

# Sacred Heart Church



260 High Street, Mount Holly, NJ 08060-1404

Telephone: 609-267-0209 • FAX: 609-267-9293 • Website: [www.parishofsacredheart.org](http://www.parishofsacredheart.org)

Office Hours: Mon. - Sat. 9:00am - 5:00pm (Closed for Lunch 12:00pm-1:00pm)

Evening Office Hours: Mon. - Fri. 6:00pm - 9:00pm • Sunday 8:30am - 1:00pm

## Mass Schedule

**Saturday: 4:30pm (Vigil)**

**Sunday: 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am & 7:00pm**

Weekday: Mon.-Fri. 7:00am & 8:30am

Saturday: 8:30am

## Confessions

**Saturday: 3:30pm - 4:00pm**

(Reconciliation Rooms are to the right of the Eucharistic Chapel)

## Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. John P. Czahur ext. 308

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Roberto Padilla  
Residence: Christ The Redeemer Church  
113 South Avenue, Mt. Holly  
(609) 261-0181

Deacons: Deacon Jim Casa  
[fisherking13@comcast.net](mailto:fisherking13@comcast.net)  
Deacon John Hoefling  
Deacon Stan Orkis  
Deacon William Rowley

Parish Secretary: Mrs. Michele O'Toole ext. 301  
[secretary@parishofsacredheart.org](mailto:secretary@parishofsacredheart.org)

Business Manager: Mrs. Deneen Thomas ext. 303

Cemetery Manager: Mrs. Paula Pietrow ext. 304

[cemeterymgr@parishofsacredheart.org](mailto:cemeterymgr@parishofsacredheart.org)

Pastoral Administrator: Mrs. Marge McGinley ext. 306

[mcginley@parishofsacredheart.org](mailto:mcginley@parishofsacredheart.org)

Asst. to Pastoral Admin.: Ms. Merry Marcellino ext. 305

[ministry@parishofsacredheart.org](mailto:ministry@parishofsacredheart.org)

Parish Maintenance Mr. Jason D'Entremont ext. 319

[jasontmd@parishofsacredheart.org](mailto:jasontmd@parishofsacredheart.org)

## Sacred Heart School

250 High Street, Mount Holly, NJ 08060

Telephone: 609-267-1728

Email: [schooloffice@sacred-heart-school.org](mailto:schooloffice@sacred-heart-school.org)

Website: [www.sacred-heart-school.org](http://www.sacred-heart-school.org)

Principal: Ms. Kathryn Besheer ext. 340

Admin. Assist. Margo Lihvarcik ext. 316

## Sacred Heart Religious Education

Telephone: 609-267-6319

Email: [rel.ed@parishofsacredheart.org](mailto:rel.ed@parishofsacredheart.org)

Director of Rel. Ed: Mrs. Jessica Donohue ext. 307

Admin. Assistant: Mrs. Amy Raimondi ext. 324

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs. 9:00am – 2:00pm

### **Fall Program Class Times**

Grades 1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Tuesday: 5:30pm to 6:45pm

Grades 1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Wednesday: 5:30pm to 6:45pm

**April 8 – April 9 2017**  
**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

### **Parish Registration**

Our Parish family warmly welcomes new members. Please register at your earliest convenience by stopping by the Parish House during the office hours.

### **The Sacrament of Baptism**

We welcome new life into the Church through the sacramental sign of Baptism which is celebrated **every Sunday of the month at 1:00pm** with the exception of Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. We encourage parents who wish to have their child baptized to call the Parish Secretary, Michele O'Toole, at 609-702-1848 ext. 301 or stop in and pick up a Baptism packet.

Once the Baptismal Preparation class is attended, the form completed and the Godparent Eligibility Certificates are turned in then a date for your child's Baptism will be set.

### **Baptismal Preparation**

Catholic Godparents are required to complete an Eligibility Certificate and have the certificates signed by the pastor of the parish where they are currently registered and practicing their faith.

We offer a Baptismal Prep Class for parents as a way of preparing them for their child's journey of faith. Classes are scheduled for the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm. Please contact the Parish Secretary to register.

