

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

◆ March 20, 2016 ◆

Lk 19:28–40 ◆ Is 50:4–7 ◆ Phil 2:6–11 ◆ Lk 22:14—23:56 or 23:1–49

On Palm Sunday, we gather as a Church to celebrate Jesus' coming into Jerusalem and hear the story of his passion and death. Each Gospel writer tells the story a little differently. Each one lifts up different faces and characters, and through their eyes we watch what unfolds.

Luke's Gospel is the only one that mentions the women who followed Jesus from Galilee (23:55–56). We know nothing about these women other than where they came from, but two things stand out: These women temporarily set aside their Passover preparations to care for a man who had been publicly condemned as a criminal, and they were willing to look their beloved Jesus' death full in the face. They

watched while Joseph of Arimathea lay him in the tomb and made sure that Jesus would be cared for even in death. They saw where he was buried and laid out and then went to prepare the spices and oils that would anoint his body and honor it.

Today, these women are examples of the countless anonymous disciples who quietly challenge culture and politics to follow the Lord's call. We rarely notice them, even now, but they are in our churches and our neighborhoods, willing to do what needs to be done, even if it means suffering, sacrificing, or looking rejection and death in the face. As we enter Holy Week, these people just might be the companions we need.

MARY KATHARINE DEELEY
sundaybulletin@liguori.org



A Word From Pope Francis

"This week it would benefit all of us to look at the crucifix, to kiss the wounds of Jesus, to kiss them on the crucifix. He took upon himself all human suffering, he clothed himself in this suffering..."

General Audience,
April 16, 2014

Let us kiss the crucifix and say: for my sake, thank you Jesus, for me."

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

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 Rev. Leo S. Stajkowski.....In Residence
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 Parish Religious Education/CCD610 582-3880
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PALM SUNDAY – MARCH 20, 2016

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT 5:15 PM DEC'D MEMBERS OF MURPHY FAMILY
 SUN 7:30 AM LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS
 9:00 AM JOHN STIANCHE
 11:00 AM MARIE KOZAK
 MON 7:30 AM LINDA D'ALLESANDRO
 TUE 7:00 PM DEC'D MEMBERS OF THE MAMMARELLA FAMILY
 WED 7:30 AM JOSEPHINE, PETER & JOHN BOGUS
 9:00 AM ICA MASS – JENNIFER KNESS

THU 7:00 PM FR. JOSEPH BARNES & MSGR. THOMAS BIRCH
 FRI 3:00 PM COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION
 SAT 8:00 PM EASTER VIGIL – OUR PARISHIONERS
 SUN 7:30 AM EASTER FLOWER MEMORIAL ENVELOPES
 9:00 AM EASTER FLOWER MEMORIAL ENVELOPES
 11:00 AM EASTER FLOWER MEMORIAL ENVELOPES

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Kate Johnson

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

SCRIP: We are most grateful to our parish volunteers who faithfully assist us with SCRIP sales every weekend. There will be no SCRIP sales on Easter Sunday.

DAY	MASS	LECTOR	COMMENTATOR
SAT	8:00pm	Mary Jo Simon	Toni Kaucher
SUN	7:30am	Jim Kaucher	Sean Werner
	9:00am	Susan DiGuglielmo	Isabelita Santos
	11:00am	Rhonda Ouimet	Jim Keaveney

ALTAR SERVERS
 Mickey Gray, Ian Haynes, Jonathan McCollum, Colby Mullins, Tim Stewart
 Adam and Carlina Davis, Kathryn Krueger
 Ally Santos, Jacob Santos, Olivia Ruff
 Carson Endy, Alex and Madilynn Hocker

Lenten Penance Service

**will be held on Monday,
 March 21st at 7pm. At that
 time, several priests will
 be available for the
 Sacrament of
 Reconciliation. Plan to
 attend and encounter our
 Merciful Savior Jesus
 Christ.**

