



# ST. ROMUALD CATHOLIC CHURCH

394 N HWY 259 · HARDINSBURG KY 40143

March 25, 2018 - Palm Sunday

## dear Padre

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*Deacon*, Mike Wiedemer

*Administrative Asst*, Jane Haynes

*CRE: Adult*, Rosa Hockenberry

*CRE: RCIA*, Marie Rose

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*CRE: K-6*, Kim Brumfield

### **Pastoral Council:**

Dana Bland, Kevin Oelze,

Janet Bland, Danny O'Reilly

Chris Brumfield, Don Payne,

Gera Jarboe, Gail Pollock

Harry Mattingly, Pam Pollock

Joellen McGary, Mark Rhodes

### **St. Romuald**

#### **Interparochial School:**

Phone: 756-5504

[www.stromualdschool.org](http://www.stromualdschool.org)

Principal, Rob Cox

#### **School Board**

#### **Representatives:**

Jamie Barr, Amy Flood,

Jennifer Payne

### ***Was the Mother of Jesus at the foot of the cross?***

In John's Gospel the Mother of Jesus, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene stood "by the cross" (19:25). Moreover, Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing by and spoke to them (19:26-27).

In Mark's Gospel, among "the many other women" watching the crucifixion from a distance were "Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome" (15:40).

Luke simply records that "all his acquaintances stood at a distance, including the women who had followed him from Galilee and saw these events" (23:49). But he mentions three women by name who visited the tomb: Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James (24:10).

Matthew also has "many women" looking on from a distance. Among them are "Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee's sons" (27:56).

Only John records the presence of Jesus' mother and "Mary the wife of Clopas," who is believed to differ from Mary, the mother of James the younger and Joses, and Mary, the mother of James and Joseph. Mary Magdalene is cited in all four Gospels.

"By the cross" or "at a distance" may indicate the location allowed for spectators at a crucifixion. However, it is possible that at some point they were permitted to approach the foot of the cross, as depicted sometimes in artworks.

Fr. Byron Miller, [CSsR.Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:CSsR.Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)







**Happy Holy Week!** Palm Sunday opens this week commemorating the final words and events in the life of Jesus as he approaches His redeeming action of dying on the cross. His death includes all of the humiliating run-up to that moment, such as accepting rejection by others, their insults and persecution leading to his torture and the most degrading type of crucifixion (& don't forget the abuse of his corpse as the soldier jabbed his lance into Christ's dead flesh for sport). I know I am being especially descriptive of Jesus suffering, but remembering every detail of it deepens my

appreciation of Christ's love and sacrifice. Also, I am moved by it, to be stronger and more patient toward others. Every time we pray the Stations of the Cross, Christ's suffering and love of us is made more real and tangible! A grandparent recently shared with me that his preschool granddaughter was crying after praying the stations, and said, "They were so mean to Him." If we could all have the same heart as that precious little one! On Palm Sunday, we read the entire account of Christ's Passion according to Mark's gospel (Mk 14&15). We read Mark's version, because this year (Year B) is dedicated to Mark in our reading cycle. But also, on every Good Friday, we always read another passion account according to John's gospel. This is a lot of reading. In the presence of so many words, it is always good to limit ourselves and narrow our focus upon just a few lines or details. In particular, a few background facts about Mark's gospel may help. Mark is the shortest and possibly the earliest gospel written. Some have described it as simply the Passion Account with a long introduction, because Mark suggests and subtly **spotlights Christ's Passion all the way through his gospel**. Jesus' death seems to **hang** over every interaction recorded in the gospel. **Three times** Mark will have Jesus speak clearly about his **impending suffering and death (8:31, 9:30-31, 10:33-35)**. All through Mark's gospel, there is urgency behind every word, as if there is a rush to get Jesus on the cross. This haste is likely because Mark wrote down his gospel in a period of painful persecution among his Christian community. The **cross' shadow looms large** over the whole gospel! Related to this theme of persecution and chaos is the perplexing fact of His followers' confusion and misunderstanding about Jesus. For example, they often ask Him questions, that He seems to think they should already know. Also, He repeatedly silences them or discourages their free and open-telling of his works/miracles, even about His own identity. Further, Jesus also repeatedly teaches a 'strong discipleship' requiring great effort that includes pain. This austere picture of Jesus in Mark, may account for why the disciples often don't understand or keep good faith with Jesus. That's all the more reason **for us** to closely read Mark's Passion this year, focusing upon His suffering.

