

# Saints Joachim and Anne Parish

Elizabeth, Glassport, South Allegheny Roman Catholic Community

Established January 4, 2021

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

*One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic*

Website: [joachimandannediopitt.org](http://joachimandannediopitt.org)



## PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

So they brought the colt to Jesus and put their cloaks over it. And he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. - Mk 11:7-8

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCC.

GLP

### Administration Center

101 McLay Drive  
Elizabeth, PA 15037  
Phone 412-751-0663  
Fax 412-751-0663  
Email: TBA

### Church Buildings

+  
Saint Eugene (StE)  
3210 Liberty Way  
McKeesport, PA 15133

+  
Saint Michael (StM)  
101 McLay Drive  
Elizabeth, PA 15037

+  
Queen of the Rosary (QoR)  
530 Michigan Avenue  
Glassport, PA 15045

## March 28, 2021

### Faith Formation

Adult - Children - Youth

101 McLay Drive

Elizabeth, PA 15037

Phone 412-754-0886

Email: [213FaithForm@gmail.com](mailto:213FaithForm@gmail.com)



Mary of Nazareth Catholic School  
1640 Fawcett Ave. White Oak, PA 15131  
Pre-3, Pre-4, Kindergarten, First-Eighth Grade  
School Office 412-672-2360  
Webpage: [www.maryofnazarethschool.org](http://www.maryofnazarethschool.org)

The Pittsburgh Catholic is now Online.  
[thepittsburghcatholic.wpccomstating.com](http://thepittsburghcatholic.wpccomstating.com)

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 Administration Center.

### 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**

March 28 - April 4, 2021

#### Saturday, 27, Vigil, Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

**StM 4:00 pm T** Linda Booth - Jim & Johann Franciscus

**StE 6:00 pm M** Harold 'Buzz' Phillips - Louise & Family

#### Sunday, 28, Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

**StE 8:00 am M** Living & Deceased of the Parish Family

**StM 9:00 am T** Joseph Lord - Audrey & Casey

**QoR 10:30 am M** Arthur Tomko - Arlene Stanczak

**StM 12 Noon T** Joshua David Huwalt - Pappy & Grannyma Stanton  
Living & Deceased of the Parish Family

#### Monday, 29, Monday of Holy Week

**QoR 8:30 am** Nick Dabruzzo - Loretta & Family

**Novena - Infant of Prague**

**StM 9:00 am** Anna Mae Roberts - Linda Tobin

#### Tuesday, 30, Tuesday of Holy Week

**StM 9:00 am** Bernard Barr - Family

**StE 6:30 pm** Annette Glaser - Family & Friends

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions - 7:00 - 7:30 pm**

#### Wednesday, 31, Wednesday of Holy Week

**QoR 8:30 am** Connie Sydeski - Sister, Gert Ormond

**StM 9:00 am** Bob & Lube Medvidovich - Daughters

#### Thursday, April 1, Thursday of Holy Week

**StE 8:30 am** No Mass

**StM 9:00 am** No Mass

**Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper**

**StE 7:00 pm T** Fran & Ben Seidel - Kay & Jim Callear

**M Evelyn Gooch - Mickey & Gene Urbanski**

#### Friday, 2, Friday of the Passion

**StM 1:30 pm T** Passion, Veneration, Holy Communion

**QoR 2:00 pm M** Passion, Veneration, Holy Communion

**StE 7:00 pm T** Passion, Holy Communion, Veneration

#### Saturday, 3, Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil of the Resurrection of the Lord

**StM 7:30 pm T** Living & Deceased of the Parish

**M Living & Deceased of the Parish**

#### Sunday, 4, Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

**StE 8:00 am T** Living & Deceased of the Parish

**StM 9:00 am M** Living & Deceased of the Parish

**QoR 10:30 am T** Living & Deceased of the Parish

**StM 12 Noon M** Living & Deceased of the Parish Family

Low Gluten Hosts available - please see Priest before Mass.

