

# PALM SUNDAY: PASSION OF THE LORD

## APRIL 5, 2020

SPECIAL EDITION TO ASSIST YOU IN CELEBRATING HOLY WEEK IN THE ABSENCE OF PUBLIC MASS



"Triumphal Entry," Harry Anderson (1957)

### *Saint Stanislaus Catholic Church*

516 East 13th Street  
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503  
814.452.6606  
www.ststanserie.org  
email: ststaner@outlook.com

Fr. Jason Glover, S.T.L., Pastor  
Msgr. Daniel Magraw, Senior Associate  
Debbie Oldenski, Secretary  
Thaddeus Fryczynski, Director of Music

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:30AM - 3:00 PM  
(Closed 12:00PM - 1:00PM, Saturdays, Sundays, & Holidays)

Daily Eucharistic Liturgy: Monday - Friday at 8:00AM  
Weekend Eucharistic Liturgy: Saturday at 4:00PM  
Sunday at 9:30AM  
Holy Days of Obligation: 8:00AM

### *Holy Trinity Catholic Church*

2220 Reed Street  
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503  
814.456.0671  
www.holytrinityrc.org  
email: parishoffice@holytrinityrc.org

Fr. Jason Glover, S.T.L., Pastor  
Msgr. Daniel Magraw, Senior Associate  
Mary Ann Merski, Secretary  
Jeannie McGinley, Director of Music

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00AM - 4:00PM  
(Closed 12:00PM - 1:00PM, Saturdays, Sundays, & Holidays)

Daily Eucharistic Liturgy: Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at 8:00AM  
Weekend Eucharistic Liturgy: Saturday at 5:00PM;  
Sunday at 10:00AM  
Holy Days of Obligation: Vigil at 5:30PM

TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED



# Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity

## Partners in Faith & Mission



April 5, 2020

### Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Human beings are united in their suffering. When we find ourselves in a painful moment, our first reaction is “why me?” as if we are the only person on earth who ever encountered this challenge. Going through life with a “why me” attitude only finds us wallowing in the mire of self-pity and never seizing opportunities or graces. We walk in solidarity with every human being in the experience of suffering. Believing that the goal of life is the elimination or avoidance of suffering is simply an illusion that keeps us entrenched in a collective myth. This myth distorts us and limits us.

True humility tempers the temptation we have to become complacent and prevents an excessive relishing of life’s successes and affirmations. Learning obedience keeps us faithful to our relationship with God so that we can find the courage to endure any depth of hardship, disappointment, betrayal, or agony. While we may want our cup of suffering to be taken away, it simply cannot be. Somehow and somewhere in the seemingly opposing experiences life can deal us, God is present with His reassuring, compassionate, empowering, and persevering love. To be true to who we are and who God is, we must take up the cross of suffering, even when it’s the hardest and most apparently senseless thing to do.

Only our soul can understand these things, but our minds cannot, so they continue to run to secular ideas and solutions to pain and hardship. It goes without saying that we need to do all we can to eliminate as much senseless, unjust suffering as possible. Hunger, violence, abuse, exploitation, rejection, prejudice, homelessness, disrespect for life, and a whole host of other sins all result in suffering that is within our control. Then, when we face the uncontrollable kind of suffering or find ourselves the victim of injustice, what do we do?

### WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES

Readings for the week of April 5, 2020

Sunday: Mt 21:1-11/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-24/Phil 2:6-11/Mt 27:11-54m [Palm Sunday]  
Monday: Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1-14/Jn 12:1-11  
Tuesday: Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-15/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38  
Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31-34/Mt 26:14-25  
Thursday: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/Ps 116:12-18/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15 [Lord’s Supper]  
Friday: Is 52:13-53:12/Ps 31:2-25/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1-19:42 [Good Friday]  
Saturday: Gen 1:1-2:2/Gen 22:1-18/Ex 14:15-15:1/Is 54:5-14/Is 55:1-11/Bar 9-15, 32-4:4/Ez 36:17-17, 18-28/Rom 6:3-11/MT 28:1-10 [Easter Vigil]  
Next Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-23/Col 3:1-4 /Mt 28:1-10 [Easter]

**Sacrament of Baptism:** Sacramental preparation is required of the parents who desire to share the Catholic faith with their children and are held monthly throughout the City of Erie. Call the parish office to register to schedule your preparation. Godparents must be Confirmed and practicing Catholics with a letter of recommendation from their pastor to serve as a sacramental sponsor.

**Religious Education, First Holy Communion, and First Reconciliation** programs are hosted at Saint Luke’s Church for all eastside Erie parishes. Contact their parish office for more information and to register your child (814.825.7105).

**Confirmation** preparation for all eastside Erie parishes is hosted at Saint John’s Church. Contact their parish office for more information and to register your child (814.454.2873).

**Sacrament of Holy Orders:** God calls all people to holiness. Some men are called to fulfill this vocation as priests. If you are interested in the priesthood, or have questions about it, please contact a parish priest or our Diocesan Vocation Director, Fr. Michael Polenik, at 1.800.374.3723.

**Sacrament of Matrimony:** Before a date can be scheduled, a priest must be contacted at least six months in advance to complete the required documents.

**Sacrament of the Sick:** Communal celebrations of Anointing the Sick are scheduled periodically. The sacrament can also be requested by any parishioner who is seriously ill or in danger of death. *Please note:* Federal law no longer permits hospitals or nursing homes to contact churches when a parishioner is admitted. It is important that family members notify the parish office if a loved one needs a visit, desires to receive Holy Communion, or needs to be Anointed.

**Leave A Legacy:** Consider Saint Stanislaus and Holy Trinity as you meet with your attorney or financial planner regarding your estate planning. Remember the needs of your parish family and leave a legacy of faith for future generations with your generous remembrance.

**Bulletin Information Deadline:** Please submit information to be included in the weekend bulletin by noon the Monday prior. Holiday bulletin announcements must be received by the parish office two weeks in advance.

*Saint Stanislaus & Holy Trinity  
Partners in Faith & Mission*

**“PRAYER, CARE, AND CONCERN” MINISTRY**

Those who participate in this ministry express the care and concern of our entire parish community to those who are ill, hospitalized, homebound, or in nursing facilities, through birthday and holiday cards, visits, and prayers. To request prayers, or to participate in this ministry, contact Rose Marie at 814.923.4438.

**“PRAYERLINE” MINISTRY**

These ministers devote themselves to prayer for any needs made known to them and any special intentions. To participate in this ministry, or to request prayers for a particular need, contact Kay (825-7328) or Shirley (452-3395) from Saint Stanislaus, or Kathy Benes (898-1091) or Kathy Smith (392-8974) from Holy Trinity.

**PCEP (Parish Catholic Education Program)**

Parishioners of Holy Trinity can receive a parish grant to assist with the cost of tuition for families who wish their primary or secondary school age children to have a Catholic education. To be eligible, families must participate in the program, attend Mass regularly, and be involved in the parish community. For more information, contact the parish office.

