

# PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

## 14 APRIL 2019

**Readings for Sunday, April 14:** Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Luke 22:14-23:56.

Jesus, humbling himself out of love for us, did not shield his face from buffets and spitting, but offered his life on the cross. He relied on his Father's love.

**Readings for Sunday, April 21:** Acts of the Apostles 10:34a, 37-43; Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8; John 20:1-9.

**St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish Special Day of Prayer is Monday.**  
**Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament: Monday after 9:00 A.M. Mass to 4:00 PM in the Chapel.**

### MASSES FOR THE WEEK

<u>Date</u>	<u>Intention</u>	<u>Requested By</u>
15 Apr.      MON.    9:00 AM	Emma T. Dempsey	Fr. Gregory J. Hickey
17 Apr.      WED.    9:00 AM	Honora "Gran" Lockard	Fr. Gregory J. Hickey
18 Apr.      THU.    7:00 PM	MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER	
20 Apr.      SAT.    4:00 PM	Decd. Members of Bucciaglia & McHugh Families	Jack & Margie Bucciaglia & family
21 Apr.      SUN.    9:00 AM	People of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Parish	



**ETERNAL REST** grant unto them, O Lord. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.  
**PRAY FOR THE SICK AND SUFFERING** of the parish especially those in homes and hospitals.  
**REMEMBER OUR TROOPS:** Pray that God will bless and protect our young men and women in the military.



**SECOND SUNDAY HOSPITALITY** on Sunday, April 14 in the social hall after the 9:00 AM Mass. Come enjoy a cup of coffee and juice and some light pastries. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

**SENIOR CITIZENS BUS TRIP** on April 23 to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse to see "Take Me Away" - a musical, comedy, mystery based in the streets of London. Start with sit-down lunch ordered from menu topped off with a magnificent dessert buffet. Cost - \$94.00 all inclusive. Payment due April 18. Leave from front of church at 9:00 AM and return about 5:30 PM. For reservations, call Shirley (610-326-1128).

**THE PARISH OFFICE** will be closed Holy Thursday, April 18 and Good Friday, April 19. A Happy, Blessed Easter to everyone!

#### MINISTRY SCHEDULE - April 20/21:

##### 7:30 PM Mass

Celebrant - Fr. Ortega; Con-celebrant - Fr. Hickey  
 Lectors - John Nester and Phyllis Villano  
 Extraordinary Ministers - Jim Bucciaglia, Denise Bucciaglia, Terry Donnelly, Cristin Bucciaglia  
 Altar Servers - Michael Holmes, Maeve Donnelly, Brigid Donnelly, Kiersten Donnelly  
 Greeters - Nikki Gambino and Maria DiMarco

##### 9:00 AM Mass

Celebrant - Fr. Hickey; Con-celebrant - Fr. Ortega  
 Lectors - Sylvia Marcheskie  
 Extraordinary Ministers - Tony Vitacco, Gary Huster, Debbie Huster  
 Altar Server - Tommy Miller and Madelyn Miller  
 Greeters - Jack and Lori Carr

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE DESK OF FR. GREGORY J. HICKEY

### *Palm Sunday*

Today we enter into the most serious and drama filled week. It is known as Holy Week. On Holy Thursday morning, Archbishop Chaput will celebrate the beautiful Chrism Mass at our Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul with the priests and laity of our Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The oils of Catechumen, the Sick, and Chrism will be blessed by him and will be distributed to all the parishes of our Archdiocese to be used throughout the year. It is a beautiful Mass and one that is open to each of you if you can attend.

On Thursday evening, we enter into the Sacred Easter Triduum and the Church comes alive again on Holy Saturday evening with the history of salvation and the blessing of fire and water as we again celebrate the sacraments and await the Resurrection of Our Lord on Easter Sunday. We do not have anyone who will be baptized or confirmed at the Easter Vigil but please pray for those in other parishes who will be welcomed into the Church that evening. The whole universal Church stands in darkness and waits for the Light of Christ. The liturgies are meaningful and they will culminate with the Solemnity of Easter.

We begin today with a triumphal entry into Jerusalem with Jesus riding on a donkey. A donkey was a very big thing in those days. It was the equivalent of a car, a truck, or a tractor. It was a car because people used it to move around and do their shopping. It could be seen as a truck because it was used to carry heavy loads. You could also view it as a tractor because it was used in cultivating the land. The donkey that Jesus used was a brand new donkey that had never been ridden so it could have had a high market value. You can also see that giving up the donkey just because the Lord needed it was a big sacrifice for the owner. It was a generous and heroic act of faith.

Every year on Good Friday we hear the gospel account of Jesus' passion according to John. Each year on Palm Sunday we hear the gospel account of the passion according to one of the other three evangelists. This year we hear from Luke.

