

REFLECTION for Palm Sunday 2017

Fr. Don

'At the name of Jesus every knee shall bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth.'

Imagine you are in a time machine and have been transported back in the exuberant crowd on that first Palm Sunday. Some strangers join in the mass of revelers, notice the man whom the crowds seem to be praising. Then, someone asks you, *'who is this man*, he looks ordinary, why the procession for him?

You, with futuristic words, respond: *'Faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive, able to leap tall buildings in a single bound. The infant once 'wrapped in swaddling clothes' in a manger in Bethlehem is now the man called the Messiah, the Savior of the World. This is He, in all His majesty, yet, in all humanity.'*

Jerry Siegel/Joe Shuster created Superman, the comic book hero, but we know there was a Real Superman; He is our God, it is He we adore. He feared no kryptonite. His is the greatest story ever told.

Today, we acknowledge Jesus as the greatest Superman ever; capable of any feat of power. And yes, like the fictitious Clark Kent, Jesus is a humble, unassuming man, knowing that His Father deserves all the glory.

Passion (Palm) Sunday is a day to remember Jesus riding on a donkey from Bethany into Jerusalem to begin his Passion. The crowd hails him gloriously as *'He who comes in the name of the Lord'*, but that same crowd, fickle as ever, will, in a few days, cry out with the demand for his crucifixion. We, on the other hand, believing in His supernatural origins and powers, will journey with Him this Holy Week as He demonstrates His super-powers. He was the original 'man in motion', the original 'man for all seasons.' He is ultimacy's ultimate.

Yes, the Son of God was on a mission, a journey to save and redeem me, you, and all of creation. It was a journey that would test His mettle but, in the end, reveal His divine power. He would 'lift up the world.'

Hosanna, Hallelujah. *Hosanna in the Highest Heaven!*

Of all Super-heroes, none can match the journey undertaken by our Savior/ Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Journeys, like our hero, we are always on a journey. Though we be oblivious to the fact, we are always heading somewhere or, at least, intending to head somewhere. And there is super-power dwelling within us. Here is a stark reality, just think about this: each of us is walking the path of life to our resurrection.

That path is marked with moments of immense joy, moments of immense sorrow; it will take us to where lasting memories are created and take us to the brink of despair. Like Jesus, whom we follow this Holy Week, sometimes we will feel so alone; but, if we are believers, Jesus will accompany us; many times, leading us safely home. It is very comforting to know this in our heart of hearts: *'where we can go but to the Lord.'* Just say 'Lord, help me' and trust in the salvation won for us by the Paschal Mystery. *What is that you ask:*

It is that salvific mystery from the triumphant entry into Jerusalem with the waving palms, to the pangs of our suffering hero in Pilate's courts, to the torturous carrying of the Cross through the streets of Jerusalem, to the *'It is finished'* moment on the hill called Golgotha, to that most glorious of risings on Easter Sunday, and finally to His royal Ascension into heaven. No Superman's achievements can ever match our name-sake.

Yes, we claim to be Christians, children of God, brothers and sisters of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

We have inherited a share in the glory, a place in the Kingdom, and an anticipation of meeting Jesus who reigns in Heaven. What a legacy we celebrate and what bliss we experience. Considering today's readings, we are re-living the whole of salvation history. It began with God's promises to Abraham (our father in faith) and culminates with God's only begotten Son, Jesus (our Savior) mysteriously saving the world.

Today, and for the rest of this week, we join our life's journey with that of Jesus and our two journeys merge on the same road as we accompany him on his journey towards our salvation. We can become one with Jesus. We can follow Jesus, make the most of his journey, making it our own; claiming the gift of our salvation.

The Gift of Gifts, won for us by our Superman. Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior of the World.

Sacred Heart Parish

A Stewardship Parish in Love with Christ



Parish Information

Parish Administrator: Fr. Don Leonard

Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Tues, Thurs 1:00 pm to 5 pm.

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Weekend Masses: Saturday 9:00 p.m. Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Reconciliation: Wednesday after Mass, or by request

Mass During the Week: Wed, Thurs at 7:00 pm, Friday at 3 pm

Stations of the Cross: Good Friday evening at 7 pm

Holy Hour of Adoration: Third Sunday of the Month at 2 p.m.

Marriages: Six months' notice is required. A year's notice is recommended.

Baptisms: Celebrated at Weekend Mass after preparation session.

April 9, 2017

Palm (Passion) Sunday

RECEIVED WITH THANKS (April 1,2)	
Collection	1756.00
Bldg. Fund	156.00
Pastoral Dues	100.00
Mass Stipends	30.00
Parish Insurance	140.00
St. Vincent de Paul	35.00
Lenten Folders	120.00
Votive Candles	180.00
Bingo	700.00
Mass Requests	50.00
Development & Peace	35.00
Flower Contributions	45.00

MASS INTENTIONS

April 10	Confessions (here)	No Mass
April 11	Confessions (Cove)	No Mass
April 12	Ignatius & Edna Power	
April 13	<i>Holy Thursday</i>	Betty Caines
April 14	<i>Good Friday</i>	
April 15	<i>Easter Vigil</i>	Richard Samms, Avril Molloy, Betty Caines
April 16	<i>Easter Sunday</i>	Parish Community

