

CHRIST SUFFERED FOR YOU AND ME

(Mark 11:1-10; Isa. 50:4-7; Ps. 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24; Phil. 2:6-11; Mark 14: 1-15:47)

Today marks the last Sunday in Lent! It is Palm Sunday, otherwise called Passion Sunday because the theme of Christ's suffering, crucifixion and death begins with the reading of the passion. On Palm Sunday, we commemorate the last act in the drama of the life of Jesus – His triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Jesus' entry into Jerusalem is the fulfillment of the Divine Will that He must go there to suffer, die and be raised on the third day (Matthew 16:21). Today's celebration marks the beginning of the most sacred time of the Church – The Holy Week, when every Christian is invited to reflect on the sacrificial love of God for His sinful people.

In the Old Testament times, it was the custom of the great prophets to express their message in dramatic actions when they felt words were not enough – Prophet Ahijah of Shiloh tore his new garment into twelve pieces as a revolt against Solomon and thus predicted the end of Solomon's kingship (1 Kings 11:29-32) – Prophet Jeremiah prophesied by putting ropes and a yoke around his neck and thus predicted the capture and the enslavement of the Israelites by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon (Jeremiah 27:1-6). Like King David and all kings in his culture, Jesus enters Jerusalem riding on the traditional animal, the colt (ass) "on which no one has ever sat." Jesus could not have chosen a more dramatic moment for His entry to Jerusalem than the time of Passover when about 2.5 million pilgrims from all corners of the world were expected to congregate in Jerusalem, the Eternal City, to celebrate the Passover Feast.

Jesus' decision to go to Jerusalem was not a sudden one, taken at the spur of the moment. It was calculated and well planned – it was a deliberate Messianic claim – Jesus is God's Anointed One – He is the Messiah. Thus, on Palm Sunday, Christians all over the world gather to celebrate and proclaim Christ as the Messiah and Savior of the world. On this day, you and I solemnly process with blessed palms in honor of the God Who has come into the world so that He might deliver His people from bondage. Our participation in the liturgy of Holy Week should be a stark reminder to us that suffering, pain, and ultimately death are also a mysterious part of our passage to a glorious life with our Lord, Who has come so that you and I may have life – and have it more abundantly.

When you and I began the Lenten journey five weeks ago on Ash Wednesday, Prophet Joel exhorted us to "Rend your hearts, not your garment..." The symbolism of waving the palms should go beyond the physical, and thrust us to the spiritual, where we must "rend our hearts, not our palms." This is the day when Christians must submit themselves to "walk the walk and talk the talk" with Christ. The Passion accounts that we hear today and on Good Friday, which culminate in the proclamation of the resurrection of our Lord, are an invitation for us to engage and to contemplate the unqualified love of God for us.

As we struggle to embark on a journey with Christ to Calvary, He shows us that "though He was in the form of God, (He) did not claim equality with God...Rather, He emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness...He humbled Himself," to the point of washing the feet of His disciples on Holy Thursday; and dying for you and me on Good Friday. Christ suffered and died for us so that we might follow in His example, and thus, empty ourselves and allow Him to take control of our lives. Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem today gives us hope that He has overcome all the obstacles that might be in our way to prevent us from gaining entry into eternal life. He enters Jerusalem, "meek and riding on an ass" (Zechariah 9:9) – showing us that He came not to destroy but to love; not to condemn but to help; not in the might of arms like the kings of old, but in the strength of love.

Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP

PARISH NEWS

The **ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY** meeting will be held this Monday, April 2nd, at 7:30 p.m. in the McManus Parish Center. All women of the Parish are invited.



SHARING COMMUNITY MEAL: This Thursday, April 5th, we will be providing our Sharing Community Meal. Please bring your ziti or dessert to the Rectory. Doors will open at 6:45 a.m. The Sharing Community truly appreciates our efforts. Please keep up the good work! For information, please call the Rectory Office.