**LITURGICAL MINISTRIES**

Parishioners interested in serving our worshipping community as an altar server, lector, Eucharistic minister, or music minister, please let one of your priests know.

**“PRAYER SHAWL” MINISTRY**

The enjoyment of knitting, crocheting, and sewing are uniquely combined with prayer to offer a deeply personal and meaningful spiritual ministry. Shawls are prayerfully made and freely given away to those suffering bereavement, those recovering from illness, the elderly, homebound, and those in nursing facilities. To join us in this ministry, please contact Linda at 814.864.8476.

**THE “ZABAWA COMMITTEE”**

Held on the parish grounds of Holy Trinity, Zabawa is the largest Polish heritage celebration in the region, drawing tens of thousands of people to our neighborhood. The Zabawa Committee organizes the festival through food preparation, donation solicitation, food and beverage service, and so on. The committee always welcomes any help they receive. If you would like to offer your time, and experience hands-on learning about these rich cultural traditions, contact Ray Luniewski at 882-1032.

**PROLIFE COMMUNITY**

This ministry advocates through for the protection of all human life from conception until natural death through prayer, education, and action.

**ST. STANISLAUS / HOLY TRINITY INITIAL PARISHIONER REGISTRATION FORM**

(please circle which parish)

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*A Community of Faith Built on Tradition, Where Everyone is Welcome*



# Saint Stanislaus Parish Community

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., April 6th, 8:00AM - Vernon & Ellen Gambill (Paul & Renee Gambill)  
 Tues., April 7th, 8:00AM - Linda Gambill-Love (Paul & Renee Gambill)  
 Wed., April 8th, 8:00AM - Theresa Ignasiak (Mike & Ellie Wozniak)  
 Thurs., April 9th, 8:00AM - For the People of Saint Stanislaus (Pro Populo)  
 Fri., April 10th, 8:00AM - GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE — NO MASS  
 Sat., April 11th, 4:00PM - For the People of Saint Stanislaus (Pro Populo)  
 Sun., April 12th, 9:30AM - For the People of Saint Stanislaus (Pro Populo)

## LIMITED HOURS OF OPERATION

Our Parish Office is operating under limited hours. The Office will be open from 9:30AM - Noon. If you need to stop by, we ask that you call in advance. We are attempting to minimize interpersonal contact, as advised by the CDC. We prefer to conduct most business by phone, or by using the mailbox for pick-up or drop-off.



Our sanctuary candle burns in memory of **HOWARD & ANNA MAE MEYERS** (gifted by Jack and Kathy).

Saint Stanislaus Church will be open on Sunday from 10:00AM - 3:00PM. Holy Week hours for private prayer are as follows:

Monday - Wednesday: 3:00 - 6:00PM  
 Holy Thursday: 4:00 - 7:00PM  
 Good Friday: Noon - 3:00PM  
 Holy Saturday: 10:00 - Noon & 3:00 - 5:00 PM  
 Easter Sunday: 7:00 - 9:00AM

During this time of social isolation and non-public celebration of the Eucharist, be aware that daily and weekend masses are televised on the following:

**Channel 3 - Sunday at 10:00AM**  
**Channel 11 - Sundays at 8:00AM**  
**Channel 16 - Sundays at 8:00AM & 12:00PM**  
**Daily (Monday - Saturday) at 8:00AM, 12:00PM, & 7:00PM**  
 Or visit [www.TheSundayMass.org](http://www.TheSundayMass.org)



## WOMEN'S SOCIETY MEETINGS...

for BOTH the month of April AND May have been cancelled. The meetings will resume in September.

## LOTTERY NOTICE

The Holy Name Society tickets for the "1st Day of the Month" lottery will no longer be available. Many thanks to those who supported this fundraising endeavor over the years. The Holy Name Society has decided, instead, to continue the "31 Day Lottery," as they did in January. The next lottery will take place in May. Tickets are now available for \$5. See a member of the Holy Name Society to purchase yours, or pick one up at the Parish Office.

## THE VAL JASKIEWICZ & RON BUKOSKI "SPRING FLING"

... is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, April 19th at 5:00PM in the Parish Social Hall. Have a chance to win \$2,500 in prizes! Cost is \$25.00 for to admissions, and includes food and refreshments. Only 150 tickets will be sold. Tickets are available in the Parish Office, or by calling Chris at 835-4235.

## WEEKLY OFFERING (MARCH 15, 2020)

This Week	July 1 to date
Amount we need ..... \$4,156.00	..... 162,084.00
Amount Received ..... \$2,584	..... 115,865.00
Net over/under..... (\$1,572)	..... (\$46,219.00)

Mass Attendance:  
 4:00PM = 0  
 9:30AM = 0



**When this is all over, we are throwing the biggest St. Patrick's Easter de Mayo of July party anyone's ever seen**

## WEEKEND COLLECTION

We are entirely dependent upon you to help us meet our financial obligations. Please continue to make your weekly offertory gifts either by mail, in the mail slot at the rectory, or placing it in the collection basket during Sunday Adoration. We truly appreciate your support during these trying times! P.S. Please note the new online giving option contained in this bulletin...

## CSA COMMITMENT SUNDAY UPDATE

Parish Assessment: \$31,019.00  
 Pledges to Date: \$24,630.00  
 Amount Collected: \$15,270.00

Thank you for the 73 families who have committed! Together, let us reach our goal so we can move forward on our improvement projects. If you haven't yet pledged, please prayerfully consider doing so.

# Holy Trinity Parish Community

## LIMITED HOURS OF OPERATION

Our Parish Office is operating under limited hours. The Office will be open from 9:00AM - 12:30PM. If you need to stop by, we ask that you call in advance. We are attempting to minimize interpersonal contact, as advised by the CDC. We prefer to conduct most business by phone, or by using the mailbox for pick-up or drop-off.

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mon., April 6th, 8:00AM - Intention of the Priest  
 Tues., April 7th, 8:00AM - Intention of the Priest  
 Wed., April 8th, 8:00AM - Intention of the Priest  
 Thurs., April 9th, 8:00AM - For the People of Holy Trinity Parish  
 Fri., April 10th, 8:00AM - For the People of Holy Trinity Parish  
 Sat., April 11th, 4:00PM - For the People of Holy Trinity Parish  
 Sun., April 12th, 10:00AM - For the People of Holy Trinity Parish



The sanctuary candle burns for the People of Holy Trinity & for the good health and recovery of those affected by the Coronavirus.

**Msgr. Dan Arnold** passed away suddenly on March 20th. He was a classmate of Fr. Magraw. Please keep him, his family, and loved ones in your prayers.

## OPEN-CHURCH HOURS FOR HOLY WEEK

Holy Trinity will be open for private prayer on the following days of Holy Week:

Palm Sunday: 10:00-1:00PM  
 Holy Thursday: 5:00-7:00PM  
 Good Friday: 12:00-3:00PM  
 Holy Saturday: 9:00-12noon  
 Easter Sunday: 7:00-9:00AM

Please maintain social distancing when in the church.

