

LOVE

VICARIATE
FOUR
GROUPING
438
N. Oakland
Chicora
Carbon Center

St. Joseph Parish

Located at 864 Chicora Rd.

Chicora, PA 16025

724-445-3713

Fax: 724-607-1183

Temporary Office Hours:

Monday & Tuesday, 9:30am-Noon

Mater Dolorosa Parish

Located at 409 North Main St.

Chicora, PA 16025

724-445-2275

Temporary Office Hours

at St. Joe Rectory:

Monday & Tuesday, 9:30am-Noon

St. Wendelin Parish

Located at 210 St. Wendelin Rd.

Butler, PA 16002

724-287-0820

www.stwendelinbutler.com

Temporary Office Hours:

Monday, 9:00am-Noon

April 5, 2020

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

A Message from Fr. Matt ...

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

When I was a little kid, I loved Palm Sunday! I still love it, of course, but differently now. I used to love getting the blessed palm and trying (and failing) to make a cross or some other cool thing out of the palm. It usually would end up tucked behind a picture of Jesus or Mary or maybe a crucifix. There is something satisfying about getting a tangible item, something you can feel and hold in your hand. I think that one of the best parts of Catholicism, that we have stuff like this. Stuff, holy stuff, that you can feel and taste and smell and see and hear. Catholicism engages all of our senses! God made us. He knows how we work. He knows we need this kind of stuff. God is cool. So is His Church.

This Palm Sunday is different from any Palm Sunday that we can remember. I had to write this homily more than a week before today. I know things are “fluid”. Man, I can’t stand that word anymore. But I guess it is a good word for the situation. In any case, as I wrote I wasn’t sure what things would be like on the actual day. I just knew they would probably be different. One of those great traditional tangible gifts of the Church, the palm, will be blessed at Mass on Palm Sunday, but you won’t get to make crosses or hang it on holy pictures.

Not yet. The church will save it for you and some day soon, when things are better, we will give you all the palms that you could possibly want! It will be different, but it will still be great!

I saw a post recently that kind of made me mad. It was about what Jesus endured in this week. During Holy Week, we remember what Jesus went through. How He entered Jerusalem triumphantly, only to be betrayed, ridiculed and spit on by the very same people

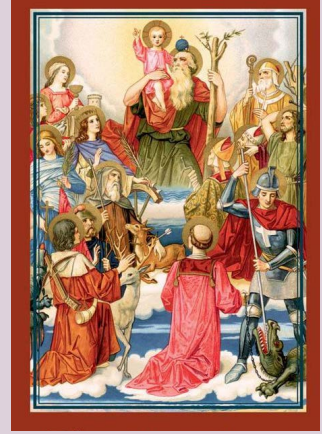
days later. We will remember the intimacy and challenge of His Last Supper with His disciples. His prayer and tears in the garden. His trial. His walk of suffering, His courage, His agony and His death. And on Easter we will recall and proclaim His victory!

But this post that I saw took all that Jesus did this week and turned it on us. It said something to the extent that you should quit whining and complaining because what Jesus did is far more than you are enduring. It made me mad because do you know who would never say this? Jesus. Because for Jesus, this week isn’t about making you feel bad or giving you perspective. No, this week isn’t about that at all. This week, this Holy Week, is about one thing. Love!

When you look at this week, and enter it in ways that are strange and maybe unsettling, Jesus wants you to remember one thing. He did all of it for you! Not so that you feel bad. Not so that you stop belly-aching. Not so that you gain proper perspective on your level of suffering. He did it to love you. It is all for you.

I know that you are feeling many things this week. Loss. Worry. Doubt. Anxiety. Stress. Make sure that you save some room for love. Actually save a whole lot of room for love, because a whole lot of love is what Jesus has for you. Jesus did this so that you could be with Him forever in love. Dripping in love! Forever! So during this weird scary week, this holiest of weeks, save room for love. Wherever you are, His love will be there. His love is too big for a building so don’t you worry. Just save room for His love!

Peace and Love,
Fr. Matt



The Catholic Church has a long tradition of calling on saints and praying for their intercession in sickness and difficult times. There is a whole group of saints who were called on for prayers during the plague, starting in 1348 in Munich. This group goes by the name **The Fourteen Holy Helpers**, each with an individual feast day and initially one day. There are churches in Germany, Italy, Austria, Hungary and other European countries named after these 14, and one parish in the Diocese of Buffalo. Twelve of this specialized group are martyrs and three are women. Perhaps most known now among them is St. Blaise, who is invoked each Feb. 3 on his feast day for blessing of the throats. These are the other 13, and what people pray to them for protection from or intercession for:

- Achatius headaches
- Barbara fever, sudden death
- Catherine of Alexandria sudden death
- Christopher plagues, sudden death
- Cyriacus (Cyriac) temptations
- Denis (Dionysius) headaches
- Erasmus (Elmo) abdominal maladies
- Eustachius (Eustace) family trouble
- George domestic animal protection
- Giles (Aegidius) plagues, good confession
- Margaret of Antioch safe childbirth
- Pantaleone physicians
- Vitus (Guy) epilepsy

Grouping Information ...

