

ST. JOHN VIANNEY CATHOLIC CHURCH

902 St. John Drive, Sherman, IL 62684



APRIL 2, 2023 — YEAR A

Palm SUNDAY

OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Holy Week SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday

6 p.m. April 6

Good Friday

3 p.m. April 7

Easter Vigil

8 p.m. April 8

Easter Sunday Mass

8:30 a.m. April 9

Weekday Masses

Monday and Thursday, 8:00 am

Wednesday: 6:00 pm

Tuesday: 5:30 pm Communion Service

Reconciliation

Wednesday 5:15-5:30 pm
or by appointment

Pastor

Fr. Fredrick Chima Mbiere

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Deacon

Andy Krug

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“Blessed
is he
who comes
in the name
of the Lord.”
- Mt. 21:9



APRIL 2, 2023 (Is 50: 4-7; Ps: 21; Phil 2:6-8; Mt 26:14-26:66)

The Palm/Passion Sunday

Beloved brothers and sisters, I welcome you all to this Palm/Passion Sunday. On this Sunday, the Church celebrates the triumphant entry of Christ into Jerusalem in order to accomplish his Paschal Mystery. Today, all the readings highlight the ordeal and humility of Christ.

According to the Holy Father, Pope Francis, he explains that today's celebration can be said to be bittersweet. It is joyful and sorrowful at the same time. We celebrate the Lord's entrance into Jerusalem to the cries of his disciples who acclaim him as king. Yet we also solemnly proclaim the Gospel account of his Passion. In this poignant contrast, our hearts experience in some small measure what Jesus himself must have felt in his own heart that day, as he rejoiced with his friends and wept over Jerusalem.

The Gospel we heard before the procession (cf. Mt 21:1-11), describes Jesus as he comes down from the Mount of Olives on the back of a colt that had never been ridden. It recounts the enthusiasm of the disciples who acclaim the Master with cries of joy, and we can picture in our minds the excitement of the children and young people of the city who joined in the excitement. Jesus himself sees in this joyful welcome an inexorable force willed by God. To the scandalized Pharisees he responds: "I tell you that if these were silent, the stones would shout out" (Lk 19:40). Jesus, in fulfillment of the Scriptures, enters the holy city in this way as a Messiah who comes in the guise of a servant, the servant of God and of man, and goes to his passion. He is the great "patient", who suffers all the pain of humanity. As we joyfully acclaim our King, let us also think of the sufferings that he will have to endure this week. We think of slanders and insults, snares and betrayals, the abandonment to an unjust judgment, the blows, the lashes, and the crown of thorns, and indeed, the way of the cross leading to the crucifixion.

He already told his disciples: "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and

follow me" (Mt 16:24). Jesus never promised honor and success. The Gospels make this clear. He had always warned his friends that this was to be his path, and that the final victory would be achieved through passion and cross. All this holds true for us too. We must ask for the grace to follow Jesus faithfully, not in words but in deeds, the patience to carry our own cross, not to refuse it or set it aside, but rather, in looking to him, to take it up and to carry it daily. Our Lord who accepts the hosannas of the crowd, knows fully well that they will soon be followed by the cry: "Crucify him!" He does not ask us to contemplate him only in pictures and photographs, or in the videos that circulate on the internet. No! He is present in our many brothers and sisters who today endure sufferings like his own: they suffer from family tragedies, from diseases, from wars and terrorism, from interests that are armed and ready to strike. Women and men who are cheated, violated in their dignity, discarded; Jesus is in them, in each of them, and, with marred features and broken voice, he asks to be looked in the eye, to be acknowledged, to be loved. It is not some other Jesus, but the same Jesus who entered Jerusalem amid the waving of palm branches. It is the same Jesus who was nailed to the cross and died between two criminals. We have no other Lord but him: Jesus, the humble King of justice, mercy and peace. As we sing hosanna, hosanna today, and ready to follow him to Calvary this week, let us ask God to keep us faithful till we sing the great alleluia to the glory of the risen Christ at Easter. Amen.

HOLY WEEK CEREMONIES: This is just a reminder to all of us of this year's Holy Week Ceremonies and for the active participation of all. Of course, the Palm Sunday which is today April 2, ushers us into the Holy Week. Everyone is invited to the Easter Triduum from Holy Thursday to Easter. Ready for the Holy Week beautiful ceremonies? Make up your mind to attend with your family and friends! Don't miss them! Christ will be waiting for you. Have a fruitful Holy Week!

FR. FREDDIE MBIERE



The time has come to fill the vacancy left by Lori Saathoff's passing to eternal life. Please contact the parish office or Father Freddie for more information regarding the musical needs of St. John Vianney Parish.