During this time of social isolation and non-public celebration of the Eucharist, be aware that daily and weekend masses are televised on the following:

**Channel 3 - Sunday at 10:00AM**  
**Channel 11 - Sundays at 8:00AM**  
**Channel 16 - Sundays at 8:00AM & 12:00PM**  
**Daily (Monday - Saturday) at 8:00AM, 12:00PM, & 7:00PM**  
 Or visit [www.TheSundayMass.org](http://www.TheSundayMass.org)

## EASTER FLOWER MEMORIALS

If you wish to remember living or deceased family members this Easter with a donation toward the flowers and plants please return your envelope with the names by Monday, April 6th.

## The Triumphal Entry

Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" Mark 11:9 (NIV)  
 The puzzle is based on Mark 11:1-11



**After years of wanting to thoroughly clean my house but lacking the time, this week I discovered that wasn't the reason.**

## WEEKLY OFFERING (MARCH 29, 2020)

Regular Offertory..... \$2,972.00 (29/146 mailed)  
 Loose Cash.....\$0.00  
 Total Offertory.....\$2,972.00  
 Mass Attendance: 5:00PM = 0 / 10:00AM = 0

<u>THIS WEEK</u>	<u>JULY 1 TO DATE</u>
Dream Goal .....	\$3,000.00
Amount we need ....	\$117,000.00
Amount Received ...	\$2,365.00
Net over/under .....	\$92,800.00
	\$93,710.00
	\$910.00

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L W T F I F Z S B L E S S E D
Z V R B S Z K P N N B A P R V
H E G P W D H R T Q R C Z J Y
Z F J I H H D E S G O I J A H
S Z Y K W R E A H V A X I F L
V Y V E O P R D O H D G K I G
I T B L H V S R U C G X N G W
L G H R F E D O T C L O A K S
L N V I A O A Q E G U A J P T
A T P Z G N S V D S N C E E V
G R P S C H C H E N N M O Q L
E F B J H V E H A N A F C L X
S S M E V X T S E N F J J B T
K J E S U S O U T S H Z S V S
N C A E Y H D I S C I P L E S
    
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SPREAD	VILLAGE	BLESSED	BRANCHES	HOSANNA
HIGHEST	SHOUTED	DISCIPLES	LORD	JESUS
HEAVEN	CLOAKS	NAME	ROAD	COLT

"Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord"

- Mark 21:9



# News for Our Partnership

## FACEBOOK VIDEO MASS SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday: 7:00PM  
Good Friday: 3:00PM  
Easter Vigil (Saturday): 8:30PM  
Easter Sunday: 9:30AM

\* The times are slightly altered in order to accommodate the video taping and uploading process.

## SWIENCONKA: THE BLESSING OF EASTER FOOD

An abbreviated version of the customary blessing of Easter food will take place at 2:00PM on Saturday, April 11th. The blessing will take place in our respective church parking lots. We ask that you remain in your vehicle until the priest comes out to bless food. At that time, you make to take your food and place it on the trunk or hood of your car, or on the ground immediately surrounding your car. Please stay next to your vehicle, maintain social distancing; avoid physical interaction.

**CANCELED**

## ONLINE GIVING

During this period of non-public celebrations of the Mass, many people may find difficulty getting their weekly offertory to our churches. Thanks to the Catholic Foundation, **you can now do so online.** Go to **www.eriercd.org**. Click the main screen banner scrolling "**CORVID-19 EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND.**" The following page will provide an option for "**PARISH OFFERTORY SUPPORT FUND.**" There will appear a scroll down menu for you to select which parish you would like your funds directed. Choose your parish and complete the form. There is **NO ADMINISTRATIVE OR SERVICE FEE** from the Catholic Foundation; there is a *minimal fee taken from your donation by credit card agencies* (unless you opt to cover that fee along with your donation). **You support for our parishes is vital during this time.** Thank you, in advance, for your ongoing generosity of time, talent, and treasure!

In the rush to return to normal, use this time to consider which parts of normal are worth rushing back to.

**This Lent will go down as the Lentiest Lent that has ever Lented.**

## PALMS AVAILABLE

There will be **blessed palms available** in the vestibule of both churches. Feel free to take one when the churches are unlocked for private prayer.

## A PRAYER FOR PROTECTION IN TIME OF PANDEMIC



The ancient fresco of Madonna del Soccorso (Our Lady of Help) in St. Peter's Basilica was restored with the support of the Knights of Columbus to mark the Year of Faith (2012-2013). Photo courtesy of Fabbrica di San Pietro/M. Falconi.

O Mary, you always brighten our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain while remaining steadfast in faith.

O loving Mother, you know what we need, and we are confident you will provide for us as at Cana in Galilee.

Intercede for us with your Son Jesus, the Divine Physician, for those who have fallen ill, for those who are vulnerable, and for those who have died.

Intercede also for those charged with protecting the health and safety of others and for those who are tending to the sick and seeking a cure.

Help us, O Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who took upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows, so as to lead us, through the Cross, to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen.

*Under thy protection we seek refuge,  
O Holy Mother of God.  
In our needs, despise not our petitions,  
but deliver us always from all dangers,  
O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.*

*Adapted from the prayer of Pope Francis*

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

**#AloneTogether**

## 31 CLUB - PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

4/5) Mary Ann Merski & Michelle Inter; 4/6) Msgr Dan Magraw & Joan Oldenski; 4/7) Ed Korytowski & Lori Krasnesky; 4/8) Steve Rimpa, Stephanie & Bill Wycech; 4/9) Marcia Nitczynski & Rose Marie Radomski; 4/10) Tony Jankowski & Eleanor Walker; 4/11) Sandy Kempisty & Ray Przybyszewski

## PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

During Holy Week, pray for all of the priests who have ministered at Holy Trinity & Saint Stanislaus Churches.

## Sunday, Apr 05, 2020

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Procession: Matthew 21:1-11 (37); Mass: Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66

*"I gave my back to those who beat me,  
my cheeks to those who plucked my beard."*

### Lord, have mercy

In any act of violence, there are victims and villains. As we meditate on Jesus' Passion, we can't ignore that the villains of Holy Week bear an uneasy resemblance to ourselves. Too often, we fail to stand with the innocent. We're content to benefit from the peril of those who offend us. We seek to destroy what we don't understand. We deny friends who seem too dangerous to embrace. We run from another's crisis to save ourselves. On Palm Sunday, we're the ones crying: "Crucify him!" Raise your voice today for the innocent.

## Monday, Apr 06, 2020

MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK

### Rise to the occasion

Isaiah 42:1-7; John 12:1-11

*"The chief priests plotted to kill Lazarus too..."*

"The Resurrection of Jesus is the crowning truth of our faith in Christ," the Catechism of the Catholic Church states. Fittingly, of all the things Christians believe, the idea that the dead can be brought back to life requires the greatest leap of faith. Jesus helped his followers prepare for this mind-blowing concept by raising Lazarus from the dead—the last of his big miracles before his own death. It was an ultimate sign of his power and identity to leave them with. It helps us, too, get ready for the stunning reality that all who die will rise.

