

**ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, BALLSTON SPA,  
& ST. MARY'S MISSION, GALWAY**  
~ **Fr. Francis R. Vivacqua, Pastor ~ Deacon Ronald Hogan**

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# PALM SUNDAY

And when he entered Jerusalem the whole city was shaken and asked, "Who is this?" And the crowds replied, "This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee." —Mt 21:10-11

# PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD — APRIL 5, 2020



## MASS INTENTIONS

### MONDAY – April 6, (Monday of Holy Week)

7:45 AM + Dolores & Ronald Rhodes *req. by Christine Rhodes*  
 + Mary Francis O'Brien *req. by Gary O'Brien*  
 + Thomas Blaha *req. by Thomas Taren*

### TUESDAY – April 7, (Tuesday of Holy Week)

5:30 PM + Rev. Edward Bayard, 2nd Pastor, St. Mary's, Ballston Spa

### WEDNESDAY – April 8, (Wednesday of Holy Week)

7:45 AM + Ann McCormick *req. by Family*  
 + James W. Reagan  
 + Bill Burnham *req. by Family*

### THURSDAY – April 9, (Thursday of Holy Week)

6:00 PM + Thanksgiving for the Priesthood

### FRIDAY – April 10, (Friday of the Passion of the Lord)

6:00 PM

### SATURDAY – April 11, (Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord)

8:00 PM + Pro Populo

### SUNDAY – April 12, (Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord)

8:30 AM + Pro Populo

+ Dawn Colangelo *req. by Husband, Jack*

10:30 AM + Frank & Annabell Chamberlain, Irene & Arthur Thayer, & William Miller *req. by Family*

+ Salvatore Petrolo *req. by Granddaughter, Rita*

12:00 PM + Eugenia Valente *req. by Bryan & Debbie Arceneaux*



### Readings for the week of April 5th

**Sunday:** We recall and commemorate the events of our salvation as we begin Holy Week. Mt 21:1-11/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22/Phil 2:6-11/Mt 26:14—27:66 or 27:11-54

**Monday:** When we serve others, we live out Jesus' command to love one another. Is 42:1-7/Ps 27/Jn 12:1-11

**Tuesday:** Jesus enters humanity to save us. Is 49:1-6/Ps 71/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

**Wednesday:** Through repentance and reconciliation, we are offered the life of the Kingdom. Is 50:4-9a/Ps 69/Mt 26:14-25

**Thursday:** God continues to make a covenant of love and fidelity with his people. Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/Ps 116/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15

**Friday:** God gives us life through Jesus' death and in the sacraments. Is 52:13—53:12/Ps 31/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1—19:42

**Saturday Vigil:** In his great love for us, God became human and died to save us from death. Through him, we will enjoy fullness of life with him forever. Gn 1:1—2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a/Ps 104 or Ps 33/Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 16/Ex 14:15—15:1/Ex 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18 [1b]/Is 54:5-14/Ps 30/Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [3]/Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4/Ps 19/Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28/Ps 42 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3] or Ps 51/Rom 6:3-11/Ps 118/Mt 28:1-10

**Next Sunday:** We demonstrate our belief in the empty tomb by the way we live our faith. Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10

Imagine we are gathered together in the entrance of our church. As we would gather for our traditional Palm Sunday service we would hear two readings from the Gospel of Matthew. The first, from Matthew 21, would be read before we processed in with our blessed palms. We are reminded that Jesus triumphantly enters Jerusalem, fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah (9.9), "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king comes to you, meek and riding on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'" The fickleness of the Jerusalem crowd will be shouting, "Hosanna, Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord." As *they* waved their palm branches in excitement, we shouldn't forget that the whole of Jerusalem was "shaken" by the entrance of Jesus.

As we begin one of the holiest weeks of our liturgical year, we read Matthew's version of the passion. Together as a united family, and individually, we are to embrace this week made holy by its celebration of the Lord's gift of himself to us and everyone. Without new palms, I encourage you to take out last year's palms. If you haven't yet already done so, create a "chapel" in your home. Find a table and place your family Bible, crucifix, a candle and last year's palm upon it. Allow this to be a place of prayer for you and your family. The palms, a symbol, which open the door into a week of triumph, sorrow, and joy. They draw us in to the story of Holy Week. This week begins with a story of welcoming Jesus and ends as the crowd shouts: "*Crucify him! Crucify him!*" The palms give us something physical to hold on to as we discover what this Passion means for us this Holy Week. Are we on the outside or inside of the Passion story? Something to reflect on most certainly.