*Hosanna!*

**Pastoral Staff**

**Clergy Team**

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

**Mary of Nazareth Catholic School**

Lynda McFarland, Principal, 412-672-2360

**Faith Formation - Religious Education**

**Adult - Children - Youth**

Julie Fleckenstein, Facilitator  
 Amanda Wilt, Co-Children, K-6 Grade  
 Susan Formica, Youth, Junior & Senior High

**Music Ministry**

Celeste Cafasso  
 Carol Gioia  
 Pamela Whitney

**Pastoral Secretary**

Jan Kunkel  
 Amy Megahan

**Facilities**

Tony Hutskow  
 Kevin Hopkins  
 Darla Losteter  
 Patricia Muic

**Business Manager & Safe Environment**

Jeannie Premozic

**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

**Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**

Many struggle with Jesus. Some who consider themselves faithful hail him in their churches but still struggle to figure out what to do with him on our streets. The message is somehow more palatable when it echoes pious renderings and sentiments and involves singing hosannas during worship. It becomes a bit trickier when it gets to the part about changing the way we conduct the business of our lives, becoming more sensitive to the disadvantaged, poor, and marginalized, and living as servants of our Loving Creator. Ultimately, it is a struggle between wanting to be God ourselves and letting God be God as God is. That's why it's so easy to become hypocritical. We, like those who hailed Christ as he arrived in Jerusalem and sent Christ to the cross to die, also talk out of both sides of our mouths. We entertain what suits us at the time and walk away from the rest.

Many neglect God's beautiful creation because they prefer what humans have made instead. Progress isn't seen in preserving and enhancing what God has made but replacing it with something we believe is better and more useful. The earth, flowers, and animals are all expendable if they stand in the way of the **more** we want to achieve. We seek to remove as many obstacles and hurdles as possible in search of the easiest, quickest, and most efficient path we can find. We have created drugs and laws that preserve our free choice, even though it may mean setting aside God's vision and example. Why suffer when we can easily be put to rest? Why endure insult or injury when we can retaliate, eliminate or subdue? Why accept life when it is acceptable to choose otherwise? We want to be God and resist accepting the fact that our real Creator has already given us the blueprints for the life we need to live in the Beatitudes and in the example of his Passion. We don't like being stewards and managers and really want the power to do as we wish and desire. We want to create our own way.

Where has the true, effective Christian voice been through all of the wars and violence, prejudice and unjust conquests, abuse of human beings and attempted extinctions of nationalities, the establishments of procedures and protocols that serve only a few and not the many and all of the injustices and exploitations that are a part of our human history? A few courageous prophets have stood up and out throughout all of the comings and goings of our human journey with many receiving the same fate as the Crucified One we hail this week. Some still walk among us as shining stars showing us how it really can be. How would Jesus' journey have ended if he lived life as we do? Unless we encounter the good with the bad, the just with the unjust, the grace with the sin, the glory with the cross, the death with the life we most certainly risk rendering God obsolete. After all, haven't we already convinced ourselves that we can do better?

*We remember . . .* In your charity,  
 please remember all those who have died,  
 especially: **Florence Ocilka Sullivan,**

**Samuel Milice, Sandy Minetti,**  
**Richard Brendza,** sister in law Margaret Ogurchak,  
**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.**  
**May Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them.**

**April Rosary Intention**

We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and democracies in crises.

## Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord



Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week and previews its themes and events. Today's liturgy begins with the commemoration of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. The Roman Missal gives three options for how this can be done, the most elaborate of which begins with the priest, ministers, and the entire assembly outside. The Gospel account of the entry is read, after which palms are blessed and distributed. Then everyone enters the church in procession, singing songs or psalms. However, the joy is temporary; the Passion narrative recounts how, after an intimate meal with his disciples a few days later, Jesus is arrested, tortured, crucified, and buried. The reading from Isaiah is one of four Suffering Servant songs, while the psalm likewise gives voice to the suffering of the innocent. The reading from Philippians affirms the Incarnation as God's embrace of the entire human situation, including suffering and death.