## Tuesday, Apr 07, 2020

TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

### Now is the time

Isaiah 49:1-6; John 13:21-33, 36-38

*"Will you lay down your life for me?"*

It's not easy to admit when we have turned our hearts from God. As we make the journey of Christ's Passion, it is time to release our grip on the sins that we cling to in fear or shame. Instead, let us cling to the mercy of Christ. Jesus himself faced many forms of sin, especially during his Passion, including betrayal, denial, and abandonment by his own friends. Yet the church says emphatically that at this dark hour, Jesus gives his life and "becomes the source from which the forgiveness of our sins will pour forth inexhaustibly" (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1851). Turn to Jesus in times of trial.

## Wednesday, Apr 08, 2020

WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

### I spy the darkness

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Matthew 26:14-25

*"He who has dipped his hand into the dish with me is the one who will betray me."*

Today is sometimes known as Spy Wednesday, a reference to today's gospel story of Judas plotting with the Sanhedrin to have Jesus arrested and put on trial. The word "spy" carries a meaning of laying a snare or planning an ambush in keeping with the story. Along with the Mass of the day, today may include an evening service called "Tenebrae." In this ceremony, which may consist of hymns, readings, prayers, and reflections, such as "The Seven Last Words," a number of lighted candles are gradually

## Thursday, Apr 09, 2020

HOLY THURSDAY; EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

### Wash "down" for supper

Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-15

*"If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet."*

Jesus commanded his disciples to follow his example and wash each other's feet—and laypeople, priests, and even popes have been doing it for centuries as a sign of humility and service. In 2015, Pope Francis made headlines when he broke norms and washed the feet of women and Muslims in Rome—proof positive that simple gestures (even ones that are 2,000 years old!) can be powerful acts of inclusion. Show your authority as a follower of Christ and make yourself meek to the excluded.

## Friday, Apr 10, 2020

FRIDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION (GOOD FRIDAY); DAY OF ABSTINENCE

### For God so loved the world

Isaiah 52:13—53:12; Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1-19:42 *"For this I was born and for this I came into the world."*

If not for love—a love worth dying for—the horror of Good Friday would make no sense. Jesus could have saved himself but chose not to. Jesus could have conquered evildoers with almighty power, but instead refused to answer violence with violence. "The cross is the school of love," wrote Saint Maximilian Kolbe. Because of Jesus, we know that real love expresses itself through sacrifice. What will you do today to honor the love of him who loved us most?

## Saturday, Apr 11, 2020

HOLY SATURDAY; EASTER VIGIL

### Be on the watch

Genesis 1:1-2:2; Genesis 22:1-18; Exodus 14:15-15:1; Isaiah 54:5-14; Isaiah 55:1-11; Baruch 3:9-15, 32-4:4; Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28; Romans 6:3-11; Matthew 28:1-10

*"As day was dawning, Mary Magdalene came with the other Mary to inspect the tomb... Do not be frightened... he has been raised."*

The Easter Vigil—not Easter Sunday or Christmas Day, but tonight's vigil—is the greatest of all church celebrations. The service begins in darkness as the faithful keep vigil, "looking for the light of the Lord when he returns." As candles are extinguished, lights come up and scripture tells the stories of what God has done for us throughout time. Then new members are baptized and for the first time join everyone at the table of the

Church Online  
NOT CANCELED

Quiet Time With God  
NOT CANCELED

Praying For The Sick  
NOT CANCELED

Checking On A Friend  
NOT CANCELED

Helping Others  
NOT CANCELED

Being The Church  
NOW MORE THAN EVER

**HOLY WEEK: A SPECIAL EDITION BULLETIN OF  
RESOURCES FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE IN THE ABSENCE  
OF PUBLIC MASS**

As your pastor, my first and most fundamental obligation is to foster your faith and your spiritual life. All the more distressing it is, then, that, during these unprecedented times of isolation and non-public liturgical celebrations, we cannot gather as a community to celebrate this holiest week in the life of the Church. I learned on the day of this writing that this is the first time in the history of our country that Easter will not be celebrated publicly! In lieu of our public celebration, I have composed this "Special Edition" bulletin in hopes of supporting you spiritually during this Holy Week. It is intended to provide you with a combination of prayers, reflections, historical insights, suggestions for celebrating at home, excerpts from various Holy Week liturgies, and even images from the Holy Land that I captured during my month-long pilgrimage there a few years ago. Not all contained herein is a personal creation; I have done some research and borrowed material from several sources. Below, you will learn of the 4th century pilgrim, Egeria, who provides us with one of the most detailed accounts of how the earliest Church celebrated Holy Week. I did a lot of research in these writings while studying for my Masters degree. In fact, my research was focused on the "Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified," which was how the Good Friday service was designated and originally conceived by Saint John Chrysostom (347-407). It is fascinating to see how, of all our liturgical celebrations, our contemporary celebrations of Holy Week most closely mirrors the ways these liturgies were originally celebrated. It is from Egeria's journal that I offer historical insights into each day of the Triduum. I hope this "Special Edition" brings you personal, spiritual nourishment during these uncertain times. I want to thank LPI, our bulletin publisher, for allowing us these additional pages to meet the spiritual needs of our people.

- Fr. Jason

American Catholics are facing an unimaginable Holy Week this year. With the suspension of public Masses throughout every diocese in all 50 states, there will be no Palm Sundays in our parishes, no Triduum liturgies, no joyous Easter Sunday Mass. It's almost unthinkable - yet here we are. How, then, can we make the best of a bad situation? Because many of us depend on the Church's Holy Week rites as a means to draw closer to the Lord and grow in a deeper appreciation of his great love for us during these sacred days, who could bear to watch them go by? So while we are unable to celebrate Holy Week in our churches, here are some ways we might bring these holiest days of the year into being in our homes.

Thankfully, as Catholics, we have a wealth of prayer and spiritual resources to which to turn. Though unable to gather in community at parishes and shrines across the country, we are able to gather at home - what the Church has long taught is properly understood as "the domestic church." And while we would much rather attend Holy Week's sacred liturgies, we know that Jesus will be with us, because he told us so: "And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Mt 28:20).

In our homes - our domestic churches where the Faith is lived out mostly from day to day - we can connect ourselves more closely to the Church's liturgical life. This can be done even in simple ways, particularly by setting aside a special place to pray. One common practice in homes is to have a domestic prayer altar with a simple cloth, a crucifix or other sacred images, or a candle. Other items can be kept there as well, such as rosaries, the Bible or holy water. Other decorations related more directly to the day being celebrated are recommended as well. If colors of decor can be changed, use white on Holy Thursday and Easter, red on Palm Sunday and Good Friday, and purple in between. A set place for common prayer in the home would be a great idea to help foster your family's prayer life, especially during the sacred days of Holy Week. You might invite friends and relatives to join you digitally in prayer.

