

The Roman Catholic Community of Elizabeth, Glassport, South Allegheny Area, 213

One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic



PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD



"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord." - Mt 21:9

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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Prayer for the Church
Holy Virgin of Guadalupe,
Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Church.
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,
health 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.

April 5, 2020

Website: ElizabethSouthAlleghenyCC.org

Saint Mark

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
3210 Liberty Way
McKeesport, PA 15133
Phone 412-678-6275
Fax 412-673-1393

Email: saintmarkparishdiopitt@gmail.com

Saint Eugene Church (StE)
3210 Liberty Way - Liberty

Saint Michael

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
101 McLay Drive
Elizabeth, PA 15037-2363
Phone 412-751-0663
Fax 412-751-2161

Email: stmichael11@verizon.net

Saint Michael Church (StM)
101 McLay Drive - Elizabeth

Queen of the Rosary

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
530 Michigan Avenue
Glassport, PA 15045
Phone 412-672-7209
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Email: qorglasspt@comcast.net

Queen of the Rosary (QoR)
530 Michigan Avenue - Glassport



Faith Formation

Elizabeth, Glassport, South Allegheny Area, 213
Faith Formation - Adult - Children - Youth
101 McLay Drive Elizabeth, PA 15037 412-754-0886
Email: 213FaithForm@gmail.com Facebook: [FaithFormation-EGSA](https://www.facebook.com/FaithFormation-EGSA)



Looking For A Faith Community? Wherever you are on your faith journey, we welcome you to join our community. You may register by calling the Faith Community Office.

Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.
Be our defense against the wickedness
and snares of the devil; may God rebuke him,
we humbly pray; and do thou O Prince
of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God,
thrust into hell Satan and all the other evil spirits
who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.

Prayer for On Mission for the Church Alive!

Father of Mercy, as we journey
On Mission for the Church Alive! endow us with
your gifts of collaboration, courage and compassion.
Help us to fulfill the mission of Jesus and His Church
through vibrant parishes and effective ministries.
Raise up selfless, energetic leaders
to serve the Church in fidelity and with care.
May we the Church of Pittsburgh in Allegheny, Beaver,
Butler, Greene, Lawrence, and Washington counties,
be sustained and strengthened, by your grace.
Help us to learn Jesus, to love Jesus and to live Jesus.
Hear this prayer and grant it through Jesus Christ
our Lord, with help of our dear Blessed Mother,
under the mantle of her love. Amen.

Implementation Prayer

Father of Mercy, during this time of implementation
help us to grow in unity with
St. Mark, St. Michael and Queen of the Rosary.
Grant us the wisdom and willingness to understand
how our parishes will become stronger and more vibrant
in fulfilling the mission of the Church.
Assist us in opening our arms to welcome others
as we continue to journey
On Mission for The Church Alive!
Help us, O Lord, to trust in the future
you have planned for us.
This we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.



**Palm Sunday of the
Passion of the Lord
April 5, 2020**

Human beings are united in their suffering. When we find ourselves in a painful moment, our first reaction is “why me?” as if we are the only person on earth who ever encountered this challenge. Going through life with a “why me” attitude only finds us wallowing in the mire of self-pity and never seizing opportunities or graces. We walk in solidarity with every human being in the experience of suffering. Believing that the goal of life is the elimination or avoidance of suffering is simply an illusion that keeps us entrenched in a collective myth. This myth distorts us and limits us.

There are living witnesses among us showing how courage and determination can overcome any degree of hardship, pain, loss, or tragedy. Folks finding the normalcy of their lives suddenly torn asunder are faced with options: opportunity or despair, stay or leave. Jesus stands before us as the prime example of endurance and perseverance. He is the One who showed humility through both the triumphs of life (by learning to be humble) and the tragedies and injustices (by learning how to be obedient). To secular ears, this may be perceived as nonsense. But to those with the eyes of faith, they are pearls of great price.