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## Everyday Stewardship -

### Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

#### Walk Every Step with Christ



Holy Week is a week for being mindful. We must set loose the baggage of Lent, and not be deterred by the dazzling sunrise of Easter morning beckoning in the distance.

It's okay for us to be excited for Easter. We've waited so long, after all. In my opinion it's one of the best feelings there is: the yearning we have in our hearts for the Resurrection as we embark on Palm Sunday. And in a purely logical sense, many of us have Easter celebrations for which we are preparing, and practical considerations to contend with. It's going to be a busy week, one likely full of happy distractions.

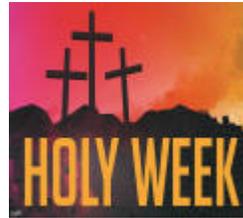
But my friends, we simply must keep our feet on the ground. Let's not **skip** Holy Week. Resist the urge to flip to the last page of the book, to fast-forward to the final scene of the movie. Don't rob yourself of the journey. This week is a blessed opportunity. It is this week that teaches us who we are. In the span of the Triduum, we have the birthday of the priesthood, the institution of the Eucharist, the sacrifice on Calvary and so many other vivid and meaningful scenes.

It may sound strange, to advise someone to savor the moments of Holy Week. There are so many violent and heartrending moments, after all. But this is the valley of tears, remember — we are not in Heaven yet. And here, in our fallen, sin-filled world, it is the heartrending moments that seem to matter the most.

These are the moments that define us as Catholics.

**Live them. Cherish them. Be present for each one.**

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPI



**Holy Week begins**, the whole city (Jerusalem then, our world now) asks the pivotal question, **Who is this Jesus?**

**Who is Jesus for us—for me?**

Jesus will judge us on our practical charity toward those in need, hungry, thirsty, without clothing or shelter, the infirm and imprisoned.



## Thursday Evening of the Lord's Supper

April 1, 2021, 7 pm

Saint Eugene Church, Liberty

This evening we recall that evening nearly two thousand years ago when

Jesus gathered with his friends one final time before he was arrested, tried, convicted, and put to death. Knowing he was soon to die, he took the opportunity to give them one final lesson. He washed their feet, each and every one, and charged them to do the same for others. As we begin the Paschal Triduum tonight, our remembrance of Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection, let us be nourished at the table of the Eucharist, sustained in our mission to wash each other's feet.

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

**Adoration of the Holy Eucharist**

**8:30 - 9:30 pm**

**Saint Eugene Church, Liberty,**

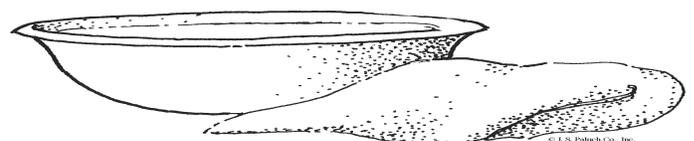
**will remain open**

**for private prayer until 9:30 pm.**

**Our blessing-cup is a communion with the blood of Christ.**

**Christ Jesus humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**

— Philippians 2:8



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**Friday of the  
Passion of the Lord  
April 2, 2021**

**Word, Veneration, Holy Communion  
1:30 pm Saint Michael Church, Elizabeth  
2:00 pm Queen of the Rosary Church, Glassport**

**Word, Holy Communion, Veneration  
7:00 pm Saint Eugene Church, Liberty**

We can look high and low but we will not find a Catholic Mass celebrated anywhere on this day. There is a Good Friday service, to be sure, but there is no Mass. However, we will gather in churches throughout the world to hear scripture tell of the trial, death, and burial of Jesus. We will pray the prescribed 10 prayers of intercession. We will walk in procession to venerate the cross. And, on this second of the three sacred days this week that are known as the Triduum, we will receive the Eucharist, consecrated at the Mass of the Last Supper the night before. On this day of prayer and remembrance, do one thing to imitate the love and compassion of Jesus. **And after this, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate if he could remove the body of Jesus.**

*Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.*

**Feast of Faith: The Liturgies of Holy Week**

**Holy Week is the culmination of the liturgical year.** During these holy days, the liturgy will lead us, with Jesus, to the depths and to the heights.