- From *Simply Catholic*

**A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE EASTER TRIDUUM**

In the first century, the early Christians celebrated every Sunday in commemoration of the resurrection of Jesus. By the second century, they established a particular day for the celebration of the resurrection, which was connected to the Jewish Passover. Their observance began at sundown on Saturday evening, when new Christians were received into the Church, and lasted throughout the night so they could sing "Alleluia" at the break of dawn on Easter morning.

By the fourth century, it became customary for people to make pilgrimages to Jerusalem to celebrate what was called the "Great Week," which included Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday. The diary of a woman named Egeria in 381 contains the first accounts of the special rites, prayers and devotions that took place in Jerusalem during the Great Week. Over time, the practice of observing Holy Week spread throughout the Christian world, with prayers, historical re-enactments and special liturgies. During the Middle Ages, the celebration of the Easter Vigil gradually fell out of practice. The important days of the week were Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

In 1955, the Vatican re-established the Easter Vigil as an important part of Holy Week observances. During the Second Vatican Council (1962-65), the bishops called for the restoration of the early Christian rituals for receiving new Christians into the Church at the Easter Vigil. Today, Easter Vigil with the Easter fire, the lighting of the paschal candle, the reading of salvation history, the celebration of the sacraments of initiation for catechumens and renewal of baptismal promises for the faithful is once again an integral part of Holy Week celebrations.



# Palm Sunday: The Beginning of Holy Week

[The Blessing of Palms & Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem]

## INTRODUCTION TO MASS & BLESSING OF PALMS

Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
Since the beginning of Lent until now, we have prepared our hearts by penance and charitable works. Today we gather together to herald with the whole Church the beginning of the celebration of our Lord's Paschal Mystery, that is to say, of his Passion and Resurrection. For it was to accomplish this mystery that he entered his own city of Jerusalem. Therefore, with all faith and devotion, let us commemorate the Lord's entry into the city for our salvation, following in his footsteps, so that, being made by his grace partakers of the Cross, we may have a share also in his Resurrection and in his life.

Let us pray.

Almighty ever-living God,  
Increase the faith of those who place their hope in you, O God, and graciously hear the prayers of those who call on you, that we, who today hold high these branches to hail Christ in his triumph, may bear fruit for you by good works accomplished in him. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

## FROM THE JOURNAL OF THE PILGRIM, EGERIA...

"And as the eleventh hour approaches, the passage from the Gospel is read, where the children, carrying branches and palms, met the Lord, saying, "Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord," and the bishop immediately rises, and all the people with him, and they all go on foot from the top of the Mount of Olives, all the people going before him with hymns and antiphons, answering one to another: "Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord." And all the children in the neighborhood, even those who are too young to walk, are carried by their parents on their shoulders, all of them bearing branches, some of palms and some of olives, and thus the bishop is escorted in the same manner as the Lord was of old."

Though now sealed, this is one of eight gates into the city of Jerusalem. Though now sealed, this would have been the gate Jesus passed through on the original Palm Sunday



## PALM SUNDAY PERSONAL PRAYER

Lord God,

I give you thanks, for you are good, and your mercy is endless. Here I stand, at the start of this holy week. This week in which your church remembers Jesus' passion and death, and I am distracted by many things. Turn my eyes now to the One who comes in your name, the one who opens the gates of righteousness, the one who answers when we call. I bless you, Lord, for shining your light upon me, and for sending your son to us, in human frailty, to walk the road we walk. Open my eyes that I may see him coming, and may praise him with a pure heart, and may walk in the way of his suffering, and share also in his resurrection. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

## PALM SUNDAY SUGGESTION

In commemoration of the Lord's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, branches from the yard could be carried in procession throughout your yard or nearby outdoor space. It doesn't need to be elaborate. Take time to read Matthew 21:1-11, as might be done at the start of Mass. You can sing or play a hymn praising Christ our Lord and King along the way, such as the traditional "All Glory, Laud and Honor." No need to be quiet about it; when Jesus was told to silence the crowds on the first Palm Sunday, he replied, "I tell you, if they keep silent, the stones will cry out!" (Lk 19:40). End your procession at a home altar, where you can reflect upon the passion narrative (Mt 26:14-27:66) or livestream a Mass.

Jesus asks two of His disciples to go to a nearby village, where they would find a tied colt that no man had ridden. He asks the two disciples to untie the colt and bring it to Him with the words, "***If anyone asks you, 'why are you doing this?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it'***" (Mark 11:1-3). That colt became a symbol of the Palm Sunday and became part of the fulfillment of the prophecy of Zechariah: "***Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your King comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey'***" (Zechariah 9:9). Today, as we approach Palm Sunday, what is Jesus asking from you? What does He need from you, to fulfil some part of His great plan in this broken world? Is it a gifting, a special talent, your time, your career? Does He need your knowledge, your wisdom, or your work experience? Whatever He needs, but release it freely, just like the village folk released the colt. If "***The Lord needs it'***, and you release it, He will do amazing things through what you offer Him!



### Monday - Holy Week Prayer

Lord God, six days before his death, your son sat with Lazarus, Whom he had raised from the dead, and ate dinner with his friends. Once again, your gospel tells us, Martha served and Mary knelt at Jesus' feet to anoint them with costly perfume. The disciple who was about to betray him said that it was a waste. He didn't care about the poor, really; He just wanted to fill his own pockets and make Mary feel ashamed. Lord God, often we cannot discern what is best: When to pour out costly perfume for your sake, even if the world thinks it a waste, when to be busy serving, or when to rest at your Son's feet and learn. Give us ears to hear you and eyes to see. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

### Tuesday - Holy Week Prayer

Lord God, the message of the cross is difficult to take. How can death give way to life? How can weakness be strength? Yet your word says that Jesus, being God, took on human flesh and suffered the worst kind of death. How can this be? This message is indeed difficult to take. But your foolishness is wiser than our wisdom. Your weakness is greater than our strength. Help us to know that none of us can boast before you. It is only in Christ Jesus that we can boast. In his name, we ask you to help our unbelief. That we may love you, and walk in the way Jesus taught us. In his name, Amen.

### Wednesday - Holy Week Prayer

Lord God, we tremble to think that it was one of Jesus' own friends who betrayed him: One who sat by him, who broke bread with him. Give us strength, we pray, to walk faithfully with Jesus, even when the road we walk is rocky even when the message of the cross seems like foolishness and even when we feel betrayed. You, Lord, are always faithful. We stumble, we become lost, but you are steady and sure. Give us the grace to endure our troubles, and reveal to us the glory of your kingdom, through your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET (USING A ROSARY)

- A. Make the Sign of the Cross
- B. Opening Prayer  
"You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened for the whole world. O Font of Life, unfathomable Divine Mystery, envelop the whole world and empty yourself out upon us. (Repeat 3 times)
- C. Our Father
- D. Hail Mary
- E. The Apostles' Creed
- F. The Eternal Father  
"Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world."
- G. Supplication of Mercy  
"For the sake of his sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world." (Repeat 10 times)
- H. Holy God  
"Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world."
- I. Closing Prayer  
"Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and Your treasury of compassion, inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments, we might not despair nor become despondent but, with great confidence, submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself. Amen."

#### THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

- I. Jesus is condemned to death
- II. Jesus takes up his cross
- III. Jesus falls the first time
- IV. Jesus meets his mother
- V. Simon helps Jesus carry the cross
- VI. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus
- VII. Jesus falls the second time
- VIII. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem
- IX. Jesus falls the third time
- X. Jesus is stripped of his garments
- XI. The crucifixion
- XII. Jesus dies on the cross
- XIII. Jesus's body is removed from the cross
- XIV. Jesus is laid in the tomb

#### THE SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

- 1) The Agony in the Garden (LK 22:39-46)
- 2) The Scourging at the Pillar
- 3) The Crowning with Thorns (MT 27:27-32)
- 4) Carrying the Cross (LK 23:26-32)
- 5) The Crucifixion and Death (MK 15:22-41)



# Holy Thursday: The Lord's Supper

[The Washing of Feet, The Institution of the Eucharist & Priesthood, & Jesus' Passion and Death]

## OPENING PRAYER FOR HOLY THURSDAY MASS

O God, who have called us to participate in this most sacred Supper, in which your Only Begotten Son, when about to hand himself over to death, entrusted to the Church a sacrifice new for all eternity, the banquet of his love, grant, we pray, that we may draw from so great a mystery, the fullness of charity and life. Through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## FROM THE JOURNAL OF THE PILGRIM, EGERIA

There then, until about the fifth hour of the night, hymns and antiphons suitable to the day and to the place are said, lessons, too, are read in like manner, with prayers interspersed, and the passages from the Gospel are read where the Lord addressed His disciples on that same day as He sat in the same cave which is in that church.

And at the first cockcrow they come down from the Imbomon with hymns, and arrive at the place where the Lord prayed, as it is written in the Gospel: "and He was withdrawn (from them) about a stone's cast, and prayed," and the rest. There is in that place a graceful church The bishop and all the people enter, a prayer suitable to the place and to the day is said, with one suitable hymn, and the passage from the Gospel is read where He said to His disciples: "Watch, that ye enter not into temptation"; the whole passage is read through and prayer is made. And then all, even to the smallest child, go down with the Bishop, on foot, with hymns to Gethsemane; where, on account of the great number of people in the crowd, who are wearied owing to the vigils and weak through the daily fasts, and because they have so great a hill to descend, they come very slowly with hymns to Gethsemane. And over two hundred church candles are made ready to give light to all the people.

On their arrival at Gethsemane, first a suitable prayer is made, then a hymn is said, then the passage of the Gospel is read where the Lord was taken. And when this passage has been read there is so great a moaning and groaning of all the people, together with weeping, that their lamentation may be heard perhaps as far as the city.

## HOLY THURSDAY PERSONAL PRAYER

Lord God,

You sent your Son into the world, and before his hour had come, He washed his disciples' feet. You had given all things into his hands. He had come from you, and was going to you, and what did he do? He knelt down on the floor, and washed his friends' feet. He was their teacher and their Lord, yet he washed their feet. Lord God, help us learn from his example; Help us to do as he has done for us. The world will know we are his disciples if we love one another. Strengthen our hands and our wills for love and for service. Keep before our eyes the image of your Son, Who, being God, became a Servant for our sake. All glory be to him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.

## HOLY THURSDAY SUGGESTION

At the Last Supper, Jesus washed his apostles' feet, an act of sacrificial love and service. Washing one another's feet would be a great way for loved ones to recall the Lord's Holy Thursday mandate. Read the evening's Gospel passage (Jn 13:1-15). Conclude the evening with a simple meal consisting of dishes prepared for the Jewish Seder: wine, unleavened bread (*matzos*) to represent the "bread of affliction" which the Jews ate while fleeing from Egypt, bitter herbs (radishes or horseradish) to stand for the bitterness of slavery, parsley or lettuce represents gratitude, a fruit jam (*haroseth*), a mixture of fruit and nuts crushed together symbolic of the mortar used by the Jewish people in their slavery.

After the meal, remove the dishes, the table cloth, and any religious articles; make the room look as bare as possible, placing removed articles in another room until Saturday. This symbolizes the stripping of the altar that takes place at the conclusion of the Holy Thursday Mass.

In commemoration of the Lord's agony in the garden, it is customary to spend the night in Eucharistic adoration. While attending adoration at a church isn't an option for Catholics this year, there are livestreams of Eucharistic adoration available online. The time adoring Christ, even through the screen, can be spent in quiet meditation, reflection on relevant Gospel passages, recitation of the Rosary or making an act of spiritual communion. Keep watch with Christ for an hour.



← The Garden of Gethsemane

The purported sight of the  
Upper Room →





# Good Friday: The Passion of the Lord

[The Veneration of the Cross]

## FROM THE JOURNAL OF THE PILGRIM, EGERIA

...And when they arrive before the Cross the daylight is already growing bright. There the passage from the Gospel is read where the Lord is brought before Pilate, with everything that is written concerning that which Pilate spake to the Lord or to the Jews; the whole is read. And afterwards the bishop addresses the people, comforting them for that they have toiled all night and are about to toil during that same day, (bidding) them not be weary, but to have hope in God, Who will for that toil give them a greater reward. And encouraging them as he is able, he addresses them thus, "All of you be ready here just before the second hour of the day, that from that hour to the sixth you may be able to behold the holy wood of the Cross, each one of us believing that it will be profitable to his salvation."

After this, when the dismissal at the Cross has been made, that is, before the sun rises, they all go at once with fervour to Sion, to pray at the column at which the Lord was scourged.

Then a chair is placed for the bishop in Golgotha behind the Cross, which is now standing; the bishop duly takes his seat in the chair, and a silver-gilt casket is brought in which is the holy wood of the Cross. The casket is opened and (the wood) is taken out, and the wood of the Cross is placed upon the table. Now, when it has been put upon the table, the bishop, as he sits, holds the extremities of the sacred wood firmly in his hands, while the deacons who stand around guard it. It is guarded thus because the custom is that the people, both faithful and catechumens, come one by one and, bowing down at the table, kiss the sacred wood and pass through. And because, I know not when, some one is said to have bitten off and stolen a portion of the sacred wood, it is thus guarded by the deacons who stand around, lest any one approaching should venture to do so again. And as all the people pass by one by one, all bowing themselves, they touch the Cross, first with their foreheads and then with their eyes; then they kiss the Cross and pass through, but none lays his hand upon it to touch it."

