

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
March 24, 2024

"Hosanna!

Blessed is he
who comes in
the name of
the Lord, the
king of Israel."



JOHN 12:12-16



OUR LORD ENTERS Jerusalem amid great acclaim. The One who had always opposed any public display of praise, who had hidden when the people wanted to make him King, today lets himself be brought into the Holy City in triumph. Only now, when he knows death is near, does he agree to be hailed as the Messiah. Jesus knows that, in reality, he will reign from the Cross, since the same people who now joyfully acclaim him will soon abandon him and lead him to Calvary. The palms will become whips; the olive branches, thorns; the cheers, merciless jeers.

The liturgy, with the ceremony of the blessing of the palms and the texts of the Mass (including the account our Lord's Passion), shows how closely united joy and suffering are in Christ's life. Saint Bernard points to the close union between laughter and lamentation on this day. The Church "shows us today the new and marvelous union between the passion and the procession; the procession produces acclaim, the passion, lamentation." Saint Josemaría said: "The palm leaves,' writes Saint Augustine, 'symbolize homage, for they stand for victory. Our Lord is on the point of conquering by dying on the Cross. Under the sign of the Cross, he is about to triumph over the devil, the prince of death.' Christ is our peace because he is the Victor." Reading the account of the Passion presents us with many persons who played a role in that scene, few of whom suspected the victory Christ would soon attain. We can ask ourselves this week as we relive these events: "Where is my own heart? Which of these people do I resemble?" How strong is my faith when I contemplate the crucial events the Church invites us to appreciate more fully during these days?

THE SCENE OF JESUS' triumphal procession contains another striking contrast. Amid the people's loud and superficial enthusiasm, the silent figure of a faithful and obedient donkey stands out, who is carrying our Lord. "A donkey was Jesus' throne in Jerusalem. Look how wonderful it is to serve as a throne for our Lord." The humble animal, trotting as gracefully

as he can, walks on the cloaks the people have spread on the road to honor Jesus' arrival—some possibly of expensive silk and fine linen, worn by important people. But while the others offer objects, the donkey gives himself. He carries the gentle weight of Jesus on his rough back. The people run beside him, waving olive branches, palms and laurels. But no one, not even the apostles themselves, is as close to our Lord as the donkey is.

“If Jesus' reign in my soul, in your soul, meant that he should find it a perfect dwelling place, then indeed we would have reason to despair. But ‘fear not, daughter of Sion; beloved, your king is coming, sitting on an ass' colt.’ Don't you see? Jesus makes do with a poor animal for a throne. I don't know about you; but I am not humiliated to acknowledge that in the Lord's eyes I am a beast of burden: ‘I am like a donkey in your presence, but I am continually with you. You hold my right hand,’ you take me by the bridle ... A donkey lives on a meagre diet, is hardworking and has a quick, cheerful trot. There are hundreds of animals more beautiful, more deft and strong. But it was a donkey Christ chose when he presented himself to the people as king in response to their acclamation. For Jesus has no time for calculations, for astuteness, for the cruelty of cold hearts, for attractive but empty beauty. What he likes is the cheerfulness of a young heart, a simple step, a natural voice, clean eyes, attention to his affectionate word of advice. That is how he reigns in the soul.”

During this Holy Week, we too would like to be more attentive to God's voice. We don't want to miss any gesture, any word, any sentiment of Jesus during these days that give meaning to our own lives. “WHAT IS REALLY HAPPENING in the hearts of those who acclaim Christ as King of Israel? Clearly, they had their own idea of the Messiah, an idea of how the long-awaited King promised by the prophets should act. Not by chance, a few days later, instead of acclaiming Jesus, the Jerusalem crowd will cry out to Pilate: ‘Crucify him!’, while the disciples, together with others who had seen him and listened to him, will be struck dumb and disperse. The majority, in fact, were disappointed by the way Jesus chose to present himself as Messiah and King of Israel. This is the heart of today's feast, for us too.”

The experience of those who received Jesus with palms that day can help us to consider what our own idea of Jesus is, what our idea of his reign is. It may happen, for example, that we are sometimes disappointed at how the redemption is being carried out, at its apparently slow pace. Sometimes we want God to triumph quickly, confusing our plans with his. We resist accepting that God is determined not to compromise our freedom nor that of those around us. His love is so refined that it is never imposed. He refuses to take advantage, for example, of the people's acclaim for his own benefit.

