

St. Cornelius Parish

SUNDAY BULLETIN

April 10, 2022

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Chadds Ford, PA 19317
Phone: (610) 459-2502
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Web: www.saintcornelius.org

Email: stcorn1@comcast.net • Facebook: Like us on Facebook

Msgr. David Diamond, Pastor

Deacons: Harry Morris • John Todor • Richard Wirth (Ret.)

Parish Council Members

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Michael Brisgone

Anslem Cooray
Chris Fahey

Franca Felcher
Michael Gidlewski

Kevin Hicks
Jon Lippard

Joanne Morris
Jennifer Swetland

Business Manager: David Bauer

Pastoral & Administrative Assistant: Marie McGuigan

Office Manager: Douglas Kitson

Parish Religious Education Program: Julie Sullivan

Director of Music: Margie Melchiorre

St. Cornelius Early Learning Center

Abbie Kohlbrenner, Director

Phone: (610) 459-8663

Website: www.scornelius.org

St. Cornelius Parish Office Hours

Monday thru Friday 8:00 am to 3:30 pm

Closed for Lunch 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

Saturday: Confessions 2:30 - 3:30 Vigil Mass 4:00 pm

Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 4:00 pm

Weekday Mass: 7:30 am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Friday's after morning Mass to 4 pm (available on Livestream, see link below)

LiveStream www.livestream.com/saintcornelius

Thoughts from the Second Floor Front Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

April 10, 2022

A philosopher and anthropologist named Mircea Eliade wrote about the sacred in peoples' lives. Like many anthropologists, he attempted to identify those aspects of the human experience that cross cultural boundaries and exist in people no matter who they are or where or when they live. He put forward an idea that concerned Sacred Space and Sacred Time. In a simplified explanation of his writings, he argued that religious people possess an understanding of both Sacred Space and Sacred Time. When we enter a church, even in our casual culture, we know that we are in a unique place and because of that we have a certain reverence. Gothic architecture is among the best ways to demonstrate this. Created in the 12th century by the French cleric Abbot Suger (Abbé Suge). The building is designed in such a way that when one enters a Gothic Cathedral, the individual automatically looks up. We are then looking to the heavens, and we find that the place we have entered brings us a different sense of space and time.

As Catholics we have entered the most sacred time of our liturgical year. These days of the week we call *Holy* offer us an opportunity to engage our faith and meet our Lord at the deepest level of experience. Beginning today and continuing throughout the Triduum – Holy Thursday, Good Friday and most especially the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday evening – we meditate on and celebrate the central mystery of our faith and the gift of eternal life given to us through our Lord's Passion, Suffering, Death and Resurrection.

It requires discipline and an effort on our part to enter this celebration of our Faith. Come to Church on these days and join in the celebration of those aspects of our Lord's life, death and resurrection that give meaning to our lives as his disciples. Come to Church on Thursday at 7:00 for the celebration of the Institution of the Eucharist. Come to Church on Good Friday at 12:00 noon for Stations of the Cross and walk in prayer unity with Christ on the Via Dolorosa. At 3:00 PM join us for the Good Friday service. Come to Church on Saturday evening when we light the Easter fire, the Paschal Candle, listen to the story of our salvation, welcome new members into our community, renew our own baptismal vows and rejoice in the Resurrection.

Thursday celebrate the Eucharist. On Friday mourn over the death of our Lord. Saturday evening celebrate our eternal life. Make these three days a sort of mini-retreat and enter into the liturgy. This is the culmination of our Lenten observances and the beginning of our celebration of Easter.

In this liturgical year we will hear the Passion Narrative from St. Luke proclaimed on Palm Sunday. Through the Evangelist's unique perspective, we see Jesus at the institution of the Eucharist, hear Jesus' farewell discourse to the Disciples. He is then the victim of mistreatment and interrogation. Jesus stands before Herod and his second appearance before Pilate. In Luke's account He addresses the women followers on the way to the crucifixion and assured the penitent thief of salvation. Luke stresses the innocence of Jesus who is the victim of the powers of evil and who goes to his death in fulfillment of his Father's will. He suffers all this for us, for the sake of our salvation. Throughout the narrative Luke emphasizes the mercy, compassion, and healing power of Jesus who does not go to death lonely and deserted but is accompanied by others who follow him on the way of the cross.

Let us go with Him as well and enter into the most sacred space and time this Holy Week.

