

Dear Padre,

I'm thinking about going to the Easter Vigil, but why does it have to be so long?

When an event seems long, it may have to do with our expectations. If we go to the Easter Vigil and expect it to be like a Sunday Mass, then it will seem long. The typical parish Easter Vigil lasts two to three hours. There are some communities who vigil all night. Why does it have to be so long? Because this is one night of the year when we Catholics tell our whole story.

There are four parts of the Vigil. Part One is the *Lucernarium* (Light) when we gather around the paschal fire from which the paschal candle is lit. Then follows the passing of the light to members of the congregation, who are holding candles. By candlelight, we hear the Exsultet—the Easter Proclamation, sung only on this night. Part Two is the Liturgy of the Word, when we take our time listening to readings, singing psalms, and reflecting on salvation history. Part Three is the Sacraments of Initiation, when new members are welcomed into the Church, baptized, and confirmed, and all renew their baptismal promises. And Part Four is the Liturgy of the Eucharist, when new members receive holy Communion for the first time. The Easter Vigil is rich with meaning, solemn as well as joyful, and to fully experience it, we must take our time. ●



ALEXANDROS MICHALIDIS / SHUTTERSTOCK

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

We are preparing to celebrate the victory of the Lord Jesus Christ over sin and death.... But today, there is a war.... Christ bore his cross to free us from the dominion of evil. He died so that life, love, peace may reign.... What victory is there in planting a flag on a pile of rubble?

ANGELUS, ROME, APRIL 10, 2022

Monday

April 14
Monday of Holy Week
Is 42:1–7
Jn 12:1–11

Tuesday

April 15
Tuesday of Holy Week
Is 49:1–6
Jn 13:21–33, 36–38

Wednesday

April 16
Wednesday of Holy Week
Is 50:4–9a
Mt 26:14–25

Thursday

April 17
Thursday of Holy Week
(Holy Thursday)
Chrism 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

Friday

April 18
Friday of the Passion of the Lord *(Good Friday)*
Is 52:13–53:12
Heb 4:14–16; 5:7–9
Jn 18:1–19:42

Saturday

April 19
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
Lk 24:1–12

Sunday

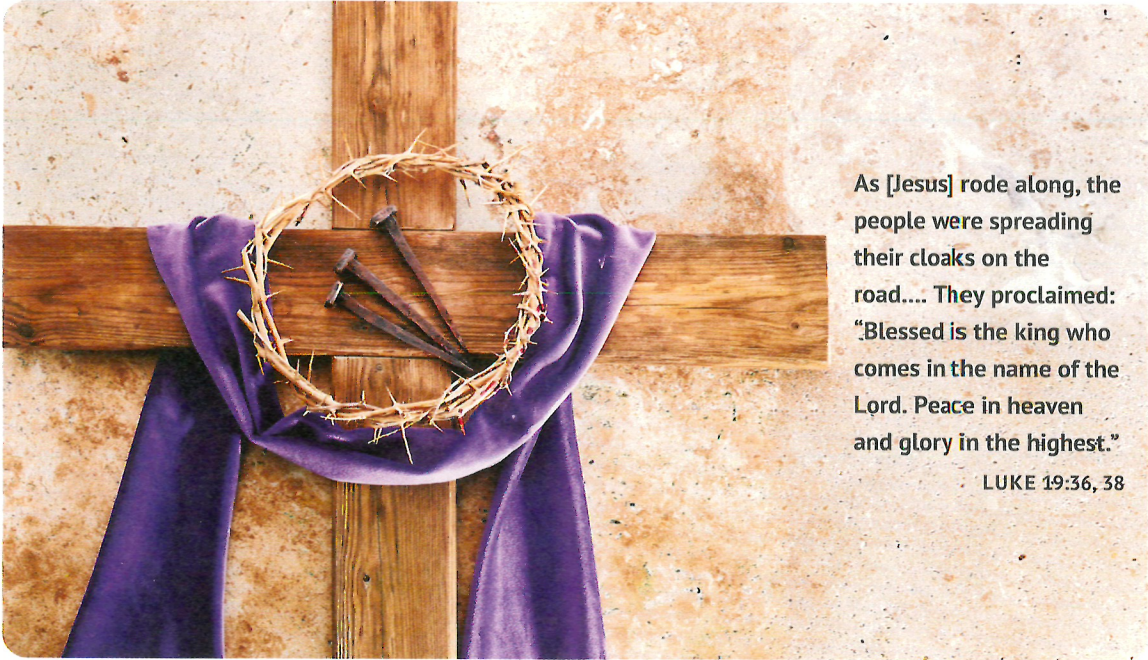
April 20
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
Acts 10:34a, 37–43
Col 3:1–4 or 1 Cor 5:6b–8
Jn 20:1–9

Our Parish COMMUNITY

April 13, 2025

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (C)

Luke 19:28–40 / Isaiah 50:4–7 / Philippians 2:6–11 / Luke 22:14–23:56 or 23:1–49



As [Jesus] rode along, the people were spreading their cloaks on the road.... They proclaimed: “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.”

