

PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 2, 2023



THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

First: Isaiah 50:4-7

Second: Philippians 2:6-11

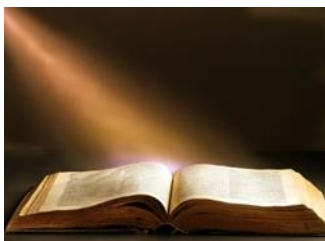
Gospel: Matthew 26:14-27:66 or 27:11-54

FOCUS: *Truly, Jesus Christ is the Son of God.*

The congregation's last words in today's communal Gospel reading are those of the centurion: Truly, this was the Son of God! This is the central proclamation of our faith that we strive to profess more fully this Holy Week – that the one whom we follow is God's own Son, and God himself. May his name be praised forever.

LITURGY OF THE WORD:

In the introductory reading from Matthew's Gospel, Jesus enters Jerusalem. The prophet Isaiah speaks as the suffering servant who has trusted in the Lord while submitting to persecution. In the second reading, Paul speaks of Jesus' total self-gift and God's subsequent exaltation of Jesus. In the Gospel, we hear of Judas' betrayal, the Passover supper Jesus shared with his disciples and, finally, Jesus' death on the cross.



MASS INTENTIONS

5 p.m.: Victoria Mercado, Quintain Garcia and Kevin Stanton

10 a.m.: Carmela Marino, Thomas Carrion, Jr., Lorraine Pepia and Marie Carotenuto

LAST WEEK'S MASS ATTENDANCE

5 p.m.: 86

10 a.m.: 141



Reconciliation Monday: Confessions will be heard from 2-4 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. April 3 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Middletown, NOT here.

Holy Thursday: Service will begin at 7 p.m. April 6 and will include foot-washing. There are signup sheets on the bulletin board.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament follows in the hall and continues until 11 p.m.

Good Friday: The Commemoration of the Lord's Passion will begin at 3 p.m. April 7 and include veneration of the cross and Holy Communion. There will be no Stations of the Cross nor evening service.

Blessing of Easter Food: In the tradition of many Eastern European nations, Deacon Carl will bless baskets of Easter food at noon on Holy Saturday, April 8, in Deacon John Hall.

Easter Vigil: Mass is at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 8.

Easter Sunday: Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m.



TOO CUTE FOR BREAD

How about a traditional butter lamb - Baranek (or Baaa-ranek?) - on your Easter table this year? For step-by-step instructions, go to this YouTube link:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=A2SddbKplos

CONDOLENCES

We extend our deepest condolences to Tony Mazzeo upon the death of his mother, Marie Carotenuto, last week, and to Vianney Garcia, who lost her husband, Quintain, on Thursday. Please keep these families in your prayers.

EASTER FLOWERS

The deadline to remember deceased loved ones with a contribution toward Easter flowers is this **Monday, April 3**. There are envelopes in the church vestibules, and the usual donation is \$10 per name.

If you donate via WeShare, be sure to provide the office with the names to be included in the booklet.

TREASURER'S REPORT

March 19-26: Totaled \$ 5,881.72

Envelopes: \$ 2,838.00 – Online: \$ 3,043.72

THANK YOU!

LENT, EASTER AND STEWARDSHIP

Embracing the joy of stewardship is what creates in us a “need” to give. We give not first and foremost because there is a need to give to – our church building needs a new furnace, the parking lot is a disaster, the parish hall needs renovation – but because our heart points us to the need to give as a part of our faith journey. For each of us then, at some point, embracing the joy of stewardship takes a change of heart.

In many ways, these last few days of Lent offer the greatest opportunity for a change of heart to take place. It is a time of faith-raising, not fundraising. Yet in the life of a parish, it is that increase in faith that will ultimately result in an increase in funds. We give to what we believe in, to what we feel a part of. If our parish becomes a place of joy, a place where we meet Jesus in and through others ... then generosity will flow naturally and abundantly. It won't be contingent on convincing parishioners that the next “need” is worth their money.

AND SPEAKING OF STEWARDSHIP ...

Here's an update on our increased giving campaign and the drawing for the \$300 gift cards:

Since the parish meeting on January 15, giving is up 24 percent compared to last year. Our March goal of \$32,368 is very attainable based on the February regular collection of \$29,622.

If you have increased your regular collection, thank you very much. If you have not, and isn't not a burden to do so, there is still time to do so.

*“But Palm Sunday tells us that ...
it is the cross that is the true tree of life.”
- Pope Benedict XVI*

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

There will be no Coffee Social this, the first weekend in April. However, Team Dzurilla will be serving up a **French Toast Breakfast** after Mass on **Sunday, April 23**. Details to follow.

CARDINAL'S APPEAL UPDATE

From supporting needy parishes and religious education to mission and charitable works, your generosity makes a difference. As of Friday, March 31, **\$ 37,475** toward our goal of \$45,500 has been received/pledged by 94 families. Thank you.



the
CARDINAL'S
ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

*Sharing God's Gifts Throughout
the Archdiocese of New York*



LIVING STATIONS

The reverence with which the youngsters fell into their roles during last Friday evening's production of the Children's Living Stations of the Cross was truly awe-inspiring. There was not a sound from the more than 100 in attendance. Even the youngest of siblings somehow knew that this was a time to be still, to watch intently as Jesus journeyed with the cross.

“The emotion on their faces ... And when Christ died, the kids all kneeled by the crucifix. I got chills,” recalls Kim Porpora of that powerful moment.

Kudos to Jessica Carpino, Religious Education coordinator, and Jason Zieran for their dedication to weeks of rehearsals that culminated in this moving performance, during which Bob Faiano accompanied on guitar.

Our special thanks also to these fourth- through seventh-graders who so maturely and respectfully re-enacted this transformative time in our history:

Caleb Decker as Jesus

Anthony Pappagallo as the soldier
AJ Britto as Pontius Pilate and Joseph

Lily Depew as Mary

Kiley McPhillips as Veronica

Thomas Britto as Simon

Anna Decker and Madison Conklin
as women of Jerusalem

“They were all awesome,” says Kim.