True humility tempers the temptation we have to become complacent and prevents an excessive relishing of life’s successes and affirmations. Learning obedience keeps us faithful to our relationship with God so that we can find the courage to endure any depth of hardship, disappointment, betrayal, or agony. While we may want our cup of suffering to be taken away, it simply cannot be. Somehow and somewhere in the seemingly opposing experiences life can deal us, God is present with His reassuring, compassionate, empowering, and persevering love. To be true to who we are and who God is, we must take up the cross of suffering, even when it’s the hardest and most apparently senseless thing to do.

Only our soul can understand these things, but our minds cannot, so they continue to run to secular ideas and solutions to pain and hardship. It goes without saying that we need to do all we can to eliminate as much senseless, unjust suffering as possible. Hunger, violence, abuse, exploitation, rejection, prejudice, homelessness, disrespect for life, and a whole host of other sins all result in suffering that is within our control. Then, when we face the uncontrollable kind of suffering or find ourselves the victim of injustice, what do we do?

2020 Easter Flower Memorials

___ St. Mark ___ St. Michael ___ Queen of the Rosary

Please Print

Requested by

Donation \$ _____ Phone # _____

**Suggested Donation \$10.00
Deadline Monday, April 6, 2020**

Please place in an envelope marked Easter Flower Memorial and deposit in the collection. Thank You!



THE EASTER TRIDUUM



Holy Thursday Thoughts

The institution of the Eucharist is not found in John's Gospel. The focus of the Last Supper is on Jesus' washing the feet of his disciples.

He washes the feet of Judas, fully aware that Judas will soon betray him.

When he washes the feet of Peter, he responds with his characteristic stubbornness, questioning Jesus actions.

While Jesus says little about the meaning of his act—beyond the instructions that it's what we must also do—the significance of the act itself tells his early followers and us all we need to know. He is teaching us that our **true identity** is to be servants to each other in his image.

With Judas, we are reminded of our call to love and serve even those who hurt or betray us.

From Peter, we learn that while we might be inclined to stubbornly refuse help, the appropriate response is to graciously receive the care that others offer us.

Jesus' servant heart, his sacrifice, and his love for us are revealed every time we receive his Body and Blood.

Maybe this Holy Thursday invites not only to pray in gratitude for Jesus' act of humble service, which is an example for us, but also to recall how we have been aided by the love and care of others—and today we remember them in prayer.

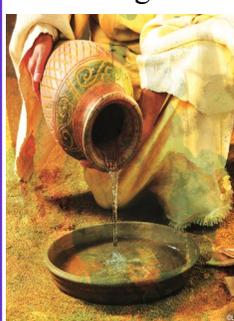
Jesus said: As I have done, so you must do.

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

Today marks the beginning of the Easter Triduum—the three days that form the climax of Jesus' life on earth. Gathered with his closest friends and knowing that he is about to die, Jesus takes the opportunity at the Last Supper not only to tell the disciples what to do in the future, but to show them. As we celebrate together, may we reflect on how we can become better disciples by serving others, washing one another's feet as Jesus did.

All three readings tonight feature a ritual. The Jewish ritual of Passover has its origin in the meal described in the Book of Exodus (Exodus 12:1-14). The Israelites gathered in Egypt; shared and ate the lamb according to God's plan so that their freedom would be won.

In the letter to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 11:23-26) Saint Paul describes the ritual of the Eucharist, whose origin is found at the Last Supper.

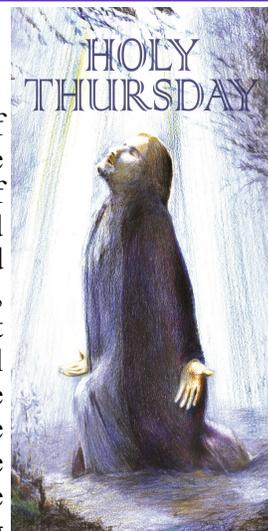


Finally, John's Gospel describes Jesus' other ritual of the Last Supper, the washing of feet. May what we do tonight and throughout our lives remain steeped in all three rituals (Passover, Eucharist, and Service) so we may bear witness to our faith and our service to Jesus Christ and our neighbor.