LUKE 19:36, 38

The Emptying Process

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

We like to fill life with good things—good friends, good times, good jobs, good memories. They are all graced moments of life. Life is also marked by an emptying process. Friends move away, good times come to an end, jobs become boring. Saint Teresa of Kolkata (Mother Teresa) once noted how even God can't fill what is already full. The emptying process may very well be the action of God in our lives, emptying us to make room for God's gift of resurrection and life in its fullest.

Holy Week is the story of such a process—one long saga that begins with Palm Sunday as it focuses on how Jesus willingly emptied himself even unto death. The story moves on to Holy Thursday and the gift of the Eucharist to sustain us in the emptying. On to Good Friday, where, once more, a narration in stark liturgical strokes tell of the emptying of Jesus. Finally, the Easter Vigil and the Feast of the Resurrection, the culmination of a journey through death into life. We tell this weeklong story because the story of Jesus is also our story—more of God working in us rather than our own doing. The Jesuit theologian Karl Rahner once noted that one of the tasks of life is to learn how to die well. Our willingness to learn that lesson, again and again, is how we begin to share in the resurrection, even as we live our lives today. ●

Reflect

How does my faith help me through times of emptiness?



ST. JUDE PARISH

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WEEKLY MASS CALENDAR: Confession: Thursday Mornings after Mass **CELEBRANT:**

Sunday	Apr. 13, 2025	9:30 a.m.	Palm Sunday Mass	Fr. Creagan
Thursday	Apr. 17, 2025	4 p.m.	Holy Thursday Mass	Fr. Creagan
Friday	Apr. 18, 2025	4 p.m.	Good Friday	Fr. Creagan
Sunday	Apr. 20, 2025	9:30 a.m.	Easter Mass	Fr. Schmidt
Thursday	Apr. 24, 2025	9:00/10:30 a.m.	Adoration/Mass	Fr. Creagan

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS:

Sunday	Apr. 13, 2025	The People of St. Jude Parish	By: Pro populo
Thursday	Apr. 17, 2025	The People of St. Jude Parish	By: Pro populo
Sunday	Apr. 20, 2025	The People of St. Jude Parish	By: Pro populo
Thursday	Apr. 24, 2025	Rose Christoff	By: Marie Keller

TODAY: SUNDAY, 4-13-2025 NEXT SUNDAY: 4-20-2025

Reader	Tony Karsen	Reader	Jennifer Price
EO Ministers	Tony & Jenny Karsen	EO Mins.	D. Herschleb & D. Hanchak
Servers	Rocky, Bella, Alexa, Ryan, Sadie	Servers	Bella, Carlena, Alanah, Emma, Sadie

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday	Apr. 06 2025	Target	\$ 2,200	Offered	\$ 2,085	\$ 115.00
Year to Date		Target	\$ 77,100		\$ 80,250.20	\$ 3,150.20
Attendance		93	Year To Date Attendance			4704

Because Christ humbled himself, God greatly exalted him.

We entered this liturgy, our Palm Sunday procession, accompanied by the narration of Luke’s Gospel. There is no mention of palm branches in his account. Instead, the people spread their cloaks in the road before Jesus. His disciples praise God for the mighty deeds they have seen and proclaim him *the king who comes in the name of the Lord*.

This profession of praise takes place as Jesus approaches the Mount of Olives, creating a stark contrast with Luke’s account of the Passion, which is our Gospel reading today. On the night before he dies, Jesus goes to the Mount of Olives once more and asks his Father to take this cup away from him, praying *so fervently that his sweat becomes like drops of blood*. It is on the Mount of Olives that Judas, his friend, betrays him with a kiss.

Jesus knows what lies before him. His prayer shows his humble submission of his human will to the Father’s will. He enters Jerusalem as a king, raised up on a colt and acclaimed by his disciples, but it is only on the cross that the true meaning of his kingship is revealed (CCC 440). On the night before he is to suffer, his Apostles argue about which of them are the greatest, and Jesus tells them he has come among them *as the one who serves*.

The prophets have foretold his coming. **Today’s first reading comes from the third of four “Servant of the Lord” oracles in the Book of Isaiah. This servant is often referred to as the Suffering Servant and seen as prefiguring Christ.** In the verses we hear today, he says he has been given *a well-trained tongue* to preach the word of God, and he willingly submits to beatings and insults in order to carry out this call from God.