It begins with a harsh comparison, as we carry palms in remembrance of Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem and then listen to the Passion according to Matthew, as the King is handed over for crucifixion.

Then, on **Holy Thursday**, we remember the night Jesus was handed over—the night he gave himself for us and to us, to live in our midst forever in the sacrament of his Body and Blood.

On **Good Friday**, we touch with our hands the mystery of the Lord's cross, the instrument of torture that has become the tree of life.

Then, at the great **Easter Vigil**, the lighting of the paschal candle speaks to us of the triumph of light over darkness, of life over death. The resurrection of the Lord becomes a living reality in our midst as the catechumens for whom the Church has prayed throughout Lent are plunged into the mystery of Christ's death and share in the glory of his resurrection.

These are indeed holy days, the culmination of the Church's liturgy, and an invitation to participate in the very life of Christ. **Come, let us worship.**

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

**For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,  
you proclaim the death of the Lord. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26**



**Holy Saturday  
April 3, 2021**

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

**Blessing of the Baskets**

It is the tradition of many people to ask God's blessing on the festive foods to be used at the Easter meal.



**12 Noon Saint Eugene Church, Liberty  
12 Noon Saint Michael Church, Elizabeth  
2:00 pm Queen of the Rosary Church, Glassport**



**Easter Egg Hunt**

sponsored by Faith Formation & Youth Group  
**on the St. Michael Church Grounds  
at 12:30 pm for Children  
Grade 3 and younger**

**EASTER SCHEDULE**



**Easter Vigil in the Holy Night  
April 3, 2021**

**St. Michael Church - 7:30 pm**

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 a 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. **You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.**

**Easter Sunday of the  
Resurrection of the Lord  
Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021**

**8:00 am St. Eugene Church**

**9:00 am St. Michael Church**

**10:30 am Queen of the Rosary Church**

**12 Noon St. Michael Church**

**Come, let us worship.**

## Mary Garden Beautification Project



The **Mary Garden Beautification Project** is being inspired by our parish Youth Group. The **Mary Garden Project** is being planned for the right side of Saint Michael Church (Bell Tower Side).

Currently there are a few different options, (a new Virgin Mary statue, stone & concrete work, water feature, various plants & flowers) and your thoughts and ideas about what should be done within that space are valuable and important.

Also anyone with landscape design experience and is willing to assist with the planning and preparation of the layout of the garden would be greatly appreciated. This will be an extensive facelift to the church grounds.

All support, time, talent, and treasure, for the **Mary Garden Project** will be greatly appreciated.

If you have any ideas or suggestions or would like to volunteer your time, talent, and treasure to this **Mary Garden Project**,

please email the Faith Formation office at  
**213FaithForm@gmail.com**  
 or call 412-754-0886.

**Please keep the Mary Garden Project  
 in your prayers.**

**Thank you for your support and prayers.**

## *Marriage Moments* by Susan Vogt

**Palm Sunday** reminds us that there is a time for rejoicing. Of course marriage will always have times of sorrow and testing, but today recall a joyous time in your life together - your wedding day, birth of a child, whatever...

## *Parenting Pointers* by Susan Vogt

In the Christian tradition next week is Holy Week. It's a combination of rejoicing, eating a sacred meal together, humility, and death. What a strange combination all packed into one week of ritual. Consider doing a **home foot washing ritual**.

## *A Family Perspective* by Bud Ozar

The **Passion of Jesus** makes it clear, no one escapes suffering. Suffering is inevitable but no one should suffer alone. That is one of the primary roles of families, to stand with and support each other in suffering.

**Suffering** —Paul Claudel

**Jesus did not come to do away with suffering or remove it.  
 He came to fill it with his presence.**

## Protecting God's Children Safe Environment for Children

To take reasonable measures to assure that Church personnel comply with all required certifications and background checks for the purpose of providing a safe environment for children.