This week, I pray that your palms bring a special meaning for Holy Week. When you look at the palm, remind yourself of God's saving grace, His mercy, and His love. The presence of the palm this year should help us recognize those times when we are too casual about Jesus' saving death, especially those times when we are tempted to turn away from Christ and deny our faith because of the pressure of the crowd. Give a small piece of the palm to your children. These pieces remind all of us to remain aware of Christ's passion. It reminds us that we are also called to be servants to others. When we touch the palm this week, we remember Good Friday and Holy Saturday as moments of gratitude for the redemption that Jesus has won.

This week brings us closer to Easter Sunday, when Jesus' passion becomes our passion. We will celebrate Christ's resurrection and we will all embrace the gift of salvation. I fervently pray that you will receive Christ with the hope that we will live this Holy Week heart-to-heart with him.

Sending my love and God's blessings,  
 Father Francis R. Vivacqua

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## Collections & OnLine Giving

Thank you for the many people who have signed up for OnLine Giving or mailed in their envelopes. We are so grateful to have such a generous family of parishioners who are willing to adapt to the times and continue to support St. Mary's.

Our reality is that without Masses, there are no collections. It is important to remember the first part of being charitable is through the power of prayer. Our collections go toward the parish's operating expenses. If you haven't had the opportunity to enroll in our OnLine Giving program, please check out our website. If you need assistance, please email Ann McCauley. As always, thank you for your prayers and generosity.



We thank you for your sacrificial offering of:	
	<b>Mar. 29</b>
Envelopes & Loose	\$ 4,891
On-line Giving	2,355
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 7,246</b>
To cover our weekly expenses, we need \$11,500.	

Pope Francis composed a prayer to the Virgin Mary for protection of the world during the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic.

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

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

Pray the Stations of the Cross

- 1. Jesus Is Condemned to Death.**  
Pontius Pilate condemns Jesus to death.
  - 2. Jesus Takes Up His Cross.**  
Jesus willingly accepts and patiently bears his cross.
  - 3. Jesus Falls the First Time.**  
Weakened by torments and by loss of blood, Jesus falls beneath his cross.
  - 4. Jesus Meets His Sorrowful Mother.**  
Jesus meets his mother, Mary, who is filled with grief.
  - 5. Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus Carry the Cross.**  
Soldiers force Simon of Cyrene to carry the cross.
  - 6. Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus.**  
Veronica steps through the crowd to wipe the face of Jesus.
  - 7. Jesus Falls a Second Time.**  
Jesus falls beneath the weight of the cross a second time.
  - 8. Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem.**  
Jesus tells the women to weep not for him but for themselves and for their children.
  - 9. Jesus Falls the Third Time.**  
Weakened almost to the point of death, Jesus falls a third time.
  - 10. Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments.**  
The soldiers strip Jesus of his garments, treating him as a common criminal.
  - 11. Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross.**  
Jesus' hands and feet are nailed to the cross.
  - 12. Jesus Dies on the Cross.**  
After suffering greatly on the cross, Jesus bows his head and dies.
  - 13. Jesus Is Taken Down From the Cross.**  
The lifeless body of Jesus is tenderly placed in the arms of Mary, his mother.
  - 14. Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb.**  
Jesus' disciples place his body in the tomb.
- The closing prayer – Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be.



## Seal the Doorposts with the Divine Mercy

In this time of calamity, the Marian Fathers invite you to participate in a simple but incredibly powerful act of faith. To protect you and your family, we urge you to post an Image of the Divine Mercy on your front doors.

Father Chris Alar, MIC, explains why: You can clip the image from the bulletin, or print a larger version by visiting [TheDivineMercy.org/DivineMercyImage](http://TheDivineMercy.org/DivineMercyImage). If your image hasn't been blessed by a priest, the Church allows you to invoke a blessing yourself. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* (1669) teaches that lay people, on account of their baptismal priesthood, may administer certain blessings.