Faithfully,

Msgr. Diamond

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



Palm Sunday - April 10

4:00 pm Vigil

7:30 am

9:00 am

11:00 am

4:00 pm

Holy Thursday - April 14

Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7:00 pm

Adoration in chapel until 9:00 pm

Good Friday - April 15

Adoration in chapel, 9:00 am - 1:30 pm

Stations of the Cross, 12:00 Noon

Liturgy of The Lord's Passion, 3:00 pm

Chapel will remain open until 10:00 pm

Holy Saturday - April 16

Morning Prayer, 9:00 am

Decoration of Church after Morning Prayer

Easter Vigil, 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday - April 17

7:30 am

9:00 am

11:00 am

NO 4:00 pm Easter Sunday evening Mass



Parish Office Hours



April 14, Holy Thursday Office closed
April 15, Good Friday, Office is closed
April 18, Easter Monday, Office is closed
April 19, Easter Tuesday, Office is closed



The Parish Staff wishes everyone a blessed Triduum



Responding to Our Call to Serve the Homeless

At this time, Family Promise is partnering with Bridge of Hope. Churches are signing up to become support teams for families coming out of homeless shelter programs. Recently, St. Cornelius has four families who have volunteered to become part of this effort. They currently are in training with Bridge of Hope and will be assigned a family in May. By sharing their talents and friendship they will directly be serving as the hands and feet of Jesus for a vulnerable family.

Please email dochollisv@aol.com or call 610-717-2180 to learn more or to become a member of a family support team.



YOUNG CATHOLIC PROFESSIONALS *Working in Witness for Christ*

In a world that can be void of meaning and leave young adults restless and dissatisfied, Young Catholic Professionals Philadelphia brings together young professionals in their 20s and 30s into a community of belonging, support, and encouragement at all stages of your faith journey. Young Catholic Professionals empowers and equips you to live your Catholic faith through everyday work and to perform all work with excellence for the glory of God.

Our patron saint is Saint Joseph the Worker. Our mission calls upon the intercession of Saint Joseph the Worker, a simple carpenter who reminds us of the importance of stillness, reflection, and prayer.

Young Catholic Professionals mission is to challenge, train, and inspire young adults working in various professionals to work in witness for Christ.

For more information go to our local Philadelphia website at www.ycpphiladelphia.org/cpages/home



Monsignor's Thursday Email

Msgr. Diamond's weekly Thursday Email is a popular weekly news letter for our parishioners. Currently there are **over 987** people who receive his email each Thursday afternoon. If you would like to be on our distribution list, please call the office at (610) 459-2502 or send your request to be added to our distribution at

Stcorn1@comcast.net.

Many of our parishioners enjoy receiving these emails and staying up-to-date on the goings on of St. Cornelius Church.



PHILADELPHIA UNION



Early Learning Center Fund Raiser

Saturday, April 23rd
3:00pm

Talen Energy Stadium, Chester, PA



VS



Philadelphia Union

Montreal FC

Join your friends and family to watch the Philadelphia Union take on the Football Club of Montreal in this unique fund raiser in support of our Early Learning Center. One complimentary youth ticket is available for each family with the purchase of additional ticket(s).

Reserve your seats today by visiting the unique St. Cornelius/Philadelphia Union website for tickets and more information.



PLEASE DONATE!!



The Red Cross is experiencing its worst blood shortage in over a decade! This national blood shortage is due to a combination of the pandemic and severe weather which have disrupted planned blood drives and caused a drop in donations. Our next planned drive at St. Cornelius is May 26, 2022.

However, you can donate every 56 days. There are numerous donation opportunities in our area. Log on to redcrossblood.org or call **1-800-RED CROSS** (1-800-733-2767) to schedule an appointment. Current blood drives in the area:

- **Covenant Fellowship Church, Glen Mills - 3/29/22**



The Sunday collection is very important for us to maintain our fiscal responsibilities. So, if you are away on a Sunday, *ENJOY*; but remember *YOUR* church.



April 3, 2022

*Offertory was not available
at the time of printing*

CONGRATULATIONS!



Saint Cornelius has been notified by Bishop Shanahan High School of the following young woman who is a graduate of our school. Ms. Vito has received First Honors for the second quarter of the 2021—2022 school year. Congratulations to Ms. Vito and her family for continuing to develop spiritually, academically, physically and morally.

First Honors
Julia Vito

Eucharistic Adoration

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament flows from the sacrifice of the Mass and serves to deepen our hunger for Communion with Christ and the rest of the Church.

