

April 9, 2017 *Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord*

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, April 8

5:00 p.m. +**Florence, Michael and Joseph Jablon**
By Grace Jablon

Sunday, April 9

8:00 a.m. **Altar Rosary Society**
10:30 a.m. **Madonna of Health**
By Angela Gross

Monday, April 10

8:45 a.m. +**Daniel Jukins**
By Dad

Tuesday, April 11

8:45 a.m. +**William Supple, Sr.**
By Bill and Mary Supple

Wednesday, April 12

8:45 a.m. +**Vito and Marietta Masellis**
By Angela Gross

Thursday, April 13 Holy Thursday

7 PM **Easter Mass Remembrance**

Friday, April 14 Good Friday

7 PM **Liturgy of the Passion and Holy Communion**
Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 15 Easter Vigil

8:00 p.m. **Easter Mass Remembrance**

Sunday, April 16 Easter Sunday

7:30 a.m. **Easter Mass Remembrance**

10:30 a.m. **Easter Mass Remembrance**

Holy Week and Easter

Holy Thursday April, 13

Mass of the Lord's Supper:
7:00 P.M.

Visit to Repository until
10:30 P.M.

Good Friday, April 14

Liturgy of the Passion,
Holy Communion: 7 P.M.
Station of the Cross and

Day 1 of Divine Mercy Novena: after Liturgy

Holy Saturday, April, 15

Easter Blessing of food: 1:00 P.M

Day 2 of Divine Mercy Novena

Easter Vigil, Mass: 8:00 P.M.

Easter Sunday, April 16

Day 3 of Divine Mercy Novena

Procession and Mass: 7:30 A.M.

Mass: 10:30 A.M., followed by

Children's Easter Egg Hunt

On Palm Sunday the liturgy offers a panoramic view of the mysteries that we will contemplate



during Holy Week or Paschal Triduum: the institution of the Eucharist, the passion and death of the Lord, and the prediction of His Resurrection.

These rich Sunday readings include numerous phrases and expressions that have become part of the Sunday liturgy and other devotions. But, most of all, they reveal how each event of the Passion of Christ had been announced by the prophets in the Scriptures and by Christ himself, thus confirming that he was the One "who was to come."

The reading during the Procession with Palms offers a stark contrast to the readings at Mass. Upon arriving at Jerusalem, Jesus is received with cries of joy and praise by the crowd that had come to believe and to have faith in Him as a prophet from God: "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee!" explain some to those who ask why the commotion. We can imagine the Twelve somehow confused and bewildered. The Master has been saying that his time of suffering is near, and is the reason for His coming to Jerusalem. However, for the moment, all is praise and welcome with cloaks and branches spread on his path where he rides a humble donkey.

But all of this stays behind as inside the Mass we focus on the moment when Christ will celebrate the Passover with his closest friends.

First, Jesus leaves us the treasure of the Eucharist, how he wants us to remember him and make himself present to us. Then, we witness Judas's betrayal, as he sells Jesus for money though he later regrets it. We see betrayal by Peter, who rejects Jesus three times lest he suffer the same fate. The weakness of Peter and the other apostles is again exposed when they cannot stay awake and accompany Jesus in prayer in the Garden of Olives, despite his plea that they do so. Thus, it becomes clear that it is not out of



merit or strength that Jesus has chosen them for the mission and that without Him and His Spirit they can do nothing.

In the garden, as on the cross, Jesus feels alone. His suffering is well reflected in the phrase of the psalm that he will shout later from the Cross: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" In his humanity, Jesus is tempted by doubt: You too, my God, have forsaken me? Does all of this suffering truly make sense? But Jesus draws strength from weakness and, in his final act of faith, he again gives himself to the Father: "Into your hands I commend my spirit."

The readings leave us in a suspense that will only be resolved at the Easter Vigil. What is going to happen now? Christ is dead and buried. Nevertheless, they still offer us additional teachings. The first is that among all of Jesus' followers, the only ones that have accompanied Jesus from beginning to end are a group of women very close to Him. They accompanied and served him during his preaching and on the way to Mount Calvary with the cross on His shoulders. They accompanied His grieving mother at the foot of the cross and now mourn His death in front of the tomb. Scripture's noting of the fidelity of these women toward Jesus is not gratuitous. And, as we know, Jesus will reward this loyalty by allowing that a woman be the first to see him and testify to his Resurrection.

Finally, the Gospel points out that the story does not end here. The priests and Pharisees, knowing that he had said he would rise from the dead in three days, take every precaution to prevent anyone from stealing the body and claiming that Jesus has risen. Not only do they request guards, but they seal the entrance to the tomb. With this, the readings prepare us to realize on Easter Sunday that if the tomb is empty, it has not been the work of men. May the Lord allow us to accompany him serenely during these Easter mysteries and may we emerge from them renewed in faith, hope and clarity. Amen



**Parish and Religious Edu Offices
Closed: April 13 thru April 17.**



Special Masses Remembrance!

As a Spiritual Gift, have your Family and Friends remembered in the Solemn Easter Masses (6 Masses from April 13 through April 18) offered at St. Theodore Church. Extra envelopes can be found in the Narthex.

Let's Not Forget Annual Collection for Retired Priests

The second collection, Palm Sunday April 8/9, is for the Fund for our Retired Diocesan Priests. This collection is exclusively for the benefit of our 26 retired priests, as well as for our active priests upon their retirement. May your generosity to this collection reflect your gratitude and love for our retired priests who have been dedicated and faithful to their priesthood over the years.

Church & Religious Education Calendar

April 10, 6:15: All Grades at school

April 13 thru April 17: **Parish & Religious Edu
Offices Closed**

April 13: **Penance Service:** 6 to 7pm; 9 to 10 pm

April 14: **Penance Service:** 4 to 5pm; 6:30 to 8pm

April 15: **Penance Service:** 12 Noon to 1 pm

April 17: No Religious Ed Classes

April 23, 3 p.m.: Divine Mercy Devotion

April 24, 6:15p.m.: 8th Grade in church for Confirmation practice; all other grades at school.

April 29, 6:30 p.m.: Confirmation Retreat



Stephen, Anthony Vitale,
Bridget M., Savannah Paine,
Bobby Gross, Michael Dante,
Keira Hedges, Maryann
Vaughan, Robert Dicheck,

Peter, Zachary, Logan Peter Saksa, Anna Paine,
Maryann Vaughan, Anna Saksa, Lauren Lane,
Jay Mildrum, Philip Kinney, Mary D., Kerry
Kraft, Cathy Moncello, Peter S., Mary Supple,
Mary Rupell, Patty Mahoney, Susan Reynolds

Bishop's Annual Appeal

As of 3/30/17: Pledges \$5,430 from 39 families,
which represents 77.6 % of \$7,000 Goal