

HOLY WEEK



Schedule

OUR LADY OF CZĘSTOCHOWA

TUESDAY

APRIL 15

Confession 7pm

WEDNESDAY

APRIL 16

Tenebrae 7PM

THURSDAY

APRIL 17

Holy Thursday 7PM

FRIDAY

APRIL 18

Good Friday Service 3PM
Stations of the Cross 7PM

SATURDAY

APRIL 19

*Blessing of
Easter Baskets 12 Noon*
Easter Vigil 8 PM

SUNDAY

APRIL 20

Mass 10 am & 12:30 PM

Palm Sunday - April 13, 2025

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parish Family,

As we raise our palm branches and echo the cries of “Hosanna!”, we begin the most sacred week of our Christian calendar—Holy Week. Palm Sunday invites us to enter into the mystery of Jesus’ final days: His courage, His suffering, and ultimately His triumph.

Palm Sunday begins with joy and excitement. The crowds welcome Jesus into Jerusalem. But He knows better. He knows that some of these same voices will soon cry, “Crucify Him,” and still, He walks forward. He perseveres in love, even when surrounded by hatred.

There are moments in our lives when we are tempted to give up when it feels like the odds are stacked against us, when we’re tired, misunderstood, or even attacked. We’ve all had the experience of trying to do what’s right only to face resistance, ridicule, or rejection. In the face of every human weakness, every injustice, every cruelty, Jesus kept going. He stayed the course. He did not abandon His mission but rather persevered in love, and that fortitude opened the door to our salvation.

The journey of faith requires perseverance because the temptation to give up is real. Some of us may feel like we’re losing strength, while others may be weary from trying to live a life of virtue in a world that often rewards selfishness or dishonesty. Perhaps you’re facing challenges in your family, your health, your work, or your spiritual life—and you wonder if it’s all worth it.

Palm Sunday gives us the answer: Yes, it is very much worth it. Christ shows us that love is stronger than hate, truth is stronger than lies, and life is stronger than death. He walked through suffering so that we would never have to face our trials alone. He teaches us that perseverance in the face of evil is not foolish—it is divine.

One of the most powerful parts of Jesus’ journey is that He knew the hearts of those around Him. He wasn’t naïve. He knew that the religious leaders were plotting against Him and that Judas would betray Him. He predicted Peter’s denial and saw the abandonment of His disciples coming.

And yet... He washed their feet and shared a meal with them. He prayed for them, forgave them and did not allow their malice or weakness to make Him bitter. He stayed rooted in love. That is no small accomplishment. How often are we tempted to become resentful when people wrong us? But Jesus gives us a different path: the path of courageous love, the path of mercy, the path of holy perseverance.

In a world where people take advantage of power or relationships, where cruelty can be hidden behind a smile, and where standing up for goodness may bring criticism, Jesus says: Keep going. Stay faithful. Love anyway. His example reminds us that we are not here to please the cheering crowds. We are not here to win political approval. We are here to do the will of God, and sometimes that means pressing forward even when others try to stop us.

Do not allow this be just another week on the calendar. Let it be a time of reflection, prayer, and presence. Let the events of this week remind you that God is not distant from your pain. He enters it. He takes it on Himself. He walks with you. And He asks you to walk with Him—not just in moments of celebration but also in times of sorrow and uncertainty.

If you are feeling discouraged or weighed down, I want you to hear this: You are not alone. You are not forgotten. And your suffering is not wasted. Know, deep in your heart, that you are loved beyond measure and always allow the Cross of Christ be your hope and your victory.

God bless

Fr. Bryan

MASS INTENTIONS

APRIL 12- APRIL 20

SATURDAY APRIL 12	5 PM THOMAS DUGAN FROM LAURA CZYSZ & KEN HEISER
PALM SUNDAY APRIL 13	10 AM H. MARTIN WESTFALL FROM MICHELE FENICE 12:30 PM. PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
TUESDAY APRIL 15	12:30 PM. DENISE WILLSON FROM NANCY BENNETT
WEDNESDAY APRIL 16	12:30 PM GOOD HEALTH & GRATITUDE FOR JEANENE CALANDRUSIO FROM SALVATORE & MARIANNE PETRALIA
HOLY THURSDAY APRIL 17	7 PM THE PRIESTHOOD
GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 18	3 PM VENERATION OF THE CROSS 7 PM STATIONS OF THE CROSS
HOLY SATURDAY APRIL 19	8 PM EASTER VIGIL LIVINGSTON FAMILY
EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 20	10 AM PEOPLE OF THE PARISH 12:30 PM REV. WALTER NIEDZWIECKI

Sunday Scripture

April 13

Is. 50:4-7

Phil. 2:6-11

Luke 22:14-23:56

April 20

Acts 10:34a, 37-43

Col. 2:1-4

John 20:1-9

DONATIONS



OVER THE WEEKEND OF
APRIL 5 AND 6, 565 PEOPLE
ATTENDED MASS WITH
AN AVERAGE DONATION OF \$39.31.

ONE TIME
GIFTS AND
VISITORS



THANK
YOU FOR
ALL OF
YOUR
SUPPORT

CONSISTENT
SUPPORT AND
PARISHONERS



JERSEY CITY MARATHON

WE NEED
YOU
TO SHARE YOUR STORY



DON'T BE SHY

HAVE YOU HAD AND DIFFICULTY
GETTING AROUND THE
NEIGHBORHOOD BECAUSE OF THE
MARATHON? YOUR STORY CAN
HELP HIGHLIGHT THE REAL IMPACT
ON RESIDENTS.

TAKE A MOMENT TO SPEAK UP



Easter Traditions

from around the world

Even though Easter isn't for another week, today marks the beginning of Holy Week, and in many places people have many ways of preparing for Easter this week. Of course what is most important is to pray and attend church during holy days, but many people also begin to make special foods, decorations, or participate in prayerful processions.



Bread!



In many places in Europe, from Greece to England, people bake special breads for Easter in different shapes. Families share them and celebrate Jesus' resurrection after going to Mass.

In Germany the Easter Bunny is the one who delivers the eggs, but in France eggs are dropped by the flying bells of churches as they wing their way "back" from Rome on Easter morning. The bells in French churches are silenced on Holy Thursday and are said to "fly" to Rome to be blessed by the Pope before ringing out the Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Why eggs?

The egg is a symbol of the Resurrection. Just as Jesus rose from the tomb, the egg symbolized new life emerging from the eggshell.



Spain



Philippines



In Italy, Spain, and the Philippines, Easter celebrations begin with Holy Week. Parades that date back hundreds of years take place on Palm Sunday and throughout the week as Catholics build floats covered in flowers, candles, and most importantly, elaborate statues of either Jesus or the Virgin Mary.

THE MARK

MERCY

CONFESSIO

TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 7PM
OLC CHURCH

Tenebrae

Wednesday
April 16
7 PM
OLC Church

Walk with Christ through sorrow, into glory

THE EASTER TRIDUUM

Live the story that saved the world

MAUNDY THURSDAY
17 APRIL 2025

7PM MASS

**FOLLOWED BY
PILGRIMAGE TO
DOWNTOWN CHURCH**

GOOD FRIDAY
18 APRIL 2025

**3PM PASSION SERVICE
7PM STATIONS OF THE
CROSS**

HOLY SATURDAY
19 APRIL 2025

**12 NOON EASTER
BASKET BLESSING
8PM EASTER VIGIL**

EASTER SUNDAY
19 APRIL 2025

**10 AM MASS
12:30 PM MASS**