Join us for Adoration on Friday mornings after Mass. You are welcome to visit anytime during the day until we repose the Blessed Sacrament at 4:00 PM.

If a funeral is scheduled for a Friday, there will be NO exposition.



**The Faith Community Nurse
Holistic Health Ministry**

On request, Faith Community Nurses are making home visits to families who may be experiencing medical or social difficulties. The nurses confidentially address the needs holistically through bringing with them prayers from the parish, a knowledge of the medical field and process for providing support. If you know of anyone in the parish or beyond who would benefit from these services, please email: stfcfn@gmail.com. Contact person is Joan Holliday, RN/FCN at (610) 717-2180.

CATHOLIC CULTURE CORNER

Ask St. Cornelius!



It has been noted that Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday are two Sundays in the liturgical year where people come out of the woodwork to come to church. Some have posited it's because these two liturgical days are when we get something. Ashes on Ash Wednesday and a palm branch on Palm Sunday. Two very different items; one black, dirty and looks like you didn't wash your face, the other, green, fresh, new—and not on your face. Yet, these two strikingly different items hold strong powerful messages and leads me to the question that was posed to me the other day; why Palm branches (or fronds as they are often called)?

Palm Sunday is the last Sunday of Lent. Our journey is nearly over as we make the turn and draw our attention towards Jerusalem. As we are familiar, each of us will receive a palm branch to be used and understood as a means to draw us in to the celebration of Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Today's reading of the gospel at the beginning of Mass from John 19 indicates that people threw their cloaks (or palm branches) on the ground in front of Jesus as he rode on the young donkey. The laying of your cloak (an expensive personal item of clothing) or palm was not an uncommon practice when you wanted to show great respect for someone. It is also suggested that the cloaks or palm branches were used to assist the donkey as it traversed the hillside, preventing it from slipping - the person you respected and paid homage to, you didn't want them to fall. Palm is also widely understood at this time as a sign of victory and peace. If you look to the Olympic symbols you will see the crown of olive branches, a similar sign of peace and victory. So to, do we wave the palm as a sign of victory and peace

When holding the palm branch, and waving it about it expands our presence, it makes our movement larger, it draws attention to the celebratory moment. At the risk of watering down this moment the palm is like a child's balloon at a party, one is nice, but hundreds of balloons moving about says something about the person in the middle - this moment, this time and place, this Jesus, arriving on a donkey with a crowd celebrating with waving palm and paying homage and respect to their King.

We began our Lenten journey with ash on our foreheads that drew attention to our sinfulness, we looked inward at our lives and our relationship with God and others. Today, having traveled this Lenten journey, we enter Jerusalem, our celebration of the Eucharist with a green, fresh palm branch that we wave and move about, not drawing attention to us, but rather to Hosanna, The King of Kings, who comes in peace and will bring victory over death.



St. Cornelius Early Learning Center

In The Tall, Tall Grass



We love the season of spring at our early learning center! We love seeing everything blooming and growing! The children read the book, In the Tall, Tall Grass in Pre-K4 and planted

grass seed as well as making a grass craft to go along with the story. The flowers and grass are growing and blooming but it is definitely the students who are really blooming the most!



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- Learn simple, effective communication techniques
- Enhance the love that you share
- Rediscover your hopes and dreams

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April 22-24

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For more information visit our website at: www.wwme-philly.org

or contact Al & Mary Liz at: Applications@wwme-philly.org or ~ Phone: (610) 449-1859

Thursday Scripture Study 10:00 am Parish Life Center



Bible Study with
Msgr. Diamond has returned!

All women and men are invited to join us each Thursday morning from 10:00 to 11:30 am. If you weren't able to join us last year, do not let that deter you. The goal of this Scripture study will be to broaden our knowledge of Scripture, our church's teaching regarding the Scriptures, and it will enhance our understanding and personal faith life. Please bring a bible.

saintcornelius.org/morning-bible-study



Helping Hands and Hearts

This ministry offers temporary help (meals, errands, etc.) to individuals and families in need! If you are aware of someone in need or would like to be a volunteer helper, please contact Marilyn Gustin at mgustin05@gmail.com (484) 732-8842.



SAINT CORNELIUS

Early Learning Center

ENROLLMENT OPEN FOR THE 2022 - 2023 SCHOOL YEAR!

At Saint Cornelius Early Learning Center we are dedicated to educating each child to learn academic and social skills for success in their future. Our energetic teachers and staff create a nurturing, creative and exciting environment for children to learn, grow, and thrive!