### Diocesan Database

### & Regulations for all Ministries

All parish staff and volunteers including: Faith Formation - Catechists, Class Aides, R.C.I.A. Team, Youth Ministry; Liturgical and Music Ministry - Adult Servers, Cantors, Choir, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Ushers; Parish Organizations - Christian Mothers/Women's Guild, Holy Name Society, Knight's of Columbus, Ladies of Charity, Rosary Society; Fund Raising - Festival, Fish Fry, Fund-Raising Worker, etc. are required by the USCCB, the Diocese of Pittsburgh and Saints Joachim and Anne Parish to be cleared in the following ways:

1. **Be registered on the Diocesan Data Base.**
2. **Sign the Code of Pastoral Conduct.**
3. **Be cleared by the Department of Public Welfare.**
4. **Be cleared by the Pennsylvania State Police.**
5. **Attend Protecting God's Children Seminar.**

The **Protecting God's Children Seminar** (an online 3 hour seminar) is a requirement of the National Conference of Bishops, Diocesan and Parish for all adults 18 years of age or older who are involved in the public ministry (work) of the church.

For more information, questions, or to begin the process of certification, please call Jeannie, 412-751-0663, Parish Safe Environment Coordinator.

MARY OF NAZARETH CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
 1640 FAWCETT AVE. WHITE OAK, PA 15131

## Open Enrollment



### One-to-One Technology

*Students attend classes brick and mortar*

*Real time teaching when virtual*

Call the school office at 412-672-2360  
 to schedule a tour

Visit us at [maryofnazarethschool.org](http://maryofnazarethschool.org)



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

101 McLay Drive Elizabeth, PA 15037  
 412-754-0886 Email: 213faithform@gmail.com  
 Facebook: FaithFormation-EGSA

*Enlisting Witnesses For Jesus Christ*

**First Holy Communion**  
**Sunday, April 11, 2021**

**Confirmation**  
**Monday, April 12, 2021**

**Saint Joachim and Anne**  
**Easter Egg Hunt**

Sponsored by Faith Formation & Youth Group

All Children in the  
 Elizabeth, Glassport, South Allegheny Community  
 are invited to an Easter Egg Hunt  
 on Holy Saturday, April 3, 2021 on the  
 Saint Michael Grounds at 12:30 pm  
 for Children Grade 3 and younger.  
 Please call the Office, 412-754-0886,  
 to Register your children.

**Forming a Marriage Prep Team**

Faith Formation is looking for couples and widows/  
 widowers (young & young at heart) who would like to  
 share the joys and challenges of a Catholic marriage with  
 engaged couples preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage.

There would be a commitment of 2 Saturdays plus 2  
 planning meetings a year. If you are interested or have  
 questions, please call Julie, 412-754-0886 or email her,  
 213FaithForm@gmail.com.

There will be an informational meeting for anyone  
 interested in joining the team on April 13, 2021 at 7:00 pm  
 at Saint Michael - Archangel Hall, with the hope of having  
 a Saturday Marriage Prep sometime in May or June.



For more information or to register,  
 please email 213Youth@gmail.com  
 or call Mrs. Formica, 412-754-0886

Save the Date ....

**Family Fun Night & Car Cruise**  
**Friday, June 18, 2021**  
 Sponsored by Youth Ministry

**Pre-Baptism Class**

Are you expecting? Is this your first child?

Pre-Baptism Class is for expectant parents and  
 Godparents or anyone who is seeking a Catholic  
 Baptism for their child.

**Pre-Baptism Class - Deacon John Ragan**  
**Thursday, June 10, 2021 at 7:00 pm**  
**St. Michael Meeting Room**

Grandparents are also welcome at these classes.  
 Please register by calling the Faith Formation -  
 Religious Education office, 412-754-0886 or  
 emailing 213FaithForm@gmail.com.

**Prior to scheduling a Baptism, parents need to  
 attend the Pre-Baptismal Seminar.**

**Bereavement Ministry**

This group, led by Deacon Dale DiSanto, is for people  
 who have lost a loved one and are experiencing grief.

This is a Support Group, not counseling.