“The heart of Jesus was moving on another track, on the sacred path known to him and the Father alone: the path that leads from ‘the form of God’ to ‘the form of a servant,’ the path of self-abasement born of obedience ‘unto death, even death on a cross’ (*Phil 2:6-8*). He knows that true triumph involves *making room for God*.” It means making room for the silent and yet powerful action of God, who makes all things new through the Son's love for the Father.

And on this path we find the first and most faithful follower of Jesus, his mother Mary. “She is not to be found amid the palms at Jerusalem ... But she doesn't flee from the contempt at Golgotha; there she stands, *juxta crucem Jesu*, beside his Cross.” And we, by an undeserved grace, can be close beside her.



EASTER BUNNY & EGG HUNT

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be on
Easter Sunday, March 31st

The hunt will be on the grass outside
the Parish Center
immediately following the 11am Mass.
Don't forget your baskets and camera
for pictures with the Easter Bunny!



HOLY WEEK

HOLY LAND COLLECTION March 29th

Pope Francis has asked our parish to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land. Your support helps the church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools and offer religious education. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines. The pandemic hit particularly hard the Christians in the Holy Land. Most of them depend on pilgrimages to work. In these times of crisis, the Pontifical Good Friday Collection is also necessary to meet the basic needs of the People of God still living in this Land where the Church was born. When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you become an instrument of peace and join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. PLEASE BE GENEROUS! For more information about Christians in the Holy Land, visit www.myfranciscan.org/good-friday.

El Papa Francisco pide a nuestra parroquia que apoye la Colecta Pontificia del Viernes Santo, que ayuda a los cristianos de Tierra Santa. Su apoyo ayuda a la iglesia a ejercer su ministerio en las parroquias, a proporcionar escuelas católicas y a ofrecer educación religiosa. La Colecta Pontificia del Viernes Santo también ayuda a preservar los santuarios sagrados. La pandemia ha afectado especialmente a los cristianos de Tierra Santa. La mayoría de ellos dependen de las peregrinaciones para trabajar. En estos tiempos de crisis, la Colecta Pontificia del Viernes Santo es también necesaria para satisfacer las necesidades básicas del Pueblo de Dios que aún vive en esta Tierra donde nació la Iglesia. Cuando usted contribuye a la Colecta Pontificia del Viernes Santo, se convierte en un instrumento de paz y se une a los católicos de todo el mundo en solidaridad con la Iglesia en Tierra Santa. ¡POR FAVOR, SEA GENEROSO! Para más información sobre los cristianos de Tierra Santa, visite www.myfranciscan.org/good-friday.

EASTER FLOWERS & REMEMBRANCE ENVELOPES

Easter Flowers can be dedicated to or in memory of your loved ones. You may use the envelopes you received in the mail or use envelopes you may find in the lobby of the Church and you can place them either in the collection baskets during Mass or drop off at the Parish Office. Thank you! A minimum suggested offering is \$20.

Holy Week & Easter Schedule

Reconciliation Day, Monday, March 25th
8:30am – 8:00pm



Holy Thursday March 28th

8:00am
7:30pm

Morning Prayer
Mass of the Lord's Supper
(followed by Adoration in Our Lady's Hall until Midnight)



Good Friday March 29th

8:00am
12:00pm
3:00pm

Morning Prayer
Stations of the Cross
Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

4:00pm

Spanish Living Stations of the Cross

7:30pm

Stations of the Cross

8:00pm

Spanish Service

Holy Saturday March 30th

8:00am
10:30am
8:00pm

Morning Prayer
Blessing of Food
Easter Vigil



Easter Sunday March 31st

8:00am
9:30am (Church & Parish Center)
11:00am (Church & Parish Center)
12:30pm Spanish

TODAY'S READINGS

Gospel at the Procession with Palms: Jesus' entry into Jerusalem (Mark 11:1-10 or John 12:12-16).

First Reading: In spite of my sufferings I am not disgraced. I am not put to shame (Isaiah 50:4-7).

Psalm: My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? (Psalm 22).

Second Reading: Christ emptied himself, and God filled this emptiness with exaltation (Philippians 2:6-11).

Gospel: The account of Christ's passion according to Mark (Mark 14:1 — 15:47 [15:1-39]).

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education Office Hours are:

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday
9am to 3:30pm
631-288-4188

WEATHER REMINDER:

For weather related cancellations, all parents and volunteers will receive notification through "Remind" text message. Also, the notice will be on the local TV – channel 12.