The first Eucharist was more than a simple meal—it was a sign of sharing in the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Part of that sacrifice was that all who shared at the table would wash one another's feet. To be people of the eucharistic table is to be people willing to bend down in humble service of all.

Gathered around this holy table we pause and remember the first Passover, when the Israelites were spared the loss of their firstborn sons. We also remember the night when our heavenly Father was not spared the loss of His only Son, our Lord Jesus. The Holy Eucharist draws us into the mystery of our own Passover, for in Baptism we have died and risen with Christ. We lift our heart in joy and humility in this great prayer of thanksgiving, the Mass.

Jesus said: Do this in remembrance of me.





Friday of the Passion of the Lord

On this Good Friday, we remember the passion and death of Jesus. Today, we read John's account of the Passion which does not spare the listener the details of the abuse Jesus endured, but it also emphasizes his acceptance of the Crucifixion, knowing the redemptive power of his passion and death. That same tension is seen in Isaiah's narrative of God's Suffering Servant who submits to persecution to fulfill the will of God. This kind of willing endurance enables the writer of the Letter to the Hebrews to attest that Jesus was likewise tested in every way, but suffered obediently.

Jesus stretches out his arms and calls us to embrace his cross. In venerating the cross, we bring our pain and our joys; we bring our illness and our health; we bring our deep sorrows and our great joys; we bring all that is longing to be transformed into resurrected glory.

Good Friday Thoughts

Today is the holiest in our Christian tradition. Good Friday marks an occasion of great suffering, betrayal, rejection, and sadness—while also offering us incredible hope.

In John's Gospel, we hear a familiar story that is never easy to listen to, from Jesus' fearful followers who desert him, to Our Lord's arrest, questioning, flogging, ridicule from the crowds, and crucifixion.

We are invited to enter into every moment of his suffering and sacrifice, recalling our own sinfulness and his love for us despite it all. And that's where the hope comes in: **The suffering and sacrifice are rooted in love.**

Yes, we all know all that, but in these troubled times, being reminded of God's gracious and merciful love can't occur often enough.

May we pray for open hearts today as we walk with Jesus as he carries his cross.

It's an opportunity for us to grasp more fully what he did for us out of love and to consider how we might give his sacrifice deeper meaning in our own lives.

We might ask ourselves how we have turned away from someone we love or recall a time when we ignored someone in need. At the end of **this** day, at the end of **every** day of our lives, there's really only one thing that matters.

Jesus made that clear through his suffering and sacrifice—and by his very words: **As I have loved you, so you must love one another.**



Holy Saturday

Holy Saturday is the day of immediate preparation for the celebration of the sacraments of initiation.

Easter Vigil in the Holy Night



The Easter Vigil Mass we celebrate today has not always been popular, having been an institution in the early centuries of the church, falling from practice in the Middle Ages, and then re-emerging around Vatican II. Today this **mother of all vigils** (as Saint Augustine called it) moves people through its intense symbolism of fire, light, dark, incense, and song.

The Easter Vigil reminds us that faith isn't just an idea; it is a full-body experience and way of life. Whether or not you attend the Easter Vigil, you can allow your faith to be a full-sensory experience, perceiving God in touch, song, aroma, and beauty.

May God Bless Our Service Personnel



We pray for and remember our Service Men and Women who are serving on active duty in the Armed Services, especially: **LCpl. Peter A. Barrante, USMC; Maj. Damian Baskerville, USAF; Col. Richard Collage, PA NG; Staff Sgt.**

Nicholas DeLuca, Army; Ens. David DeMaio, USCG; Capt. Craig Dolhi, Army; Capt. Anthony Formica, Army; Jacob Formica, E-4, Army; 2nd Lt. John Formica, Army; SPC Samuel Formica, Army National Guard; Capt. Markus Gibson, USMC; 2ndLt. Miles Gibson, USMC; PO2. Mason Gibson, USN; T/Sgt. Michael Goodman, USAF; E5 Sgt. Brian Imundo, Army; Sgt. Russ Langley, Marines; Staff Sgt. Raymond Massung, Jr., USAF; SrA. Timothy Oeler, USAF; ENS Timothy Ragan, USN; Amn Stephanie A. Reichenbach, USAF; PFC David R. Saunders, Army National Guard; Sgt. Brandon R. Smith, USAF Pararescueman; Amn. Adam Stitt, USAF; Capt. Andrew Tkac, Army.