**Thursday Afternoon**  
**Saint Michael, Meeting Room**  
**Beginning April 8, 2021 - 1:00-2:30 pm**  
**This is a six (6) week program.**  
**Please RSVP to Jan, 412-751-0663**  
**so that we may prepare materials.**

If you need assistance in moving through your grief,  
 this is an ongoing way to be supported during this difficult  
 time. The weekly session begins with suggested topics,  
 open discussion and ends with prayer.

“PRAYER, HUMILITY,  
 AND CHARITY  
 TOWARD ALL ARE  
 ESSENTIAL IN THE  
 CHRISTIAN LIFE:  
 THEY ARE THE WAY  
 TO HOLINESS.”

*Pope Francis*





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

**Sunday, Mar 28; Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**

Isaiah 50:4-7; Philipians 2:6-11; Mark 14:1—15:47

**Remember kindly**—None of us needs a reminder that life is full of suffering and loss. We'll all have a generous share of sorrow before we're through. What bears constant reminding is that seeds of kindness are sown each hour as well. In the final days before his Passion, an unnamed woman anointed Jesus with costly perfumed oil. It was a symbolic act, signaling his role as God's anointed and one prepared for death. It was also a gentle act in a week that would hold much cruelty. Seed the world with small kindnesses to testify against the darkness. **Wherever the gospel is proclaimed to the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her.**

**Monday, Mar 29; Monday of Holy Week**

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

**A most worthy work of mercy**—Among the corporal works of mercy, there's one you might take for granted: bury the dead. We bury our own friends and family, but what about those in your community who die with no one to bury them? There are pallbearer ministries—sometimes named after Saint Joseph of Arimathea, who provided a tomb for Jesus' burial—for the homeless, often veterans, and others left alone in the world who need someone to see them home one final time. See what your parish and local funeral home does for those who die alone. Can you offer them the dignity of your presence or, at the very least, during this time of COVID, your specific prayers? **Let her keep this for the day of my burial.**

**Tuesday, Mar 30; Tuesday of Holy Week**

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

**Can I get an amen?**—We know the word amen typically ends a prayer. It's there to signal a shared agreement to what's been said, as in: **Yes, it's so.** But what about an amen at the beginning of a statement? And what if it's used twice, as is common in the Gospel of John? **Amen, amen, I say to you,** Jesus says repeatedly. According to scripture scholar Raymond Brown, Jesus uses the phrase to show he speaks with the authority of God. Jesus speaks God's truth—which is why some translations say **Truly, truly** instead. Listen closely for God's truth this Holy Week. **Amen, amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me.**

**Wednesday, Mar 31; Wednesday of Holy Week**

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

**Patience, people**—Tomorrow being Holy Thursday, today is the last full day of Lent. And how was our Lent? Do you feel relief that your Lenten resolutions can be set aside? Saddened to lose the extra time set aside for prayer? Perhaps regret that your anticipated Lenten practices got lost in the daily commotion of the past six weeks? Here is the important question: Is your heart open to God and God's love? Lent is a gift of time, to be sure, but the opportunity to fast, pray, and give alms, to grow in

the love of God is ours every day. The words of Saint Francis de Sales come to mind: **Have patience with all things, but first of all with yourself. Morning after morning he opens my ear that I may hear.**

**Thursday, Apr 01; Holy Thursday**

**Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper**

Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-15

**Get down and dirty**—Some parishes have trouble finding parishioners willing to have the priest wash their feet at the Mass of the Lord's Supper. The idea of washing hands instead has been proposed. But the church has been firm: The stooping down to wash lowly, possibly dusty feet sends the message of humble, loving service that Christ intended when he performed this act himself. The next time you are called on to wash dishes, take out the garbage, or do a bit of dirty work, see it as a chance to live the spirit of Christ's act of washing his disciples' feet. **If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet.**