There are some details of Luke's account of the passion that are unique to him. Luke stresses Jesus' innocence. The Roman governor was the only person in Judea at the time of Jesus who could legally condemn anyone to death. That governor, Pontius Pilate, a man who was noted for his cruelty and who was eventually removed from office by Rome because of his cruelty, declared Jesus innocent in all four gospels. Unlike the other gospels, St. Luke tells us Pilate declared Jesus' innocence, not once or twice, but three separate times. It is only Luke who tells us about the incident with Herod. He sends him to Herod and he finds no charge against Jesus and sends Him back to Pilate. Luke also tells us of the criminal who was crucified with Jesus who declares: "We have been condemned justly...but this man has done nothing wrong." Mark tells of the centurion who exclaimed when Jesus died: "Truly this man was the Son of God." Luke has the centurion declare, "This man was innocent beyond doubt." The innocent Jesus suffered abuse, injustice, and rejection by his own people. Perhaps we could reflect if we were there, would we be honoring him with palm and hosanna, or would we be calling for His execution? Perhaps, some of the people at the time could be the same as many in our own world today are, indifferent to it all.

Another characteristic of St. Luke that he emphasizes is Jesus' forgiving nature. Even on His way to Calvary he is still forgiving people and healing them. All three gospels relate that one of His disciples cut off the ear of the high priest's servant but it is only in St. Luke's gospel that he has Jesus healing the ear. There was great hostility between Herod and Pilate but in St. Luke's gospel, there is reconciliation between the two enemies. Jesus forgave the people who put him to death and promised paradise to the repentant thief. Even though we are unable to claim to be innocent as Jesus was, we can still follow His example of healing and forgiveness rather than hatred and vengeance. St. Luke's gospel can be especially called the gospel of divine mercy.

Finally, there is one detail you might miss. St. Luke does not tell us about the crowning with thorns. He tells us that Jesus was mocked and ridiculed, but chooses not to go into the details. Perhaps he felt he had too much more he had to say. All throughout my own life, mediating on the sufferings of Jesus and learning to embrace the cross has given me strength during very difficult times. We all have problems of one type or another in this life. As we journey together with Jesus this week, perhaps our prayer could be that Christ's sufferings can give your strength and hope too. He loves each of us so much and invites us daily to love Him back.

May Holy Week fill you with His grace!

Fr. Hickey

## Parish Support

WEEKLY BUDGET.....	\$5,000
DEPOSIT FOR APRIL 7, 2019.....	\$4,315
Regular Sunday Collection -	\$4,015
Parish Giving -	\$155
Easter Flower Collection -	\$145
WEEKLY DEFICIT.....	(\$685)
Year to Date Budget.....	\$205,000
Year to Date Collections.....	\$177,388
Average per week Collection.....	\$4,327
Year to Date Deficit.....	(\$27,612)
Average per week Deficit.....	(\$673)
APRIL 8, 2018	
Deposit.....	\$3,933
2017-2018 Deficit to Date.....	(\$19,161)
Difference from previous year.....	(\$8,451)



**PARISH LOTTERY RAFFLE TICKET** based on the PA Pick 3 Evening Number. Winning ticket number must be the exact number drawn for the PA Pick 3 Evening

Number. Tickets are \$5.00 each and are sold on a monthly basis. The prize for the winning ticket is \$50.00 on weekdays and \$100.00 on Sundays and one specially-designated weekday. Tickets are available after the Masses on weekends and at the parish office on weekdays. **This is our major fund raiser for the parish. We encourage each family to purchase at least one ticket each month. Your support is greatly appreciated.**

### LOTTERY CALENDAR RAFFLE TICKET WINNERS

- April 1 - #744 - Beth Chillot - \$50.00
- April 2 - #647 - Stanley & Catherine Salkowski - \$50.00
- April 3 - #350 - Brigid Donnelly - \$50.00
- April 4 - #258 - Edna Hersperger - \$50.00
- April 5 - #029 - John Bukey - \$50.00
- April 6 - #981 - unsold
- April 7 - #602 - unsold

### **MASS ATTENDANCE for April 6/7:**

4:00 PM Mass - 174  
9:00 AM Mass - 158  
Total Attendance - 332  
Mass Attendance for April 7/8, 2018 - 350

**SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND** is for Operation Rice Bowl. Your support helps impact the lives of the hungry worldwide and also those in need in our own Archdiocese.

**“CONSIDER REMEMBERING YOUR PARISH IN YOUR WILL.”** For further information, please call the parish office.

**RESTAURANT GIFT CARD BASKET RAFFLE** - Basket includes: \$50.00 Gift cards to Red Lobster, Cutillo's, Longhorn Steakhouse and Vincenzo's; \$50.00 Cash; \$50.00 in Lottery tickets; and a spring floral arrangement. Chances are \$5.00 each. Chances for sale after Masses on the weekend or at the parish office during regular business hours. Drawing will be held on April 15.

**THE ROSARY PRAYER GROUP** leads the recitation of the Rosary every Sunday before the 9:00 AM Mass. They also pray the Rosary before the 9:00 AM weekday Masses. All are welcome to join in these Marian Devotions.

**LADIES SPRINGTIME TEA** on Sunday, April 28 from 1:00-3:00 PM. Adults - \$10, ages 5-12 - \$5, under 5 free. Tickets available in the vestibule after Masses or at the church office. Pre-purchased tickets only. No tickets sold at the door. Deadline for ticket purchases - April 17. No assigned seating. Come early for best seating.

