



March 28, 2021

When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his last he said,

"Truly this man was the Son of God!"

Mark 15:39

A PREVIEW OF HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week and previews its themes and events. Today's liturgy begins with the commemoration of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. The Roman Missal gives three options for how this can be done, the most elaborate of which begins with the priest, ministers, and the entire assembly outside. The Gospel account of the entry is read, after which palms are blessed and distributed. Then everyone enters the church in procession, singing songs or psalms. However, the joy is temporary; the Passion narrative recounts how, after an intimate meal with his disciples a few days later, Jesus is arrested, tortured, crucified, and buried. The reading from Isaiah is one of four Suffering Servant songs, while the psalm likewise gives voice to the suffering of the innocent. The reading from Philippians affirms the Incarnation as God's embrace of the entire human situation, including suffering and death.

SUFFERING . . .

It may be Palm Sunday, but the Passion is far more prominent in today's liturgy, which invites us to follow Jesus from his triumphant entrance into Jerusalem to his crucifixion and burial. It simply overflows with the sorrow and intimacy that will be dominant themes in Holy Week.

The first reading from the book of Isaiah gives voice to the suffering of an innocent person—perhaps a prophet—or the people as a whole. The refrain for the Psalm is Jesus' cry from the cross (Mark 13:14), a cry of absolute, existential loneliness. The great kenotic (emptying) hymn in Philippians provides a stunning portrait of Jesus' ultimate emptying, simultaneously intimate and cosmological.

. . . AND INTIMACY

All four Gospels have a Passion narrative. While there is agreement on the main events—an intimate meal shared by Jesus and the disciples, betrayal by Judas, prayer in Gethsemane followed by Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion—each Gospel has unique variations that give it a particular meaning or tone. In today's Gospel from Mark, Jesus is anointed by an unnamed woman in the house of Simon the leper. All the Gospels have Jesus being anointed by a woman, but only Mark puts this scene just before the Last Supper. Jesus says the anointing is preparation for his burial; it is as if the woman could see a prophet's suffering in Jesus' life and feel it in his presence. Moved by compassion, she empties her jar of expensive nard on his head, pouring out her love in a profoundly intimate act. Perhaps she will also join the women who witness the crucifixion from afar (Mark 15:40–41), after the Twelve seem to be long gone.

Palm Sunday invites us to follow Jesus through the rest of Holy Week. By moving us to feel the injustice and the suffering endured by Jesus, this week's liturgies and devotions present us with those same choices. Perhaps, like the unnamed woman, we can open ourselves to others' suffering and respond with love and compassion. Or perhaps, like the Twelve, we will be conspicuous by our absence.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday: Monday of Holy Week

Tuesday: Tuesday of Holy Week

Wednesday: Wednesday of Holy Week

Thursday: Holy Thursday;

Paschal Triduum begins

Friday: Good Friday of the Lord's Passion;

Fast and Abstinence

Saturday: Holy Saturday; Vigil of Easter

Palm Sunday
OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

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Immaculate Conception Parish

Immaculate Conception Church & St. Joseph Church

Pastor: Rev. James J. Ward • Deacon: Mr. Jack Mroz

Immaculate Conception Rectory: 570-325-2791 • iccjt@ptd.net • www.iccjimthorpe.org
St. Joseph Rectory: 570-325-3731 • stjosjt@ptd.net • www.saintjosephchurch-jimthorpe.org

St. Joseph Church side entrance is open daily for private prayer

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Tuesdays after 8 a.m. Mass, & Wednesdays, 6:30pm @ ICC;

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator: Wendy S. Krisak, MA, NCC, LPC Direct Phone: 800-791-9209; Diocesan Secretary for Youth Protection: Pamela J. Russo, MSW, MS Phone: 610-871-5200, Ext. 2204; If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop, please contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service ReportBishopAbuse.org or by calling 800-276-1562.

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Sat. March 27

4:30 pm (ICC) **Francis Dougher** (Sue & Anne)

Sun. March 28

9:00 am (SJC) **Tracy McElmoyle** (Mom & Dad)

Mon. March 29

(private) **Patti Scott** (Anne Sullivan) / **James J. Zurn** (Joann Whitehead & Phil Viana)

Tues. March 30

8:00 am (ICC) **Eugene "Kelly" Hager** (John & Mary McGuire)

Wed. March 31

(private) **Patrick Moss** (Sarah)

Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lord's Supper

Thurs. April 1

7:00 PM (SJC) **All Priests, Living & Deceased, of the Allentown Diocese**
Adoration until 10pm

Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)

Fri. April 2

9:00 am *SJC & ICC Churches open for Private prayer*
3:00 pm (ICC) **Celebration of the Lord's Passion**
6:00 pm (SJC) *Stations of the Cross*

Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil

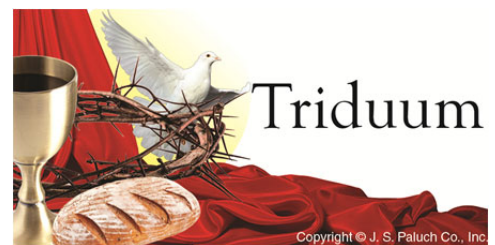
Sat. April 3

9:00 am (SJC) *Rosary for Life*
10:30 am (SJC) *Blessing of Baskets*
8:00 pm (ICC) **All Police, Fire, & Ambulance Personnel of our Community**

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Sun. April 4

9:00 am (SJC) **All Our Parishioners, Living & Deceased**



RESPONSORIAL PSALM ~ MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU ABANDONED ME?