How can you invoke such a blessing upon the Image of Divine Mercy? While making the Sign of the Cross over the Image, say: *Oh, Lord, I seek your blessing upon this image, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.* Why is this Image so important?

The Image represents the Lord, the Lamb sacrificed for us, from whose Heart flows Blood and Water, the streams of God's mercy upon the whole world. The Lord promises us through St. Faustina "that the soul that will venerate [honor] this image will not perish" (*Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 48). He also promises: "victory over [our] enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death" and to "defend [us] as [His] own glory" (*Diary*, 48). The Lord said, "By means of this Image I shall be granting many graces to souls; so, let every soul have access to it" (*Diary*, 570).

Saint Faustina's confessor, Blessed Michael Sopocko, recalled additional promises our Lord made through St. Faustina regarding the Image: When chastisements for sins come upon the world and your own country will experience utter degradation, the only refuge will be trust in My mercy. I will protect the cities and homes in which The Divine Mercy Image is found; I will protect the persons who will venerate [honor] this Image. The only refuge will be trust in My Mercy.

Father Sopocko recalled that Jesus also said: Let everyone procure for their homes this Image because there will yet come trials. And those homes, and entire families, and everyone individually who will hold this image of mercy in deep reverence, I will preserve from every sort of misfortune. The time will come when all those who do so will give witness to the miraculous efficacy and to the special protection of mercy flowing from this Image.

What does this mean for us today? Recently, as the repercussions of the coronavirus became crystal clear, we prayed at Mass, "Let us seal the doorposts of our inner thoughts with the protective Word of God ..." This is a reference to Exodus 12, where God commanded the Israelites to "seal the doorposts" with the blood of the lamb so that the angel of death may pass over those houses that have been marked.

Jesus is the sacrificial Lamb of God. By offering Himself as atonement for our sins and those of the whole world, by the outpouring of His Blood and Water, He freed us from eternal death and sealed us for eternal life.

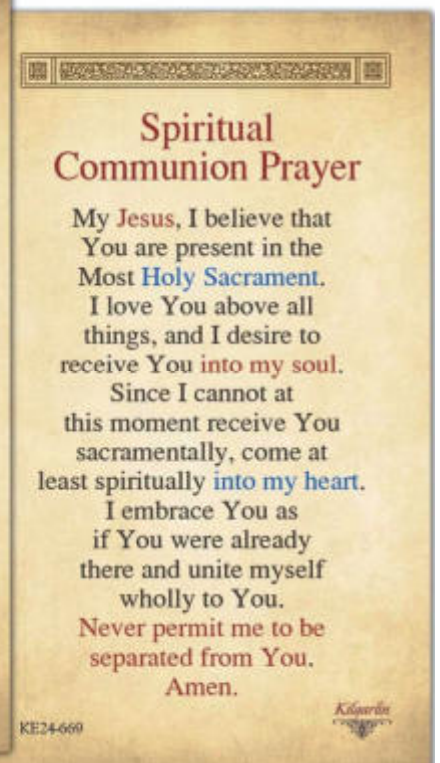
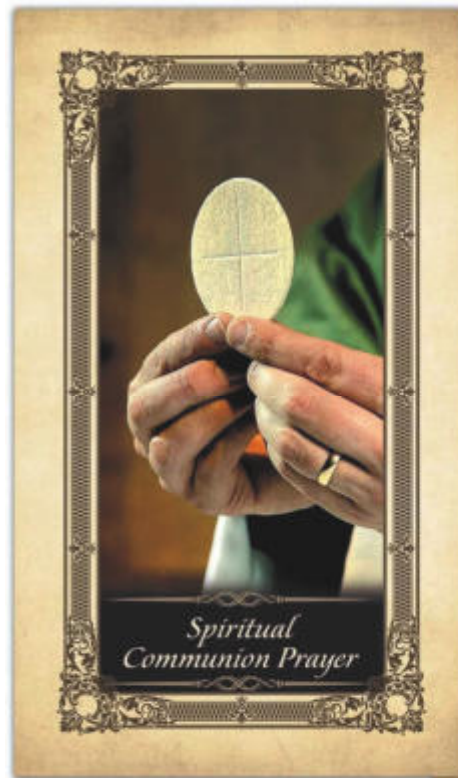
So please, I urge you to put the Image of the Divine Mercy with the inscription "Jesus, I trust in You" upon your doors, as many have done in times of calamity.