If you would like to add or update an active Service member, please call the Parish Office.

Thank you for your service!

May We Never Forget . . . Freedom is Never Free!

May God Bless Our Health Care Workers and All First Responders.

Sacraments

Baptism of Infants & Children

Baptism is a joyous event in the life of the church. Baptism is celebrated any Sunday after Mass. **Parents are required to attend a Pre-Baptism Class.**

Previous arrangements are necessary.

Instruction in the Faith - R.C.I.A.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Program is offered for those interested in the Catholic Faith. For more information, please contact Fr. Wagner.

Reconciliation

St. Eugene Church, Liberty

Tuesday, 7 - 7:30 pm

St. Michael Church, Elizabeth

Saturday, 11-11:30 am

Queen of the Rosary Church, Glassport

Saturday, 1- 1:30 pm

St. Michael Church, Elizabeth

Saturday, 3:15-3:45 pm

St. Eugene Church, Liberty

Saturday, 5:15-5:45 pm

Marriage

The prospective bride and groom are to make arrangements with the priest or deacon at least 6 months prior to the proposed date of the wedding. Diocesan regulations require all couples to attend an approved pre-marriage preparation program.

Anointing of the Sick

the Anointing of the Sick is celebrated communally on the Second Sunday of the Month.

Ministry to the Sick and Shut In

Homebound members of the Parish should call the Parish Office to make arrangements to receive Holy Communion at home.

Sponsorship Forms

Only registered, practicing, fully-initiated Catholics are eligible for sponsor certificates. Please call the Parish Office.

Bulletin Information Deadline

2 weeks in advance of publish date.
elizabethsalleghenybulletin@gmail.com

Moving

Please call or email your new address to the Parish Office.

Child Abuse Hotline 1-888-808-1235

Mass Intentions For The Week

StE St. Eugene Church, Liberty StM St. Michael Church, Elizabeth

QoR Queen of the Rosary Church, Glassport

April 5 - 12, 2020

Saturday, 4, Vigil, Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Fr. Tom Marshall & Ruth Fiore - Lori Zando

Fr. Miro John Richel - Friends

Sunday, 5, Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Fr. Tom Joseph Gioia - Carol

Fr. Miro Edna Ashton – Chuck & Jackie Galley

Living & Deceased of the Grouping Family

Monday, 6, Monday of Holy Week

Fr. Miro Michaele Kosfeluite - Mother, Mercedes

Novena - Infant of Prague

Fr. Tom Emil Spehar – Friends

Tuesday, 7, Tuesday of Holy Week

Fr. Tom Elko & Oelar Families - George & Mary Alice

Fr. Miro Richard Morsey - Charles & Patricia Gala

Wednesday, 8, Wednesday of Holy Week

Fr. Miro Jean Todaro - Dino & Carol DiFelice

Fr. Tom Louise & Bruce Maxie - Michelle & Mike Vancas

Novena - Michael the Archangel

Thursday, 9, Thursday of Holy Week - Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

Fr. Miro Clara Borkowski Palumbo - Jean Borkowski

Fr. Tom Betty Pikula - Mike & Bonnie Luft

Friday, 10, Good Friday of the Passion of the Lord

Fr. Miro

Fr. Tom

Saturday, 11, Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil of the Resurrection of the Lord

Fr. Tom Living & Deceased of the Grouping Family

Fr. Miro Living & Deceased of the Grouping Family

Sunday, 12, Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Fr. Tom Living & Deceased of the Grouping Family

Fr. Miro Living & Deceased of the Grouping Family

We remember . . . In your charity,
please remember all those who have died, especially:

**Sarah Kolakowski,
all who will die today,
and those who have no one to pray for them.**

**Resting in Paradise.
Eternal Rest grant unto them O Lord.
And Let Perpetual Light Shine on them.**

**Elizabeth, Glassport, South Allegheny Area Grouping
Pastoral Staff**

Clergy Team

Reverend Thomas A. Wagner, Administrator
Reverend Miroslaus A. Wojcicki, Senior Parochial Vicar
Deacon Stephen C. Pikula, Permanent Deacon
Deacon John E. Ragan, Permanent Deacon
Deacon Dale J. DiSanto, Permanent Deacon

Mary of Nazareth Catholic School

Lynda McFarland, Principal, 412-672-2360

**Faith Formation - Religious Education
Adult - Children - Youth**

Julie Fleckenstein, Facilitator
Anita Niecgorski, Co-Children, K-6 Grade
Amanda Wilt, Co-Children, K-6 Grade
Susan Formica, Youth, Junior & Senior High
Darla Losteter, Family Support

Safe Environment

Emily Carlson
Mary Jo Ignatius

Music Ministry

Celeste Cafasso
Carol Gioia
Pamela Whitney

Facilities

Kevin Hopkins
Tony Hutskow
Patricia Muic

Pastoral Secretary

Jan Kunkel
Amy Megahan
Jeannie Premozic

Parish Nurse

Pam Curcio, 412-754-0317

Advisory Councils

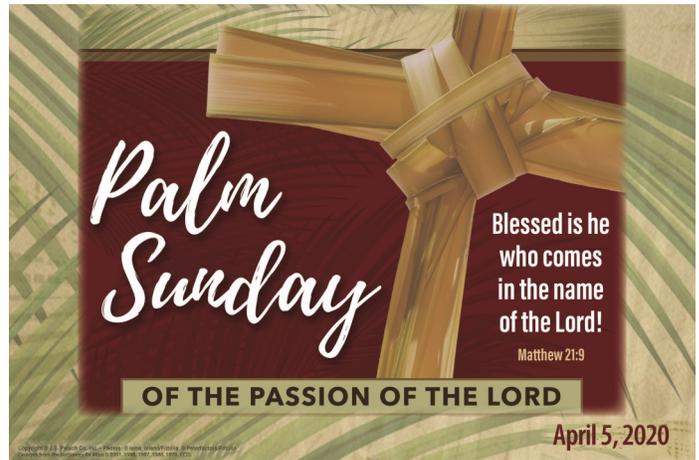
Pastoral Council

Jack Ferko, Facilitator Patty Smith, Co-Facilitator
Zac Allan, Scribe

Glenn Bonczek Vickie Budd Elaine David
Eric Davis Denise DeCapria Anne Laychak
Michael Ksiazek Leah Meek Brian Phillips

Finance Council

Judy Zajicek, Facilitator Patricia Palmer, Co-Facilitator
Barry Bisogni, Scribe
Kay Callear Loretta Dabruzzo Val McCarthy
Sandy Palmer Judy Shriane Donald Similo



HOSANNA!

Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest (Matthew 21:9). With these words the Church enters the holiest of weeks, commemorating the passion, death, and resurrection of Christ. When the people of Jerusalem cried out with their “hosannas,” they were using an ancient Hebrew shout of acclamation that meant **Pray, save us**. The king to whom they were shouting eventually would save them, but in a way that would be far from what they expected. Salvation would come from the wood of the cross as Jesus hung there to bring freedom from sin and life through death, opening the gates of heaven for all who put their faith and trust in him.

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**My God, my God,
why have you abandoned me.**

Go forth and make disciples of all peoples

—Matthew 28:19

Please keep in mind, in these extraordinary times that, although we cannot attend Mass, the Church’s financial obligations remain. We ask that you continue to support your Church as you are able and look to the time when we can gather together again in faith. Some options:

- Mail or deliver offertory envelopes & Parish Share pledges to your church office (or secure mailbox).
- Set up your church as an automatic bill payee through your online banking.
- Donate through Online Giving for your church on our grouping website, www.elizabethsouthalleghenycc.org. Click on the ONLINE GIVING tab on the red bar at the top of the webpage, select your church, and complete the online form.