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH CANDLES

SAINT JOSEPH: In Memory of *Robert "Bobby" Kuhn* (Requested by John & Patty Martino & Family)

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH CANDLES

SANCTUARY CANDLE burns in Honor of *Father Ward's 75th Birthday* (By, The Immaculate Conception Choir)

BLESSED MOTHER CANDLE burns in Loving Memory of *Tracy McElmoyle* (By, Mom & Dad)

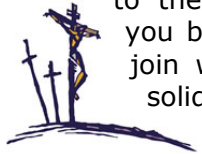
BLESSED MOTHER CANDLE burns in Loving Memory of *James "Poppy" Zurn, 9th Anniv.* (Loved & Missed, Children & Grandchildren)

PARISH STEWARDSHIP: 3/07/21: \$ 6,384.00

Catholic Home Mission: \$ 1,104.00

Thank you for your continued support & generosity.

GOOD FRIDAY HOLY LAND COLLECTION: 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 wars, unrest and instability have been especially hard on Christians. In these times of crisis, the Pontifical Good Friday Collection provides humanitarian aid to refugees. 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!

ADORATION @ SJC: Tues., April 13 - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament beginning at 9am (except when there is a funeral Mass and then it will start after the Mass). Adoration will conclude with Rosary & Benediction at 5:30pm. Time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is a tremendous blessing!

MEMORIAL FUND: We would like to acknowledge donations made: **In Memory of Emily Kattner** from Christa Kattner, Gloria Kehrli, Ceil & Frank Sebelin, Bill Siobhan O'Gurek, Richard & Maureen Girard, Bernie & Pat Kattner, Florence Sofranko, Ann Ulshafer & Children.

SAINT JOSEPH ECUMENICAL FOOD PANTRY: Located on the corner of 6th & North St will be open Wednesdays, April 7 & 21 & Saturdays, April 3 & 17 from 9am-11am.

SERVING THE SUFFERING CHRIST As we enter Holy Week and celebrate Palm Sunday, let's reflect on how our Lord suffered from our indifference: those who proclaimed him king of Jerusalem were the same who called to crucify him. We recognize we are all one human family. Are we contributing to the suffering of our sisters and brothers with our indifference to their realities? How does our faith inspire us to care for them and share the gifts that God has bestowed on us? Visit csrcricebowl.org to learn more.



Fr. Ward, May God bless you with Peace, Joy, & Good Health as you celebrate your 75th Birthday!!

THE PARISH RECTORY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED on Good Friday, April 2nd, and Easter Monday, April 5th.

CEMETERY SPRING CLEAN-UP: Please take the time to clean away any flowers, decorations, Christmas wreaths, etc. from your family plots as soon as possible. Our maintenance staff will remove what is left and discard it. Please be aware that during the regular maintenance of the cemetery (grass cutting/trimming) we will remove any flowers, fresh or artificial, that are unsightly, dead or damaged. Any items placed on



the lots that are broken or not appropriate will be removed. Remember, there is no garbage pickup at the cemetery. Please take all debris with you. Thank you.

MARIAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL PARENT AMBASSADORS will be hosting a drive-in gift card Bingo on Sunday, April 18th. Lot opens at 12pm and games begin at 1pm. Event is rain or shine! \$25 package (15 regular games & 5 specials). Park in the rear lot, purchase your package, and play from your car! Hot food & Bake Sale- delivered to your car.

HOLY WEEK: For the Palm Sunday Gospel, we return to the Gospel according to Mark. The account of the Passion takes up nearly



one-third of Mark's entire Gospel and, of all the evangelists, he is the one who presents the details most graphically. He depicts the humanity of Jesus most intensely, describing his sufferings thoroughly. Mark portrays Jesus as a complete fulfillment of the "Suffering Servant" of Isaiah, the obedient, humble slave dying on a cross of whom Paul speaks in Philippians. But it is important to remember that we call this "Holy Week" and not "sad week" or "suffering week," for each of the readings today, even the lamentations of the psalm, end in the promise of the strength and hope that is granted by God to those who faithfully give of themselves in love. As we enter into this week through these readings, we must reflect deeply on the sufferings of Jesus, but still be confident in the joy of risen, eternal life that awaits all of us who faithfully walk with him through these days.

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