



## 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; he was beaten and spat upon. The suffering one knew the Lord God was with him.

**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. He emptied Himself, took the form of a slave, and was obedient unto death! Therefore, God exalted him, and all proclaim him Lord.

**GOSPEL READING: Matthew 26:14 - 27:66**

The passion and death of Jesus includes accounts of His betrayal, trial, condemnation, suffering, crucifixion, and burial. We've probably heard the narrative dozens of times: Jesus enters Jerusalem to cries of "Hosanna," but just a few days later the shouts He hears from the crowd are "Let Him be crucified!" As we listen today to Isaiah's prophecy, Paul's testimony, and Matthew's account of the Passion, let our exclamations echo those who came to believe almost two thousand years ago: "Truly, this was the Son of God!"

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### Saturday Mass (Sunday Observance):

**5:00 PM:** Blessings, guidance and protection for the Children of Mary.

#### Sunday Masses:

**7:30 AM:** Deacon Roy Brunery (*deceased*) rb St. Joseph Workers.

**10:00 AM:** Birthday blessings for Gifford Rene rb The Rene family.

**5:00 PM:** God's continued blessings for the Haitian community.

#### Daily Masses:

Mon. April 6, 7:00 AM: *Blessed Notker*  
Birthday blessings for Vivian Ovesen rb St. Joseph Workers.

Tues. April 7, 7:00 AM: *St. John Baptist de La Salle*  
Birthday blessings for N'Koya Browne rb Her family.

Wed. April 8, 7:00 AM: *St. Julie Billiard*  
The repose of the souls of all deceased Mountaineer priests.

Thurs. April 9, 7:00 AM: *St. Madeleine Sophie Barat (HOLY THURSDAY)*  
Rose & Richard Cook (*deceased*) rb Estelle Farro.

Fri. April 10, 7:00 AM: *The Passion of the Lord (GOOD FRIDAY)*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**BISHOP'S APPEAL:** Your gift to the Bishop's Appeal 2020 supports the soup kitchens that are part of the Catholic Charities program. Last year 155,000 meals and hundreds of nights of shelter for the homeless were provided to the poor through your generosity.

For your convenience, you may choose to make a pledge now and spread your payments over several months. Donations may be made in the form of cash, check or credit card. Please fill out the form in the brochure and make your checks payable to "Diocese of St. Thomas." Please see the brochure for further information. Thank You!

**"It's not how much we give, but how much LOVE we put into giving." – Mother Theresa**

**TELEVISED MASS:** Sunday mass is televised on Sunday at 10 a.m. from the Cathedral.

**ETERNAL CANDLE:** This week the Eternal Candle is burning *for God's continued blessings for Meredith Johnson, requested by Meredith Johnson*. You can request the Eternal Candle for your loved ones' birthdays or any special occasions.

**SYMPATHY:** On behalf of Holy Family parishioners, Rev. Kerly François and the Deacons, Rev. Neil Scantlebury extends sincere sympathy to Robert Greig and family on the passing of his mother, *Lorna Grieg*, who died on **Monday, March 16, 2020**. A funeral mass for the late *Lorna Grieg* is expected to take place on **Thursday, April 16, 2020**, at Holy Family Church. May her soul and the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

**SYMPATHY:** On behalf of Holy Family parishioners, Rev. Kerly François and the Deacons, Rev. Neil Scantlebury extends sincere sympathy to Suzanne Adrien and family on the passing of her son, *Mikey Adrien*, who died on **Sunday, March 29, 2020**. May his soul and the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

**EASTER EGG HUNT: CANCELLED**

**EASTER SUNDAY LUNCHEON: CANCELLED**

**CARNIVAL CRUISE: CANCELLED**



**STAY AT HOME, PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING AND PRAY FOR EACH OTHER.**

## LITURGY AND WORD

*So Thomas, called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go to die with him." John 11:16*

What a great line! The context is important to understand. Thomas said this after Jesus told His Apostles that He was going up to Jerusalem because Lazarus, His friend, was ill and close to death. In fact, as the story unfolds, Lazarus actually did die before Jesus arrived at his house. Of course, we know the end of the story that Lazarus was raised up by Jesus. But the Apostles tried to keep Jesus from going to Jerusalem because they knew there were many who had been quite hostile toward Him and wanted to kill Him. But Jesus decided to go anyway. It was in this context that St. Thomas said to the others, "Let us also go and die with him." Again, what a great line!

It's a great line because Thomas appeared to say this with a certain resolve to accept whatever was waiting for them in Jerusalem. He appeared to know that Jesus was going to be met with resistance and persecution. And he also appeared to be ready to face that persecution and death with Jesus.

Of course Thomas is well known to be the doubter. After Jesus' death and Resurrection he refused to accept that the other Apostles actually saw Jesus. But even though he is well known for his act of doubting, we should not miss the courage and resolve he had in that moment. At that moment, he was willing to go with Jesus to face His persecution and death. And he was even willing to face death himself. Even though he ultimately fled when Jesus was arrested, it's believed that he eventually went as a missionary to India where he did ultimately suffer martyrdom.

This passage should help us to reflect upon our own willingness to go forth with Jesus to face any persecution that may await us. Being a Christian requires courage. We will be different than others. We will not fit in with the culture around us. And when we refuse to conform to the day and age we live in, we will most likely suffer some form of persecution as a result. Are you ready for that? Are you willing to endure this?

## 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: **000**

Last Weekend's collections

**FIRST COLLECTION: \$0,000.00**

**Bishop's Appeal: \$000.00**

*Thank you for your contribution towards our 2020 Bishop's Appeal. We pray God's continued blessings upon you and your family. Once again, thank you.*

## LITURGY AND WORD CONT'D

We also must learn from St. Thomas that, even if we do fail, we can start again. Thomas was willing, but then he fled at the sight of persecution. He ended up doubting, but in the end he courageously lived out his conviction to go and die with Jesus. It's not so much how many times we fail; rather, it's how we finish the race.

Reflect, today, upon the resolve in the heart of St. Thomas and use it as a meditation upon your own resolve. Do not worry if you fail in this resolve, you can always get up and try again. Reflect also upon the final resolution St. Thomas made when he did die a martyr. Make the choice to follow his example and you, too, will be counted among the saints of Heaven.

**Lord, I desire to follow You wherever You lead. Give me a firm resolve to walk in Your ways and to imitate the courage of St. Thomas. When I fail, help me to get back up and resolve again. I love You, dear Lord, help me to love You with my life. Jesus, I trust in You.**