**Donations** being accepted for door prizes for Ladies Tea on April 28. We had some very lovely, new donated items last year and are asking again for your generosity. New items and gift cards can be dropped off at the church office. Last date for donations is Monday, April 22.

### **ST. GABRIEL OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER PARISH MEMORIAL FUND DONATIONS** received in memory of:

**BARBARA BRAULT** from Gerry Murgia;  
**MARY RULLI** from Blanche & Jeff Lesik, Ron DiGiosia, Kenny, Kaye & Kathy Stoudt;  
**MATTHEW CAPPELLETTI** from Taren & Jeff Patten, Donna McCormack, Jim Meade & Tom Meade, Richard D. Linderman, Loretta & John, Vince & Dottie Melchiorre, Deborah & Michael Lee, Donna & Rock D'Emilio, Elaine & Larry Clymer, Cheryl Buttarro, Bernadette McElroy, Jimmy & Eileen Hipple, Marybeth & Keith Reinhart.

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

**Monday, April 15 and Wednesday, April 17** - Masses at 9:00 AM.

**Holy Thursday, April 18** - Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 PM. Church will remain open for private prayer until 9:00 PM.

**Good Friday, April 19** - Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 3:00 PM. Mass is not celebrated on Good Friday. Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Good Friday, April 19, 2019, we celebrate the mystery of the Lord's Passion, contemplating the sacrifice by which Jesus redeemed the human race from sin and death. It also has been our longstanding tradition as Catholics to offer alms in support of the Catholic Community in the Holy Land. As directed by our Holy Father, Pope Francis, funds generated by this collection support programs and services in the Holy Land. Support is needed to maintain the sacred places, to provide educational and pastoral programs as well as outreach programs for the poor through established charitable institutions. On behalf of those Christians and others in so much need, I seek your most generous and sacrificial support of the **Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land on April 19, 2019**. I know that God our Father will reward your generosity beyond all measure.

Gratefully and with best wishes in Jesus Christ,

*Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.*

Archbishop of Philadelphia

**Holy Saturday, April 20** - Blessing of Food at 3:00 PM; Easter Vigil Mass at 7:30 PM. No Confessions on April 20.

**Easter Sunday, April 21** - Mass at 9:00 AM.

**Fast and Abstinence** - All persons who are fourteen years of age and older are bound to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday.

All persons eighteen years of age and older, up to and including their fifty-ninth birthday, are bound to fast by limiting themselves to a single full meal on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, while the other two meals on those days are to be light.

**BREAKFAST** at St. Gabriel Lodge on Sunday, April 14 from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

**ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKE BREAKFAST** hosted by the Pottstown-Stowe Lions Club on Sunday, April 28 from 8:00AM to 12:00 PM at West End Fire Co., Stowe. Pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, juice, milk & coffee. \$7.00 - adults; \$6.00 - seniors; \$5.00 - children 4-12 years; children under 4 eat for free.

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY, APRIL 28** - Devotions at St. Eleanor's Catholic Church, Collegeville at 3:00 PM. Don't miss the amazing special graces.

**CHURCHES & CHEESE STEAKS TOUR** on Saturday, May 4 - sponsored by St. Philip Neri Catholic Family Life Center. Our pilgrimage consists of tours of St. John the Evangelist Church, the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul, and the National Shrine of St. Rita of Cascia. Your choice for lunch at Pat's or Geno's Steaks. Bus leaves from the CFLC in East Greenville. 6:45 AM to 4:00 PM. Cost: \$40 - adults; \$20 - Ages 6-17. Registration by April 19. Register at [www.catholicfamilylifecenter.com](http://www.catholicfamilylifecenter.com) or call 215-679-2237.

**ANNUAL PRO-LIFE GOLF TOURNAMENT** sponsored by Valley Forge Chapter, Knights of Columbus on Friday, May 3 at Twin Ponds Golf Course, Gilbertsville. Event includes breakfast, lunch, banquet dinner, golf and individual/team skill prizes. Cost per golfer - \$100. Dinner only tickets - \$35. Contact Gary Huster (610-972-0356 or [thebighue@aol.com](mailto:thebighue@aol.com)) or Mark Nunan (610-754-7185 or [marknunan@dejazzd.com](mailto:marknunan@dejazzd.com)). All proceeds benefit local crisis pregnancy centers.

**TRAVEL WITH FR. PAUL BRANDT (Pastor of St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish)** to Budapest, Prague, Wroclaw, Warsaw, Vienna and Czestochowa. Dates - June 29 to July 12, 2019. Cost - \$4,600.00 - Airfare and ALL-included. To register contact 855-842-8001 or 508-340-9370. Register online at [www.proximotravel.com](http://www.proximotravel.com).

**FAUSTINA: MESSENGER OF DIVINE MERCY**, a St. Luke production will be presented by the National Centre for Padre Pio. This professional production runs 90 minutes and is suitable for ages 13 and up. To purchase tickets or more information, go to [www.PadrePio.org](http://www.PadrePio.org) and click on Events Calendar - May 3<sup>rd</sup>.