



**ST PETER THE FISHERMAN**  
**ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

ST. MICHAEL - HOLY NAME OF JESUS - SACRED HEART - ST. TIMOTHY  
CHERRYFIELD MACHIAS LUBEC CAMPOBELLO ISLAND

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# GOOD FRIDAY

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*The Crucified Christ* by Baroque painter Diego Velazquez (1632)

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*We often say, "A picture speaks a thousand words." However, there are no words outside of God's Word that better describes the painting above than St. John's account of the Passion of Christ that we read today.*

*My words could only serve as a sub-standard repetition.  
Therefore, for today's reflection, let the Word suffice.*

John 18:1 - 19:42

*Jesus went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to where there was a garden, into which he and his disciples entered. Judas his betrayer also knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples.*

*So Judas got a band of soldiers and guards from the chief priests and the Pharisees and went there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. Jesus, knowing everything that was going to happen to him, went out and said to them, "Whom are you looking for?" They answered him, "Jesus the Nazorean." He said to them, "I AM." Judas his betrayer was also with them.*

*When he said to them, "I AM," they turned away and fell to the ground. So he again asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" They said, "Jesus the Nazorean." Jesus answered, "I told you that I AM. So if you are looking for me, let these men go." This was to fulfill what he had said, "I have not lost any of those you gave me."*

*Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear.*

*The slave's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its scabbard. Shall I not drink the cup that the Father gave me?"*

*So the band of soldiers, the tribune, and the Jewish guards seized Jesus, bound him, and brought him to Annas first. He was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had counseled the Jews that it was better that one man should die rather*

*than the people.*

*Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus.  
Now the other disciple was known to the high  
priest,  
and he entered the courtyard of the high priest with  
Jesus. But Peter stood at the gate outside.*

*So the other disciple, the acquaintance of the high  
priest,  
went out and spoke to the gatekeeper and brought  
Peter in. Then the maid who was the gatekeeper  
said to Peter,  
"You are not one of this man's disciples, are you?"  
He said, "I am not."*

*Now the slaves and the guards were standing  
around a charcoal fire that they had made, because  
it was cold,  
and were warming themselves.  
Peter was also standing there keeping warm.*

*The high priest questioned Jesus  
about his disciples and about his doctrine.  
Jesus answered him,  
"I have spoken publicly to the world.  
I have always taught in a synagogue  
or in the temple area where all the Jews gather,  
and in secret I have said nothing. Why ask me?  
Ask those who heard me what I said to them.  
They know what I said."*

*When he had said this, one of the temple guards  
standing there struck Jesus and said,  
"Is this the way you answer the high priest?"  
Jesus answered him,  
"If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong;  
but if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike  
me?"  
Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high  
priest.*

*Now Simon Peter was standing there keeping  
warm.  
And they said to him,  
"You are not one of his disciples, are you?"  
He denied it and said,  
"I am not."  
One of the slaves of the high priest,  
a relative of the one whose ear Peter had cut off,  
said,  
"Didn't I see you in the garden with him?"  
Again Peter denied it.*

*And immediately the cock crowed.*

*Then they brought Jesus from Caiaphas to the praetorium. It was morning.*

*And they themselves did not enter the praetorium, in order not to be defiled so that they could eat the Passover.*

*So Pilate came out to them and said,  
"What charge do you bring against this man?"*

*They answered and said to him,*

*"If he were not a criminal,  
we would not have handed him over to you."*

*At this, Pilate said to them,*

*"Take him yourselves, and judge him according to your law." The Jews answered him,*

*"We do not have the right to execute anyone, "  
in order that the word of Jesus might be fulfilled  
that he said indicating the kind of death he would  
die.*

*So Pilate went back into the praetorium  
and summoned Jesus and said to him,*

*"Are you the King of the Jews?"*

*Jesus answered,*

*"Do you say this on your own  
or have others told you about me?"*

*Pilate answered,*

*"I am not a Jew, am I?"*

*Your own nation and the chief priests handed you  
over to me. What have you done?"*

*Jesus answered,*

*"My kingdom does not belong to this world.*

*If my kingdom did belong to this world,*

*my attendants would be fighting*

*to keep me from being handed over to the Jews.*

*But as it is, my kingdom is not here."*

*So Pilate said to him,*

*"Then you are a king?"*

*Jesus answered,*

*"You say I am a king.*

*For this I was born and for this I came into the  
world,*

*to testify to the truth.*

*Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my  
voice."*

*Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"*

*When he had said this,*

*he again went out to the Jews and said to them,*

*"I find no guilt in him.*

*But you have a custom that I release one prisoner to  
you at Passover. Do you want me to release to you*

