

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion



Why We Do What We Do

"Do this in remembrance of me."

Holy Week has begun, a week of worship and reflection on Jesus' journey to the cross, culminating in celebrating His Resurrection and rising from the Tomb.

We know the story. We are invited again to "enter the story" and to allow these experiences to transform us and our relationship with Christ. Each celebration this week comes from the Scriptures and is an invitation to be healed and renewed through God's saving grace and all-conquering love. The suffering, death, and resurrection of Christ is the heart and soul of our faith. These saving events are the most significant moments in history—everything else points to and flows from the cross, the tomb, the Upper Room where the apostles ate the Last Supper and three days later saw the Risen Christ.

Are you going to be a spectator or a participant?

Christ asks us this question and His sacrifice and self-offering demand a response.

*"Is there any way you could say no to this man
If Christ himself were standing here
Face full of glory and eyes full of tears
And he held out his arms and his nail printed hands
Is there any way you could say no to this man
How could you look in his tear stained eyes
Knowing it's you he's thinking of
Could you tell him you're not ready to give him your life
Could you say you don't think you need his love
Jesus is here with his arms open wide
You can see him with your heart if you'll stop looking with your eyes
He's left it up to you, he's done all that he can
Is there any way you could say no to this man."
("How Could You Say No," Julie Miller)*

Today we enter Jerusalem with Jesus. We see the palms and cloaks placed before Him. As He rode to Bethlehem on a donkey (in his mother's womb), He now enters Jerusalem, riding on a colt.

Everything Jesus does fulfills the prophecies of the Old Testament.

"Rejoice heartily, O daughter Zion, shout for joy, O daughter Jerusalem! See, your king shall come to you; a just savior is he, Meek, and riding on an ass, on a colt, the foal of an ass." (Zech 9:9) Many who greet Him with joy will five days later shout "Crucify Him."

This is clearly seen on Palm Sunday by the reading of two gospels: the first at the beginning of His Entry into Jerusalem. The second comes in the middle of mass when we read one of the Passion Narratives. How could things change so quickly? Ask the scholars who knew the Messiah prophecies and yet out of jealousy and fear plotted Jesus' death.

How could people carry out the cruel execution of Christ knowing the prophecies of long ago? Because human nature does not change without God's grace. The truth is if Christ came today, the same thing would happen again. The battle between good and evil continues and for every great leader there are Saddam Hussein and Kim Jong-il. Jesus would threaten them today as much as He threatened Pontius Pilate. The multi-millionaire superstar pastors of

mega-churches also might be threatened. All of us must examine our faith motives. Pride can cause our focus to be on "what's in it for me" rather than serving, loving, and glorifying God.

On Tuesday afternoon, the Chrism Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral of Christ the King. At that mass the Archbishop will bless the oils that will be used in the coming 12 months and also lead the priests in a renewal of ordination promises.

"For more than one thousand years, bishops blessed the oils at the cathedral Holy Thursday liturgy, but in 1955 we added a separate Mass earlier in the day at the cathedral for that purpose, the Mass of Chrism. Today it may be celebrated on a different day shortly before Holy Thursday to give the celebration independence and so that more people like you may attend. Since the bishop is the only minister in the diocese who may consecrate chrism, this Mass highlights his ministry and our union with him." (Paul Turner, *Modern Liturgy*, 1997)

On Holy Thursday we celebrate the Last Supper, which includes the washing of feet. The Mass concludes with a procession to an Altar of Repose which represents being in the Garden of Gethsemane with Jesus right before He is arrested. He asks us as He asked the apostles, "can you drink the cup (of suffering) I will drink?"

Good Friday brings reflective services that include the Seven Last Words (Sayings) of Christ from the four Gospels, Stations of the Cross, a reenactment/drama at the Fairgrounds, and in the evening the Veneration of the Cross. Every Good Friday we read the Passion Narrative from the Gospel of St. John.

