

St. Joseph's of Stratford National Catholic Church

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**Palm Sunday,
March 29, 2026 Year A**

Sunday Mass at NOON

Parish Contacts:

ADMINISTRATOR *Fr. Paul Dudek*

CHAIRPERSON *Jeanine May*

VICE CHAIR *Jeff Smith*

FINANCIAL SECRETARY *Barbara Chernesky*

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR *Lisa Vasas*

Walking with Christ into Holy Week

On this Palm Sunday, we stand with the crowd that welcomes Jesus into Jerusalem with joy, yet we also listen to the Passion where that same voice turns to rejection. The liturgy invites us to recognize how easily the human heart can shift, full of praise one moment, uncertain or distant the next. In the Passion proclaimed from the Gospel of Matthew, we see the depth of Christ's love: He enters freely into suffering, remaining faithful to His Father even to the cross. He does this not for anonymous people or chosen ones, but for each of us.

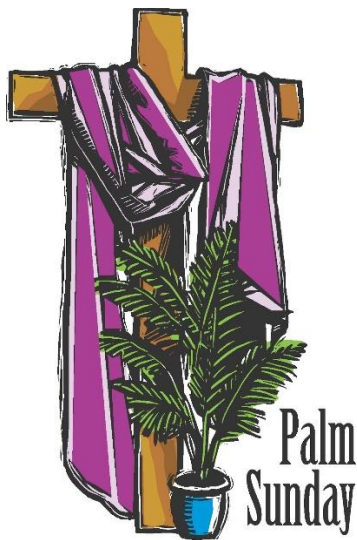
As we begin Holy Week today, we are invited to walk more closely with Him. Let us not remain only spectators, but disciples, faithful in prayer, present at the Holy Triduum liturgies, and open to the gift of His love. May this week lead us from the palms of praise to the joy of Christ's Resurrection.

~ Fr. Paul

We are a Catholic community called to serve God and neighbors through the Eucharist, prayer, education, and daily living of the Gospel values.

Everyone is always welcome to worship with us in our beautiful church.

It is a house of prayer for all, who with sincere heart desire to praise God.



**TODAY'S READINGS: SEE
CENTER INSERT**

PRAYER INTENTIONS

We remember in our prayers Fr. Bill, John (JR) Martikainen, Richard David, Bishop John Mack, Stella Shandrowski, Jane Pelland, Joe Pelland, Bishop Paul Sobiechowski, Karen Sobiechowski, Fr. Henry Smolinski & Margo, Ann Marie Egelski, Rich Lasecki, Edmond Bresh, Helen Reynolds, Helen Popp, Florence Rasmussen, Robin Lupinski, Ray Morrison, Meghan

Castlot, Henry Costigan, Mateo Cirioli, Renata Wos, Janice Daviault

For those new to our church (and even those who aren't!)



To follow along with the Mass, begin on **page 63** in the Mass booklet. Father will announce which page to turn to for the Canon at the appropriate time and where to pick up the service following the Canon. Rules on the reception of the Holy Eucharist are on the back page of this bulletin.

And please remember – no eating or drinking inside the church proper (small bottles of water excepted).

Please silence your cell phones before Mass.

***** Holy Week Schedule *****

The services for Holy Week are all listed in the calendar section of this bulletin. Please review the schedule so you know when **and where** each service will take place. We look forward to seeing you at as many as you are able to attend!



Palm Sunday food stand

Colossal Kielbasa will hold their first stand of the season TODAY, Palm Sunday, from 12:30 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. in the church parking lot.

Consider grabbing lunch there after Mass on your way home. The food is excellent and reasonably priced.

Mass of the Chrisms

This year's Mass of the Chrisms will be held **this Tuesday at 4:00 p.m.** at Holy Cross Parish, 320 High Street, Central Falls, RI. It is a beautiful service that rotates between each of the parishes in the diocese wherein the holy oils for the coming year are blessed and consecrated and the clergy renew their priestly vows. There is an article later in this bulletin about Holy Oils – their meaning and usage.



Hope to see you at Holy Cross for this service Tuesday!



Peanut butter ends today

Our collection of peanut butter for the food pantries is ending today. A huge **THANK YOU** to all those who participated in this! The collection bin is nearly full!

Last week for Lenten Almsgiving

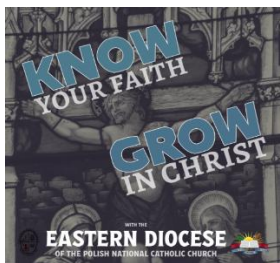
One of the tenets of Lent is giving alms to the less fortunate. A collection container is in the back of the church for your convenience in adhering to this practice.

This is the last week for our almsgiving collection. The money received will be donated after Easter to an organization of the parish's choosing – Blessed Sacrament's Food Pantry.