Find us online at <https://sjvshearn.org>

Washing of the Feet

According to the Gospel, Jesus performed a final act of service for his Disciples, following the Passover meal. Arising from the table, He tied a towel about His waist and filled a basin with water. Then, one after another He washed the feet of each disciple, except Judas, who had already departed to betray Him. When Peter protested that Jesus was about to wash his feet, Christ admonished, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

After washing the Disciples' feet, Jesus explained what He did and why. "You should wash one another's feet," He told them. "I have set an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them." (John 13:1-17)

In church, the foot washing ceremony is an important call for all people that they too should be willing to serve others. In the Catholic Church, this is called the Holy Thursday Mandatum, and the rite takes place after the homily. Members of the congregation have their feet washed by the priest, who plays the role of Christ. One by one, the priest will wash the participant's feet with a basin and a towel.

We are to serve our neighbors, even if it means we must do things we might not like to do. Even if the work is dirty or hard, or even if we think it beneath us, we must still do our work. After all, Jesus Himself, the Son of God, washed the feet of His disciples. And we are no greater than Jesus, so surely we too should do the same.

A Ministry Fair was held March 26 in conjunction with CFF in the Activity Center as the conclusion to the four-week parish focus on Stewardship and Discipleship. "Stewardship is what I do after I say I Believe!"



Holy Land Collection on Good Friday—This collection is to keep a Christian presence in the Holy Land. The Collection supports the work of the Franciscans as they maintain the sacred shrines, minister to the parishes, provide formation and education in the communities and schools, and care for the basic needs of the people in the Holy Land where political, religious, and military challenges are continual threats to the Christian community.

Seminarians Collection on Easter—This collection helps our diocese to educate and form future priests. Our diocese has been blessed with an increasing number of young men who have generously said yes to God's call—we now have 16 seminarians. You can take a personal role in their formation with a generous gift in the Easter collection.



Congratulations to our CFF second graders who received the Sacrament of First Penance on March 25.

PARISH OFFICE INFORMATION

LOCATION

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MAILING ADDRESS

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OFFICE HOURS

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OFFICE MANAGER

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BOOKKEEPER

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PARISH MINISTRIES CONTACT INFORMATION

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Prayer Line:

Terry Willis 725-2005
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Tribunal Advocate:

Rita Friedewald
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St. John Vianney WEEKLY PARISH OFFERING March 25 & 26, 2023

Sunday Envelopes	\$	3,124.00
Loose Donations	\$	590.00
WeShare	\$	945.00

Total \$ 4,659.00

Weekly Budget \$ 4,788.46

Building & Maintenance	\$	50.00
Capital Improvement	\$	150.00
Easter Flowers	\$	95.00
Catholic Times	\$	15.00
Catholic Charities	\$	50.00

SJV Office is closed Good Friday, April 7 and Monday, April 10

Thank you for your generous support of our parish needs and those of the greater Church.

WeShare, our online donation tool, is not working properly for second collections. Please drop donations in for any second collections in the basket for until further notice.

Why veil images?

The last two weeks in the season of Lent are called Passiontide, which begins on the Fifth Sunday of Lent. This is when the Church shifts focus from Christ in the desert (the Gospel for the First Sunday of Lent) to Christ during His Passion. During this period, the crucifix and other statues and images around the church have been veiled with a purple cloth.

The practice of veiling images alerts us that something is different, it can be startling at first, but the last two weeks of Lent are a time of immediate preparation for the celebration of the Sacred Triduum. Through this absence of images, our senses are heightened and we become more aware of what is missing. When images are unveiled before the Easter Vigil, we are reminded that we, in a sense, live in a veiled world. It is through our own death that we are able to see our true home, and the veil is lifted. Christ lifts the veil through His Resurrection.

Easter Triduum

The summit of the Liturgical Year is the Easter Triduum—from the evening of Holy Thursday to the evening of Easter Sunday. Though chronologically three days, they are liturgically one day unfolding for us the unity of Christ's Paschal Mystery. The Easter Triduum begins with the Vigil of Holy Thursday. It marks the end of the forty days of Lent and the beginning of the three-day celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ - Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil/Easter Sunday. These last Forty Days were a time of preparation for these great Three days, which is what Triduum means. These three days lead us to an empty tomb and an Octave, eight days, of celebrating the Resurrection. They also introduce an entire liturgical season, the Easter Season, which lasts for Fifty days until Pentecost.