### **Sacramental Sponsorship Letter**

This is a form required to be a Godparent or Sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation. To receive this form the following requirements must be met:

- If married, be in a valid marriage according to the laws of the Catholic Church.
- Be at least 16 years of age.
- Completed the Sacraments of Initiation; Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation
- Be a registered, active participant of a Parish.

### **The Sacrament of Marriage**

Couples wishing to celebrate and consecrate their love in the Sacrament of Marriage are asked to call the Parish Secretary, Michele O'Toole at 609-702-1848 ext. 301.

**Arrangements are to be made with the Pastor a year in advance of the requested date.** At least one person should be a registered member of the parish. All couples are required to attend preparation sessions.

### **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick**

Any Catholic who is seriously ill, advanced in age, or who feels the need for the comforting presence of the Church's sacramental prayer life may be anointed. Please contact the Parish Office at 609-702-1848 ext. 301 during office hours. In the case of an emergency, please call and follow the instructions listed on our telephone message.

### **Funerals**

In all cases, the family of the deceased parishioner should contact the funeral home directly. They will contact the Church to make further arrangements. For information regarding our Parish Cemetery, please call the Cemetery Office at 609-702-1848 ext 304

### **Care of the Sick, Homebound and Elderly:**

The sick, the homebound and the elderly are valued members of our parish. Please call the Parish House at 609-267-0209 ext. 305 for a visit.

### **Bulletin Articles**

Articles for the Bulletin need to be submitted **No Later than Friday** to appear the next weekend (**9 days prior**). Articles can be emailed to

[bulletins@parishofsacredheart.org](mailto:bulletins@parishofsacredheart.org)

**April 8 – April 9 2017**  
**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK**  
**April 10<sup>th</sup> - April 16<sup>th</sup>**

**MONDAY**

7:00am **Josephine Muller** Req. By Phil & Elaine Ryan

8:30am **Merelyn Galloza** Req. By Mrs. Gloria Jenkins & William (Wax) Palese

**TUESDAY**

7:00am **Juan Peña** Req. By Eliza Peña

8:30am **Umeh Muomah** Req. By His Family

**WEDNESDAY**

7:00am **Theresa M. Cawley** Req. By Yodi & Bill Langan

8:30am **Stanley Kiczek** Req. By The Dziadosz Family

**HOLY THURSDAY**

8:30am Morning Prayer

7:30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

**The deceased members of the Gallagher Family** Req. By the McGinley Family

**GOOD FRIDAY**

8:30am Morning Prayer

3:00pm The Lord's Passion – Veneration of the Cross and distribution of Holy Communion

7:00pm Stations of the Cross

**HOLY SATURDAY**

8:30AM Morning Prayer

11:00AM Blessing of Easter Food

8:00PM Solemn Easter Vigil

**EASTER SUNDAY**

7:30am **The People of the Parish**

9:30am Church **Fred & Agnes Hammer** Req. By Their Family

9:30am Auditorium **Eleanor Toporek** Req. By Joseph & Dolores Chepega

11:30am Church **Walter Indyk** Req. By His wife Barbara

11:30am Auditorium **E.D. Stringfield** Req. By The Legion of Mary

**No Evening Mass on Easter**

*The Devotional Candle in the Chapel of the Two Hearts*



*Will Burn For the Special Intentions of:  
 Cecicila Coutinho & Family*

**Eucharistic Adoration** – Come and spend time in the quiet with Our Lord in the Chapel of the Two Hearts located next to the Parish House. Our Chapel is open for you and Jesus to spend some time during the following hours:  
 Monday through Friday 9:00am to 8:30pm  
 Saturday 9:00am to noon.

**Readings for the Week**

**Monday:** Is 42:1-7; Jn 12:1-11

**Tuesday:** Is 49:1-6; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

**Wednesday:** Is 50:4-9a; Mt 26:14-25

**Thursday:** Lord's Supper: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15

**Friday:** Is 52:13 — 53:12; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1 — 19:42

**Saturday:** Gn 1:1 — 2:2 [1:1, 26-31a]; Ex 14:15 — 15:1/Is 55:1-11; Rom 6:3-11/ Mt 28:1-10

**Sunday:** Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Col 3:1-4 Jn 20:1-9

**SUNDAY OFFERING**

**Weekly 4/1 – 4/2 \$ 16, 512.47**

*Thank you for the faithful and generous support that you continue to give to our Church.*



**April 8 – April 9 2017**  
**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

Dear Parishioners,

The liturgies of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday Night are the most important of the entire year. Through these services we celebrate our own dying and rising in the Lord. Please refer to the schedule below and make plans to gather with us in worship and prayer, as we commemorate the great mystery of our redemption.

