

PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Parishioners,

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

Since we are beginning the holiest week of the liturgical year, I will finish my explanation of the Mass after Easter and use this space to talk about what we are now doing and celebrating.

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 Luke's Gospel. In Luke's account of the Passion Jesus demonstrates what he taught throughout his ministry. Thus, at the Last Supper, the total gift of his person in the bread and wine is the proof of his humble service.

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.

PONTIFICAL GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Each Good Friday, as we recall the passion and death of our Lord in the liturgy, we pray in the Solemn Intercessions: "Let us pray, dearly beloved, for the holy Church of God that our God and Lord be pleased to give her peace, to guard her and to unite her throughout the whole world..." Perhaps nowhere in the world does this petition find a greater echo in the holy days of the Easter Triduum than in the Holy Land. In the very places where Jesus was born, taught, healed, suffered and died, the Church is enduring constant hardship, and struggles to survive.

On Good Friday, April 19, Catholics throughout the world are asked to give generously to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection in support of our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land. Through the Good Friday Collection, you join with Catholics around the world in standing in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. Your support means that the Church there can conduct parish ministry, provide Catholic education, feed the hungry, build housing for Christians, maintain shrines and operate refugee centers.

As our diocesan family prepares to celebrate the Paschal Mystery, I encourage you to participate in the events of Holy Week. Know that you are in my prayer. Please know also of my gratitude for your generous response on behalf of the Christians of the Holy Land. May the Lord bless you abundantly this Holy Week, this Easter, and beyond.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
Bishop of Erie

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 14

Monday: Is. 42:1-7/Ps. 27: 1,2,3,13-14/Jn. 12:1-11

Tuesday: Is. 49:1-6/Ps. 71:1-2, 3-4a, 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: Ex. 12:1-8, 11-14/Ps. 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18/
1 Cor. 11:23-26/Jn. 13:1-15

Friday: Is. 52:13; 53:12/Ps. 31:2,6,12-14,15-16,17,25/Heb.4:14-16;
55:7-9/Jn. 18:1; 19:42

Saturday: An: 1; 2:2 or 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 22:1-2,9a,10-13, 15-18/Ps. 16:5,8,9-10,11/Ex. 14:15; 15:1/Ex. 15:1-2,3-4,5-6, 17-18/Is. 54:5-14/Ps. 30:2,4,5-6,11-12,13/Is. 55:1-11/
Is. 12:2-3,4,5-6/Bar. 3:9-15,32; 4:4/Ps. 19:8,9,10,11/Ez. 36:16-17a,18-28/Ps. 42:3,5; 45:3,4 or Is. 12:2-3,4bcd,5-6 or Ps. 51:12-13,14-15, 18-19/Rom. 6:3-11/Ps. 118:1-2,16-17,22-23/
Lk. 24:1-12

Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps. 118:1-2,16-17,22-23/Col. 3:1-4 or
! Cor. 5:6b-8/ Jn. 20:1-9 or Mt. 28:1-10/Lk. 24:13-35

WORSHIP

Monday, April 15
8:00 am + Leona Auer

Tuesday, April 16
8:00 am + A Special Intention

Wednesday, April 17
7:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE
Living & Deceased Parishioners

Thursday, April 18 - HOLY THURSDAY - Mass of the Lord's Supper
7:00 pm + For the Intention of the Weidner Fam. (Dick & Ginger)

Friday, April 19 - GOOD FRIDAY - Passion of the Lord
3:00 pm + AT ST. BERNADETTE
7:00 pm + AT ST. ANTHONY

Saturday, April 20 - HOLY SATURDAY - Celebration of the Easter Vigil
8:30 pm + Living & Deceased Parishioners

Sunday, April 21 - EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD
8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE
Genung, Hutch, Proudfoot Families (Pat & Richard)
9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY
Bob Adams (Dan & Julie Novisk)