STAY CONNECTED ONLINE

<https://www.stwendelinbutler.com/>

This SWP website lists information for all three Parishes, and will have the most recent bulletin. You can access Fr. Matt celebrating Sunday Mass and see Fr. Lou's informative YouTube postings. It will tell you about what is unique to our Grouping and has helpful links as well. **Also, the link for online giving for St. Joseph and Mater Dolorosa can be accessed through this website.**

HOLY WEEK MASSES WILL BE LIVE STREAMED

Log onto the website to see Fr. Matt & Fr. Lou celebrate:

- Mass of the Lord's Supper on Thursday, April 9, 7:00pm
- Good Friday on April 10, 2:00pm
- Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 11, 8:30pm

<https://diopitt.org/>

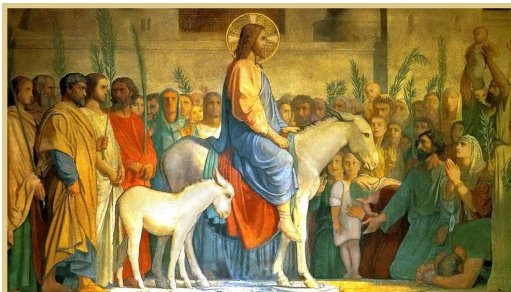
This is Diocese of Pittsburgh website. It links for live stream daily Masses, as well as news releases from Bishop Zubik and spiritual resources.

<https://formed.org/>

FORMED is the Catholic faith on demand! This international website has the most comprehensive library of viewings available, including a Lenten series, reflections, Movie Night Series and children's stories. It's ultra easy to set up an account - and free.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/>

This is the website for the textbook company for SWP CCD program. Access code is COL-2016. Lessons for each grade are available. Great enrichment!



The crowds preceding him and those following kept crying out and saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest."

A REMINDER ABOUT SCHEDULE CHANGES

On March 28, Bishop Zubik set forth new directives about the availability of Sacraments and facilities in the Diocese in Pittsburgh. ALL CHURCHES ARE CLOSED. Additionally, confessions are canceled, baptisms and weddings are postponed, funeral Masses are not permitted at this time. The Diocesan news release explaining the recent update is available at diopitt.org. Please call any Parish office if you have questions.

THINGS THAT HAVEN'T CHANGED

WE CAN HELP

If you or someone you know needs help with errand running, medication pick up, or shopping, call any Parish Office.

PRAYER LISTS

Inform offices of updates, just as usual.

1 Kings 8:45

Listen in heaven to their prayer and petition, and uphold their cause.

WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH OFFERTORY AND PARISH SHARE?

You can mail Weekly and Special Offertory and Parish Share to your Parish:

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change...

St. Joseph - 864 Chicora Road, Chicora, PA 16025
Mater Dolorosa - PO Box 243, Chicora, PA 16025
St. Wendelin - 210 St. Wendelin Rd., Butler, PA 16002

OR - SWP - this is a great time to sign up for online offertory at: <https://www.osvonlinegivin.com/4149>

OR - NEW FOR ST. JOSEPH AND MATER DOLOROSA
online offertory now available - link at <https://www.stwendelinbutler.com/>

OR - ALL Parishioners (not just SW) can leave envelopes in the SW Rectory drop slot.
This is the door facing the church if you walk down the long narrow walkway next to the church.



Parish Offertories

Due to an early bulletin deadline, offertory for March 28 & 29 will be listed next week.

School & Religious Education

This week's St. Wendelin School
Student of the Week is:

LILY TIRK

She is currently a Kindergarten student at St. Wendelin. Lily's favorite subject is Health class because she is learning how to live a healthy life! Lily is a sweet student who is working very hard to get smarter everyday! At home, Lily enjoys playing with her goats and watching Spirit, a show about children having adventures with their horses. When she grows up, she would like to become a farmer. Lily is a blessing to have in our Kindergarten class! Congratulations to this week's St. Wendelin School Student of the Week, **LILY TIRK!**



To determine the status of the PTG's Spring Fundraisers, check the St. Wendelin School website at <https://www.stwendelinschool.com/>

Information on these events will be listed:

- Good Friday Fish Dinner - **CANCELED**
- Deer Classic at Happy Hunters on April 25
- Hanging Flower Basket Pre-orders in April
- Family Fun Bingo on April 17 and May 29
- 50/50 Raffle Drawing on April 29 and May 20

Catholic Identity Program

This program highlights a variety of virtues and values through short lessons, prayers, Scripture references, and more.

This week's Virtue is:

Kindness

Kindness means to be gentle and generous toward others.



Reference: Random Acts of Kindness

A random act of kindness is a nonpremeditated, inconsistent action designed to offer kindness toward the outside world. The phrase "practice random kindness and senseless acts of beauty" was written by Anne Herbert on a placemat in Sausalito, California in 1982. It was based on the phrase "random acts of violence and senseless acts of cruelty". Herbert's book *Random Kindness and Senseless Acts of Beauty* was published in February 1993 speaking about true stories of acts of kindness. The phrase is commonly expressed as the suggestion to "Practice random acts of kindness." There are groups around the world who are sharing acts of spontaneous kindness.



HOLY WEEK: APRIL 6 - APRIL 12

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

HOLY THURSDAY:

CHRISM MASS:

Is 61:1-3A, 6A, 8B-9;
Ps 89:21-22, 25, 27; Rv 1:5-8;
Lk 4:16-21

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:

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

HOLY SATURDAY:

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; Mt 28:1-10

EASTER 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 OR MT 28:1-10