecumenical Grail Psalter.*



## The Pastors Workshop

Sometimes ‘old school’ things work rather well. A couple of weeks ago I thought it might be good for me, as the pastor, to begin telephoning each

listed household in the parish just to find out how folks were doing. I’ve got a bit more time to fill since we have been required to stay home from non-essential tasks. Some phones tell me that phones have filled mail boxes, others are disconnected, still others I just left a message as people were maybe at work. Generally for the others, my calls have been met very kindly. I don’t think I’ve had a single hang-up, or cold shoulder. Sometimes there was a pregnant pause....but generally everyone has been sweet. Nobody wondered whether I was calling for money. Most have been quite grateful that I made the effort to call, and told me so. **This made me feel pretty good.** Frankly, it hasn’t been hard.....and I had some wonderful conversations with people I might not speak to otherwise. It seems that more than a few of you do not have computers (thus no parish webpage access), but most do have phones. These days I think we need to really work at staying connected. I even ‘face timed’ with one of my siblings – a bit of a leap into modernity. I’ve found in talking that many, especially our retired folks feel more depressed as they have become true ‘shut ins.’ This is understandable, and the regularity of days that were overcast or rainy has not been helpful. I’ve also learned that more of you are watching Mass on television (or streaming it – if you have the internet), than I would have first guessed. I’m glad of that. I’ve learned that puzzles fill the time....and that a good walk each day is uplifting. I know that I have to give myself a little pep talk each morning, and remind myself that ‘this too will pass.’ Today is Palm Sunday, and Easter is around the corner. There is no way to sugar coat it – the typical holiday will not be the same. It may be exceptionally difficult .....maybe a bit lonely. Maybe this year we will appreciate the meaning of ‘sacrifice’ in a way we never did before. It is ‘passion week’. If there is a week to truly appreciate the message of Jesus, ‘*My God, My God, why have you abandoned me?*’, it would be Holy Week. Still we know that there is a Resurrection, if only we remain connected to Our Lord through it all. I know God has a plan for me, may I trust in his will for me. God bless you all.

Fr. Steve

**Perfect Contrition and Spiritual Communion**  
**What to do if you cannot go to Confession or Holy Communion due to the COVID-19 coronavirus.**



If you have to self-isolate or are quarantined due to the COVID-19 coronavirus, it is unlikely that you will be able to receive the sacraments as normal. In these circumstances, there are devotions through which you can receive absolution for your sins, (under certain conditions), and the consolation of Eucharistic grace. These devotions are officially encouraged by the Church and have been practiced by saints.

**How to make an Act of Perfect Contrition**

Through an act of Perfect Contrition, you receive pardon for your sins outside of confession, even mortal sins, on condition that you determine to amend your life and make a firm resolution to go to sacramental confession as soon as this becomes possible for you.

- Perfect Contrition is a grace from God, so sincerely ask for this gift throughout the day prior to making your act of contrition: "My God, grant me perfect contrition for all my sins".
1. In reality or imagination kneel at the foot of a crucifix and say to yourself: "Jesus, my God and my Saviour, in the midst of your agony, you remembered me, you suffered for me, you wished to wipe away my sins".
  2. Contrition is 'perfect' if you repent of your sins because you love God and are sorry for offending Him and causing the sufferings of Christ on the cross. Before the Crucified Christ remember your sins, repent of them because they have brought our Lord to His sufferings on the Cross. Promise him, that with His help, you will not sin again.
  3. Recite, slowly and sincerely, an act of contrition focused on the goodness of God and your love of Jesus: "O my God, because you are so good, I am very sorry that I have sinned against you and by the help of your grace I will not sin again, Amen".
  4. Make a firm resolution to go to sacramental confession as soon as practically possible.

**How to make a Spiritual Communion**

The key to Spiritual Communion is to grow in your heart a constant desire for the Blessed Sacrament.

1. If you are aware of serious or mortal sin, make an Act of Perfect Contrition.
2. Imagine the sacred words and actions of the Mass or watch online or on TV.
3. Make all those acts of faith, humility, sorrow, adoration, love and desire that you usually express before Holy Communion.
4. Desire, with earnest longing, to receive our Lord present — Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity — in the Blessed Sacrament.
5. Say this prayer of St. Alphonsus de Liguori: "My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Blessed Sacrament, I love You above all things, and I desire You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You are already there, I embrace You and unite myself wholly to You; do not let me ever be separated from You, Amen.
6. After moments of silent adoration make all those acts of faith, humility, love, thanksgiving and offering that you usually express through prayers after Holy Communion.



**Holy Virgin of Guadalupe,**

Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas. We fly to you today as your beloved children. We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother, and gain for our nation and world, and for all our families and loved ones, the protection of your holy angels, that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted, we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance. Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful, wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing, teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind. Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence, knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother, breath of the sick and cause of our joy.

Shelter us under the mantle of your protection, keep us in the embrace of your arms, help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

**AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

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



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