A detail I like about Mark is his 'stream of consciousness' pattern of telling stories, sometimes even stories within stories! Mark keeps Jesus 'up close and personal' throughout his gospel. Jesus touches people. He brushes up against them in crowds. He visits homes and is often on the roads. Many people hang around him and he shows up at meals all the time. The most real and personal details about Jesus according to Mark is Jesus' feelings/emotions. We hear about Jesus' compassion in 1:41, His feeling of strong displeasure in 1:43, and His shock at people's disbelief in 6:5. Also, in 8:12 He sighs deeply, He feels indignation in 10:14 and is moved with love in 10:21, to name just a couple. We benefit greatly from reading Mark closely, listening and watching for Jesus' expressions of feeling and His responses to people.

My meditation this coming week will focus upon the prayer of Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane, when Jesus wonders if it is *possible that this hour might pass by him* when he prays "Abba, all things are possible to you. Take this cup away from me, but **not what I will but what you will!**" (Mark 14:35-36). The word "Passion" refers to Jesus' **undergoing fully, accepting and experiencing 'patiently' all that occurs to Him**. To me, patience reveals what is highest and strongest about us as human beings! Maybe our exhibiting 'patience' even reveals 'divine' grace at work in us! I like how St Paul describes the 'patience of God' toward us in 1Timothy 1:15-16, saying "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. I am the *foremost* sinner. For that reason I was mercifully treated, so that in me, as the *foremost*, **Christ Jesus might display all his patience as an example for those who would come to believe in him for everlasting life.**" St Peter says the same in 2 Peter 3:9 saying, "The Lord is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." **God is**

**patient**, as we see in Jesus' humble acceptance of suffering for us, just as Isaiah 53:7 prophesied: "Though harshly treated, he submitted, and did not open his mouth."

For a Passion Mediation, consider this litany of abuse that Jesus 'accepted' gracefully, not retaliating or complaining about them. He 'took the high road' to redeem our human sin/evil. Jesus did not 'count the ways' of abuse, or make a list like an 'injustice collector'. He experienced them, accepted them, and sought their conversion to good (good overcoming evil). For our meditation, let us not be content to say 'he died for our sins', but let's look at what his 'dying' meant up close. These details come through chapters 14-15 of Mark's gospel. In 14:1, the chief priests and scribes 'treacherously' (so unfairly) trump up reasons to arrest and kill him. Then Jesus' own disciples act indignant, and become angry over His gentle anointing with costly oil in 14:4-5. In Mark 14:10-11, Judas begins his betraying negotiations with the chief priests. 14:18-19 tells of Jesus confronting His disciples about their cowardly faith abandoning Him, and he listens to their 'empty protests' of fidelity. Mark 14:29-30 has Peter promise Jesus 'hollow loyalty', but Jesus bluntly prepares Peter for his failure, denying Jesus too. Then three times (14:37,40 & 41) Jesus finds them sleeping on Him! The soldiers arrive like a SWAT Team in Mark 14:43 & 48, armed with clubs/swords as if Jesus was a killer threat. And in 14:50, everyone runs away abandoning Jesus. Mark 14:56-58 has the corrupt Sanhedrin pull together false witnesses with contradictory testimony. In 14:65, people spit on a blindfolded Jesus, hitting him and teasing him to prophesy magically about who just hit him. 14:66-72 tells about Peter's threefold insult denying Jesus over and over. Mk 15:1 has the priests shackle Jesus and turn him over to Pilate's men. Mk 15:3 tells of even more slanderous 'false accusations' lodged against Him. In 15:11, the mob dramatically prefers a violent terrorist Barabbas to be freed instead of Jesus, before Jesus is given a death sentence in verse 13. The soldiers proceed to mockingly clothe Jesus in purple, crown him with thorns and keep spitting on Him in 15:17-18. To further humiliate and break Him down, soldiers drug Him in 15:23. Mk 15:24 has them stealing and gambling over his remaining clothes. In 15:29-32, the crowd gangs up to taunt him about 'power' and verbally abuse Him with defamations, leading to a final insult of offering him wine again, as a sarcastic 'toast' to Elijah's coming to rescue Him in 15:36. Whew! What a 'rundown' of Jesus' cruel treatment by others. And our Savior responds by 'loving us to redemption'. Better than anyone, John 13:1 says it all and simply, **"he loved them to the end."** Jesus perfectly embodies **two of our 'Spiritual Works of Mercy': #5 Forgive Injuries and #6 Bear Wrongs Patiently**. May the Passion of Jesus teach us greater patience in our conduct, and supply us the grace to live with composure amid the misunderstandings, insults and struggles of this life!