## GOOD FRIDAY PERSONAL PRAYER

Lord God,  
Jesus cried out to you on the cross, "Why have you forsaken me?" You seemed so far from his cry and from his distress. Those who stood at the foot of the cross wondered where you were, as they saw Jesus mocked and shamed and killed. Where were you then? Lord God, we, too, ask where you are, when there is trouble and suffering and death, and we cry out to you for help. be near to us, and save us so that we may praise you for your deliverance. Lord God, we wait, on Friday, for the resurrection of Sunday and sometimes our lives seem a succession of Fridays and we cannot see what is "Good." Teach us to call your name as Jesus did. Make us to trust in you like little children. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## GOOD FRIDAY SUGGESTION

The last several weeks have felt something like Good Friday, a day on which Mass is not celebrated, along with several other sacraments. For the veneration of the cross that takes place at this liturgy, we should choose a crucifix at home by which to honor Christ's passion and death. Gather together and read the passion narrative from the day (Jn 18:1–19:42), keeping the crucifix as a focal point in the room. It would be good for each person to venerate it with a genuflection or a kiss, according to custom. We say, "Behold the wood of the Cross, on which hung the salvation of the world. Come let us adore." Good Friday is one of two annual obligatory days of fasting for Catholics. With life so jarringly altered, perhaps our fasting will take on new meaning this year, and perhaps we can increase our fasting for the good of all those suffering and caring for the sick throughout the world. Fasting certainly creates a void within us, so that we may recognize our dependence on God above all else. But it can also be an opportunity to open us up to the needs of others, particularly those who need our prayers during these days. Pray together the Solemn Intercessions proscribed by the Church during the Good Friday Liturgy found on the next page.



Mass on Mt. Calvary



Where Jesus's body was prepared for burial



The Tomb of Jesus

## **GOOD FRIDAY SOLEMN INTERCESSIONS: COMMENDED TO YOUR PRIVATE PRAYER**

- 1) 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 and grant that, leading our life in tranquility and quiet, we may glorify God the Father almighty. [Pause] Almighty ever-living God, who in Christ revealed your glory to all the nations, watch over the works of your mercy, that your Church, spread throughout all the world, may persevere with steadfast faith in confessing your name. Through Christ our Lord.
- 2) Let us pray also for our most Holy Father, Pope Francis, that our God and Lord, who chose him for the Order of Bishops, may keep him safe and unharmed for the Lord's holy Church, to govern the holy People of God. [Pause] Almighty ever-living God, by whose decree all things are founded, look with favor on our prayers and in your kindness protect the Pope chosen for us, that, under him, the Christian people, governed by you their maker, may grow in merit by reason of their faith. Through Christ our Lord.
- 3) Let us pray also for our Bishop Lawrence, for all Bishops, Priests, and Deacons of the Church and for the whole of the faithful people. [Pause] Almighty ever-living God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is sanctified and governed, hear our humble prayer for your ministers, that, by the gift of your grace, all may serve you faithfully. Through Christ our Lord.
- 4) Let us pray also for our catechumens, that our God and Lord may open wide the ears of their inmost hearts and unlock the gates of his mercy, that, having received forgiveness of all their sins through the waters of rebirth, they, too, may be one with Christ Jesus our Lord. [Pause] Almighty ever-living God, who make you Church ever fruitful with new offspring, increase the faith and understanding of our catechumens, that, reborn in the font of Baptism, they may be added to the number of your adopted children. Through Christ our Lord.
- 5) Let us pray also for all our brothers and sisters who believe in Christ, that our God and Lord may be pleased, as the live the truth, to gather them together and keep them in his one Church. [Pause] Almighty ever-living God, who gather what is scattered and keep together what you have gathered, look kindly on the flock of your Son, that those whom one Baptism has consecrated may be joined together by integrity of faith and united in the bond of charity. Through Christ our Lord.
- 6) Let us pray also for the Jewish people, to whom the Lord our God spoke first, that he may grant them to advance in love of his name and in faithfulness to his covenant. Almighty and ever-living God, who bestowed your promised on Abraham and his descendants, graciously hear the prayers of your Church, that the people you first made your own may attain the fullness of redemption. Through Christ our Lord.
- 7) Let us pray also for those who do not believe in Christ, that, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, they, too, may enter on the way of salvation. [Pause] Almighty ever-living God, grant to those who do not confess Christ that, by walking before you with a sincere heart, they may find the truth and that we, ourselves, being constant in mutual love and striving to understand more fully the mystery of your life, may be made more perfect witnesses to your love in the world. Through Christ our Lord.
- 8) Let us pray also for those who do not acknowledge God, that, following what is right in sincerity of heart, they may find the way to God himself. [Pause] Almighty ever-living God, who created all people to seek you always by desiring you and, by finding you, come to rest, grant, we pray, that, despite every harmful obstacle, all may recognize the signs of your fatherly love and the witness of the good works done by those who believe in you, and so in gladness confess you, the one true God and Father of our human race. Through Christ our Lord.
- 9) Let us pray also for those in public office, that our God and Lord may direct their minds and hearts according to his will for the true peace and freedom of all. [Pause] Almighty ever-living God, in whose hands lies every human heart and the rights of peoples, look with favor, we pray, on those who govern with authority over us, that throughout the whole world, the prosperity of peoples, the assurance of peace, and freedom of religion may through your gift be made secure. Through Christ our Lord.
- 10) Let us pray, dearly beloved, to God the Father almighty, that he may cleanse the world of all errors, banish disease, drive out hunger, unlock prisons, loosen fetters, grant to travelers safety, to pilgrims return, health to the sick, and salvation to the dying. [Pause] Almighty ever-living God, comfort of mourners, strength of all who toil, may the prayers of those who cry out in any tribulation come before you, that all may rejoice, because in their hour of need your mercy was at hand. Through Christ our Lord.
- 11) Let us pray, dearly beloved, for a swift end to the coronavirus pandemic that afflicts our world, that our God and Father will heal the sick, strengthen those who care for them, and help us all to preserve in faith. [Pause] Almighty and merciful God, source of all life and healing, look with compassion on our world, brought low by disease; protect us in the midst of the grave challenges that assail us and in your fatherly providence grant recovery to the stricken, strength to those who care for them, and success to those working to eradicate this scourge. Through Christ our Lord.

# Holy Saturday: The Vigil of the Feast of the Resurrection

[Blessing of Fire & Easter Candle, Easter Proclamation, Renewal of Baptismal Promises]

## **RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES**

Dear brothers and sisters,  
let us humbly beseech the Lord our God to bless this water he has created, which will be sprinkled upon us as a memorial of our Baptism. May he graciously renew us, that we may remain faithful to the Spirit whom we have received.