*the King of the Jews?"*  
*They cried out again,*  
*"Not this one but Barabbas!"*  
*Now Barabbas was a revolutionary.*

*Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged.*  
*And the soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and*  
*placed it on his head, and clothed him in a purple*  
*cloak, and they came to him and said,*  
*"Hail, King of the Jews!"*  
*And they struck him repeatedly.*

*Once more Pilate went out and said to them,*  
*"Look, I am bringing him out to you,*  
*so that you may know that I find no guilt in him."*

*So Jesus came out,*  
*wearing the crown of thorns and the purple cloak.*  
*And he said to them, "Behold, the man!"*  
*When the chief priests and the guards saw him they*  
*cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!"*

*Pilate said to them,*  
*"Take him yourselves and crucify him.*  
*I find no guilt in him."*  
*The Jews answered,*  
*"We have a law, and according to that law he ought*  
*to die, because he made himself the Son of God."*

*Now when Pilate heard this statement,*  
*he became even more afraid,*  
*and went back into the praetorium and said to*  
*Jesus,*  
*"Where are you from?"*  
*Jesus did not answer him.*  
*So Pilate said to him,*  
*"Do you not speak to me?*  
*Do you not know that I have power to release you*  
*and I have power to crucify you?"*  
*Jesus answered him,*  
*"You would have no power over me*  
*if it had not been given to you from above.*  
*For this reason the one who handed me over to you*  
*has the greater sin."*

*Consequently, Pilate tried to release him; but the*  
*Jews cried out,*  
*"If you release him, you are not a Friend of Caesar.*  
*Everyone who makes himself a king opposes*  
*Caesar."*  
*When Pilate heard these words he brought Jesus*  
*out*  
*and seated him on the judge's bench*

*in the place called Stone Pavement, in Hebrew,  
Gabbatha.*

*It was preparation day for Passover, and it was  
about noon. And he said to the Jews,*

*"Behold, your king!"*

*They cried out,*

*"Take him away, take him away! Crucify him!"*

*Pilate said to them,*

*"Shall I crucify your king?"*

*The chief priests answered,*

*"We have no king but Caesar."*

*Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.*

*So they took Jesus, and, carrying the cross himself,  
he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull,  
in Hebrew, Golgotha.*

*There they crucified him, and with him two others,  
one on either side, with Jesus in the middle.*

*Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the  
cross. It read, "Jesus the Nazorean, the King of the  
Jews."*

*Now many of the Jews read this inscription,  
because the place where Jesus was crucified was  
near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Latin,  
and Greek.*

*So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate,*

*"Do not write 'The King of the Jews,'*

*but that he said, 'I am the King of the Jews'."*

*Pilate answered,*

*"What I have written, I have written."*

*When the soldiers had crucified Jesus,  
they took his clothes and divided them into four  
shares,*

*a share for each soldier.*

*They also took his tunic, but the tunic was  
seamless,*

*woven in one piece from the top down.*

*So they said to one another,*

*"Let's not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it  
will be, " in order that the passage of Scripture  
might be fulfilled that says: They divided my  
garments among them, and for my vesture they  
cast lots.*

*This is what the soldiers did.*

*Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother  
and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas,  
and Mary of Magdala.*

*When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there*

*whom he loved he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother."  
And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.*

*After this, aware that everything was now finished, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I thirst."*

*There was a vessel filled with common wine. So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth.*

*When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, "It is finished."*

*And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit.*

*Now since it was preparation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the sabbath, for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and that they be taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus.*

*But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out.*

*An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true; he knows that he is speaking the truth, so that you also may come to believe. For this happened so that the Scripture passage might be fulfilled: Not a bone of it will be broken. And again another passage says: They will look upon him whom they have pierced.*

*After this, Joseph of Arimathea, secretly a disciple of Jesus for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate if he could remove the body of Jesus. And Pilate permitted it.*

*So he came and took his body. Nicodemus, the one who had first come to him at night, also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes weighing about one hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and bound it with burial cloths along with the spices, according to the Jewish burial custom.*

*Now in the place where he had been crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had yet been buried. So they laid Jesus there because of the Jewish preparation day; for the tomb was close by.*

NOT The End . . .

May your day remain solemn, and may you spend some time in quiet prayer contemplating the Truth and Mystery above. The journey is almost over. Remain faithful!

Remember, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. For members of the Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards. May your sacrifice be blessed.

With prayers for your health and God's abundant blessings,

Fr. Philip Clement  
Pastor