

"Hosanna"

**"BLESSED IS HE
WHO COMES IN
THE NAME OF
THE LORD!"**

JOHN 12:13



Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

**A NOTE FROM FR. MATT****THE VATICAN ISSUED A DECREE FOR HOLY WEEK LITURGIES WITH PANDEMIC RESTRICTIONS**

Today on Passion (Palm) Sunday, we commemorate Christ's triumphal entrance into Jerusalem and his passion and death—the beginning of our annual solemn commemoration of the events that reconcile us with God and that stand at the heart and center of our faith: "Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again."

"Easter is at the heart of the entire liturgical year and is not simply one feast among others. The Easter triduum is celebrated over the arc of three days, which is preceded by Lent and crowned by Pentecost and, therefore, cannot be transferred to another time," said the "Decree in the Time of COVID-19."

Where public Masses have been canceled, the decree said, the bishops, in agreement with their bishops' conference, should ensure that the Holy Week liturgies are celebrated in the cathedral and in parish churches.

On Holy Thursday, the Mass of the Lord's Supper should be celebrated in the cathedral and in parish churches even without the faithful present, it said. "The faculty to celebrate this Mass in a suitable place, without the people, is granted in an exceptional manner to all priests" this year.

"The washing of feet, which is already optional, is to be omitted" when there are no faithful present, it said. The traditional procession with the Blessed Sacrament at the end of the Mass also is omitted, and the Eucharist is placed directly in the tabernacle.

If there is any way to do so, the decree said, the Liturgy of the Lord's Passion should be celebrated and, among the formal prayers of petition, there should be "a special intention for the sick, the dead, for those who feel lost or dismayed."

As I write this on March 25, during the Fourth Week of Lent, our current plan is to live-stream Palm Sunday Mass at 8:30 am, Holy Thursday's Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 pm, Good Friday's Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at 3:00 pm, and Easter Sunday at 8:30 am.

Updated information and reminders will be posted on our parish web page (sfoasj.com) and through Constant Contact emails.

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**This Weekend's Readings**

Palm Sunday of the
Passion of the Lord

Gospel at the Procession:

Matthew 21:1-11

Reading I: Isaiah 50:4-7

Reading II: Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel: Matthew 26:14-27:66

Next Weekend's Readings

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection
of the Lord

Reading I: Acts of the Apostles
10:34a, 37-43

Reading II: Colossians 3:1-4

Gospel: John 20:1-9



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Monday, April 6, 8:30am

Pete Magsuci+

Ta Hoang+

Joseph Son Nguyen SI(for Conversion)

Tuesday, April 7, 8:30am

Michael Subhash-SI (Health)

Delia Daley +

Lucy Tram Nguyen SI(for Conversion)

Wednesday, April 8, 8:30am

Crescencia Manzano+

Deusdedit Judilla-SI

Fe Lamson Fields+ (1yr anniversary)

Thursday, April 9, 8:30am

Friday, April 10, 8:30am

Saturday, April 11, 8:30am

Saturday/Sunday, April 10-12

5:00 Vigil, Chapel

8:15am Villages

8:30am Chapel

9:00am Gathering Hall

9:30am Grange Hall

10:30am Chapel

11:00am Gathering Hall

12:30pm Chapel

2:00pm Spanish Mass

4:00pm Vietnamese Mass

6:00pm Chapel

Prayers for Holy Week



God, as we walk through Holy Week toward the Cross, may we remember the wonder of who You are.



Beyond sin. Your love is inexhaustible. Beyond brokenness. Your forgiveness is incomprehensible.



Beyond betrayal. Your grace is poured out eternally.



Beyond death. Your life is unimaginable. Beyond human understanding. Your ways are always higher than ours.

(c) Christine Sine

"As they were marching out, they came upon a man of Cyrene, Simon by name; this man they pressed into service to carry his cross."

(Matthew 27:32)

The Lord calls us to love God and to love our neighbor. Every day we are presented with opportunities to love our neighbor and help him "carry his cross." These opportunities aren't usually big events, they are usually ordinary occurrences like helping someone carry their groceries or holding the door open for them. The key is putting the other person's needs before our own and not expecting anything in return.



"Mientras marchaban, se con un hombre de Cirene, llamado Simón; a este hombre lo obligaron a llevar su cruz".

(MATEO 27:32)

El Señor nos llama a amar a Dios y a nuestro prójimo.

Todos los días se nos presentan oportunidades para amar a nuestro prójimo y ayudarlo a "cargar su cruz". Estas oportunidades no suelen ser grandes eventos, suelen ser acontecimientos comunes como ayudar a alguien a cargar sus alimentos o mantener la puerta abierta para ellos. La clave es poner las necesidades de la otra persona antes que las nuestras y no esperar nada a cambio.



