

The Work of the People
Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Branches of palm, olive, or sometimes even budding willow are ancient symbols of victory and hope, as well as of new life. The procession celebrating Jesus' entry into Jerusalem overflowed with praise and excitement, as the onlookers waved these triumphant branches and proclaimed their blessings. Yet in a few days, they will cry, "Crucify him!" The crowd's change of heart illustrates the problem of holding God to our expectations. The crowd expected a liberating leader, the Messiah, to free them from Roman oppression. Jesus instead takes up his cross and invites us to do the same.

As we enter Holy Week, the readings focus on the reason for Jesus' suffering and Death. This selection from one of the four Suffering Servant songs of Isaiah summarizes well Jesus' ministry, why he was rejected, how he responded, and what ultimately led to his suffering and Death. Through it all, Jesus trusted in God, knowing he would never be disgraced for attuning himself to God's ways.

In this well-known text from Paul's letter to the Philippians, we hear of Jesus' *kenosis*, or emptying of his God-self in order to become fully human. In becoming human, Jesus chooses not to grasp onto divinity but rather empties himself, "taking the form of a slave". He humbly and fully accepts all the limitations that being human entails while being totally "obedient", that is, attuned and oriented, to God's ways.

On this Palm Sunday, we hear Jesus' Passion proclaimed from Mark's Gospel. Mark's Passion narrative highlights Jesus' willingness to empty himself out for others. He does not resist his fate. Rather, he accepts it as the inevitable result of aligning himself with an all-loving God who invites all to empty themselves for the sake of others.

The reflection for this Sunday is from Megan McKenna who is an author, theologian, storyteller, and lecturer.

This week profoundly disturbs the world and is meant to disturb us, break us out of complacency and false pieties. It shatters any sense of self-righteousness we might still entertain in our hearts or practices. God has known this all along and so came to dwell among us, among the most poor and lost of his time.

The ancient psalm with its lament, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" is horrible in its litany of what human beings do to each other and allow others to experience. It is about pain and how to stay human when we fall into the hands of those who consider other lives expendable or mere commodities to be used or destroyed. It is about pain of the body, and worse, pain of the soul caused by the mockery and blasphemy of others calling on God to help us because

they won't. The one who is tortured is left with nothing of the past, of material possessions, of dignity.

The only thing remaining is hope, unbridled and unreasonable hope in God: "I will proclaim your name to my brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will praise you." "You who fear the Lord, praise him; all you descendants of Jacob, give glory to him." At the end, what makes us human is the One whom we worship, whom we serve and obey, whom we praise and give glory to, even when lives are tattered or bruised or even taken from us violently. The suffering are reminded that God is not far from them, and God is their aid and help.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is. 42:1-7/Jn. 12:1-11

Tuesday: Is. 49:1-6/Jn. 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday: Is. 50:4-9a/Mt. 26:14-25

Thursday: Ex. 12:1-8, 11-14/1 Cor. 11:23-26/Jn. 13:1-15

Friday: Is 52:13; 53:12/Heb. 4:14-16; 5:7-9/
Jn. 18:1;19:42

Saturday: Gn. 1:1;2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a/Gn. 22:18 or 22; 1-2
9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ex. 14:15;15:1/Is. 54:5-14/Is. 55:1-11/
Br. 3:9-15, 32;4:4/Ez. 36:16-17a, 18-28/Rom 6:3-11/
Mk. 16:1-7

Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Col. 3:1-4 or 1 Cor. 5:6b-8/
Jn. 20:1-9 or Mk. 16:1-7

LENTEN DEVOTIONS

Stations of the Cross and Benediction
6:00 pm

St. Bernadette Mission
Tuesday, March 26

CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME

AN INVITATION FOR CATHOLICS WHO HAVE BEEN AWAY
2024 SPRING SCHEDULE

April 3 - Welcome with overview of Series
Sharing by team and attendees

April 10 - Video "Stories of Faith from Catholics Returning Home"
Discussing and Sharing

April 17 - The Church Today: Changes since Vatican II
Explanation of Major Changes
(Mass in English, Involvement, Bible Study)

April 24 - Walk through of the Mass
(along with explanation and historical overview)

May 1 - Tips on Sinning -
Explanation of the Sacrament of Reconciliation

May 8 - The Creed: What Catholics Believe

The sessions will be held at 6:30 pm at St. Brigid's, Meadville. Please check the bulletin boards at both entrances of the church for further information.

WORSHIP

Monday, March 25
 8:00 am + Liv. & Dec Members of
 David & Christine Ochs Family
 Tuesday, March 26
 8:00 am + Bob & Anna Mae Brown (Susan Parkin)
 Wednesday, March 27
 8:00 am + NO MASS
 Thursday, March 28 - HOLY THURSDAY
 7:00 PM + Dec. of Mercier/Pankul Families
 (Mary Pankul)
 Friday, March 29 - GOOD FRIDAY
 3:00 PM + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Passion of the Lord
 5:00 PM + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 Passion of the Lord
 Saturday, March 30 - HOLY SATURDAY
 8:30 PM + Liv & Dec Members of St. Anthony &
 St. Bernadette
 Sunday, March 31 - EASTER SUNDAY
 8:00 AM + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Stephen Sada (Parishioners of St. Bernadette &
 St. Anthony)
 9:30 AM + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 Michael Milligan (Barbara Milligan)

LENTEN LUNCH

at 12:00 Noon
 — Cambridge Springs —
 March 27 - First Baptist Church

**SEDER MEAL
 THANK YOU**

Thank you to the staff and students of Faith For-
 mation for preparing and hosting the Seder Meal last
 Sunday. The food was great and it was a good op-
 portunity for us to be reminded of our heritage.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

5:00 PM

St. Bernadette Mission
 Tuesday, March 26

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday, March 25
 1:00 pm - Chrism Mass at St. Peter Cathedral
 Tuesday, March 26
 After Mass - St. Anthony Novena
 5 - 5:45 pm - AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Confession
 6 pm - Stations of the Cross & Benediction of
 Blessed Sacrament
 Saturday, March 30
 11:00 am - Easter Food Blessing

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

The Passion of Jesus makes it clear, no one escapes
 suffering. Suffering is inevitable but no one should suffer
 alone. That is one of the primary roles of families, to
 stand with and support each other in suffering.

PARENTING POINTERS

Today is Palm Sunday. Tell your children the sto-
 ry of how the people praised Jesus by waving
 palms. Of course just a few days later we remember
 Jesus' crucifixion on Good Friday. Copy the at-
 tached link and place it in your web browser learn
 how to make a palm cross with your child.
 (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kmtg7m7lon8>)

*“Lord,
 prepare me to receive you more deeply
 as I prepare for the
 feast of your resurrection!”*

*“Lord,
 let your word lead me closer to you!”*

**ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 STEWARDSHIP**

Offertory	\$737.00
Maintenance	5.00
Ash Wednesday	5.00
Flowers	65.00
Candles	48.00
TOTAL	\$860.00

**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 STEWARDSHIP**

Offertory	\$754.00
Maintenance	234.00
Altar Flowers	75.00
Candles	20.00
CSA	300.00
TOTAL	\$1,383.00

Catholic Services Appeal
 Pledged: \$31,165 Paid: \$16,801

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