We will soon attend the Last Supper and receive the gift of the Holy Eucharist, the Body, Blood Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ. We will enter into the deep meaning of the Holy Priesthood. We will be invited to pour ourselves out like the water in the basins used to wash feet on Holy Thursday. We will be asked with the disciples in the Gospel accounts we will hear proclaimed to watch with the Lord. We will be invited to enter with Him into his anguish by imitating His Holy surrender in his Sacred Humanity in the Garden of Gethsemane. Through the stark and solemn Liturgy of the Friday we call "Good", we will stand at the Altar of the Cross where heaven is rejoined to earth and earth to heaven, along with the Mother of the Lord. We will enter into the moment that forever changed - and still changes - all human History, the great self gift of the Son of God who did for us what we could never do for ourselves by in the words of the ancient Exultet, "trampling on death by death". We will wait at the tomb and witness the Glory of the Resurrection and the beginning of the New Creation.

Let us enter fully into the Sacred Triduum Liturgies. The Great Three Days of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter invite us into the heart of the Mystery of Faith. Let it Begin!

"Christ redeemed us all and gave perfect glory to God principally through his paschal mystery: dying he destroyed our death and rising he restored our life. Therefore the Easter Triduum of the passion and resurrection of Christ is the culmination of the entire liturgical year." (General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar, # 18)