DONATIONS OF PALMS



Thanks very much for your generosity! The palms for this Palm Sunday have been donated by the following:

- ❖ Lou and Angela Brusco in memory of the deceased members of the Brusco & Nanoia families
- ❖ Richard & Ellen Califano in memory of Helen & Pete Pietrowski
- ❖ Claire Campisi in memory of Vincent J. Campisi & Juliann Campisi Moroch
- ❖ Martha & Edward Cesaitis in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Cesaitis and Mr. & Mrs. Simon P. Lovett
- ❖ Maryann Cook in memory of the deceased members of the Baumeister & Cook families
- ❖ Antonietta & Giovanni DeFeo in memory of the deceased members of the DeFeo & Pisacreta families
- ❖ Angelina De Rosa in memory of Daniel De Rosa
- ❖ Angela Lutomski in memory of the deceased members of the Lutomski & Darretta families
- ❖ Margaret Maccia in memory of Carmine N. Maccia
- ❖ Pat & John Nieman in memory of Eileen Foley
- ❖ Joyce Pietrowski in memory of Helen & Pete Pietrowski
- ❖ Joanne Pragana in memory of Albert Pragana, Mary & Joseph Cuzzo, Lucille & Victor Serricchio, and Christine Bellino
- ❖ Richard and Maria Scardino in memory of the deceased members of the Scardino & D'Arienzo families

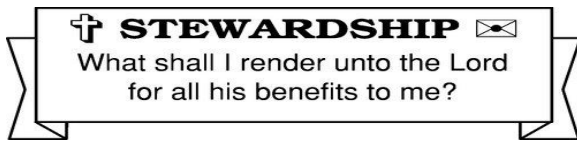


THE ALTAR BREAD AND WINE for this week has been donated in loving memory of Carmine Nicholas Maccia by Margaret Maccia and Karen Maccia McKenna.

PLEASE BRING BELLS FROM HOME to participate in the age-old tradition of ringing bells during the Gloria on **Holy Thursday**, April 5th, and for the **Easter Vigil**, Saturday, April 7th.



PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION



TITHING - GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

March 27, 2011

Adults' Contribution	\$5910.55
Children's Contribution	\$174.95
Last Year's Total	\$6085.50

March 25, 2012

Adults' Contribution	\$6600.00
Children's Contribution	\$147.35
This Year's Total	\$6747.35

"The true purpose of tithing is to secure not the tithe, but the tither; not the gift, but the giver; not your money, but you... for God."



Please pray for all the sick & the homebound members of our Parish, especially Ethel Thomas, Aldina Pereira, Rebecca Conroy, Alejandra Santander, Grace Raguso, Andy DeFabritis, Maryann Tolli, Maria Marte, Ed Carpenter, Barbara Rup, Jule Yaskovic, Rosalie Heit, Dolores Santamarena, Florence B. Swetz, Clare Yaskovic, Neil Caruso, Raymond Fitzpatrick, Sr., Deacon James Byrnes, Andrea Objay, Carmen Torres, John Esposito, Francis Farrell, Mark Baum, Frank Marra, Deacon Patrick Troy, Josephine Apuzzo, Edith Dugan, Gary Roth, Joyann Allan, Anna Rita Morgante, Lois Burton, Mary DeStefano, Dan Seratto, Mark Cianfaglione, Shawn Colon, Margaret Maccia, Nicole Ryan Betancourt, Anthony Spinner, Audrey & Alfred Falcone, Kathleen Hayes, Gerge Muraik, Stan Buoninfante, Donna Vasconez, Mary Ann Berengur, Gene DelBene, Angelina Brusco, Mary Romanchik, Nicole Pisani-Frame, Louis Petrulo, Cynthia Swiatkiewicz, Rose Botcheller, Silvia Georgi, Jimmy Maimone, Robert Mirsky, Steve Oddo, and Roseann Mercandetti.

YOUTH MINISTRY

The first Sunday evening of each month immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass, our Youth Group meets in the McManus Parish Center. All youths age 13 and up are invited.

MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA: Held after the 9 a.m. Mass on Mondays.

EUCHARISTIC DEVOTION: Held the First Friday of every month at 1 p.m. Please join us when you are able.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION: Held the First Saturday of every month at 3 p.m. All are encouraged to participate.

RECITATION OF THE ROSARY: Join your fellow parishioners in praying the Rosary after the 9 a.m. Mass on weekdays and Saturdays.

THURSDAY, APRIL 12TH

1:30 - 7:30 PM

MCMANUS PARISH CENTER

If you can donate, please call Tony Sciacca (423-3592) for an appointment. Bring your friends & family!



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Throughout the Archdiocese of New York, Lenten Reconciliation Monday (April 3rd) gives Catholics the opportunity to go to any parish for confession between the hours of 3 and 8 p.m.

Confessions will NOT be heard on Holy Saturday

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EASTER TRIDUUM

Holy Thursday, April 5th

Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30PM

- Washing of the feet
- Reposition of the Blessed Eucharist

Good Friday, April 6th

- There will be Stations of the Cross at 2:00 p.m.
- Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 3:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Holy Saturday, April 7th

Easter Vigil starts at 7:30 p.m.