MARCH 17-22

OFFERTORY

Online Giving \$ 3,137.00

Mail/Drop \$ 1,445.00

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Building Fund \$ 5.00

St. Francis Fund \$ 90.00

Easter Flowers \$ 40.00

Catholic Relief Services \$ 119.00

If you are interested in donating on-line, please visit our webpage at www.sfoasj.com and click on

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Or scan



to get started with this convenient giving option.

Thank you in advance for your generous giving.

Sunday Offertory Envelopes & Paybee Electronic Giving



As good stewards of the treasure you entrust to us, we are taking steps to "clean-up" our envelope mailing and distribution list. For all those who currently are receiving envelopes and did not use them in 2019, we will be removing you from our mailing list. This will reduce our expenses significantly. We encourage our parishioners who don't use envelopes to consider electronic online giving. The parish has recently engaged the services of Paybee.io to facilitate this process. It is extremely easy to use. Please visit paybee.io to begin using this service. Please contact our Business Manager, Victor Espinoza (vespinoza@dsj.org or 408-223-1770 x308), if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued support of the programs and ministries of St. Francis of Assisi Parish.

A REFLECTION FROM ROCHELLE LEGGETT

BE STILL, BE FILLED



This week has been hard. The distance learning has some issues that are taking time to fix. I feel that I am losing ground with not getting the issues fixed right away. Seven of our children's families have lost their income in some way or another. They have made the hard decision to dis-enroll from the preschool. Each of them was apologetic and deeply hurt by their decision.

I keep forgetting that I just can't get up and go out and do whatever I want. I need to step up my workouts, I don't want to be 10 pounds heavier when I get out of being shelter-in place.

My comfort and replacement for my 5:00 AM workouts are my Bible studies. I opened up with "A Clean Slate." Continuing with patience, I learned the Greek word "Hupomone" is the capacity to bear up under things or circumstances. This is inspired by HOPE. I needed to hear that, I started to breathe and wipe the slate clean.

My daughters and I got into the garage and worked out. My husband and I started to walk the hill at a nearby park. I cooked a great dinner and told everyone in the house that we are all sitting at the table to eat, not in your rooms.

HOPE is an amazing thing.

Think up, Be up and Look up!

Rochelle



A REFLECTION FROM ROSIE OLIVAS

These past three weeks have been difficult. I miss our parish community. I miss my visits with those from daily Mass. The busyness of our Parish. But I need to stop saying "I" ...WE are all going through the same thing.

Let us remember that Jesus self isolated himself for 40 days for us. That was his choice. So lets take this time to think about him and what he was praying and thinking about. I am sure he missed his friends, family and community as we do.

Now, 2020 years later, due to COVID-19, we are being asked to self isolate now. Not by choice, but to keep ourselves and others safe. This is our time to Pray, some of us are doing it alone, with our spouses, and some of us with extended family, depending on who lives in your household.

We as a community are getting ready to celebrate the Holiest and the most important week of the year. The week Jesus celebrated his LAST supper, washed the feet of his apostle's (even as the son of GOD, he knew how to treat others as equals, no one is better than the other), He was crucified and died for us and our sins.

By Jesus giving his life, he saved all of us. We are not being asked to give our life to save others, just to stay home. Can we follow in his footsteps and do this for him and others?



What's Happening

All Events are CANCELED until further notice.

DAILY:

Rosary-Monday-Saturday, 8AM, Chapel

Divine Mercy-Monday-Saturday, 7:50AM Chapel

WEEKLY:

AA-Mondays, 7PM

Fireside Room

Adoration First Friday, Chapel, 9am-5pm, other Fridays in Garden Rooms, 9am-5pm

Legion of Mary (English) Wednesday, 8PM, EV 2-3

Legion of Mary (Español) Thursday, 7PM, Evergreen 3

Marian Intercessory

Prayer Group

Thursdays, 9:15AM, Chapel (Drop-ins WELCOME)

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Novena Mass

Wednesday, 7pm, Chapel

Prayer Shawl Ministry,

Thursdays, 4PM, Fireside Room

SFOA Lectio Divina

Wednesdays, 10AM, Chapel

Stations of the Cross after 8:30AM Mass (M-SA Only)

MONTHLY:

13th of Month Rosary Group

One complete Rosary after 8:30 AM Mass each month

Book Group, First Tuesday, 7:30PM Fireside Room

Filipino Ministry Team (FMT) Third Thursday, 6pm, Gathering Hall

Holy Family Institute

First Saturday, 2-4PM, EV1-EV2

Ministry of Consolation and Bereavement : Third Wednesday of the month at 3:30PM in EV1