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday - Wednesday - Friday AT ST. BERNADETTE
7:00 am - Communion Service

Tuesday, April 16
After Mass - St. Anthony's Novena
6:00 pm - Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 20
11:00 am - Blessing of the Food at St. Anthony

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

ST. ANTHONY'S
HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 18 - 7:00 PM

Eucharistic Ministers: Theresa Douglas/Judy Kingston/Kathleen Lipkovich/
Jim Samson
Lector: Shawn Pfleger
Altar Servers: Payton Leandro/Paige Tucker/Andrea Walker/Veronica Walker

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 19 - 7:00 PM

Eucharistic Ministers: Theresa Douglas
Lector: Marie Marteeny/Shawn Pfleger
Altar Servers: Andrea Walker/Veronica Walker

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 20 - 8:30 PM

Eucharistic Ministers: Larry Douglas/Theresa Douglas/Judy Herman/
Judy Kingston
Lector: Kathleen Lipkovich
Altar Servers: Peyton Crays/Payton Leandro/Sophia Mott/Robert Moats

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 21 - 9:30 AM

Eucharistic Ministers: Ginger Beck/Christine Krzysiak/Carol Rasavage/
Jim Samson
Lector: Veronica Walker
Altar Servers: Paige Tucker/Andrea Walker

ST. BERNADETTE'S
SUNDAY, APRIL 21 - 8:00 AM

Eucharistic Ministers: J. Acker/C. Greco/J. Weagraff
Lector: B. Smith
Ushers: D. Nowak
Altar Servers: B. Greco

STEWARDSHIP

4/7/19		
Offertory	\$478.00	CSA: Pledged—\$6,925
Rent	325.00	Paid—\$5,095
Holy Days	65.00	
CCD	35.00	
Easter Flowers	15.00	
TOTAL	\$918.00	

PRAYER WALK

A Prayer Walk will take place on Good Friday, April 19 at Noon starting at the First Baptist Church. All are welcome!

REMINDER: The Rice Bowls should be returned in the Offertory collection. A portion of the Rice Bowl comes back from the Diocese to the parish to assist in the Cambridge Springs Ministerium emergency food program.

LENTEN LUNCH SCHEDULE

Wed. April 17, 12:00 Noon - St. Paul's Lutheran Church

SETON CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Seton Catholic School, preschool—8th grade, where students thrive on being challenged academically, learn to be respectful, responsible and self disciplined. Scholarships available. Call today 814 336-2320 for a tour or to register. All faiths welcome.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Today Jesus tell us "I am among you as one who serves." In accepting the palm branch today you publicly confirm your baptismal promise to follow Jesus as "one who serves." Selfless service defines a family as Christian.

THEOLOGIAN TO SPEAK

Noted Catholic theologian Dr. Scott Hahn will speak April 23 at 7:30 pm at the Crawford Auditorium of Grove City College. The topic of his presentation is, "The Paschal Mystery: How did a Roman Execution Become the Sacrifice?" The event is sponsored by the Grove City College Newman Club and is free and open to students and public. If attending register at www.stpaulcenter.com/Grove-City-2019.

*Jesus knew that his hour had come to pass
from this world to the Father.
He loved his own in the world
and he loved them to the end.*

BINGO - The next scheduled BINGO at St. Anthony's will be Monday, April 29. Early Bird BINGO starts at 6:00 pm and the regular BINGO starts at 6:30 pm. Doors and kitchen open at 5:00 pm. A Stuffed Shells Dinner will be available at a cost of \$5.00.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. BERNADETTE'S

Mon. April 15 - 3:15 pm - Religious Education Class
Wed. April 16 - 6:00 pm - Benediction and Stations of the Cross

STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$1,703.00
Maintenance	611.00
Altar Flowers	115.00
Rosary	10.00
Donation for Roof Repair	<u>2,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$4,439.00

Catholic Services Appeal
Pledged: \$20,026 Paid: \$10,281

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