Let's make a concerted effort to provide the chosen organization a donation that will allow them to further their good work in our community!

Next Know & Grow Session



The fourth installment of the 2026 Eastern Diocese Know & Grow sessions will be held on **Thursday, April 9th at 7:00 p.m.** via Zoom. The featured speaker this month is our own Father Paul Dudek and he will help us to explore the topic of:

Accountability

Each unit will have biblical texts as a starting point, with lecture, meditation, discussion, and practical life applications.

To join via Zoom, please contact revpauls@yahoo.com or ksobiechowski@yahoo.com

~ Eastern Diocese Mission and Evangelism Commission

Next outreach collections

So you can begin planning ahead for our next three months of outreach, here is what we will be collecting each month.



April – Toilet paper and soap. Two of the other most requested items at food pantries.

May – Pasta and sauce. Help those in need make the simplest of dinners.



June – Kid-friendly foods. As schools shut down for the summer, many children lose their only source of nourishment. Sterling House provides backpacks of food to these children weekly for the entire summer as an alternative until classes resume in the Fall.

Coming soon – Saturday Mass

Starting in April, on the third Saturday of the month we will hold Vigil Mass at 4:00 p.m. **INSTEAD** of the Sunday Mass. This will allow Father to attend the monthly parish meeting at Holy Saviour in its entirety and give those who prefer Saturday services the opportunity to attend one. Mark it now – **the first Saturday Mass will be April 18th at 4:00 p.m.!**

READINGS FOR PALM SUNDAY

First Reading

Is. 50: 4-7

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah:

The Lord GOD has given me
a well-trained tongue,
that I might know how to speak to the weary
a word that will rouse them.

Morning after morning
he opens my ear that I may hear;
and I have not rebelled,
have not turned back.

I gave my back to those who beat me,
my cheeks to those who plucked my beard;
my face I did not shield
from buffets and spitting.

The Lord GOD is my help,
therefore I am not disgraced;
I have set my face like flint,
knowing that I shall not be put to shame.

The Word of the Lord

R: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PS. 22: 8-9, 17-18, 19-20,

23-24

R: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

All who see me scoff at me;

they mock me with parted lips, they wag their heads:

“He relied on the LORD; let him deliver him,

let him rescue him, if he loves him.”

R: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Indeed, many dogs surround me,

a pack of evildoers closes in upon me;

They have pierced my hands and my feet;

I can count all my bones.

R: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

They divide my garments among them,

and for my vesture they cast lots.

But you, O LORD, be not far from me;

O my help, hasten to aid me.

R: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

I will proclaim your name to my brethren;

in the midst of the assembly I will praise you:

“You who fear the LORD, praise him;

all you descendants of Jacob, give glory to him;

revere him, all you descendants of Israel!”

R: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Second Reading

Phil 2: 6-11

A Reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians:

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped.

Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every 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, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord

R: Thanks be to God.

C: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!

R: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!

C: Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.

R: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!

THE GOSPEL

Mt 26:14 – 27:66

C: The Lord be with you.

R: And also with you.

C: A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John.

R: Glory be to You, Lord.

**PLEASE USE CONGREGATION PARTICIPATION PASSION
BOOKLET PROVIDED.**

The Gospel of the Lord.

R: Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Response to Intercessions: **Lord of mercy, hear our
prayer.**

HOLY OILS



During Holy Week, a special Mass called the Chrism Mass, is celebrated in each Catholic diocese. All priests and representatives of parish communities gather around the bishop, who blesses the Holy Oils for use in the coming year. These are: Oil of the Sick, Oil of Catechumens and Holy Chrism.

Oil of the Sick - Oleum Infirmorum (O.I.) – This oil is used in Sacrament of anointing of the Sick to bring the strengthening and healing power of Christ, who is at work in the Church by the action of the Holy Spirit. St. James writes: “Are any among you sick? They should call for the priests of the Church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up, and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.” (James 5:14-15)

Oil of Catechumens - Oleum Catechumenorum (O.C.) – The oil of the Catechumens is used in the preparation of the catechumens for their baptism to strengthen (with wisdom and courage to live the Gospel) and purify candidates (from original sin) before baptizing with water.

Holy Chrism - Sacrum Chrisma (S.C.) – This is a mixture of olive oil (a rich oil, symbol of richness of God’s grace) and balsam fragrance (symbol of sweetness of Christian virtue). The Oil of Chrism is a sign of fullness of grace and spiritual strength; it consecrates and enables us to live out the call to follow Jesus Christ (the anointed one). The Holy Chrism consecrated by the bishop is used:

A) **at Baptism**: right after the actual baptism with water, the priest anoints the candidate on the crown of the head with Chrism saying: “God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has freed you from sin and given you a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit. He now anoints you with the chrism of salvation. As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet, and King, so may you live always as a member of His body, sharing everlasting life. Amen.”