Lord our God,  
in your mercy be present to your people who keep vigil on this most sacred night, and, for us who recall the wondrous work of our creation and the still greater work of our redemption, graciously bless this water. For you created water to make the fields fruitful and to refresh and cleanse our bodies. You also made water the instrument of your mercy: for through water you freed your people from slavery and quenched their thirst in the desert; through water the Prophets proclaimed the new covenant you were to enter upon with the human race; and last of all, through water, which Christ made holy in the Jordan, you have renewed our corrupted nature in the bath of regeneration. Therefore, may this water be for us a memorial of the Baptism we have received, and grant that we may share in the gladness of our brothers and sisters, who at Easter have received their Baptism. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Dear brothers and sisters, through the Paschal Mystery we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, so that we may walk with him in newness of life. And so, now that our Lenten observance is concluded, let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and his works and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church. And so I ask you:

- Do you renounce Satan?
- And all his works?
- And all his empty show?
- Do you renounce sin, so as to live in the freedom of the children of God?
- Do you renounce the lure of evil, so that sin may have no mastery over you?
- Do you renounce Satan, the author and prince of sin?
- Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?
- Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father?
- Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

And may almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins, keep us by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord, for eternal life.

## **EASTER - PERSONAL PRAYER**

Lord God,  
You loved this world so much, that you gave your one and only Son, that we might be called your children too. Lord, help us to live in the gladness and grace of Easter Sunday, everyday. Let us have hearts of thankfulness for your sacrifice. Let us have eyes that look upon Your grace and rejoice in our salvation. Help us to walk in that mighty grace and tell your good news to the world. All for your glory do we pray, Lord, Amen.

## **EASTER SUGGESTION**

Even though we may not be together as a community to celebrate Easter, the Lord is risen! Let us rejoice, therefore, and be glad! As you begin your Easter celebration, take time to read one of the Gospel accounts of when the tomb was found empty. This is the center point of human history and should take on that significance in our lives. Be sure, also, to watch Mass on TV or online, if possible. Because we can worship in all that we do, we celebrate Easter with all we have. Many traditional foods are associated with Easter from cultures around the world. Perhaps do some research and try to make a special paschal cuisine. Easter eggs, be they dyed or plastic, can be hidden in the yard or the house, and they remind us of the endless possibilities that flow from Christ's triumph over the grave. Another special Easter practice is to adorn the cross (you could use the same one as used on Good Friday) with spring flowers, a visible reminder that God has transformed the meaning of even suffering and death. If flowers are hard to come by at home, another possibility is to encourage children to draw, color or paint such decorations. Perhaps large "Alleluia!" posters can be made to add a bit of Easter festivity to the home. Easter songs are not as well-known and popular as Christmas carols, but don't let that stop you from letting your alleluias ring out, for Christ is truly risen from the tomb. Recite the "Exsultet," printed on the next page, which is usually sung at the start of the Easter Vigil Mass. No matter the difficulty of crisis, Easter reminds us that God always wins — indeed, he's already won, and so no matter the sorrow around us, we can be filled with joy.

## **FROM THE JOURNAL OF THE PILGRIM, EGERIA**

Now the Sabbath is not held on the Sabbath, but the Paschal vigils are prepared in the great church with this one addition, that the children when they have been baptized and clothed, and when they issue from the font, are led with the bishop first to the Anastasis, where the passage from the Gospel about the Resurrection is read. The Paschal days are kept up to a late hour throughout the eight Paschal days, as is the custom everywhere at Easter throughout the Octave.

CHRIST IS  
**RISEN**  
FROM THE DEAD



# *The Exsultet: The Easter Proclamation*

[The Exsultet is typically sung after the Easter Candle is blessed and lit]

Exult, let them exult, the hosts of heaven,  
exult, let Angel ministers of God exult,  
let the trumpet of salvation  
sound aloud our mighty King's triumph!  
Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her,  
ablaze with light from her eternal King,  
let all corners of the earth be glad,  
knowing an end to gloom and darkness.  
Rejoice, let Mother Church also rejoice,  
arrayed with the lightning of his glory,  
let this holy building shake with joy,  
filled with the mighty voices of the peoples.  
(Therefore, dearest friends,  
standing in the awesome glory of this holy light,  
invoke with me, I ask you,  
the mercy of God almighty,  
that he, who has been pleased to number me,  
though unworthy, among the Levites,  
may pour into me his light unshadowed,  
that I may sing this candle's perfect praises.)  
(V. The Lord be with you.  
R. And with your spirit.)  
V. Lift up your hearts.  
R. We lift them up to the Lord.  
V. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
R. It is right and just.  
It is truly right and just, with ardent love of mind and heart  
and with devoted service of our voice,  
to acclaim our God invisible, the almighty Father,  
and Jesus Christ, our Lord, his Son, his Only Begotten.  
Who for our sake paid Adam's debt to the eternal Father,  
and, pouring out his own dear Blood,  
wiped clean the record of our ancient sinfulness.  
These, then, are the feasts of Passover,  
in which is slain the Lamb, the one true Lamb,  
whose Blood anoints the doorposts of believers.  
This is the night,  
when once you led our forebears, Israel's children,  
from slavery in Egypt  
and made them pass dry-shod through the Red Sea.  
This is the night  
that with a pillar of fire  
banished the darkness of sin.  
This is the night  
that even now, throughout the world,  
sets Christian believers apart from worldly vices  
and from the gloom of sin,  
leading them to grace  
and joining them to his holy ones.  
This is the night,  
when Christ broke the prison-bars of death  
and rose victorious from the underworld.

Our birth would have been no gain,  
had we not been redeemed.  
O wonder of your humble care for us!  
O love, O charity beyond all telling,  
to ransom a slave you gave away your Son!  
O truly necessary sin of Adam,  
destroyed completely by the Death of Christ!  
O happy fault  
that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer!  
O truly blessed night,  
worthy alone to know the time and hour  
when Christ rose from the underworld!  
This is the night  
of which it is written:  
The night shall be as bright as day,  
dazzling is the night for me,  
and full of gladness.  
The sanctifying power of this night  
dispels wickedness, washes faults away,  
restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to mourners,  
drives out hatred, fosters concord, and brings down the  
mighty.  
On this, your night of grace, O holy Father,  
accept this candle, a solemn offering,  
the work of bees and of your servants' hands,  
an evening sacrifice of praise,  
this gift from your most holy Church.  
But now we know the praises of this pillar,  
which glowing fire ignites for God's honor,  
a fire into many flames divided,  
yet never dimmed by sharing of its light,  
for it is fed by melting wax,  
drawn out by mother bees  
to build a torch so precious.  
O truly blessed night,  
when things of heaven are wed to those of earth,  
and divine to the human.  
Therefore, O Lord,  
we pray you that this candle,  
hallowed to the honor of your name,  
may persevere undimmed,  
to overcome the darkness of this night.  
Receive it as a pleasing fragrance,  
and let it mingle with the lights of heaven.  
May this flame be found still burning  
by the Morning Star:  
the one Morning Star who never sets,  
Christ your Son,  
who, coming back from death's domain,  
has shed his peaceful light on humanity,  
and lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
R. Amen.