EASTER SERVICES SCHEDULE

- Penitential Service**-----Monday, April 10 at 7pm.
- Holy Thursday**----- Mass at 7 pm.
- Good Friday**----- Service at 3 pm.
- Stations of the Cross**---Good Friday at 7 pm.
- Easter Vigil Mass**-----Saturday at 9 pm.
- Easter Sunday**-----Mass at 11 am.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS (April 13,14,15,16)

READERS **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

April 13	HOLY THURSDAY
Wayne Dicks	Anna House, Margaret Dalley
Amelia Dicks	Barbara Neville

April 14 GOOD FRIDAY

Gerry Buckle (1 st)	Donna Mitchell
Gen Quigley (G)	
John Carroll (G)	

April 15 EASTER VIGIL

Basil English (1), Art Hall (3)	Marie Byrne, Joe Byrne,
Edna Dwyer (7), Hedy Kenny (E)	Joanne Hackett

Communion to Sick Joe/Marie Byrne

April 16 EASTER SUNDAY

Maureen George	Brian Sparkes, Calvin Gillis
Tony Griffin	Elizabeth Carew

FLOWERS FOR EASTER We are inviting donations for flowers for our celebration of Easter. Any person or family who wishes to donate can either contact the Office or put your donation in the Sunday collection. We thank you in advance.

CALLING FOR HELP- CHURCH CLEANING

People are asked to please come together **this Monday, beginning at 10 am** to give the church a spring cleaning for Easter. This is your invitation; we want you to come. Again, we are reminded that many hands make light work.

WASHING OF THE FEET

On Holy Thursday, we celebrate Jesus’ washing of the feet of His disciples. It is a humble act signifying that He is a Servant King, who came to serve and not be served. During this week, we will be asking for volunteers. Please consider humbling yourself to participate in this special liturgical act.

CHURCH IN MOURNING

On Thursday the altar will be stripped, the Holy Water fonts removed. This period of somber reflection and deep sorrow continues until the Gloria is proclaimed, the lights are lit, and we loudly PRAISE the Risen Jesus at the Easter Vigil. Please share this mood with your children or grandchildren. It can be a sacred teaching moment.

EXPOSITION ON HOLY THURSDAY

We will have exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 9 pm following our Holy Thursday Mass. Please take time to spend some quality time praying before the Body of Christ.

JUST A REMINDER

Good Friday is a Day of Fast and Abstinence. This means not eating meat and having only one full

meal. Illness or medical issues exempt sufferers from this obligation.

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY LANDS

Just another reminder to be generous with the Good Friday Collection. All money collected goes to the churches in the Holy Lands.

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED

We need a few more teams of altar servers for our weekday masses; with hopes they will go on to serve on weekends. If you are interested in volunteering, please let us know. We sure would like to see some young people come forward for this vital parish ministry. This is our invitation.

BIBLE STUDY The group will next meet in the Parish house on **Sunday evening, April 9 at 7 pm.** We welcome newcomers to join us in ‘breaking open the Word.

WALK FOR LIFE will be held on Good Friday from 11-12am in front of western Memorial Hospital. If you are interested in joining this group call Yvonne Coleman @ 632-6501

MAINTENANCE PERSON

Still no one has come forward seeking this position. It requires working 50 hours per month and being open to working hours in accordance with our Mass schedule. Is there anyone interested? Please contact the Office.

FOOD BANK COLLECTION This notice will serve as a reminder to you to try to bring a food item to Mass with you. There is a collection box at the back in which to put them. There is a list of preferred items posted as well. Remember, alms-giving is a Lenten priority.

PURCHASE OF DEFIBRILLATORS FOR CHURCHES

Knights of Columbus will be holding a giant merchandise bingo to raise funds for the purchase of defibrillators for Holy Redeemer, All Hallows, and Sacred Heart Parishes. We are asking parishioners to help by donating prizes, either

merchandise or monetary. The bingo will take place at Immaculate Heart of Mary School on Tuesday, May 9th at 8 pm. Please contact Bill Peddle (639-9900), Maurice McDonald (634-6000), Garry Parsons (632-2231), or Mike Leonard (634-3261).

ST. VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY UPDATE

This group is seeking members from our parish to help them in their work. They operate Mary’s Kitchen on Fridays. Right now, they need used furniture for needy families. Please consider helping them, especially if you have used items. Call: 638-9010 for more information

CASH DRAW TICKET FUNDRAISER

Our Ladies Group is now selling tickets on a prize of \$1000! Tickets are \$1 and the winner will be drawn on June 4th.

HOLY WEEK QUOTES

‘In the life of the body, when a person is sick, unless medicine is taken death may occur. Even so in the spiritual life, when a person is sick through sin, medicine is needed so that health may be restored. This restoration is a grace that is bestowed in the Sacrament of Penance.’ -St. Thomas Aquinas.
‘Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire!’ -Saint Catherine of Siena
‘If you can’t feed a hundred people, then feed just one.’ – Mother Teresa.

SHORT LENTEN PRAYER

Lord, help me to turn away from sin, and to believe in the Good News, in Jesus Christ, and in myself. Lord, in times of triumph or tragedy, allow me to practice self-restraint by reminding me that I am dust, and to dust I shall return. Guard me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings, amen.

JESUS PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on me, a sinner.