

PALM SUNDAY

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY!

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4 - 7



The Servant of the Lord God was rebuffed but did not turn back.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:6 - 11

Christ was in the form of God but did not consider equality with God a thing to be grasped at.

GOSPEL READING: Mark 14:1 - 15:47

Jesus is betrayed, tried, condemned, crucified and buried; this is His passion and death. A roman soldier said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!" Faithful women stayed with Jesus.

In the Gospel that was read before the procession, the crowd was supportive, Joyous, loving. In the Passion, which is read now, the crowd is quite the opposite. Our palms still lying on the pew behind us, the crowd has become hostile, shouting "Crucify Him!" to Pilate, painting Jesus as a fraud and a danger. As we listen to Mark's account of the Passion, let us imagine the confidence Jesus had in His Father, enabling Him to be obedient to the point of death

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday Mass (Sunday Observance):

5:00 PM: God's protection and guidance for Anthony Renal rb His mother.

Sunday Masses:

7:30 AM: God's deliverance and healing for Melanie Alexander.

10:00 AM: God's guidance and protection for Anselma Maynard.

5:00 PM: God's healing and deliverance for the Haitian community.

Daily Masses:

Mon. Mar. 26, 7:00 AM: **St. Margaret Clitherow**
God's healing for Lanell Herbert.

Tues. Mar. 27, 7:00 AM: **St. John of Egypt**
Curtis Abraham (Deceased) rb Eve Ogiste.

Wed. Mar. 28, 7:00 AM: **St. Tutilo**
Birthday blessings for Tracy Rawlings rb Her mom.

Thurs. Mar. 29, 7:00 PM: **Holy Thursday; Sts. Jonas & Barachisius**
Lucia Ramos (Deceased) rb Olga McBean and family

Fri. Mar. 30, 3:00 PM: **Good Friday; St. John Climacus**
Happy birthday in Heaven, Eila F. Sewer (Deceased) rb
Her sister, GBC.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SECOND COLLECTION: This week's second collection goes towards the **Bishop's Appeal**. Next week's second collection will go towards the **Bishop's Appeal**. As always we thank you for your generosity.

ETERNAL CANDLE: This week the Eternal Candle is burning for **wedding anniversary blessings for Newman and Naomi Francis requested by their children**. You can request the Eternal Candle for your loved ones' birthdays or any special occasions.

BISHOP'S APPEAL: "Where there is a need, there is the Bishop's Appeal." In an age when it is more and more difficult to find funding for non-public schools, your gift to the Bishop's Appeal helps to provide scholarships to our four Catholic schools. Please give generously so that our children can receive a Catholic education.

For your convenience, you may choose to make a pledge now and spread your donation over several months. Donations may be made in the form of cash, check or credit card. Checks should be made payable to "Diocese of St. Thomas." Please see the brochure for further information. Thank You! **"Failure Always Looks for an Excuse, Success Always Looks for a Way, You Are Our Way to Success!"**

FOOD FOR THE POOR: This weekend we will collect non-perishable items for our less fortunate brothers and sisters within our community. As always, we thank you for your generosity and may God continue to bless you and your family abundantly. Once again, thank you.

CHRISM MASS: Please be informed that this year, the Chrism Mass will take place on **Tuesday, March 27, 2018**, at 11:30 a.m. in St. Croix. All are invited to attend if you can. Please pray for our bishop and priests of the diocese.

OFFICE CLOSED: Please note that the church office will be closed on **Holy Thursday, March 29, 2018, at 12 noon and ALL day on Good Friday, March 30, 2018 and Easter Monday, April 2, 2018**, respectively. Please be guided accordingly.

TRIDUUM SCHEDULE: HOLY THURSDAY: 7:00 p.m. Mass; GOOD FRIDAY: 2:00 p.m. Station of the Cross; 3:00 p.m. Service; HOLY SATURDAY: 7:00 p.m. Mass; EASTER SUNDAY: 5:30 a.m.; 7:30 a.m.; 10:00 a.m. and Creole mass at 5:00 p.m. Please be guided accordingly.