Now enrolling PreK 3, PreK4 and Kindergarten!

CONTACT US

For more information or to schedule a tour, please email Abigail McCusker at akohlbrener@scornelius.org or call (610) 459 - 8663.

Let us pray for our Men and Women serving in the Armed Forces. Especially for:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| SPC Mike Canfield | Capt. Megan Love |
| Cpl Michael Castle | Alexander Marlow |
| Lt. Connor Cleary | LT. Cmdr. Daniel McCadden |
| Fr. Joseph Coffey (Chaplain) | CSM Sean McGlensey |
| Maj Robert B. Cusick, Jr. | Capt. Jonathan McGrath |
| Capt. Joshua deFreitas | LT Molly K. McGuckin |
| SSGT Michael DiVernieri | LT Ryan A. McGuckin |
| Cadet Emily Fanning | Cpt. Sean P. Noll |
| Ens. Ryan Gallagher | Lt. Col. Brian J. O'Shea |
| Cpl. Eric Gardner | Lt. Cmdr. Inga O'Shea |
| Capt. Matthew Gibbons | Maj. James O'Shea |
| Ens Patrick Gibbons | PFC L. Roland |
| Ens John Paul Gibbons | Capt. Neal F. Schubert |
| 1st Lt. Juan Miguel Gonzalez | HM3 Charles Schwartz |
| Capt. Rachel Gonzalez | Ens Nicholas Spadaccini |
| SPC Logan Hannum | MSG Thomas Stone |
| Devin J. Hunt | Cpl Mark Truex |
| PO1 Nathan R. Keller | Lt. Christopher Vish |
| Capt. Daniel Kohli | Capt Jennifer Wynn |
| Capt. Chris Love | |

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL AND THOSE WHO CARE FOR THEM

Paul Lukas, Carla Santoleri, Richard Meccarrielli, Beth Moore, Edward Field, Judy Field, Bob Grant, Joyce Monaco, Matthew Hurst, Mary Tapkey, Leonard Smith, Jr., Gary & Barbara Hampton, Holly & Mike Kahles, Amy Tucker, Jim Waters, Kathie Buckley, Dottie Burks, Bernice & Arthur Hindle, John Bruno, Sean Mulvey, George Butler, Margaret Butler, Patricia Wells, Kathy Williams, Michael Gibbons, William Grant, John Barmmer, Shirley Masse, Ellen Brisgone, Laura O'Brien-Black, Elizabeth Kephart, Tina Landis, Bill & Theresa Sherwin, Joseph Spetzer, III, Anne Spetzer, Sheila Hartranft, Jim McGuigan, Michelle Dillione, Chris Roe, MaryBeth Waak, Frank Kutters, Gina Slobogin, Marie Slobogin, Kylee Dougherty, Arthur McGuigan, Dave and Ronnie Pryce, Rosemary Brennan, Ellie May McGrath, Vicki Wojdak, Deacon Clem McGovern, Eileen Lynch, Sharon Faulkner, Andrea Bateman, Betty Zeller, Brandon Heacock, Brittany Lott, Nancy Young, Peyton Lott, Billy Lott, Nanci Ehmer, Peggy Peters, Paul McEneaney, John Melasecca, Ken Rudert, Ed Shell, Virginia Piergiovanni, Ellie McCreight, Ellie Griem, Gregory Varacchi, Michael McKinnen, Jeanne Kitson, Connie Carney, Rob Kenney, Kelly Kenney, Eugene Monaco, Susan Meyers, Luke Post, Matthew Hess, Jim Buckley, Jerome Lienhard, Mary Rose Salisbury, Margery Butler, Charlotte Kensicki, Jim Barr, Jerome Lichard, Lisa Winkleblech, Aaron Winkleblech, Patricia Butler



The Ministry of Consolation

A St. Cornelius community response to the needs of people grieving the death of a significant person/persons in their lives, the ministry honors the words and example of the Lord Jesus:

"Blessed are they who mourn; they shall be consoled"
(Matthew 5:4).

A team of three St. Cornelius church members have been trained to set up and facilitate a Support Group for the Consolation Ministry.

Next month, on **May 21, 2022**, the Consolation Group will meet at the **Parish Life Center, Fr. Simon Room** from **2:30pm to 3:30pm**.

Contact Joan Holliday at for any questions dochollisv@aol.com or call (610) 717-2180.