Here are some daily questions to consider in our prayer time!

**Sunday:** Did God lay a word or message on my heart at Mass today? Maybe an answer to a prayer I have been offering all week?

**Monday:** Make a plan to accept more patiently little inconveniences, pains or problems this coming week.

**Tuesday:** Do you have a crucifix handy? Maybe on your wall to look up at, or in your pocket that you can hold or touch when tested with a suffering to better bear it (maybe on your rosary, or on sacred heart prayer medal)?

**Wednesday:** Can I help lighten someone's load today by accepting some of their burden and walk with them?

**Thursday:** Love is this: God loved us most when we turned against Him in sin. Can I be strong enough to love someone in my opinion 'undeserving' of love? Also, can I humbly confess my prideful and judgmental attitude?

**Friday:** Some pray the Stations of the Cross tonight at Church, and perform a sacrifice or penance for someone today.

**Saturday:** Come to mass early and pray the Stations of the Cross or offer a rosary with Church for world peace.

Peace and Prayers, Fr Brian Johnson

# PARISH NEWS & EVENTS



**Are you or someone you know interested in knowing more about the Catholic faith or considering becoming a Catholic???**

If yes, please contact Fr. Brian, Deacon Mike, Deacon Tony or Marie Rose at 756-2356 anytime throughout the year!

**Make Holy Week Special:** Plan to be part of the Holy Week Services. Join with the whole Diocesan Church at the Chrism Mass, Tuesday March 27 at 6:30 pm at the Owensboro Sports Center. The Holy Oils used all year in our sacramental life for all of the parishes are blessed and consecrated at this celebration!

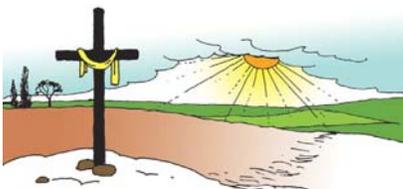
**Ministerial Association Palm Sunday Prayer Service:** March 25 at Hardinsburg Baptist Church at 6:00 pm. Come start Holy Week by praying with our Christian brothers and sisters from neighboring churches, as we remember the steps of our Savior to the Cross for us!

**Good Friday Cross Walk:** Come meet at Save-A-Lot parking lot 11:15 to begin carrying the cross through town to Hardinsburg Methodist Church for a short prayer time and message at 12:00 noon.

**Good Friday Mercy Hour Prayers:** Also, at 3:00 pm Good Friday come and pray the Chaplet (and begin the Divine Mercy Novena!) as Deacon Tony leads the prayers to mark Christ' saving crucifixion.

### **Silence! Silence! Silence!**

Our Holy Week liturgies are very solemn celebrations. The observance of silence at special times during the Triduum liturgies is important. At the end of the Holy Thursday liturgy we process in silence or sing a hymn as we take the Blessed Sacrament, Jesus himself, to the Parish Hall for adoration. Please remember that this is a most holy and solemn moment. If you choose not to process over to the hall you are still asked to show respect by maintaining silence as you leave church and in the parking lot. The liturgy of Good Friday itself is subdued and solemn and begins and ends with silence. We remember our Savior's crucifixion and death and we leave in silence reflecting the somberness of this moment. At the Easter Vigil, once again the celebration begins in silence with people waiting in darkness. Silence awakens us to the presence of God in our midst!