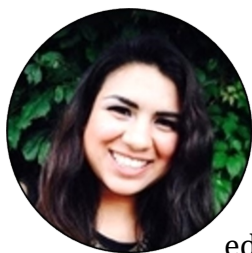
Spanish Ministry : First

Monday, 7PM, Gathering Hall

Social Justice:

Fourth Monday, 7PM, Garden Rooms

FROM THE PASTORAL CENTER



A REFLECTION FROM MALENY QUIROZ

FIGHTING THE INVISIBLE WAR

Not so long ago, people speculated over WW3 coming soon. Now that we're living under a different reality because of the coronavirus, it really does feel like we're undergoing war, just not the way many expected. This war isn't against visible arms, bombs, fires, or shootings, but rather against something invisible to the naked eye. Perhaps that's what makes it all the more terrifying, that it could be close, even within us, without us knowing it. This reminds me of spiritual battle. Most of the time we're unable to recognize the enemy even when it's near. He could already be attacking us without our cognition. We're undergoing war against an invisible enemy—the coronavirus and the devil. While we don't have a cure for the virus, nor do we have the heroic virtue to fight the enemy single handed, we do have God, a God that is infinitely bigger than anything that can trouble us at the moment. We can choose to either let ourselves be consumed by the anxiety of the unknown, or to recognize that we're unable to fight on our own and trust the slow but steady work of God. May God's love and peace consume you.



A REFLECTION FROM LISA NAKAMURA HOLY WEEK IS HERE

Holy Week is just around the corner. This year will be different. We will not be able to gather as a community to take part in our Catholic traditions and rituals. However, we

can prepare ourselves and family members for this most Holy of all weeks.

Holy Week starts with the celebration of Palm Sunday. It is also known as Passion Sunday. On this day, we pass out palms and bless them as a reminder of Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem in Matthew (21:1-11). Soon afterwards, the tone of the celebration changes. We then read the passion narrative: the story of people shouting to "crucify Him."

Holy Thursday begins the Triduum, the three most holy days of the year. Holy Thursday is our solemn ritual of washing of feet in imitation of Jesus at his Last Supper. Then we walk silently in procession behind the consecrated bread into the Chapel of Adoration to spend a holy hour in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Good Friday we follow Jesus in his last hours of life and death on the cross. Our tradition is to reserve the hours of 12:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. to sit with Jesus until his last breath. We kiss and venerate the cross. We pray and fast on this saddest of days.

Easter Vigil is celebrated the Saturday before Easter Sunday. The Easter Vigil has four major movements to it: the service of light, the liturgy of the word, the celebration of baptism, and the Eucharist. The Elect and Candidates are received into the church with the support of their Sponsors and the worshipping community. This Vigil can last up to 3-4 hours. It is beautiful celebration of liturgical symbols, fragrance and music.

To prepare for Holy Week you can do so many things. You can make or walk down the street and collect fallen palms of the trees. For Holy Thursday and Good Friday, why not spend some time in prayer and watch the story of Jesus' life? I would suggest the movie Jesus of Nazareth (1977). It is six hours long but a classic. You could watch one or two hours of the movie per day. The Miracle Maker (2000) is made for children and is an update on the use of Claymation. Lastly, if you prefer a documentary, I suggest PBS-Frontline: From Jesus to Christ. Most of these movies can be found on Amazon or Netflix.

PALM SUNDAY





CATHOLIC IQ FOR APRIL, 2020 A Matrimony Quiz

Adult Quiz

- 1) A divorced Catholic cannot remarry unless his or her first marriage was _____.
a) Performed in a foreign country
b) celebrated before 1990
c) annulled d) forgotten
- 2) Every Catholic marriage must include _____ as a witness for the Church.
a) An altar server b) an ordained minister c) a canonized saint d) an organist
- 3) It is possible for a Catholic to marry a non-Catholic in a valid Catholic wedding. True or False

Children's Quiz:

- 1) Catholic marriages are permanent and exclusive. True or False
- 2) Getting married is the same as dating or living together. True or False
- 3) Catholic couples celebrate their marriage ceremonies _____.
a) On a beach b) in a church
c) at home d) anywhere they want

Answers:
Adult Quiz
(C) annulled
(B) an ordained minister
True - A Catholic can marry a non-Catholic or even an unbaptized non-Christian with special permission and understanding that the Catholic party will not abandon their Catholic faith and the children will be raised Catholic (CCC, 1633-1635)
Children's Quiz
(c) true - For Catholics, marriage means no affairs, side relationships, or divorce (CCC 1638-40)
False - dating or living together are not permanent arrangements.
(b) in a Church - Marriage in the Church reminds couples of God's covenant to us and what it means for the Catholic community to live as disciples. (CCC, 1630-1631)

