

PALM SUNDAY

Jesus, humbling himself out of love for us, did not shield his face from buffets and spitting, but offered his life on the cross. He relied on his Father's love.

-The Order of Prayer, Cycle A

Blessed Sacrament Parish

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday - Friday, 8:30am-4:00pm

2275 Diamond Avenue NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49505
Telephone: (616) 447-7554
(616) 447-7629
Fax: (616) 447-7548
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www.bsacrament.net
ASA telephone: 616-447-2997

Fr. George Darling, Pastor

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Weekday Mass:

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:30am

Wednesday: 10:30am

Weekend Mass:

Saturday: 4:30pm

Sunday: 9:00am & 11:00am

PARISHIONER MEMBERSHIP

New members are always welcome to our Parish. Parishioner status is maintained by registration in the parish, active participation in weekend liturgies and full participation in the parish stewardship program. All family members 18 years and older should be individually registered with the parish. Parish membership and participation is required of those desiring the Sacraments of Baptism, First Eucharist, Confirmation and Matrimony.

FINANCE COUNCIL

Jim Wila, Chair.
Jim Frey, Vice Chair.
Tim Callery
Tammy Chartier
Bob Dean
Barb Lawrence
Deb Schmalzel
Terry Staskey
Steve Stoddard

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Scott Ware, Chair.
Liz Connell
Jim Fochtman
Kelly Garbaci
Doug Graves
Jeremy Reed
Kathy Schwartz
Mark Steiner
Donna Wrona

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays at 3:30 pm or by appointment.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Parish registration of six months is required. Preparation session required. Contact the parish office for details.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Contact the parish office a minimum of six months prior to the preferred wedding date. Marriage preparation sessions are required.



Masses for the Week

Sat, Apr 4	VIGIL: PALM SUNDAY **No Mass** (Palms available later)
Sun, Apr 5	PALM SUNDAY **No Mass** **No Mass**
Mon, Apr 6	LENTEN WEEKDAY **No Mass**
Tues, Apr 7	LENTEN WEEKDAY **No Mass**
Wed, Apr 8	LENTEN WEEKDAY **No Mass**
Thurs, Apr 9	HOLY THURSDAY **No Mass**
Fri, Apr 10	GOOD FRIDAY **No Mass**
Sat, Apr 11	VIGIL: EASTER **No Mass**
Sun, Apr 12	EASTER **No Mass** **No Mass**

SACRED SCRIPTURE

Readings for the Week of April 5, 2020

Sunday	Palm Sunday Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14—27:66 or 27:11-54
Monday	Is 42:1-7; Ps 27:1-3, 13-14; Jn 12:1-11
Tuesday	Is 49:1-6; Ps 71:1-4a, 5ab-6ab, 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	Holy 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	Good Friday Is 52:13—53:12; Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 151-6, 17, 25; Heb 4:14-16, 5:7-9; Jn 18:1—19:42
Saturday	Vigil: Gn 1:1—2:2 or Gn 1:1, 26-31a; Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 or Ps 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20-22; Gn 22:1-18 or Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11; Ex 14:15—15:1; (Ps) Ex 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18; Is 54:5-14; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13; Is 55:1-11; (Ps) Is 12:2-3, 4-6; Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4; Ps 19:8-11; Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28; Ps 42:3,5, 43:3-4; Rom 6:3-11; ps 118:1-2, 16ab-17, 22-23; Mt 28:1-10
Sunday	Easter Sunday Acts 10:34a, 37-42; Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8; Jn 20:1-9

PASTORAL TEAM

Father George E. Darling, Pastor.....father@bsacrament.net
 Darrell Beckwith, Business Manager
dbeckwith@bsacrament.net
 Lori Borek, Parish Secretary.....church@bsacrament.net
 Jody DeGraw, Dir of Religious Education
jdegrow@bsacrament.net
 Vicki Glynn, Religious Ed. Asst.....vglynn@bsacrament.net
 Marie LeMire, Ministry to the Sick & Elderly
mlemire@bsacrament.net
 Michael Debri, Principal ASA.....mdebri@asagr.org

BY GEORGE....

Thank you once again for those of you remembering to mail in your contributions or your CSA pledge cards. As you can see, collections are down.

Two weeks ago I wrote about the discipline of our wills in the context of our adventure with the coronavirus. During Lent each year we are supposed to be practicing the discipline of our wills -- meaning teaching ourselves to choose that which we know to be good for ourselves and others, not that which we know to be harmful to others and ourselves. The coronavirus is forcing us all to confront ourselves and our willfulness given that we can no longer go where we want to go or do what we want to do. Therefore our choice seems to be that either we seriously get busy disciplining our wills or the coronavirus will do it for us.