Remember in your prayers the sick of our parish: Marco Fiato, Bryan Fiato, John & Margaret Kakas, Maryanne Prentice, Tracy Seasholtz, Aaron Gulla, Delores Woy, Alice Arantowicz, Alice Smyk, Yolanda Marino, Marjorie & Walter Hansen, Marie Snyder, Ann Schlott, Maryanna Niemczyk, Kathy Patrick, Joseph & Susan McCorristin, Mary & Phil Morici, Margaret Maccarone, Father Joseph Campion, Dan Casciano, Paisley Stout, Jake Maccarone, Linda Rathman, William Janda, Curt Miller, Frances Bambrick, James Smith, Mike Kovach, William Reardon, Maryanne Emory, Madge Butto, Rose Malcolm, Dylan Spriggs, Doris Slater, Henry Wade, Jr., Joan Cronin, Rita Conrad, Vicki Barletta, Sara Norris, Ryan Curley, Brendan Carr, Paul Geiger, Helen McDonald, Mark McDonald, Angeline Erjavec and Sophie Brossman

Pray for the recently deceased: Reverend John W. Bambrick, Anthony Erjavec, Jr. and Kate Johnson (Monsignor Klinger's sister)

THIS WEEK AT ICC:

Sun 03/20 Pickup Easter Candy
4pm **LIVING STATIONS**
Mon 03/21 7pm Lenten Penance Service
8pm RCIA

WHAT'S HAPPENING

LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Palm Sunday, March 20th - 4pm

Children from Immaculate Conception Academy will present the Living Stations of the Cross.

Everyone is cordially invited to participate in the beautiful reenactment of the events of Calvary. Please come to celebrate with us, and witness this beautiful Lenten Prayer lovingly offered to you by Immaculate Conception Academy students.

In observance of Holy Week, our Parish Office will be closed on Holy Thursday (March 24th), Good Friday (March 25th) and Easter Monday (March 28th). We wish you a very holy and happy Easter!

Easter Candy is ready March 20. There will be extra for sale \$5 for ½ pound box and \$10 for a 1 pound box.

Community Cross Walk - On March 25th, you are invited to share in a Good Friday Community Cross Walk in Birdsboro praying for the outpouring of God's love upon our community. The evening begins with a free community soup, salad, and sandwich dinner at St. Mark's Lutheran from 5-6pm (arriving as you are able). Then at 6pm the Cross Walk begins with stops at Boyer's, the elementary school, Fire Company, 1st Street Players, and Main Bird Park, before concluding at Alice Focht UMC, where a closing worship service will be held from 7:15-8pm. Shuttle service is available during the walk and from Alice Focht back to St. Mark's following the closing worship. All are welcome to share in the different parts as fully as your schedule permits.

EASTER EGG HUNT for our parish children ages 12 and younger on March 26th at 11am in the social hall. We are collecting bags of small individually wrapped candy and cash. A donation box will be in the narthex of the church.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS The Junior High School Youth Group will meet on April 1st, 7-9pm. All teenagers in our parish in grades 7 and 8 are welcome to attend for an evening of fun, food and prayer. You are welcome to bring a friend!

Our Lady's Missionaries of the Eucharist Invite You To:
Divine Mercy Sunday, April 3, 11am-2pm - Principal Celebrant for Holy Mass and Homilist: The Most Reverend Barres, Bishop of Allentown - Conference Presenter: Sister Joan Noreen
Divine Mercy Sunday will include Conference, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Divine Mercy Devotions, Sacrament of Reconciliation, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, and Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. To register, contact Our Lady's Missionaries of the Eucharist, 640 E. Main St., Birdsboro
olme@olme.org ♦ 610-582-3333 ♦ www.olme.org
ALL ARE WELCOME! BRING A FRIEND!
YOUR GENEROUS DONATION WILL BE DEEPLY APPRECIATED.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 20th, 7:30am, 9am and 11am
Blessing of Palms at all Masses
Solemn Blessing of Palms and Procession at 11am
Living Stations of the Cross at 4pm

Penance Service

Monday, March 21st, 7pm
Several Priests will be available for confessions

Holy Thursday

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7pm
Family Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
After evening Mass until 10pm
(Come, "Watch One Hour" with Jesus)

Good Friday

Commemoration of the Lord's Passion, 3pm
Confessions following until 5:30pm
Day of Fast and Abstinence

Holy Saturday

Blessing of Food at Noon
Confessions from 12:30pm to 2pm
The Easter Vigil Mass at 8pm
Reception of RCIA Candidates

Easter Sunday

Masses at 7:30am, 9am and 11am
Blessing of the Children's Easter Baskets at 9am, 11am

SAVE THE DATE!

Immaculate Conception Academy Spring Open House

Sunday, April 10, 2016 10am-1pm.