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Tyler Accardi, Karl B., Courtney Cosentino, Alexa Dalton, Blythe Fickenwirth, Joe Giglia, Patricia Gillin, Mary Sipp Green, Theresa Heffernan, Gina Hil, Stephen Jensen, Elizabeth Kotz, John McAuley, Alex Peplowski, Paul Ramondetta, John Ritter, Kendra Seth, & Ed Silvia
Please call the Parish Office (631-288-1423) to add a name to the sick list. This list will be cleared bi-monthly.

REFLECTIONS

Living Stewardship

This Holy Week, be sure to take part in all the spiritual opportunities the Church has available to you. Go to Mass on Holy Thursday and Holy Saturday, go to the Good Friday service, go to confession and be sure to pray often and meditate on Christ's Passion.



Bulletin Reflection

Jesus was crucified for our sins.

MEDITATION with Deacon Joe

Tuesdays at 2pm in the Parish Center
Try this spiritual practice, it will surprise you!

PRAYER REQUESTS

There is a great power in prayer. It is our lifeline to God. Through it we communicate with God, and people are strengthened, helped, and made whole.

Do you know of some concern, or of some person with a special need for whom we ought to pray? We have 29 prayer warriors praying, please call Charles Schmidt at 631-288-4243 and leave a message with your prayer request.

PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

We are in DIRE need of
CANNED FRUIT & SIZE 4 DIAPERS
Canned fruit, Toiletries (shampoo & soap), Juice Boxes, Rice, Beans, Cereal, Pasta, Tuna, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Canned Vegetables (all varieties)

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Ethan Bentley (Navy)
Lt. Cameron Worden
Lt. Matthew Worden (Navy)
Lt. Col. William Robesch

Please contact the Rectory @631-288-1423 to add a loved one to the military list

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
Monday: Monday of Holy Week
Tuesday: Tuesday of Holy Week
Wednesday: Wednesday of Holy Week
Thursday: Holy Thursday; The Sacred Paschal Triduum
Friday: Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday); Fast and Abstinence; Passover begins
Saturday: The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night; Holy Saturday

SACRAMENTALS

Altar Bread and Wine
this week are in loving memory of
Antonetta & Francesco Morrone

To arrange one of these in loving memory of or for the intentions of your loved one, please visit the Parish Office.

Available Dates:

Altar Bread/Wine: April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, May 6, 20, 27
Altar Flowers: April 28, May 5, 12, 19, 26, June 2, 9, 16
Sanctuary Lamp: April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13, 20, 27

INTRODUCTION TO THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Each time we gather around this table of remembrance we recall the sacrifice of Christ upon the cross. We now lift our voices in a prayer of endless thanksgiving for the gift of salvation inaugurated upon the Cross.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK



In what ways can I show my love for others in a way that might seem extravagant to observers, but meaningful to them and for me?

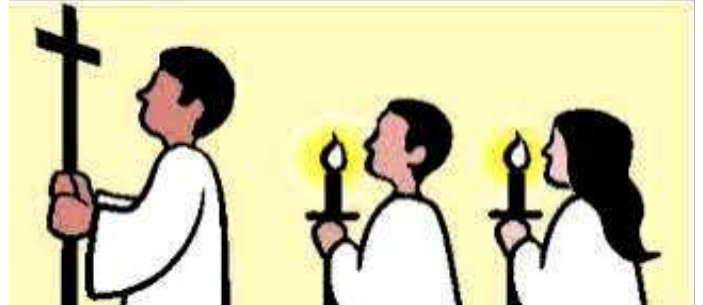
WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME AN ALTAR SERVER?

Altar servers are the boys and girls who assist the priest at Mass on Sundays and on other special occasions. They have an important leadership in the celebration of the Mass and are special people for giving and participating so actively in the Mass.

Duties of an Altar Server involve everything from assisting the priest, lighting candles, carrying the cross, ringing the bells and praying. They join with Jesus as they give their time in his service at the altar.

Who can do this?

Boys and girls who have received their First Communion.



What you have to do

- Decide if you are willing to give this service to Jesus in your church. You have to be at the Mass you are assigned on Sundays as you would have to be at every practice and game on a sports team.
- Talk it over with your parents since this will affect them also. Remember, they have to get you there. Of course, if there is an occasional conflict, you can ask another altar server to substitute for you.
- Fill out the form below and ask your parent to sign it. If you or your parents have any questions, please call Fr. Ken.
- Return the completed form to Fr. Ken at the Parish Office. You will be contacted by Colleen Robesch who coordinates the schedules.
- You will be notified of the Training dates. A parent will need to attend as well.