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Christ Jesus humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.  
— *Philippians 2:8*

**If you have a family member or friend in the hospital who would like Holy Communion brought to them, please call the office at 270-756-2356.**

**You are invited to Rosary, Benediction and Stations of the Cross with the school children on Wednesdays at 12:00 noon.**

## Celebration

**ANNIVERSARY:** John & Helen O'Reilly will be celebrating 59 years of marriage on April 1st.

**St. Romuald Altar Society** has a limited quantity of nuts for sale. If interested please contact Ruby Davis at 270-668-5528. Thank you for all of your support.

St. Romuald Family: The love and support shown to us after the loss of Mary Rita has meant so much. Thank you Father Brian, Deacon Mike, Deacon Tony for the beautiful service and music. Thank you to the ladies who served the meal and to anyone who prepared food.

God bless you, Jim Whitworth & Family

## This Week at St. Romuald

|                 |          |                                      |
|-----------------|----------|--------------------------------------|
| Sun             | 6:00 pm  | Palm Sunday Prayer Service (HBC)     |
| Mon             | 1:00 pm  | Blue Army Rosary                     |
|                 | 6:00 pm  | Passion Play Rehearsal               |
|                 | 7:00 pm  | AI-Anon                              |
| Tues            | 4:00 pm  | Rosary                               |
|                 | 6:30 pm  | Chrism Mass (Owensboro Sportscenter) |
| Wed             | 12:00 pm | Stations of the Cross & Rosary       |
|                 | 4:00 pm  | Confessions                          |
|                 | 5:00 pm  | Mass                                 |
| Thur            | 9:30 am  | Mass (Medco)                         |
|                 | 6:00 pm  | Holy Thursday Mass & Adoration       |
| Fri             | 9:00 am  | Good Friday Services for School      |
|                 | 11:15 am | Good Friday Cross Walk (Sav-A-Lot)   |
|                 | 3:00 pm  | Good Friday Mercy Hour               |
|                 | 6:00 pm  | Good Friday Service                  |
| Sat             | 8:00 pm  | Easter Vigil                         |
| <b>Upcoming</b> |          |                                      |
| April 2/6       |          | Spring Break                         |

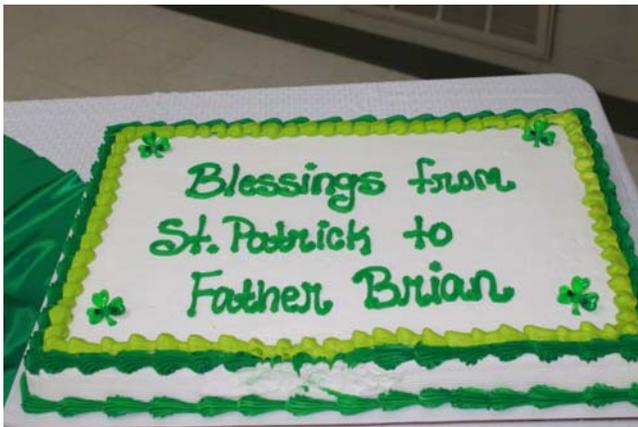
## PRAYER REQUESTS

### We Pray For:

Gilbert Abel, Frank Adkins, Baby Barr, Roy Bennett, Pat Bland, Becky Brown, Ava Bruner, Juanita Burch, Kathy Burns, Mike Clark, Anna Carrico, Donnie Claycomb, Debbie Dubree, Davy Duggins, Sammy Duggins, Glenda Farris, Tessa Farris, Ginny Flood, Dorothy Greenwell, Linda Greenwood, Austin Harris, JoAnn Henning, Patricia Miller Henning, Kitty Himmelhaver, Bill Hinton, Robert Jackey, Virginia Jeffries, Mary Ann Johnson, Ashley Jones, Louise Kennedy, Jimmy Mattingly, Walter Manning, Bevan Michael Miller, **Joe Miller**, Richard Miller, Barry Nottingham, Joe Oelze, **Patsy Oelze**, Janet O'Reilly, Peggy Phillips, Joan & Tom Powers, Joe Priest, Mary Jo Rankin, Rita Roach, Kimberly Rolen, Suzanne Rose, Max Sharp, Bob Smith, Pam Sturgeon, Adalee Taul, Gina Thornsberry, Rufus Tivitt, Leona Whitworth, Robert D. Wilson, Anne Wolfe. **Serving in the Armed Forces:** Mandie Adams, Kevin Arnold, Fred Barham, Austin Brown, Timothy Cashen, Ryan Critchelow, Cody Garst, Parker Findlay, James Hanor, Christian Hansen, Jack Hayes, James Howard, Charles Kuhlman, Bradford O'Reilly, Jordan Pate, Lane D. Taul, Liana Tindle, Chase Upchurch, Garrett Wadsworth