Father John

**HOLY WEEK CONFESSIONS**

Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> **9:00am - 9:30am** and  
**3:00pm – 3:30pm**  
 Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup> **5:00pm– 5:30pm**  
 Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> **9:00am – 9:30am**  
 Holy Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup> **12:00pm–12:30pm**  
 Note that confessions will *not* be available  
 Good Friday or Holy Saturday:  
*The dates & times above will be the last  
 opportunity for confessions before Easter.*

**HOLY WEEK**



**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**The Sacred Triduum**

**HOLY THURSDAY (April 13<sup>th</sup>)**

8:30am Morning Prayer  
 7:30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper  
 Following Mass – The Garden Experience  
 Eucharistic Adoration until midnight (Night  
 Prayer at 11:45pm)

**GOOD FRIDAY (April 14<sup>th</sup>)**

8:30am Morning Prayer  
 11:00am Stations of the Cross (Sacred  
 Heart Cemetery)  
 3:00pm The Lord's Passion – Veneration of  
 the Cross and distribution of Holy Communion  
 7:00pm Stations of the Cross

**HOLY SATURDAY (April 15<sup>th</sup>)**

8:30am Morning Prayer  
 11:00am Blessing of Easter food  
 8:00pm Solemn Easter Vigil

**No confessions or 4:30pm Mass**



**EASTER SUNDAY (April 16<sup>th</sup>)**

7:30am MASS - Church  
 9:30am MASS – Church &  
 Auditorium  
 11:30am MASS – Church &  
 Auditorium  
 (NO EVENING MASS)



**The Parish Office will be closed from  
 Good Friday until Tuesday April 17<sup>th</sup>**

**There will be no Eucharistic Adoration  
 Holy Thursday through Easter Monday.  
 The Chapel of the Two Hearts will  
 reopen on Tuesday April 17<sup>th</sup>**

**April 8 – April 9 2017**  
**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

**Please remember in your prayers:**

Connie Vazquez, Vinnie Vazquez-Garcia, Paisley Trojanowski, Talia Rosko, Bobby Sumanga, Pat Adornetto, Megan Dezur, John McMullen, Freddie J. Faber, III, Mary Parker, Arleen Bishop, Matthew Ottenwess, Martin O'Connor, Tracy & Erica Schwab, Matthew McDonald, Lenore Scatuorchio, Kristal Faber, Alice Farkas, Justin Beckett, Robert Lally, Tonya DeMaio, Olga Aponte, McKenzie Hunter, Gail Reilly, Alva Marino, Paul J. Marcinko, Fred Zimmer, Wayne Potts, Stephanie Martin, Corey Kaiser, Stella Grundahl, Rebecca Bozarth, Matthew Wernoch, Kay Weiss, Maria Wolfe, Casey Davitt, Fredrick Naphys, Margaret Brock, Herbert Cucuini, Daniel Toussaint, Baby Zoey Reed, Mason Damico, Lynn Kellogg, David McCoy, Lois Pedrick, John Rubino, George Sampson, Evan Martinez, Trey Nieves, Gisela Harrell, Camila Doris Perez, Annabelle Ochipinti, Loretta Minakee, Patricia Parker, Sabrina Kaiser, Wilma Peterson, Christine, Morgan Ackerman, Celeste Bunn, Tom Polinski, Raymond Bishop, Jenny Hand, Patricia O'Connor, George Schneider, Marie Donahue, Peggy Stewart, Dylan Crespo, Doris Gallo, Sharon Carroll, Teddy Smith, Arthur Netti, Clara Hynes, Don Hartman, Mary Hartman, Daniel DeMaio, Frank Anton, Michelle Schafle Reed,

As a parish family we remember all who are struggling or suffering in mind, body, or spirit, especially those who have requested our prayers.