Dear Father Ken:

I would like to join Jesus by being an Altar Server at Mass on Sunday. I have talked it over with my parents and they will help me by bringing me to my assigned Masses.

Name

Address

Phone #

Email:

Grade in school _____ Age _____

(my signature)

(parent's signature)

TEDDY'S CORNER



Here's our Anne Dean, Assistant to the Religious Ed Director, who's getting in some Teddy-love. And why not?



Because no marriage is beyond hope...

- Is your marriage tearing you apart?
- Do you feel hurt and angry?
- Does talking make it worse?
- Thought of leaving or divorce?
- Is your marriage heading in the wrong direction?

Retrouvaille can help.

**Our Next Weekend is
April 26-28, 2024
at The Immaculate Conception
Seminary, Huntington**

To register or for more information:

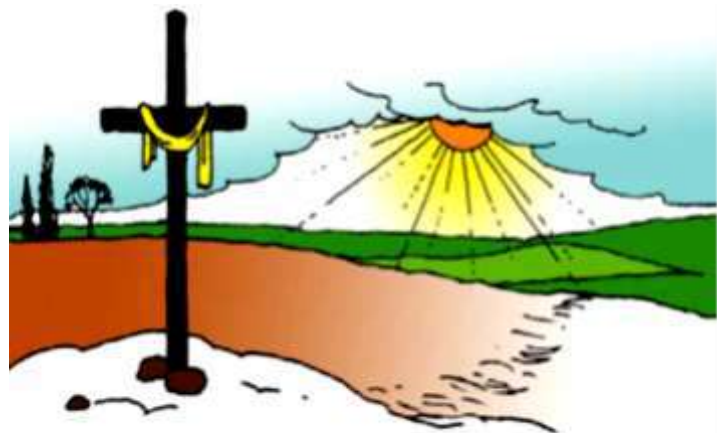
1-800-470-2230

HelpOurMarriage.org

Retrouvaille is a practical program for married couples facing difficult challenges. It is not counseling and you will not be asked to share the personal details of your story.

Retrouvaille is different; it's a way to improve your communication, help you reconnect, and build a healthy, happier, stronger marriage.

Catholic in origin, couples of all faiths, or no faith background, are welcome to attend. We are a Christian Peer Ministry offering tens of thousands of marriages hope in over 160 communities world-wide.



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WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

at Immaculate Conception Church

Thursday mornings at Our Lady's Hall

@ 9:30am

All are Welcome!

Share your Faith and Fellowship with other Ladies from the Parish while we learn more about "PETER: Keys to Following Jesus" [by Dr. Tim Gray, a highly respected Bible Scholar and Author] and Scripture from the Bible.

BIBLE Study Guides are available at the meeting

NOTE: To Register and Reserve a copy of the Bible Study Book, please email at: mtpilo.esq@gmail.com; frankiernan@gmail.com; or Kris0330@optonline.net

VIRTUS CLASSES NOW AVAILABLE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

We are happy to announce that 2 classes for VIRTUS Training have been scheduled for Thursday, April 25th at 3pm and 7pm. Please register at VIRTUS.org.

All Volunteers are **REQUIRED** by the Diocese of Rockville Centre to attend 1 training class in order to volunteer in any parish. A background check, done by a reputable agency through the Diocese, and a completed Code of Conduct is also needed and can be done on-line when you register for the class.

If you are **NOT** sure if you've taken the class, or if you have any questions, please contact the Parish VIRTUS Facilitator and Safe-Environment Coordinator:

Linda at 631-288-1423, Monday through Thursday, 9am-5pm.



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our
promise
to protect.

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www.drvc.org/OPCYP

POWERED BY OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS · DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER



We have made a covenant in our marriage with God and with our spouse to love one another and to fulfill our vows. To nourish your sacrament, sign up for a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience. Learn how to listen better, communicate more, and be a better couple. You will be glad you did! You can find one by looking up WWME.org. The next date is **June 21-June 23 in Huntington**. Worldwide Marriage Encounter sponsors a variety of in-person and virtual marriage experiences, some on weekends and some on seven weekdays. Couples explore their relationship with each other, God, and the Church. Registration is limited; there is a \$100 application fee. For more information or to apply, call Kevin & Regina Hickson at 516-554-3835 or <https://www.menly.org/>.