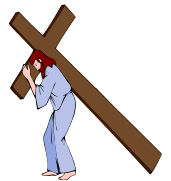
- There will be only one service on this day.
- There will be no confessions on this day.

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EASTER SUNDAY, April 8th

- Masses will only be at 8:30 a.m., 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: This Friday, April 6th, is Good Friday. We will have Stations of the Cross in the Church at 2 p.m. prior to the 3 p.m. Good Friday Service. As we remember the suffering Christ went through for our salvation, every Christian is encouraged to come out and participate in this solemn celebration.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION - RCIA

Do you know a non-Catholic adult who wishes to explore the Catholic faith; or a Catholic who has never received First Communion or been Confirmed? We have a program tailored to these adults. Call Cheryl Duda at 476-6676.

FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Register now for next year's Religious Education program. Children in public school who will be entering First Grade through High School in September are eligible for these after school and evening classes. Besides grade level classes, instruction prepares children for Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation. Call Cheryl Duda (476-6676) for information.

Religious Education classes will not be held this Tuesday, April 3rd, because of the Chrism Mass. Also, classes are canceled for Easter week, Tuesday and Wednesday, April 10th and 11th.

APRIL 1, 2012



Masses & Services

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Saturday, March 31 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Richard Frischman +

Palm Sunday, April 1

8:30 AM Robert Liddell +

10:00 AM Mary & Ben Bajek +

11:30 AM Anna & Anthony Faracco +

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Monday of Holy Week, April 2

7:00 AM Madeline Savard +

9:00 AM John Bryce +

Tuesday of Holy Week, April 3

7:00 AM Father Donald's Intention

9:00 AM Alphonse Miele +

Wednesday of Holy Week, April 4

7:00 AM Religious Freedom & Intentions of the Bishops

9:00 AM Julieann Campisi Moroch +

Holy Thursday, April 5

Mass of the Lord's Supper & Eucharistic Adoration

7:30 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Good Friday, April 6

The Passion of the Lord

2:00 PM Stations of the Cross

3:00 PM Good Friday Service

7:30 PM Good Friday Service

Saturday, April 7

Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil

7:30 PM Anthony Giuriceo +

Sunday, April 8

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

8:30 AM Deceased Members of Brusco & Nanoia Families

10:00 AM Luigi & Maria Loreta Lucchetti +

11:30 AM For All the People of Our Parish

APRIL 1, 2012

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH FAMILY!

Our warmest welcome to our visitors! We are glad you came to celebrate the Eucharist with us today. We thank God for you! Do not hesitate to let us know how we may serve you.



Every family and single adult to be considered an active parishioner of St. Bartholomew's Parish must be properly registered in the Parish, receiving and regularly using the Parish Weekly Collection Envelopes. Only in this way can the Pastor issue documents attesting to Catholic practice of the faith and Parish membership, e.g. a letter to be a Godparent or Sponsor. For further information call the Parish Office at 914-965-0566.

If you have not registered or need to correct some of the information in our file, please fill out this form and check (X) the appropriate box below (you may also use the complete Registration Form found on the table at the rear of the Church); and drop the completed form into the collection basket or drop off/mail it to the Rectory. Thank you!

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/Zip: _____
Telephone: _____
Comment: _____

- I am a visitor.
- I am interested in parish membership.
- Change of Address / Telephone Number.
- I am moving out of the Parish.
- I am going to the hospital.
- I would like to be visited by a priest / minister.
- Please send me the *Catholic New York*.
- I would like to learn more about the Catholic Faith.

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WELCOMING OUR NEW PARISHIONERS

We especially want to welcome these individuals and families who joined or returned to our Parish family so far this year:

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| Thomas Balezentis | Karen Lociacono |
| Patrick Castaldo | Louise Lupo |
| Edward & Martha Cesaitis | Anthony & Ann Marie Martelli |
| Dawn Colabatistto | Eugene P. Mikos, Jr. |
| Vincent & Stacey Colombino | Calogero & Christina Pagano |
| Annette Daniele&Carlos Franco | Rosemary Pimentel |
| Eileen Fitzpatrick | Melvin & Jennifer Rodriguez |
| Sonia Franco | Maria Taddeo |
| Gustavo & Andrea Gobbato | Leon & Maria Vargas |

Please feel free to speak to our pastor or any of the pastoral staff if you need any assistance. Your presence in our parish family means a lot to all of us. Once again, welcome!