**Friday, Apr 02; Good Friday, Day of Fast and Abstinence  
Friday of the Lord's Passion**

Isaiah 52:13—53:12; Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1—19:42

**Mercy me**—Mercy is not always something we think about—until we are in need of it. Mercy refers to God's compassion and kindness toward us, especially when we have not been our best selves. On Good Friday, we see clearly, though painfully, the extent of God's mercy in a love so great that Jesus, God's beloved, is willing to go to the cross. We keep ourselves ever mindful of mercy as a way to understand a God whose fundamental "disposition" is one of loving kindness—no matter what. As you pray through this holy day, remember your own experiences of God's mercy. **And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit.**

**Saturday, Apr 03; Holy Saturday; Easter Vigil**

Vigil: Genesis 1:1—2:2; Genesis 22:1-18; Exodus 14:15—15:1; Exodus 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18; Isaiah 54:5-14; Isaiah 55:1-11; Baruch 3:9-15, 32—4:4; Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28; Romans 6:3-11; Mark 16:1-7

**This holy in-between time**—Scripture commentator John T. Squires calls Holy Saturday a **liminal space** marked by waiting and not knowing. This is the quiet, uncertain day between Crucifixion and Resurrection. In some sense, this entire past year has been a liminal year, as we are caught between the emergence of a history-changing virus and its hoped-for suppression. What can we learn from the disciples who waited and prayed? They prayed that life would emerge victorious over death. Let that be our prayer as well. **Then God said, Let there be light, and there was light.**

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Scripture citations from the **New American Bible Revised Edition**. For more information about **TAKE FIVE** and our regular contributors, go to [PrepareTheWord.com](http://PrepareTheWord.com).

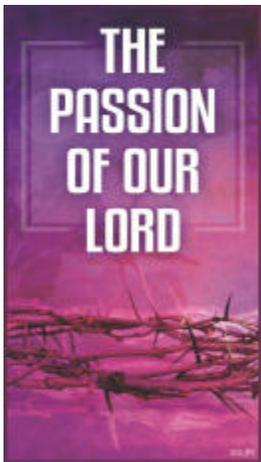
**The Passover is here:  
Slaughter the lamb during the evening twilight.**



**Suffering . . .**

It may be Palm Sunday, but the Passion is far more prominent in today's liturgy, which invites us to follow Jesus from his triumphant entrance into Jerusalem to his crucifixion and burial. It simply overflows with the sorrow and intimacy that will be dominant themes in Holy Week.

The first reading from the book of Isaiah gives voice to the suffering of an innocent person—perhaps a prophet—or the people as a whole. The refrain for the Psalm is Jesus' cry from the cross (Mark 13:14), a cry of absolute, existential loneliness. The great kenotic (emptying) hymn in Philippians provides a stunning portrait of Jesus' ultimate emptying, simultaneously intimate and cosmological.



**... and Intimacy**

All four Gospels have a Passion narrative. While there is agreement on the main events—an intimate meal shared by Jesus and the disciples, betrayal by Judas, prayer in Gethsemane followed by Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion—each Gospel has unique variations that give it a particular meaning or tone. In today's Gospel from Mark, Jesus is anointed by an unnamed woman in the house of Simon the leper. All

the Gospels have Jesus being anointed by a woman, but only Mark puts this scene just before the Last Supper. Jesus says the anointing is preparation for his burial; it is as if the woman could see a prophet's suffering in Jesus' life and feel it in his presence. Moved by compassion, she empties her jar of expensive nard on his head, pouring out her love in a profoundly intimate act. Perhaps she will also join the women who witness the crucifixion from afar (Mark 15:40–41), after the Twelve seem to be long gone.



Palm Sunday invites us to follow Jesus through the rest of Holy Week. By moving us to feel the injustice and the suffering endured by Jesus, this week's liturgies and devotions present us with those same choices. Perhaps, like the unnamed

woman, we can open ourselves to others' suffering and respond with love and compassion. Or perhaps, like the Twelve, we will be conspicuous by our absence.