Visit our grouping website for the latest news, weekly bulletin, links to Daily Mass and Readings, Lenten Reflections. Blessings, *Fr. Wagner*

April Rosary Intention

That those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied every day.



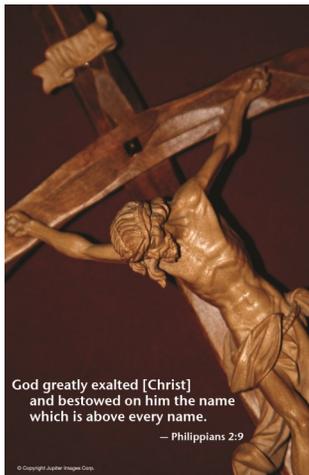
Faith Formation

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Faith Formation Team
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 Anita Niecgorski & Amanda Wilt
 Co-Children, K-6 Grade
 Susan Formica, Youth, Junior & Senior High
 Darla Losteter, Family Support



Upcoming
Senior Youth Group meeting,
Sunday, April 26, 2020
St. Eugene Church, Fr. Rowan Hall.
3210 Liberty Way, Liberty
Doors open at 6:30 pm
Junior Youth Ministry
Wednesday, April 15, 2020
St. Eugene Church, Fr. Rowan Hall
Doors open at 6:00 pm
Senior & Junior Youth Group Meeting
Sunday, April 26, 2020
St. Eugene Church, Fr. Rowan Hall.
3210 Liberty Way, Liberty Borough
Doors open at 6:30 pm
For more information or to RSVP
please call Mrs. Formica, 412-754-0886
or 213Youth@gmail.com
Come and join in the fun and fellowship



Enduring Hope

Today's passage from Isaiah presents us with a common human dilemma: what do we do with our suffering? The speaker describes himself as God's faithful servant, who suffers beatings and mockery. We can't be sure who the speaker is, but we can see his extraordinary response. He chooses not to fight back, not to respond to violence

God greatly exalted [Christ] and bestowed on him the name which is above every name. — Philipians 2:9

with violence. He chooses to endure with hope that God, in God's own way, will deliver and vindicate him. Christians later saw this passage as a poignant description of Jesus' suffering in his passion.

We all have many experiences of tragic or undeserved suffering. We might desire to run from our pain, or to inflict suffering upon others, or to live in despair. In faith, we are invited to share in the suffering of Jesus, sharing also with all who suffer similarly. We can place our wounds in God's hands. We may live in enduring hope that Christ is indeed present and accompanies us in our pain. In God's own way, our suffering may be transformed, so to serve God's purposes Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc

**Jesus emptied himself
 and accepted death on a cross.**

**They came to a place called Golgotha
 and crucified Jesus there.**

Easter Sacraments 2020
Confirmation
Postponed and will be rescheduled.
First Holy Communion
Postponed and will be rescheduled.
Please keep the candidates in your prayers.

Marriage Moments by Susan Vogt

As we start Holy Week, we will fast, remember a sacred communal meal, suffering, death, and resurrection. Recall a time in your marriage when you went without, ate with joy, had physical or emotional pain, or experienced the death of a loved one. And still you are together. Ahhhh!

Parenting Pointers by Susan Vogt

Sometimes it's hard to talk with someone who disagrees with you. Is there someone in your family, work, or school who has a different opinion than you? You don't have to agree, but try to listen to understand them better this week.

A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

The cruel death of Jesus tells us bad things can and do happen to very good people. It also tells us God is present during the suffering. When bad things happen, God does not abandon us.



Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.