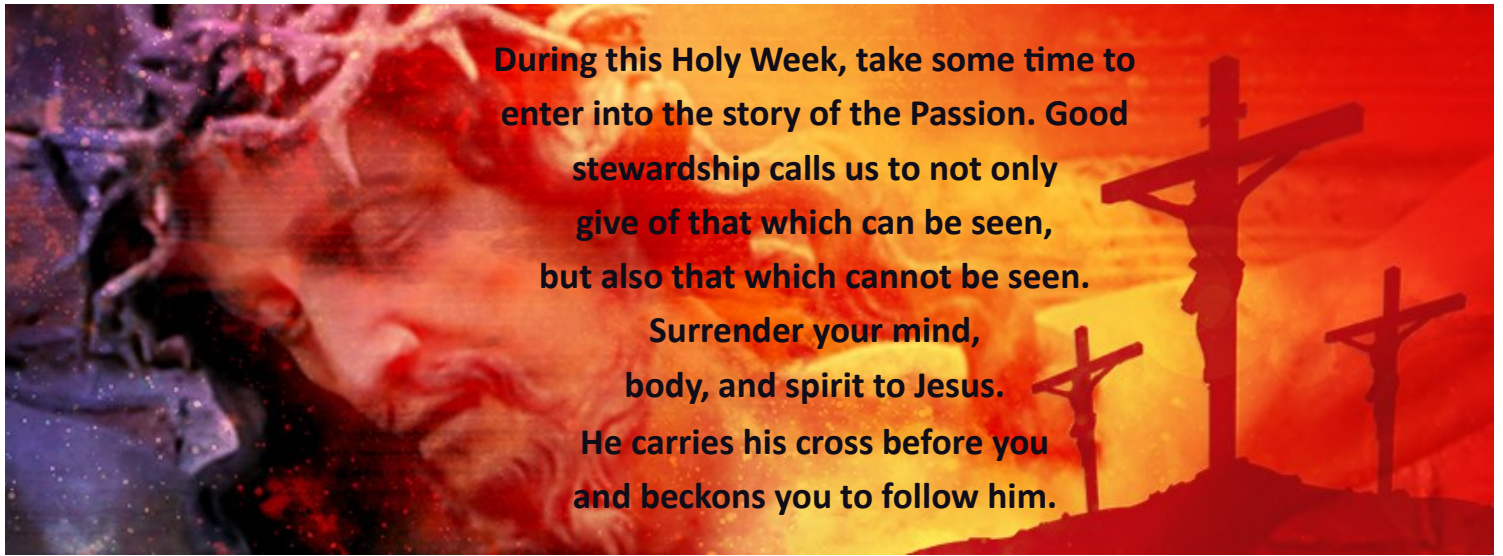
MASS INTENTIONS AND MINISTRY SCHEDULE

	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	APRIL 1	APRIL 2	APRIL 3	APRIL 4	APRIL 5	APRIL 6	APRIL 7	APRIL 8	APRIL 9
	5:00 PM	8:30 AM	8:00 AM	5:30 PM	6:00 PM	6:00 PM	3:00 PM	5:00 PM	8:30 AM
OBSERVANCES	VIGIL FOR PALM SUNDAY	PALM SUNDAY PASSION OF THE LORD				HOLY THURSDAY	GOOD FRIDAY	HOLY SATURDAY	EASTER
MASS INTENTION	Padre Pio Intercession	For the People (Pro Populo)	Dennis Johnson †	Communion Service	Betsy Schwager †	Evelyn Sweeney †		Kathy Reed †	For the People (Pro Populo)
LECTOR	Stacie Henderson	Terry Willis	Stations of the Cross at 6:00 pm		Stations of the Cross at 5:30 pm Eucharistic Adoration 7 am-6 pm	Tom Henderson	Carol Shehorn	Dan Blentlinger Amy Schutzbach	Michaela Campbell
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER	Deacon Andy	Deacon Andy				Barb Doud		Deacon Andy	Deacon Andy
SERVER	Conor Ausmus	Gage Reedy				Gage Reedy		Audrey Fox Avery Glasgow	Allison O'Neill Samantha O'Neill
SACRISTAN	Deacon Andy	Deacon Andy				Deacon Andy Cliff Shehorn David Sweeney	Deacon Andy Cliff Shehorn David Sweeney	Deacon Andy David Sweeney	Deacon Andy
GREETER	Carol Shehorn	HS Youth Group							

Our desire for God can only grow when we place ourselves in His presence.

-Pope Francis





During this Holy Week, take some time to enter into the story of the Passion. Good stewardship calls us to not only give of that which can be seen, but also that which cannot be seen. Surrender your mind, body, and spirit to Jesus. He carries his cross before you and beckons you to follow him.

Accountability

Easter is only a week away, and churches are beginning the holiest of weeks. For a moment, even the secular world will bow to religious observances: closings on Good Friday, Easter baskets filled with treats, and television specials featuring Biblical figures. You and I will be reflecting on the meaning of Lent and how we have died and risen with Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Either we have prepared well for this Holy Week observance, or we are left lamenting that maybe next year will be when we get back on track.

The question before us is: "To whom are we accountable?" Did our Lenten observance only have to do with us? Does it matter to anyone if we really took this time seriously or not?

Both faith and community are gifts from God to us. The Church exists so we may live out that faith and respond to God's call, being strengthened by the grace imparted through the sacraments and the community in which we find ourselves. If we are accountable to no one, then the community is simply an option on a Sunday morning, much like golf or household chores. If we are not accountable to God, then our faith is simply something we look to periodically when we are sad or frightened.

However, if we are accountable to each other and to Jesus Christ, then we must answer for our stewardship gifts of faith and community. The Body of Christ is counting on us. Without a strong sense of accountability, we think our actions only affect us. In the end, we are connected to each other through Christ in such a manner that no one ever stands alone.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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(PRACTICING) **CATHOLIC**

Making way for God

As Christ reclined at the Passover meal and his impending betrayal, I have to imagine at least one of the disciples thought to himself, incredulously and perhaps even indignantly: And you're not going to do anything about it?

So often we expect God to behave like the frantic parent of a teenager, banging down the closed door of a bedroom filled with loud music. We expect him to be overbearing, snooping in our diary and waiting to ground us the minute we break curfew, desperate to keep us within the family fold, ready and willing to use judgment and force to do so.

It's true that God greatly desires us to stay in friendship with him. But to accomplish it, he does not come to us as a meddler or an overlord. He comes in the same way he does on Palm Sunday. He waits for us to make way.

He may not be overbearing, but he is still devoted, and unfailingly patient. As the Palm Sundays of our lives — the moments of our devotion and piety — give way to the Holy Thursdays, when we inevitably deny him, God does not abandon us. The sacrifice on the cross is still there, waiting for us to accept it.

"Say to daughter Zion, 'Behold, your king comes to you, meek and riding on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'" — Matthew 21:5

- Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

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How should I reach out someone who has left the Church

When people we love leave the Church, we may not always know how to relate to them in certain ways. Are some conversation topics off limits? Are there certain behaviors or decisions we can't support in good conscience? When someone or something is lost, Jesus shows two different attitudes in his parables.

One is *actively seeking*. Don't give up on this person and their life of faith. Ask them about their spiritual journey. Invite them to spend time with you in faith settings, as appropriate, and outside of them. Continue in relationship with those you love.

The other attitude Jesus shows is *consistent witness in the waiting*. In the parable of the Prodigal Son, the father doesn't go after the son. He waits for his return. However, the son knows his father is trustworthy. He remembers his father's fair treatment of the hired hands and knows it is safe to return, despite all he has done.

Your ability to change someone is quite small. However, you can change yourself. Make sure you consistently treat others with kindness, compassion, and respect. If your loved one wants a deeper conversation, they'll know you are a person to trust, a place to which they can return.

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