Remember, it is Jesus whom we worship in this Image. Also, while this act of faith may not guarantee your family won't be physically affected by the virus, it will guarantee that, by your trust in Jesus, you will obtain His promises of love and mercy, which will surround you and remain in you forever.

***Jesus, I trust in you!***







Lenten resources available on the  
St. Mary's website at  
<https://stmarysballstonspa.org/lent-2020>

2020 Lenten Gospel Reflections and Daily Meditations from Bishop Barron

Spend your time with Christ in the Gospel this Lent alongside Bishop Barron and the Word on Fire community. Receive these daily Gospel reflections in your inbox every morning -  
Go to <https://www.lentreflections.com/>

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: <http://usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/lent/index.cfm>

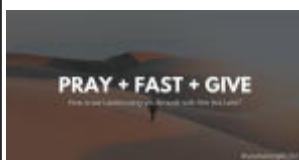
During Lent, we are asked to devote ourselves to seeking the Lord in prayer and reading Scripture, to service by [giving alms](#), and to practice self-control through [fasting](#). Many know of the tradition of abstaining from meat on Fridays during Lent, but we are also called to practice self-discipline and fast in other ways throughout the season. In addition, the giving of alms is one way to share God's gifts—not only through the distribution of money, but through the sharing of our time and talents. As St. John Chrysostom reminds us: "Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2446).

"Lent is a favorable season for opening the doors to all those in need and recognizing in them the face of Christ."-- Pope Francis



Lenten Reflections—Sign up to receive these reflections straight to your inbox every morning at <https://formed.org/lent-2020>

## Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany Lenten Resources



Throughout Lent we are asked to seek our Lord in [prayer](#), to practice self-control through [fasting](#) and to serve others through [almsgiving](#) (USCCB). During Lent, each person is invited to consider how our Lord is inviting him or her to walk with Him through Lent.

Go to the diocesan website at <https://www.rcda.org/lent>

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## **Continuity of Education**

As we navigate these difficult and unprecedented times, St. Mary's faculty and staff have prepared for the continuity of education for our students.

During the time of closure parents/guardians can expect:

- regular communication from teachers
- daily/weekly lessons and activities
- a school like suggested schedule
- check in phone calls and video conferencing
- appropriate online resources
- continued prayers for our school community



The amount of content and educational websites being shared online is abundant. While helpful, it can also be overwhelming. Parents/guardians are encouraged to take the lead from their children's teachers. They have the best understanding of the children's learning, skills progression and how best to help them achieve.

The commitment, dedication and professionalism of St. Mary's faculty and staff have never been more evident. They have stepped up to this challenge in an effort to provide continuity, stability and a sense of normalcy for their students, in such uncertain times.

Our teachers are committed to:

- \* Continue lesson planning & creating assignments
- \* Communicate expectations to students/parents
- \* Provide Instructional time – directed by teachers; documents/slides; online videos; student collaboration
- \* Professional Development/Researching new delivery methods and/or perfecting ones already being used
- \* Track student progress through projects, class work, quizzes, responses, and other formative assessments

Various materials and platforms for remote instruction are being utilized. Some of these include:

- \* online & hard copy textbooks/workbooks
- \* book studies and activities
- \* video recorded stories, lessons and messages
- \* Video conference meetings to deliver direct instruction and discussions
- \* Seesaw app and Google Classroom to assign and share student work
- \* email communication for assignments
- \* pictures of work samples being sent to teachers
- \* IXL, Reflex Math, Epic, Scholastic Learn From Home and others as appropriate

Parents and families have always been an important part of education. During these weeks of school closure, that role becomes even more important. Working together as partners in education will allow the children to continue to grow, learn and flourish.

God Bless!



## **Hail Mary**

Hail Mary, full of grace.

The Lord is with thee.

Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

Pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.

## **Our Father**

Our Father, Who art in heaven,

Hallowed be Thy Name.

Thy Kingdom come.

Thy Will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

## **Glory Be**

Glory be to the Father,

and to the Son,

and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning,

is now,

and ever shall be,

world without end.

Amen.

*"Though your beginning was small, your future will flourish indeed." Job 8:7*

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