(Continued on next page)

B) **at Confirmation:** in the Sacrament of confirmation, the bishop anoints the forehead of the candidate with chrism saying, "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit."

C) **in Holy Orders:** when a man is being ordained to the priesthood his hands are anointed with the oil of chrism; and when a priest is being consecrated a bishop his head is anointed by the consecrating bishop with chrism.

D) **Sacramentals:** Holy Chrism is also used in the rites of anointing pertaining to the dedication of churches and altars. Here, the bishop anoints the altar, pouring Holy Chrism on the middle of the altar and on each of its four corners. It is recommended that the bishop anoint the entire altar. After anointing the altar, he anoints the walls of the Church in 12 or fourteen places marked by crosses. It is also used to anoint the new bell of church.

LifeLine Screening Event



Did you know 80% of strokes are preventable according to the American Heart Association?

There is a simple, convenient way for you to get preventive health screenings and learn your risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions. The screenings are accurate, affordable and will give you valuable information about your health that you can share with your doctor.

We are pleased to host Life Line Screening, who will be on site on Wednesday, May 12th to conduct these valuable screenings which take 60-90

minutes to complete. Register by calling toll free 1-800-324-9458, text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607, scan the QR code above, or online at <https://lisa.social/HABC>



For more information, see the flyer on the bulletin board or take one home from the foyer and read it at your leisure.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR CHURCH

* Holy Week Schedule *

Tuesday, 31 March 2026 – Mass of the Chrism, 4:00 p.m. at Holy Cross parish, 320 High Street, Central Falls, RI

Thursday, 2 April 2026 – Maundy Thursday Mass, 6:30 p.m. **at Holy Saviour**

Friday, 3 April 2026 – Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified/Opening of Tomb, 3:00 p.m. **at St. Joseph's**

Friday, 3 April 2026 – Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified/Opening of Tomb, 3:00 p.m. **at Holy Saviour**

Friday, 3 April 2026 – Tenebrae, 7:15 p.m. **at Holy Saviour**

Saturday, 4 April 2026 – 11:00 a.m. Liturgy of Blessing (Fire, Water, Easter baskets). Decoration of church for Easter to follow

Help needed again



There's still one more date for which we need help. Please consider staying after the service Holy Saturday (April 4th) to assist in removing the veils, changing the altar cloths, and decorating for Easter. More ladder work to take off what we put on just a week ago!

Easter brunch signup sheet in foyer

Since the first Sunday of April is Easter, **next month's** fellowship hour will be held on the **SECOND** Sunday after Mass and be our **Easter** brunch. A signup sheet is in the foyer for those who are thinking of bringing something that day. Please make note of this and plan to join us one week later than usual!



April Eastern Diocese Prayer Materials

The April prayer calendar and Wednesday prayer intention have been published and are in the foyer for you. Please take one and join in prayer with our brothers and sisters in the Eastern Diocese. Share them with friends – the more people praying, the better!

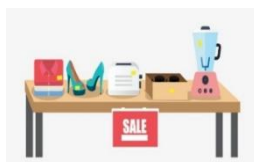
Reception of the Holy Eucharist



Baptized Christians who believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist and are in a state of grace, free from mortal sin, are invited to partake of this Holy Sacrament. It is the practice of the PNCC to distribute the Holy Eucharist through the method of intinction. The Body of Christ is dipped into the Precious Blood and is placed on the tongue and not in the hand of the communicant. *If you are unable to receive the Precious Blood, please alert Father before Mass so that he is aware of the situation. If you would like to receive a blessing from Father instead of Communion, come to the altar rail with your arms crossed, palms on shoulders.* Come and let us be one with our Lord.

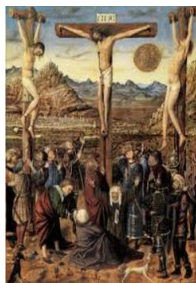
Spring Tag Sale AND Estate Sale – changes!

We have a new name for this event, but the date is changing! The parish will be holding an indoor/outdoor **estate and tag sale** in **late May/early June**. All proceeds will benefit the church and any goods not sold on that date will go to a collection center like Goodwill or Savers.



Help support our parish while you re-home your no-longer-needed items!

Old School Lenten Devotion



Holy Trinity PNCC, Plantsville
Starting Maundy Thursday 6pm.
Concluding Easter Morning. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for devotion and prayer the entire time.
Sign up to protect the sacrament
Contact: Fr. Justin 860-628-0736
revjustinpncc@gmail.com



Items for the bulletin

Deadline for submitting items for the bulletin is Thursday. Items turned in after Thursday are not guaranteed inclusion in the following Sunday's bulletin.