FROM THE DESK OF VICTOR ESPINOZA SILVER LININGS MARCH 25, 2020



Every cloud has a silver lining is an idiom that most of us have heard throughout our lives. Many believe that saying goes all the way back to 1634, when John Milton, an English poet and intellectual wrote, "Was I deceived or did a sable **cloud** Turn forth her **silver lining** on the night?", in his work commonly known as *Comus*.

The meaning, as we are familiar with it, describes how even through a dark time or situation, something positive can always be gained or identified. For many of us, over these past two weeks, we have been experiencing what seems like a dark cloud during these uncertain times. We wonder if our health or the health of our loved ones will be impacted by the Covid-19 Virus, or we are concerned about how will be able to financially sustain ourselves and our families if our jobs are put on hold or even lost.

These are truly life altering concerns that could easily cause us to despair and even lose hope that life as we once knew it will once again return. We see and can even feel the darkness of the clouds lingering over our heads, and as each day that passes we can even feel hope is a far-off notion that we yearn to once again experience.

But we as a people of God must never lose hope or faith that God is with us even in the darkest times, indeed He is The Light that shines from behind that dark cloud to give us the silver lining. I have taken moments throughout my day to purposely seek out and identify these moments when Jesus and his love and compassion has been present with me during this time.

On most days I must admit that I tend to easily overlook these small but meaningful moments. Feeling the warmth of the sun on my face, hearing the sound of birds serenading and welcoming back the familiar blossoms of spring, hearing a heartfelt "thank you for your help" from a grateful parishioner setting up their online giving accounts, hearing the familiar voice of a friend who calls to check in to just say hello, and treasuring a bit of extra time to care for our loved ones while we are isolated from the rest of the world. These are some of the examples of the silver linings I have experienced over the past couple of weeks that have helped me to remember that God's love is ever present, even in times of uncertainty.

It is with these thoughts in mind that I invite you to take a moment before the sun goes down, look up at the clouds and reflect on the activities of the day, contemplate on what the silver linings for your day were. In doing so, try to be prayerful and always remember that silver linings often come from a light that shines from behind and above. Let Jesus always be the light that creates our silver lining for the dark clouds that always pass away.

FROM THE PASTORAL CENTER



A REFLECTION FROM DEACON ANDRZEJ SOBCZYK "THE MODERN CHRISTS"

We are living in unprecedented times. Most of us do not remember a year when life was affected in such profound ways. We are forced to stay home, grocery store shelves are half empty, streets and highways seem deserted, and we cannot even pray next to each other. Many of us live in fear: fear of someone close to us dying from the virus, fear of the healthcare system collapsing and not being there for us when we really need it, fear of losing our job and income, and worry about our retirement security. We cannot meet with friends, go on planned vacations, or perhaps even visit elderly parents and grandparents. Baptisms and weddings are postponed, funerals are brief, our grief is raw and unprocessed; we cannot even hug the people that long for

consolation. We are isolated and deprived of so much that we came to take for granted. To say that this Lent is unusual would be a great understatement

In the middle of this tragedy and destruction, among the fallen ashes of lost dreams and hopes, I can see, though, some diamonds forming, and sparkling with the rays of goodness and hope. Healthcare workers are bravely fighting the darkness, risking their own lives while the stock of their protective gear is dwindling. Grocery store workers, pharmacists, delivery drivers, police, paramedics, firefighters, and many others working in essential services are supporting and protecting us with the shield of their own bodies and courage, even as they experience their own fear and uncertainty. Neighbors volunteer to shop for the elderly and the most vulnerable; they donate part of their own supplies to those in greater need. A sense of duty, responsibility, and connection propels all those people forward, and towards others, as they offer acts of kindness, care, and compassion. They might not have time to reflect on it, but they are saving us, offering their unconditional love and suffering for all; they are the modern Christs.

Scientists are working around the clock, racing to find a cure and develop a vaccine. People work from their homes to quietly support the economy and our existence. Spiritual leaders are praying for their communities and all of creation. Artists inspire and entertain lonely people in new and creative ways, people reach out to each other to show that they care, and share their jokes to bring a touch of joy. Despite the increased risk, volunteers and non-profit organizations continue to care for the homeless, the poor, the immigrants, seniors, the most vulnerable. We all have a role to play, even if it is just staying home and not spreading the virus to others; in fact, it is an important role, and doctors are pleading with us to do just that, and save their lives in the process.