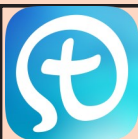
Last week I wrote about patience. For how many of us is this adventure with the coronavirus a matter that is testing our patience? As this goes on longer, and longer, and longer, and when we are in the third or fourth month of quarantine and not being able to do what we want to do, our patience will get stretched more and more thinly. We will become more and more upset because we can't do what we want to do when we want to do it. Then we will take out our impatience on those around us. The ones that we are supposed to love the best are the ones that we will start treating the worst. We will become impatient as we come to realize that we are not God and that things are not going to go the way that we want them to go. Remember though that not even for God do things go the way God would want them to go. If they did there would have been no such thing that we call "sin" that was created by Adam and Eve. Once God gave to us the gift of "free will" any control God had over us was gone. The coronavirus will teach us that any notion that we have control over mother nature, or other people or even ourselves is as deluded as our thinking that God has control over us to whom God has given the freedom to choose God or reject God in our lives.

Hence we come to Holy Week. Our focus of attention this week always turns to the one event in our lives that we most often have absolutely no control over, and that one event is death. As I watch on tv the daily count of infected people and the updated numbers of those who have died I am transported back to my childhood when on the tv news each night we watched the body counts of those killed in Vietnam. Going to a war zone we might have some reasonable expectation of being killed, but going to the grocery store in the past has not been in our consideration as a possibly fatal activity. Consider the activity for which Jesus was killed -- preaching about God. The fact that there have been some people in certain parts of our world who even in our time have suffered the same fate as Jesus for the same offense has been something that we have just dismissed from our minds as long as in our society we could go to the grocery store in peace. Now for us, as we turn on the news every night, death has become a new reality in our lives in a way we have ignored in the past. Perhaps this will be our best Holy Week ever for as we have come to a new understanding of the reality of death then perhaps there is hope that we can come to a new understanding of what it means to say to the women at the tomb, "Do not be afraid . . . he is not here, for he has been raised just as he said."

All Masses and Parish Activities are now cancelled until further notice.

~THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH~

Sun Apr 5: Watch Mass on TV with your family
 Mon Apr 6: Mail your CSA card to the Parish
 Tues Apr 7: Pray for a cure
 Wed Apr 8: Talk to your grandparents—alive or deceased
 Thurs Apr 9: Read John 13:1-15
 Fri Apr 10: Read John 18:1—19:42
 Sat Apr 11: Read Ex 14:15—15:1; Mat 28:1-10
 Sun Apr 12: Rejoice! Jesus is Risen



PARISH APP

As you may remember, a few years ago we launched a Parish App. During this time of social distancing, we thought it a good time to remind you that it is there and ready to be used on your Apple or Android devices. Visit the app store and search for myparishapp, then select Blessed Sacrament, Grand Rapids, MI, from the list of available parishes.

Features of the app include: messages from the parish, daily readings, a list of prayers, Mass times, access to the weekly bulletin, parish info that will help you easily connect with staff, and much more.

Some of our parishioners have stepped up and volunteered to lend a hand to those of you who are older and affected by the coronavirus. Do you need help getting your groceries or prescription drugs? Do you have other needs that we can help with?

Call the Parish Office at 616-447-7554 and we will direct you to those who can give you a helping hand during this time.



You can make your CSA donation by credit card online by visiting our parish website. On the main page there is a link to the Diocese of Grand Rapids website, grdiocese.org. Go to that link and it will tell you how to make your donation. Don't forget to reference Blessed Sacrament when filling out the form.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

This week's sponsor is **Comstock Park Body Shop**. Please see this ad on the back of the bulletin.

These advertisers help to defray all publishing costs which the Church would otherwise incur. Please patronize the sponsors on the back of this bulletin and thank them for their kind generosity.

~In Our Thoughts & Prayers~

Homebound Parishioner of the Week

Please remember in your thoughts and prayers our parishioners Lucille Surman. Cards may be sent to 2054 Highbluff Dr NE, 49505. Let Lucille know you are a parishioner and that you are thinking of her.

Hosanna!
 Blessed
 is he who
 comes in
 the name
 of the Lord.

John 12:13

2233 Diamond Ave./447-2997
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 Michael Debri, Principal
www.asagr.org

ASA
 All Saints Academy

PRAYERS

We continue to pray for the health and safety of all our parishioners. We also ask that you remember ASA students, parents, teachers and staff in your prayers during this difficult time.

MARCH IS READING MONTH SPIRIT WEEK

ASA Spirit week continues at home! Check our ASA Today Blog (asatoday.blogspot.com/) next week for photos of our students celebrating.



AUTOMATIC GIVING

We encourage parishioners who normally bring their contributions to Mass to sign up for automatic giving. There is a form on our website that you can print, fill out and mail to the parish office, or you can email us the information. If you have any questions call Lori or Darrell in the Parish office, 616-447-7554.



STEWARDSHIP - Week of March 28 & 29

Week 40/53

Adult Envelopes (34 used)	\$4,068.00
Automatic Envelopes (53 used)	4,165.00
Youth	0.00
Loose Stewardship	0.00

Total Stewardship this week \$8,233.00

YTD	\$535,81.66
Budget YTD	\$563,846.15
Last YTD	\$556,867.34
5% Tithe this week	\$411.65
YTD Tithe	\$26,790.78