**The Office of Marriage and Family Life** has started a monthly Family Life Newsletter that includes information on events, articles, dates, and activities pertaining to families in the Diocese of Owensboro as well as couples preparing for marriage. The link to subscribe to the newsletter is on our webpage: [owensborodiocese.org/family-life](http://owensborodiocese.org/family-life).



## St. Patrick's Day Potluck



## AROUND AND ABOUT

**Al-Anon Meeting:** Mondays 7:00 pm St Romuald Parish Hall. Come find support and understanding to recover a sense of serenity in your life.

**Pray to end abortion:** Join other Catholics and those from other faiths that gather each Saturday at 2nd and Market in Louisville from 7:00-8:00 am (EST) to pray for families entering the abortion clinic. Many children have been saved and mothers spared future grief by this prayer action and support. With God, all things are possible! Archbishop Kurtz is known to show up and pray with everyone too!

**Abortion Update:** Last week 78 women went into EMW Clinic for abortions at 2nd and Market Street in Louisville. **Please pray to end abortion.**

### **Stories of Hope and Healing: Rebuilding After Divorce**

The offices of Marriage & Family Life and Tribunal are collaborating on Stories of Hope and Healing: Rebuilding After Divorce, an informal panel discussion where panelists will share witness stories from their own experience of divorce. Sessions are scheduled in four locations across the diocese to allow multiple opportunities to attend. (The Tribunal Office will conduct a follow-up session in each location a month later to offer information regarding declarations of invalidity.)

Monday, April 9@ St. Thomas More, Paducah, 6:30 pm

Tuesday April 17 @ St. Romuald, 6:30 pm

Tuesday, April 24 @ Holy Spirit, Bowling Green, 6:30 pm

Tuesday, May 1 @ Our Lady of Lourdes, Owensboro, 6:30 pm

Find these dates and the follow-up sessions by visiting [Owensborodiocese.org/family-life](http://Owensborodiocese.org/family-life).

### **Thank you from the Opportunities for Life Ministry:**

Thank you for your participation in the recent Opportunities for Life Annual Appeal collection. Through your generous support this statewide ministry offers information, support, encouragement, hope, and referrals to those who are experiencing an untimely pregnancy. Please continue to pray for the Opportunities for Life Ministry and those who are in crisis pregnancy situations.

**Catholic Faith Information:** Please check out and pick up any of the free pamphlets and booklets in the back of church about Catholic teaching and practices. They are excellent resources from the Knights of Columbus about our faith beliefs!

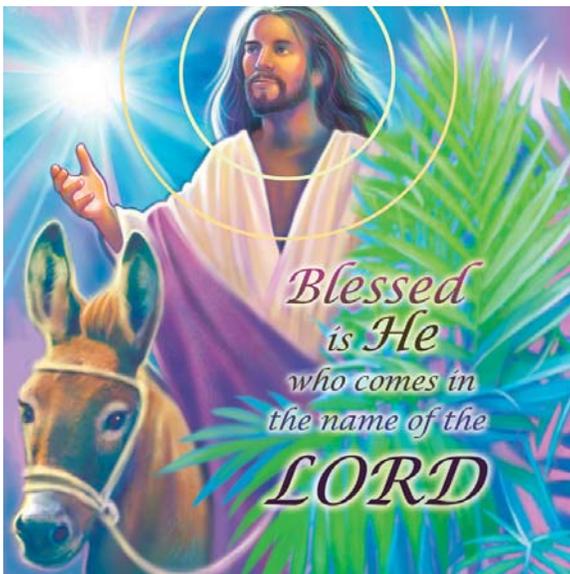
# PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY

## A Word from Pope Francis:

"Christians, by their very vocation, are brothers and sisters to every person, especially the poor, even though a person may be their enemy. Never say 'I'll have nothing to do with this or with them.' Merciful eyes commit us to living the creative boldness of love, and there is so much need of it! We are everyone's brothers and sisters, and for this reason we are prophets of a new world. The Church is a sign of unity. Our world experiences great fear as it faces the vast dimensions of globalization. And fear often turns against people who are foreign, different, poor, as if they were enemies. We feel we have to defend ourselves from these people, and that we must preserve what we have and what we are from them. The atmosphere of fear can infect also those Christians who hide the gift they have received, like the scared servant in the parable of the talents: they do not invest it in the future, they do not share it with others, they preserve it for only for themselves. When we are alone, we are easily the victims of fear. But your path directs you to look at the future together: not alone, not by yourselves, but together with others, the Church." (Homily 3-11-2018)

## Encountering the Gift of Marriage

The office of Marriage & Family Life would like to invite all married couples in the Diocese to Encountering the Gift of Marriage retreat being held April 13-15 at Kenlake Resort Lodge in Hardin, KY. The retreat will be led by Bob Perron, co-founder of Catholic Marriage and Family, Inc., who will use humor and personal experiences to encourage and inspire couples. Encountering the Gift of Marriage offers married couples a chance to get away and deepen their relationship in a beautiful, relaxing setting, and includes Saturday evening Mass, social times, and a chance for confession. Registration link can be found at [owensborodiocese.org/family-life](http://owensborodiocese.org/family-life).



# Readings for the Week

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 42:1-7; Ps 27:1-3, 13-14; Jn 12:1-11  
Tuesday: Is 49:1-6; Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38  
Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a; Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34; Mt 26:14-25  
Thursday: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14; Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15  
Friday: Is 52:13-53:12; Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-17, 25; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1 — 19:42  
Saturday: a) Gn 1:1 - 2:2; Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35; or Ps 33:4-7, 12-13, 20-22; b) Gn 22:1-18; Ps 16: 5, 8-11; c) Ex 14:15 — 15:1; Ex 15:1-6, 17-18; d) Is 54:5-14; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13; e) Is 55:1-11; Is 12:2-6; f) Bar 3:9-15, 32 — 4:4; Ps 19:8-11; g) Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28; Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3-4 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 or Ps 51:12-15, 18-19; h) Rom 6:3-11; i) Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Mk 16:1-7  
Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8; Jn 20:1-9



Funeral Meal Dishes are really stacking up, please pick up soon as possible.

## CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (CLI):

Would you like to learn how to be a BETTER LEADER? Young people (who have completed their freshman year of high school or who just graduated), The Diocesan Youth Ministry Office is sponsoring Christian Leadership Institute, June 10-15, 2018 at the Mount St. Joseph Retreat Center. If you: are or would like to be, a youth leader; would like to serve on a retreat team; are a class officer or student council member, CLI is for you. You will learn and use skills in leadership, communication, planning and decision-making through the lens of missionary discipleship. You will also help plan prayer and liturgical celebrations. For registration information contact your youth minister/youth ministry leader or campus minister today. Registration deadline is May 14th. Registrations after May 14th will cost \$10 more. Contact your Youth Minister or your Parish priest if you are interested or email [robin.tomes@pastoral.com](mailto:robin.tomes@pastoral.com) for more information.



**Sunday, Mar 25, 2018**

**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD  
Guilty as sin**

Time for a confession. We did it. We're the ones who denied Jesus somewhere between three times and 77 times, just since Lent began. We sold him for a wad of cash, or a comfortable lifestyle, or a moment's peace. We took a snooze when Jesus asked us to pray. We kissed him in public, but looked the other way when he was abused. We twisted his words to suit our purposes, mocked him with thin praise, ran when he needed a friend, hid to save our skins. Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Procession: Mark 11:1-10 or John 12:12-16 (37); Mass: Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Mark 14:1-15:47 (38). "They began to be distressed and to say to [Jesus], one by one, 'Surely it is not I?'"*