The virus knows no borders, and that is scary, but it also makes us realize, more than ever before, that we are in this all together. And I don't mean just the pandemic; I mean life, humanity, creation, universe and cosmos, I mean Love. We have stopped chasing away the homeless, we have halted evictions and foreclosures. Countries, businesses, and individuals with an extra supply of masks are donating them to others. This great suffering has made us more caring and more sensitive to the needs of our sisters and brothers. It made us all a little more Christ-like. Christ sees all creation as one and this crisis allowed us to see the world through the eyes of Christ, even if just for a moment, a day, a month, or a year. It is a great blessing to experience this alignment, this intimate connection with God. I have no illusion that it will last forever, although I do imagine it everyday, and pray for the Kingdom to come. But I do sincerely hope that this experience of suffering and solidarity will help us move at least incrementally forward and closer together in spirit. Perhaps it will manifest itself in a creation of a more inclusive and universal healthcare system, which would mean a lot to all the uninsured and underinsured. Perhaps it will be a greater availability of more affordable housing. Perhaps it will be our willingness to pay everyone a living wage and provide paid sick leave. Perhaps it will be a recognition that immigrants are not a threat or an evil. Perhaps it will be a little more kindness, healing, and unconditional love. And that is already a lot.



FROM THE PASTORAL CENTER

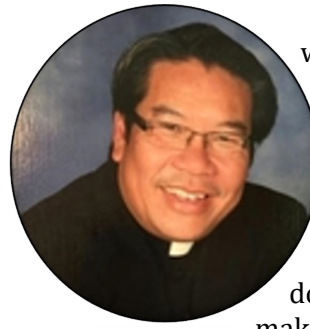


THE WELCOMING PRAYER... CONSENT ON THE GO...

Recently, in a place of peace, a retreat center, fear gripped the Centering Prayer retreatants. Ill, one of us waited testing in the ER. We empathized; we also reacted with anger and fear. Had she traveled? Did she feel ill before coming? Am I infected? We knew not the answers. We did know the Welcoming Prayer: a method of consenting to God's Presence and action in our emotional reactions to events and situations in life. To provide inner calm, practice the three movements of the Welcoming Prayer:

1. Stop. Place your feet on the ground. Sit--spine straight, shoulders squared, head erect. S-l-o-w-l-y breathe in and out. Now feel and sink into what you are experiencing this moment in your body.
2. "WELCOME" what you are experiencing this moment into your body as an opportunity to consent to the Divine Indwelling.
3. Let go by saying, "I let go of my desire for security, affection, control and embrace the moment as it is." Fr. Thomas Keating says, "Welcoming Prayer embraces painful emotions experienced in the body, rather than avoiding them or suppressing them. It does not embrace the suffering as such but the presence of the Holy Spirit in the particular pain, whether physical, emotional or mental. Thus, it is the full acceptance of the content of the Present Moment. [In] giving the experience over to Holy Spirit, the false-self system is gradually undermined and the true self liberated." In these uncertain days, consent to and practice the Welcoming Prayer to accept ambiguity, not knowing, and Mystery Unfolding. For more info: www.contemplativeoutreach.org. Ah, yes, the retreatant is OK.

Barbara F. Zahner, BCC; 3GEN+ Coordinator;
barbarazahner1@mac.com



It has been more than two weeks that the Bishop of San Jose suspended the Eucharistic celebration due to the pandemic crisis. When does it end? Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases said: "You don't make the timeline, the virus makes the timeline." We know that the pandemic crisis will soon come to the end, but how does it end? How many more people will have to die before it ends? Nobody knows!

We are coming to the end of the Lenten Season with full joy and hope in God. With this Sunday, Palm Sunday, we, the Church, begin the most solemn season in the Church, the Holy Week, commemorating the Passion, Death, Resurrection, Exaltation of Jesus, and following the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and Christ's Parousia (second coming).

The Palm Sunday re-enacts the triumphant entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem. As we anticipate in this journey with Jesus Christ, we encounter the mysterious depths of a love that is stronger than death. This is the love that leads Jesus to Jerusalem, to the Upper Room, to Gethsemane and finally to Golgotha. It is the love that brings Jesus to the joys of the Easter which is the hope of our lives.

As we are coming to the end of Lent, we are reminded of our Baptism, our new life in Christ, our hope in God, that we celebrate the triumph of God's love in the shallowness of our lives and the promise holds not only for us but for our broken world as well.

May God protect us all in this pandemic crisis. Let us live in God's love!

Fr. Lieu Vu

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