**Please join us for preschool story times,
STEM Lab family projects, teacher meet and
greet and school tours!**

Immaculate Conception Academy offers a 21st century education for students in preschool through grade 8, including a full day Kindergarten program. Kindergarten students must be aged 5 by 10/15/16 and 1st grade students aged 6 by 10/15/16.

Bishop's Tuition Transfer Grants are available for any public, private or charter school student who transfers into Immaculate Conception Academy grades 1-7. These grants are **\$1,500 over two years** (\$1,000 for the first year; \$500 for the second). Find out what an ICA education can do for your student!

Can't join us? Please contact Adele Reilly, Advancement Director at 610-404-4645 or adele.reilly@icaknights.org to arrange a tour.

Diocese of Allentown Youth Rally - Teens in grades 8 through 12 are welcome! Join us April 9th, 1-8pm at Berks Catholic High School for a celebration of faith and. Rally highlights include: keynote speaker, Mike Patin; workshop leader, Allen Austin; worship band, Sean Patrick Malloy Band; and Eucharistic Adoration with Bishop Barres. **Register by March 21** at \$15/person which includes dinner and a t-shirt. www.allentowndiocese.org/united
Catholic books, CDs, pamphlets are available in the narthex. Check out the Stewardship Ministry displays since new material is added regularly. Learn more about our Faith.

March 20, 2016

Dear Padre



PHOTOSEBIA / SHUTTERSTOCK

Did Jesus have to die in such a terrible manner?

Q Why did Jesus have to die such a horrible death? Wasn't there an easier way to redeem us?

Every Good Friday we are brought face to face with the crucifixion. Many of us have seen violent and bloody depictions of Christ's death and found them difficult to watch. Since we serve an all-good, all-loving God, how could he allow this to happen to his Son? Couldn't God have forgiven us without the sacrifice?

God is indeed a God of mercy, but we often forget that he is also a God of justice. He can certainly forgive all our sins, but in the process he cannot (will not) deny the righteousness of justice. We all yearn for justice. We want to see good rewarded and evil punished. So God is very good, and the fact is, our sins are also very bad. We deserve punishment, even death, for denying God and for hurting others. If God were to condemn me, it would not be unfair. I would be getting exactly what my sins deserve. I am happy to say that is not where the story ends! Jesus came to take our just punishment so that we could receive mercy and justice in their fullness. Jesus reveals to us a God who is just, merciful, and ready to suffer because he loved sinners. Praise his name forever!

Liguori.org



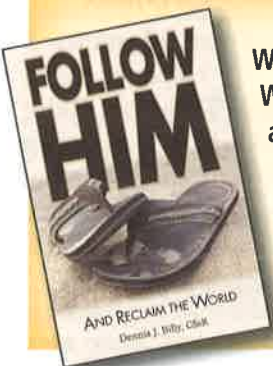
FR. MATTHEW BONK, CSSR
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FOLLOW HIM

We are called to live out our faith by building deep, loving relationships. When we do so, our faith stops being merely a long list of dos and don'ts and becomes instead a vibrant living out of our friendship in Christ. We understand that following Christ means loving like him and firmly believing that nothing can separate us from his own love for us.

—From *Follow Him and Reclaim the World* by Dennis J. Billy, CSsR (826504)

To see sample pages from this book, visit Liguori.org and type the title or 826504 in the search bar, or call us at 800-325-9521.



Monday

MARCH 21

Holy Week

Is 42:1–7

Jn 12:1–11

Tuesday

MARCH 22

Holy Week

Is 49:1–6

Jn 13:21–33, 36–38

Wednesday

MARCH 23

Holy Week

Is 50:4–9a

Mt 26:14–25

Thursday

MARCH 24

Holy Thursday

Ex 12:1–8, 11–14

1 Cor 11:23–26

Jn 13:1–15

Friday

MARCH 25

Good Friday

Is 52:13—53:12

Heb 4:14–16; 5:7–9

Jn 18:1—19:42

Saturday

MARCH 26

Holy Saturday

Gn 1:1—2:2

or 1:1, 26–31a

Gn 22:1–18 or

22:1–2, 9a, 10–13, 15–18

Ex 14:15—15:1

Is 54:5–14

Is 55:1–11

Bar 3:9–15, 32—4:4

Ez 36:16–17a, 18–28

Rom 6:3–11

Lk 24:1–12

Sunday

MARCH 27

Easter

Acts 10:34a, 37–43

Col 3:1–4 or 1 Cor 5:6b–8

Jn 20:1–9

or Lk 24:1–12