**Please pray for the men and women now serving in the military, especially the loved ones of our parishioners who are serving overseas:**

L.Cpl. Noah Stimiloski U.S.M.C.  
Capt. Robert J. Boccio, U.S.A.F.  
Michael Bakker, Isaac Paredes  
Douglas Schwenck, Army Reserve  
Richard DeLorge U.S.M.C.  
Peter Liedman, Dorinia Dibuono  
Capt. James Rankin U.S.M.C.  
SSgt Daniel E. Naro, Sgt. Alison Lyport  
Sgt. Stephanie Robertson, U.S. Army  
Sgt. Russell Norton, NG Army  
Cpl. Marshall Norton, U.S.M.C.  
Corporal Maxwell Hughes, U.S.M.C.  
Lt. Matthew Carr, U.S.M.C.  
Lt. Victoria Holbert, U.S.M.C.

**The Garden Experience**  
Share in the experience of prayer in the Garden with Jesus. On Holy Thursday following the Mass of the Lord's Supper we will present the Garden Experience. "Watch and Pray" with Jesus. Listen as we hear the stories of Mary, Joseph, the woman with the hemorrhage and more tell of their relationship with Him. The Garden Experience is a beautiful way to prayerfully end the Holy Thursday Liturgy followed by Adoration and Night Prayer until Midnight. If you would be interested in reading a part for the Garden Experience, please call Merry Marcellino at 702-1848 extension 305. There are 17 parts that need to be filled. (3 male, 5 either male or female)

**Blue Mass**

Join the Diocese of Trenton at our 18th annual Diocesan Mass in Celebration of Law Enforcement celebrating the dedication of those men and women who, by serving in various agencies of law enforcement, sacrifice a great deal to provide for the safety of our communities.

Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2017

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Location: Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption  
151 N. Warren & Perry Street  
Trenton, New Jersey

For information, visit [www.bluemass.org](http://www.bluemass.org).



*Enhanced Stewardship through  
Electronic Funds Transfer®*

Parish Giving is simple, secure, and convenient: and, it offers tax benefits as well as parish benefits.

To get started, log on to Sacred Heart's web site <http://www.parihofssacredheart.org> and go to the *About tab*, a drop down menu will appear. Click on *Parish Giving*. You will see a link that says [Click here to enroll online now.](#) Then you can follow the easy registration steps. If you have questions, please call Parish Giving at 866-307-7140 or email: [info@parishgiving.org](mailto:info@parishgiving.org)

April 8 – April 9 2017  
PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD



**The Feast of the Divine Mercy;  
April 23, 2017**

We are celebrating the Feast of the Divine Mercy here at Sacred Heart Parish with a novena devotion praying the chaplet of the Divine Mercy starting Good Friday through the 1st Sunday of Easter. Everyone is invited to join in this novena.

**Divine Mercy Week**

April 14 – April 23<sup>rd</sup>

**NOVENA SCHEDULE:**

April 14 – After the 3:00PM Good Friday Service, we will gather in the Chapel

April 15 – After 8:30 Morning Prayer -Chapel

April 16 - After 11:30 Mass in the Church

April 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, - After the 8:30 Mass in the Church

April 23<sup>rd</sup> - Divine Mercy Sunday at 3:00 PM in the Church. Benediction follows ending novena.

Please come and join us in celebrating the Feast of the Divine Mercy. For questions please call Deacon William Rowley c/o Merry Marcellino 609-702-1848 ext. 305

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS TO SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR EASTER MISSION – May 8, 9, 10**

Our Mission Leader will be Sister Bridget Haase, an Ursuline Sister, author, speaker, and storyteller.

Sister Bridget, who has written the following books: “Doors to the Sacred: Everyday events as Hints of the Holy,” “Generous Faith: Stories to inspire Abundant Living,” “Enkindled,” “Life is a Gift.”

The theme of the mission will be *“Walking the Path of Faith: God’s Power, Providence, and Presence in our lives.”* Sister Bridget will be speaking to all of us on the weekend prior to the mission May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> at all of our Masses. Set the evenings of May 8, 9 and 10<sup>th</sup> aside and celebrate that Our Lord has risen!