Sixth Sunday of Lent April 10, 2022

The Lord GOD is my help,
therefore I am not disgraced.

— *Isayah 50:7a*

CRS NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

Your help is needed in Ukraine where there are already more than 2.9 million people in need of assistance. There is great risk of additional suffering both within Ukraine and for those who are fleeing to neighboring countries for safety. CRS and our partners continue to need immediate support to meet both ongoing needs as the situation intensifies. Years of conflict along the eastern border have already displaced 1.3 million people from their homes and claimed 14,000 lives, and now 2.3 million people have fled Ukraine. Almost 90% of the refugees are women and children.



Throughout this time, Caritas Ukraine, with support from CRS, has been providing emergency relief and recovery. CRS and Caritas partners on the ground are preparing across Ukraine and in bordering countries, providing safe shelter, hot meals, hygiene supplies, transport to safe areas, counseling support and more. The situation there is rapidly unfolding, and we could not do this work without your help. When you donate, you provide immediate assistance for your Ukrainian sisters and brothers affected by this crisis. Your prayers and support will make so much difference. Please give a vital gift at www.crs.org today!

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. —John 3:16

As we enter Holy Week, we remember how our Lord suffered and died so that each and every one of us might be saved from sin and have eternal life. Reflect on God's infinite love for you. How have you responded to that love this Lent, and how can you share it with others? Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.



HEED THE CALL

VOCATION OFFICE FOR
DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD

Visit our website
WWW.HeedTheCall.org



PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM (PREP)

Saint Cornelius Parish

You can contact Mrs. Sullivan at stcornprep@scornelius.org or by calling the PREP office (610) 459-7723

We would like to wish all of our PREP families a wonderful Holy Week. Although we do not have class in person together again until April 24, we hope you all take this time to pray together and prepare for all of the blessings of this season.

A quick reminder for all of our students preparing for First Holy Communion, please stop by the Parish Life Center and pick up your banner kits. They can be completed at home and returned during your rehearsal time.

We are currently accepting registrations for the 2022-23 PREP year. We are offering many options again this year. Please take a look at the program that is right for you and return your registration form as soon as possible.

Summer Session is open to all students in grade 3-7. This is an intensive PREP course where the material for the year is covered during your selected week. There are 4 follow up classes throughout the year.

- Our **June Summer Session** is full except for 4th grade. We currently have limited space available for that class.
- Our **July Session** has plenty of space available in all of our classes, with the exception of 5th grade. Our 5th grade class has a limited number of seats available.
- **The Traditional Sunday program** runs from 10-11 am on Sundays starting September 18th through May. This program is open to students in grades 1st through 7th grade.
- **Virtual Family Program:** This program is available to all families with children in 1st through 7th grade and runs from September through May.

If you have any questions about any of our programs, please feel free to contact Julie Sullivan at stcornprep@scornelius.org.

If you are passionate about your faith and interested in teaching in our Sunday program, please reach out to Julie Sullivan for more information. We would love to have you join our program.

Youth Group:

We would like to wish all of our Youth Group families many blessings during Holy week. Please come to our next meeting on April 24th to put the themes of Social Catholic Teaching into ACTION.



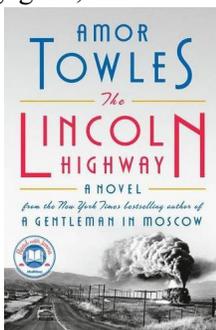
If you have a suggestion of a project for the Youth Group, please contact Julie Sullivan at stcornprep@scornelius.org. All are welcome!

The St. Cornelius Literary Society

This month's selection, voted on by the members of this exalted body, is Amor Towles' latest **The Lincoln Highway**. In June 1954, 18-year-old Emmett Watson is driven home to Nebraska by the warden of the juvenile work farm where he has just served 15 months for involuntary manslaughter. His mother long gone, his father recently deceased, and the family farm foreclosed upon by the bank, Emmett's intention is to pick up his eight-year-old brother Billy and head to California, where they can start their lives anew. But when the warden drives away, Emmett discovers that two friends from the work farm have hidden themselves in the trunk of the warden's car. Together, they have hatched an altogether different plan for Emmett's future, one that will take them all on a fateful journey in the opposite direction - to the city of New York.

Spanning just 10 days and told from multiple points of view, Towles' third novel will satisfy fans of his multi-layered literary styling while providing them an array of new and richly imagined settings, characters, and themes.