We see similar language reflected in Paul’s Letter to the Philippians. Christ emptied himself. He humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death on a cross. A shameful death, but like the Servant in Isaiah, he knew he would not be put to shame. Rather, it is because of this obedience that God greatly exalted him, giving him a name above every other name, *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord*.

Christ was indeed hailed as king when he entered Jerusalem on the back of a colt. The people praised him for the mighty deeds he had worked in God’s name. **But the mightiest work of all took place on the cross. What looked like rejection and loss won the victory for us. Dying, Christ defeated death. To this day, we place crucifixes on our altars, in our homes, and around our necks as a sign of our belief that Jesus is Lord.** We commemorate his sacrifice at every Eucharist. Christ’s sacrifice is made present to us in an unbloody manner on the altar. We look upon his body, broken for us, and give him praise, for it is only through Christ’s death and resurrection that we can attain *peace in heaven and glory in the highest*.

FROM THE DRE

Thank you to our Confirmation students and to all our students who helped and participated in Stations of the Cross.

No class on April 20th. Happy Easter!

- SEE THE ENCLOSED FLYER FOR OUR HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE -

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL: Brian and Sonny Laughlin, Rosemary Wood, Julie Haley, Steve Klein, Barb Percival, Joan Rumery, Margie Burris, Lillian B. Wheeler, David Vana, Donna Murphy, Jack Secondi, Mary Heinz, Vicki Clark, and those on our prayer chain.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE - Today Jesus tells us “I am among you as one who serves.” In accepting the palm branch today, you publicly confirm your baptismal promise to follow Jesus as “one who serves.” Selfless service defines a family as Christian.

CRS RICE BOWLS – As Lent draws to a close, let’s reflect on how our prayers, fasting and almsgiving can help ensure no one goes hungry during our current global food crisis. Please turn the Rice Bowl boxes in at the end of Lent. You are also able to make your Lenten donation at crsricebowl.org/donate

ST. JUDE’S WILL BE SPONSORING CARING NETWORK’S PARISH PLAYPEN DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH/APRIL. The Diocese of Kalamazoo’s pro-life agency serves pregnant women of all ages, faiths, and marital status who need support in their life-affirming decisions! The following items are currently in low supply in the Caring Closet: boys' and girls' pajamas (sizes 12-24 mos., 3T-4T); girls' tops (sizes 12 and 18 mos.); girls pants 3T-4T; boys tops 18 mos. and 3T; boys pants 18-24 mos., 3T-4T; Diapers sizes 4, 5 and 6; socks for 1–5-year-olds; onesies 6mos and up; baby wash and baby lotion. All donations are appreciated.

A SPECIAL WAY TO REMEMBER A LOVED ONE – Here at St. Jude, you can sign up to have a loved one remembered by having the Sanctuary Candle lit for one week in their name (which will be announced in the bulletin). Donations are \$10.00. If you are interested, please call the office at 269-628-2219.

Holy Thursday

We are seeking six volunteers to have their feet washed during Mass on Holy Thursday. If you are interested, please notify Tammy Bauer. You can reach her by cell and email at tlbauer67@gmail.com.

****JUST A REMINDER – No morning Adoration or Mass on Holy Thursday****

PONTIFICAL COLLECTION – Pope Francis has requested that we support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which supports Christians in the Holy Land. Through this collection you stand in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land as a witness of peace, support Catholics there in parishes and schools, and maintain the Christian shrine - the places where Jesus accomplished our redemption. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity for almsgiving.

FROM THE DIOCESE

CHRISM MASS ON TUESDAY, APRIL 15 AT 2 P.M. – All are invited to join Bishop Lohse for the annual Chrism Mass at St. Augustine Cathedral on Tuesday, April 15 beginning at 2 p.m. All priests in the Diocese will be concelebrating and picking up the holy oils that are blessed during the Mass. The Mass will be live streamed on diokzoo.org/live and the diocesan Facebook page.

DIOCESAN CHOIR SEEKING SINGERS FOR CHRISM MASS - Calling all singers! Come sing in our St. Augustine Cathedral Diocesan Choir for Chrism Mass on Tuesday, April 15th at 2pm! The Diocesan Choir is open to singers from every parish who are capable of reading music (or at least learning by ear). Comprehensive practice tracks are available to help you prepare from home. Follow [this link](#) to sign up or contact the Director of Sacred Music, [Mr. James Richardson](#).

Bishop Lohse has pledged to provide professional counseling or therapy to victims of clergy sex abuse in the Diocese. Victims can receive 24-hour care via the crisis hotline set with Catholic Charities at 800-873-8336.