Holy Saturday, Jesus is in the tomb and the whole world awaits His victory. We gather in darkness at 8:30 p.m. to light the Easter Candle and announce "Christ, Our Light!" We then enter the Church and hear a number of stories before the Old Testament, then the New Testament, and then an Easter Gospel. Catechumens and candidates are received into the Church and receive our sacraments for the first time. We return again on Easter Sunday to celebrate the Empty Tomb and then to go out and bring the Good News to all the world.

May this Easter bring you to Jerusalem, to be part of Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. May Easter remind us that no matter how dark things may seem Jesus has "overcome the world" and is the new dawn of our salvation.

✿ Prayer ✿

"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." (J. Berthier, *Taize*)



"2010" Weekly Budget	\$5,350.00
Offertory collected March 21 st	\$5,563.54
Difference	+\$ 213.54
Second Collections	
03/21/10 "St. Vincent de Paul".....	\$ 1,529.43
03/21/10 "Easter Flowers"	\$ 1,412.23
03/21/10 "Building Fund".....	\$ 871.00
Campaign '10 Pledges:	
Total donations made (from pledges) as of 03/14/10.....	\$ 91,373.33
March 21 st Collections.....	\$ 380.00
New Campaign total donations from pledges.....	\$91,753.33

Next Week's Second Collection

Yet again we will have three collections next week. We will have the collection for our Archdiocesan Seminarians and the third collection will be for the St. Clement's Building Fund. Apologies can express how sorry we are about these mix ups. We will have one more in May, and will let you know how we are going to break them up when the time arises. Thank you thank you thank you for your patience and understanding.

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

March 28, 2010

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-71

My face I did not shield from buffets and spitting, knowing that I shall not be put to shame.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Christ humbled himself. Because of this God greatly exalted him.

Gospel: Matthew 27:11-54

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Living the Paschal Mystery

For most of us Holy Week unfolds like many other weeks; we still contend with work, school, preparing meals, doing laundry, cranky folks, the usual triumphs and setbacks. Palm Sunday begins an extraordinary week-a week that concentrates in a few days the ultimate meaning of our whole lives. We must slow ourselves down and make choices so that this week doesn't go by without our taking the time to enter into its meaning. We celebrate in the liturgies what we live every day-all the dying to self that characterizes truly faithful disciples of Jesus. We are invited to proceed in innocence by being compassionate toward others. This means doing our usual tasks with joy, being kind to those cranky folks around us, meeting setbacks as paths to learning. This innocence is possible when we commend ourselves into God's hands. ~Living Liturgy

Stewardship Thought

In the gospel story of the first Palm Sunday, we hear that the owners of the ass had only to be told, "The Master has need of it," to give the animal gladly. Do I give as readily to the Lord's work?

Saturday March 27, 5:30pm.....	Robert Cushing (RIP)
Sunday, March 28, 8:30am.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, March 28, 10:00am.....	(Spanish Mass) Javier Zavala (RIP)
Sunday, March 28, 12:00pm.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, March 28, 2:00pm.....	(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family
Sunday, March 28, 7:00pm.....	(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family
Monday, March 29, 12:15pm.....	Daily mass
Tuesday March 30, 12:15 pm.....	Communion Service
Tuesday March 30, 5:00 pm.....	Chrim Mass (Cathedral of Christ the King)
Wednesday, March 31, 12:15pm.....	Daily mass
Wednesday, March 31, 6:30 pm.....	Rosary
Thursday, April 1, 7:00pm.....	Mass of the Lord's Supper
Friday, April 2, 12:00pm.....	Seven Last Words
Friday, April 2, 3:00pm.....	Stations of the Cross (English)
Friday, April 2, 5:00pm.....	Living Stations in Spanish @ Fairgrounds
Friday, April 2, 7:00pm.....	Veneration of the Cross@ the Church & Fair Grounds
Saturday April 3, 8:30pm.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, April 4, 8:30am.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, April 4, 10:00am.....	(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family
Sunday, April 4, 11:30 am.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, April 4, 1:00pm.....	(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family
Sunday, April 4, 7:00pm.....	(Spanish Mass) Our Parish Family

Young Adult Spiritual Social



St. Clement's would like to invite young adults ages 19 - 30 to our new "Young Adult Spiritual Social". Join us on Wednesday, April 7th from 7-9:00 p.m. downstairs in the

parish hall. Refreshments will be served to welcome all our newcomers to this exciting new group. So grab a friend (Catholic or Non), and join us for good conversation and spiritual awakening.