Sunday, April 5:

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14—27:66

Lord, have mercy—In any act of violence, there are victims and villains. As we meditate on Jesus' Passion, we can't ignore that the villains of Holy Week bear an uneasy resemblance to ourselves. Too often, we fail to stand with the innocent. We're content to benefit from the peril of those who offend us. We seek to destroy what we don't understand. We deny friends who seem too dangerous to embrace. We run from another's crisis to save ourselves. On Palm Sunday, we're the ones crying: **Crucify him!** Raise your voice today for the innocent. **I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard.**

Monday, Apr 06; Monday of Holy Week

Isaiah 42:1-7; John 12:1-11

Rise to the occasion—**The Resurrection of Jesus is the crowning truth of our faith in Christ**, the Catechism of the Catholic Church states. Fittingly, of all the things Christians believe, the idea that the dead can be brought back to life requires the greatest leap of faith. Jesus helped his followers prepare for this mind-blowing concept by raising Lazarus from the dead—the last of his big miracles before his own death. It was an ultimate sign of his power and identity to leave them with. It helps us, too, get ready for the stunning reality that all who die will rise. **The chief priests plotted to kill Lazarus too, because many of the Jews were turning away and believing in Jesus because of him.**

Tuesday, Apr 07; Tuesday of Holy Week

Isaiah 49:1-6; John 13:21-33, 36-38

Now is the time—It's not easy to admit when we have turned our hearts from God. As we make the journey of Christ's Passion, it is time to release our grip on the sins that we cling to in fear or shame. Instead, let us cling to the mercy of Christ. Jesus himself faced many forms of sin, especially during his Passion, including betrayal, denial, and abandonment by his own friends. Yet the church says emphatically that at this dark hour, Jesus gives his life and **becomes the source from which the forgiveness of our sins will pour forth inexhaustibly** (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1851). Turn to Jesus in times of trial. **Will you lay down your life for me?**

Wednesday, Apr 08; Wednesday of Holy Week

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Matthew 26:14-25

I spy the darkness—Today is sometimes known as Spy Wednesday, a reference to today's gospel story of Judas plotting with the Sanhedrin to have Jesus arrested and put on trial. The word **spy** carries a meaning of laying a snare or planning an ambush in keeping with the story. Along with the Mass of the

day, today may include an evening service called **Tenebrae**. In this ceremony, which may consist of hymns, readings, prayers, and reflections, such as **The Seven Last Words**, a number of lighted candles are gradually extinguished to leave the assembly in total darkness. Then loud noises are made symbolizing the earthquake that followed the Crucifixion. Spend time today reflecting on the suffering and death of Jesus. **He who has dipped his hand into the dish with me is the one who will betray me.**

Thursday, Apr 09; Holy Thursday

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

Ex 12:1-14; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15

Wash down for supper—Jesus commanded his disciples to follow his example and wash each other's feet—and laypeople, priests, and even popes have been doing it for centuries as a sign of humility and service. In 2015, Pope Francis made headlines when he broke norms and washed the feet of women and Muslims in Rome—proof positive that simple gestures (even ones that are 2,000 years old!) can be powerful acts of inclusion. Show your authority as a follower of Christ and make yourself meek to the excluded. **If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet.**

Friday, Apr 10; Good Friday, Fast & Abstinence

Friday of the Lord's Passion

Is 52:13—53:12; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1—19:42

For God so loved the world—If not for love—a love worth dying for—the horror of Good Friday would make no sense. Jesus could have saved himself but chose not to. Jesus could have conquered evildoers with almighty power, but instead refused to answer violence with violence. **The cross is the school of love**, wrote Saint Maximilian Kolbe. Because of Jesus, we know that real love expresses itself through sacrifice. What will you do today to honor the love of him who loved us most? **For this I was born and for this I came into the world.**

Saturday, Apr 11, Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil

Gen 1:1—2:2; Gen 22:1-18; 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; Mt 28:1-10

Be on the watch—The Easter Vigil—not Easter Sunday or Christmas Day, but tonight's vigil—is the greatest of all church celebrations. The service begins in darkness as the faithful keep vigil, **looking for the light of the Lord when he returns**. As candles are extinguished, lights come up and scripture tells the stories of what God has done for us throughout time. Then new members are baptized and for the first time join everyone at the table of the Eucharist. Whether it's your first time, your favorite night of the church year, or somewhere in between, this is a night to remember. Don't miss it. **As day was dawning, Mary Magdalene came with the other Mary to inspect the tomb. . . . Do not be frightened . . . he has been raised.**

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Scripture citations from the New American Bible Revised Ed