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**Holy Week**

For the Palm Sunday Gospel, we return to the Gospel according to Mark. The account of the Passion takes up nearly one-third of Mark's entire Gospel and, of all the evangelists, he is the one who presents the details most graphically. He depicts the humanity of Jesus most intensely, describing his sufferings thoroughly. Mark portrays Jesus as a complete fulfillment of the **Suffering Servant** of Isaiah, the obedient, humble slave dying on a cross of whom Paul speaks in Philippians. But it is important to remember that we call this **Holy Week** and not **sad week** or **suffering week**, for each of the readings today, even the lamentations of the psalm, end in the promise of the strength and hope that is granted by God to those who faithfully give of themselves in love. As we enter into this week through these readings, we must reflect deeply on the sufferings of Jesus, but still be confident in the joy of risen, eternal life that awaits all of us who faithfully walk with him through these days.

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**New Monthly Envelope**

The **Capital Improvement, Upkeep, Building & Grounds** and **Utility/Energy or Fuel** envelopes has been replaced with a **Monthly Envelope**.

A suggested offering for each Family is \$20 to the Monthly Envelope. These monies will be used to assist in the upkeep of parish property and help cover the cost of energy and utilities.

**Faith Formation Envelope**

In your offertory packet, there is a special envelope for Faith Formation.

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**Patriotic Rosary**  
Monday Evening  
April 19, 2021 - 7:00 pm  
Saint Michael Church  
Elizabeth, PA

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
Rosary, Patriotic Hymns and Benediction**  
There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Benediction to conclude the recitation of the Rosary.

The Patriotic Rosary will be prayed on the Second Monday of the Month.

**All are invited and most assuredly welcome!**

**Mary, Queen of the Rosary, pray for us.**



**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: Cpl. 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; Lt. Col. James Hock, Army; E5 Sgt. Brian Imundo, Army; Sgt. Russ Langley, Marines; Staff Sgt. Raymond Massung, Jr., USAF; Sgt. First Class William Nellis, Army; Staff Sgt. Timothy Oeler, USAF; LTJG. 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. *Thank you for your service!*

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

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

**Spring Fling TICKET**

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Try a chance at winning a total of  
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\$10.00 per ticket with 30 chances to win!

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**Thank You for your support!**

**Saints Joachim and Anne Parish  
Community Festival 2021  
is scheduled for  
August 5, 6, 7, 2021**

**Festival Specialty Baskets**

**Thank you so much for your generosity!**

We continue to receive items in our labeled specialty baskets. All these donations will start us on our way to designing the beautiful baskets that are an important part of our Saints Joachim & Anne Community Parish Festival. P.S. Look in the clearance aisle. Save money while you donate!

**BASKET THEMES:**

- ◆ **Holiday Themes:** New Year's Day, Valentines Day, St. Patrick Day, July 4th, Thanksgiving, Christmas, etc
- ◆ **Cleaning:** cleaner, sponges, soaps, dusting items, etc
- ◆ **Going Green:** environmentally friendly products
- ◆ **Puzzle Basket:** crossword, word search, sudoku, etc
- ◆ **Toys:** Hot Wheels Basket, etc
- ◆ **Gardening:** hose, shovels, watering can, hoe, etc
- ◆ **Car Spa:** car shine, sponge & chamois, wax, wheel & window cleaner, wiper fluid, etc

If you are interested in being involved with the festival please contact Cathy, 412-980-2918 or 412-672-8666.

**Thank you for your generosity!**

**We couldn't do it without your help.**

**CALLING ALL CRAFTERS!!!!**

**Our craft basket area needs your talent!**

What better way to spend a cold, snowy winter day than by creating your special crafts for our **Saints Joachim and Anne Community Parish Festival**. Floral arrangements, wreaths, wood working, afghans, baby items, etc.

Donations can be dropped off at each church in the gather space. If you have any questions, please call Cathy, 412-980-2918.

**Thank you for you time, talents and support  
of our parish festival!!!**

*Upcoming Events*

**Knights of Columbus** will meet on **Monday, April 5, 2021 at 7:30 pm** in the St. Michael - Archangel Hall.

**Glassport Sons of Italy Spaghetti Dinner**  
**Sunday, March 28, 2021 - 12 Noon to 6:00 pm**  
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