We have yet to select a date for the group discussion which are usually pretty lively.



CHOSEN FATHERS

*A ministry of Mutual Support for
Fathers of Children with Special Needs*

Being a good dad day-in and day-out is not an easy task. Yet raising children with special needs can make fatherhood even more challenging.

We invite fathers of children with physical, mental, sensory, or emotional challenges to the September 21 meeting aimed at enabling dads to follow Christ's example of love, patience, mercy and service in raising and supporting their children.

3rd Tuesday of every month

7:30 - 8:45 pm

Please call the gentlemen below with questions about meeting location as it can change from month to month depending on group size.

Joe Howard (610) 458-7831; jchoward72@aol.com
or Liam Dempsey (610) 390-9076; liam@LBdesigns.tv

PILGRIM STATUE



4 - 3 - 2022 Jean Wysocki
4 - 10 - 2022 Debbie Brisgone
4 - 17 - 2022

The new sign up sheet for 2022 is now available. Feel free to pick your dates. Please only 3 weeks per family this year.

Call the office at (610) 459-2502
for more information.

Sunday Mass Intentions (Week of April 10 – April 15)

7:30 AM Carmela Crescenzo
9:00 AM Rosalie Celona
11:00 AM Bernard Glackin
4:00 PM Linda Stanley

Weekly Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil / Sunday Mass

Intention: *Missa pro populo (Mass for the people)*
Reading: Lk 19:28-40 (procession);
Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24;
Phil 2:6-11; Lk 22:14 - 23:56 [23:1-49]

Monday 7:30 AM

Intention: Eileen Kelly
Reading: Is 42:1-7; Ps 27:1-3, 13-14; Jn 12:1-11

Tuesday 7:30 AM

Intention: Nicholas Ficca
Reading: Is 49:1-6; Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday 7:30 AM

Intention: Jennie & Alex Palovitch
Reading: Is 50:4-9a; Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34;
Mt 26:14-25

Holy Thursday

The Sacred Paschal Triduum Begins

Mass of The Lord's Supper, 7:00 PM
Adoration in chapel until 9:00 pm

Reading: Lord's Supper: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14;
Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18; 1 Cor 11:23-26;
Jn 13:1-15

Good Friday

Fast and Abstinence

Adoration in chapel, 9:00 am - 1:30 pm
Stations of the Cross, 12:00 Noon

Liturgy of The Lord's Passion, 3:00 pm

Chapel will remain open until 10:00 pm
Reading: Is 52:13 - 53:12; Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25;
Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1 - 19:42

Holy Saturday

Morning Prayer, 9:00 am
Decoration of Church after Morning Prayer

Easter Vigil, 7:00 pm

Reading: a) Gn 1:1 - 2:2 [1:1, 26-31a]; 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 [1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18];
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;
Lk 24:1-12



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Palm Sunday of The Passion of The Lord

April 10, 2022



Passion of Light and Dark

Light and shadow fall over this Gospel, as in a painted landscape. We begin with the bright joy of Jesus, who has “eagerly desired to eat this Passover” with his friends. His radiance on giving his body and blood isn’t dimmed by the shadow of the betrayer, his hand on the very table of celebration.

Artists often portray the Last Supper as luminous, with all the disciples wearing haloes. Yet the disciples engage in a petty quarrel over who is the greatest, oblivious to the importance of the meal they’re sharing. Peter’s loyalty flares like a brief torch, quickly dampened by Jesus’s prediction of Peter’s betrayal. Jesus himself enters the darkness on the Mount of Olives, a darkness that deepens with Judas’s kiss.

Even beside the bright fire, Peter’s cowardice is dark, and the serving girl is alight with honesty. The tedious court proceedings are shadowy, as they probably are in unjust courthouses of the world today. Darkness gathers around the Crucifixion, but Jesus is the central bright light: forgiving, promising paradise to the good thief, giving his spirit to God.

Then illumination passes into his followers: the centurion, the regretful crowd, Joseph, the women who prepare spices. Into our days fall light and darkness. We will be attentive to both this Holy Week, bringing light where we can, suffering the shadow where we must. We follow a Savior who knew both and joins us in them.

Light in Our Darkness

Jesus, our Savior,
you showed us
how to trust God
even in the darkest,
most violent pit
when you must have
been tempted to despair.

Be our light in darkness
when the obstacles we face
seem insurmountable.

Help us continue to believe
and love as you did.

This we ask of you,
who live and reign
with God the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