ADORATION: On Holy Thursday, there will adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after the 7:00 p.m. mass until midnight. We are encouraged to spend some time with Jesus. **"Couldn't you watch with me even one hour?" Matthew 26:40.**

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Stations of the Cross will begin at 2:00 p.m. in the church on **Good Friday** followed by the service at 3:00 p.m. **Please remember to fast and abstain on Good Friday.**

EASTER EGG HUNT: St. Vincent de Paul Society is sponsoring the usual Easter egg hunt on **Easter Sunday** after the 10:00 a.m. mass; however, they are kindly asking parishioners to kindly assist them in getting gifts for the children. Any help will be greatly appreciated. You may drop off the gifts at the church office during this coming week. Thank you and God bless you always.

MEMORIAL SERVICE: Please note that a memorial service for the late **Doris Taylor**, sister of Richard Callwood, Jr., will take place on **Tuesday, April 3, 2018**, at 10:00 a.m. at Holy Family church. May her soul and the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

REFURBISHING OF PEWS: Please be aware that the refurbishing of our pews has started. Please bear with us as some of the pews are corded off. Thank you for your understanding. God bless. Donations are appreciated.

LITURGY AND WORD

Pope Francis in his homily for the Palm Sunday 2015 says that at the heart of this celebration, which seems so festive, are the words we heard in the hymn of the Letter to the Philippians: "He humbled himself" (2:8).

Humility is above all God's way: God humbles himself to walk with his people, to put up with their infidelity. This is clear when we read the Book of Exodus. How humiliating for the Lord to hear all that grumbling, all those complaints against Moses, but ultimately against him, their Father, who brought them out of slavery and was leading them on the journey through the desert to the land of freedom.

We will feel the contempt of the leaders of his people and their attempts to trip him up. We will be there at the betrayal of Judas, one of the Twelve, who will sell him for thirty pieces of silver. We will see the Lord arrested and carried off like a criminal; abandoned by his disciples, dragged before the Sanhedrin, condemned to death, beaten and insulted. We will hear Peter, the "rock" among the disciples, deny him three times. We will hear the shouts of the crowd, egged on by their leaders, who demand that Barabbas be freed and Jesus crucified. We will see him mocked by the soldiers, robed in purple and crowned with thorns. And then, as he makes his sorrowful way beneath the cross, we will hear the jeering of the people and their leaders, who scoff at his being King and Son of God.

This is God's way, the way of humility. It is the way of Jesus; there is no other. And there can be no humility without humiliation.

There is another way, however, opposed to the way of Christ. It is worldliness, the way of the world. The world proposes the way of vanity, pride, success as the other way. The Evil One proposed this way to Jesus too, during his forty days in the desert. But Jesus immediately rejected it. With him, we too can overcome this temptation, not only at significant moments, but in daily

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Every week the report on stewardship will include our gifts of time, talent, and treasure. In gratitude to God, we give of our first fruits to help fulfill God's mission of love here on earth.

Attendance: Last Weekend: **436**

Last Weekend's collections

FIRST COLLECTION: \$5,741.94

Easter Flowers: \$1,888.86

Our Bishop's Appeal contribution for 2017 amounted to \$34,357.00, 86% of our goal of \$40,000.00. As always we thank you for your continuous contribution towards our Bishop's Appeal. Once again, thank you.

LITURGY AND WORD CONT'D

life as well.

In this, we are helped and comforted by the example of so many men and women who, in silence and hiddenness, sacrifice themselves daily to serve others: a sick relative, an elderly person living alone, a disabled person. We think too of the humiliation endured by all those who, for their lives of fidelity to the Gospel, encounter discrimination and pay a personal price. We think too of our brothers and sisters who are persecuted because they are Christians, the martyrs of our own time. They refuse to deny Jesus and they endure insult and injury with dignity. They follow him on his way. We can speak of a "cloud of witnesses" (cf. Heb 12:1).

Let us set about with determination along this same path, with immense love for him, our Lord and Saviour. Love will guide us and give us strength. For where he is, we too shall be (cf. Jn 12:26). Amen.



Palm Sunday