Please pray for the people who are suffering:



Donna Thibault - respiratory illness, Barbara Smith-cancer, Marty McKinnon- ovarian cancer, Cayla Johnson-hydrocephalus, Joe Campbell-follicular lymphoma, Tonya Isham-tumor, Curtis Lunt-ill health, Melissa Silva-health, Juanita Rochester-cancer, Chuck Terry- prostate cancer, June Macejkovic-heart condition, Fr. Denis Kolumber-health, Ernie -

leukemia, Maria Farias- breast cancer, Jeanne Walraven-health, Jean Seitz-cancer, Angie Defalco-health, Erna Wyatt-health, Jim Rorer-special intention, Michael Llop-brain tumor, Erik Bigelow-special intention, Janice Miller-health, Lou Brown-brain cancer, Jaden Bates-health, Roy Davies- safety, The people of Haiti & Chile-health & safety, Chris Wable-health, Jim Wable-lung cancer, Marilyn Clayton-health, Ashlie Warren-health, Pearl Turner-health, Jenna Proctor-health, Jeff Elder-health, Serge Kastorsky-cancer, Terry Alan-bladder cancer, Lisa Clark-failed surgery, Betty Maddox-surgery.



STEWARDSHIP

A big thank you to Mike Turner who two weeks ago saved us more than \$7,000. Mike, who works in the fire protection field, discovered that we already have a backflow device for our parish hall sprinklers inside the building. The county had only looked at the water line outside and never checked inside. Mike is a catechumen in RCIA, hoping to become Catholic in the near future. Mike and his company inspected and certified our sprinkler system.

Also a huge thank you to all who worked on putting in the anti-moisture vapor barrier and the underpinnings (skirting) under and around our trailers. They spent most of last week on their knees and sometimes prostrate on the ground installing these protections that are required by the county. They include Mike Towe, Pamela Bagley, Greg Brown, Tony Fleming, James Howard, Jeremy Ivey, Joe McKenzie, Dan Tracey, Heather Ivey, and Liddy Burns. Many thank yous.

Also thank yous to all who have helped with our Lenten meals and the St. Patrick's Potluck. These meals were amazing.

Preparing for Easter

What a better way to help your children prepare for Easter than with a poem of reflection that they can relate to.

JELLY BEAN PRAYER

Red is for the blood He gave.

Green is for the grass He made.

Yellow is for the sun so bright.

Orange is for the edge of night.

Black is for the sins that were made.

White is for the grace He gave.

Purple is for the hour of sorrow.

Pink is for the new tomorrow.



A bag full of jelly beans, Colorful and sweet. Is a prayer...is a promise... Is an Easter treat. (www.penitents.org)

Archdiocesan News

The JESUIT RETREAT CENTER AT IGNATIUS HOUSE, 6700 Riverside Drive, NW, Atlanta, will hold a silent **HOLY WEEK RETREAT** March 31-April 3, conducted by Jesuit Father Edd Salazar. The theme of his presentations will be "Through the Eyes of Jesus," getting to know Jesus and his message as he goes through his final days. Men and women of all faiths and ethnic backgrounds are welcome. A \$50 deposit is required with registration. Contact: (404) 255-0503, ihsecretary@bellsouth.net or www.ignatiushouse.org to register.

Join an enthusiastic group of Catholic Charities Atlanta volunteers and professionals who work with non-English speaking adults from around the world. No additional language other than English is required. What is needed is the desire to **HELP ADULTS WHO WANT TO LEARN ENGLISH**. Classes are offered in north Atlanta, Sandy Springs, downtown Atlanta, Jonesboro, southwest Atlanta and Athens. Training and support are ongoing. Contact: Margaret Prickett at (770) 790-3118 or vol@catholiccharitiesatlanta.org.