**Monday, Mar 26, 2018**

**MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK  
Rise up in faith**

Talk about "life-threatening": Sometimes vitality itself is the threat! Lazarus was looking mighty good for a dead man after Jesus called him out of the tomb. So the religious authorities put Lazarus on their hit list along with Jesus. Next time, Lazarus might stay dead; however, nobody reckoned on Jesus. Although you'll never see the bumper sticker announcing it, "Resurrection happens," too. Our new life in Christ should be highly visible—not to mention equally troubling—to those who prefer God-inspired troublemakers to be quiet and lifeless.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 42:1-7; John 12:1-11 (257). "The chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well, since it was on account of him that many were believing in Jesus."*

**Tuesday, Mar 27, 2018**

**TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK  
Salvation is always at hand**

Who looks for Jesus? People who are suffering, mostly. The sick, outcasts, and sinners are always running after Jesus, hoping for relief from their pain. So when the Greeks start looking for Jesus, we know something's changed. These folks are doing well—they're just in town for the Passover festival. The only reason such folks could want Jesus is as Jesus predicts: God's saving plan gathers momentum when the outside world is onto the gospel. We, too, normally seek Jesus when things are going wrong. But salvation is often closer when need is not all that compels us.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 49:1-6; John 13:21-33, 36-38 (258). "The Greeks came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.'"*

**Wednesday, Mar 28, 2018**

**WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK  
Resist the temptation to sell out**

If you want an example of how the gospels tell the same story differently, then you need go no further than Judas' betrayal of Jesus. Only in Matthew does Judas get 30 pieces of silver in advance for handing Christ over to the authorities. That Judas is greedy we know. "What will you give me?" he asks up front. Here's the lesson: Once you've been paid off, it's a lot harder to back out. Who is currently running interference for something you'd rather not do? Who is fronting for your choices so you don't have to account for them? How do you work up the nerve to say no to these abdications of responsibility for which you may have to pay a much bigger price later?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 50:4-9a; Matthew 26:14-25 (259).*

*"They paid him 30 pieces of silver. And from that moment Judas began to look for an opportunity to betray Jesus."*

**Thursday, Mar 29, 2018**

**EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (HOLY THURSDAY)**

**Time for some church hopping!**

On this day it is traditional in parts of the Catholic world to visit seven churches, a practice that may have originated in Rome. In the Philippines and parts of Latin America the tradition is called *Visita Iglesia* ("church visit") and involves reciting the Stations of the Cross at the various stops along the way. In Singapore the Lord's Prayer and other prayers are recited seven times at each church visited accompanied by festivities and a "last supper" before the Good Friday fast. In India 14 churches are visited, one for each Station of the Cross. Why not partake in this tradition and make it your own?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-15 (39). "When he had washed their feet he . . . said to them, 'Do you realize what I have done for you?'"*

**Friday, Mar 30, 2018**

**FRIDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION (GOOD FRIDAY); DAY OF ABSTINENCE**

**Be kind—it's always possible**

It's pretty easy to look around and conclude that one of the things humans do best is inflict suffering on one another. Christ's Passion draws attention to suffering, both what he endured because a group of leaders put their own power and security ahead of everything else, and what people have endured ever since for similar reasons. Yet Christ gathers up all suffering and death in his own. The Passion and Resurrection of Jesus forever ended meaningless suffering and death. All sacrifice, all loss, now has ultimate value because Christ offered himself for sacrifice and rose again. You can participate in this redeeming sacrifice by exercising kindness wherever you find suffering.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42 (40). "When you make his life an offering for sin . . . through him the will of the Lord shall prosper."*

**Saturday, Mar 31, 2018**

**HOLY SATURDAY  
Sit in the dark and see the light**

In his 2004 Easter Vigil homily, Pope Saint John Paul II said we must renew our dedication to the service of the gospel: "If this mission may sometimes seem difficult, call to mind the words of the Risen Lord: 'I am with you always' (Matt. 28:20). Certain of his presence, you shall fear no difficulty and no obstacle. . . . His Body and his Blood will nourish you and sustain you on your daily journey to eternity." Still feeling uncertain of Jesus' presence? Attend the Easter Vigil. Sitting in total darkness that becomes total light as the brazier fire is set and the Paschal candle lit is bound to rekindle your faith in the Light of the World.

TODAY'S READINGS: *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 (41). "You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth. He has been raised; he is not here."*

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