**SERRA VOCATION PRAYER  
CHALICE**



**Prayer for Vocations**

Father in heaven, you sent us your only Son to redeem us and to build your kingdom on earth. Please give us the wisdom and strength we need to follow His call. Grant to the faithful a spirit of generosity, that Church vocations may flourish. Bless our Priests with holiness and courage,

that they may lead your people to Christ. Help all Religious Sisters and Brothers to fulfill their sacred promises and so be effective signs of your kingdom.

Lord, invite more men and women to your service. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**The Altar Rosary Society needs a few extra hands** – Perhaps you have heard the saying, “Many hands make light the work.” Well, there are many small altar linens that are used at our Masses. These linens are ironed so they look neat and clean during our Masses and there are many volunteers that make that happen. Turn on a good TV show, put up the ironing board and the iron and before you know it, you’ve ironed enough cloths for the week. We could use your help as little as once a month. For more details please call Carol Ward at (609)267-4811. Your Church family needs you!



April 8 – April 9 2017  
**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**



Palm Sunday-Passion Sunday

Matthew's Gospel account commemorating Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem to his death and burial is presented in such a way as to show that Jesus' life, death and resurrection are all in fulfillment of the ancient Scriptures. We can then proclaim with the centurion in the present tense, "Truly, this is the Son of God!"

In accepting the palm branch today we make a promise to follow Christ everywhere, from joy in Jerusalem to the cross on Calvary. We are reminded to live as baptized people entering into the Triduum, the center, the core of the entire year for Christians. Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday are connected intimately and liturgically and so should be our fasting, almsgiving, prayer, reflection, preparation and silence during this Holy Week.

**The SVDP Pantry is in need of the following:**

Jelly, Canned Soup, Canned Fruit, Tuna, Baked Beans, and Canned Vegetables. If you would like to make a monetary donation please make checks payable to:

**SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT de PAUL**  
*Thank you!*

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Mass of Thanksgiving for Marge McGinley, our Pastoral Administrator and for the gift she has been to all of us over these last 26 years on

**Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm followed by dinner in the auditorium.** She will be retiring at the end of May. All are invited! You may drop off your well wishes or email them to Merry and also if you wish to RSVP please email Merry at

[ministry@parishofsacredheart.org](mailto:ministry@parishofsacredheart.org)

or call 609-267-0209 x 305.

You can also go to our bulletin on the website

<http://parishofsacredheart.org>

and click on the Save the Date link to RSVP.

**Have Mercy on Us – a Volunteer Opportunity!**

Did you know that a large number of incarcerated people actually suffer from a mental health disorder. Once on appropriate medication, these offenders come to understand appropriate behavior and can re-enter our society as well-balanced persons. The problem that has existed for a long time is that people being released from prison are usually without medical insurance. So they become well-balanced in prison and upon release are off their medications. This system doomed to defeat must be corrected.

That is where the Burlington County Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul needs your help. We have been able to form a collaborative agreement with many groups (Board of Chosen Freeholders, County Social Services, Jail/Prison administration etc.) to work together so that an offender being discharged has the medical care that they need to help prevent this avenue of reoccurring imprisonment. When someone has to go to jail to get medical care there is something terribly wrong. If you would be able to volunteer one day a month – a Wednesday – from 1pm to 3pm – to assist offenders to fill out Medicaid forms please continue to read this!!! You would have to be a person of a clean criminal history and be willing to be present in an all-purpose room in the jail or prison. You would go through an orientation so that you would have a comfort level prior to the beginning of this volunteer activity. This is a secure environment so you will not be at risk. Still interested? Did you feel that n.u.d.g.e. (Notice the Urge to Do Good on this Earth)? Call Marge McGinley at (609)271-8310 or [svdpmcginley@gmail.com](mailto:svdpmcginley@gmail.com).



**April 8 – April 9 2017**  
**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

**Saint Joan of Arc Marlton**

Awakening the Brain – Saturday, April 29, 2017  
10:00 to 2:00

We will have Dr. Charlotte Tomaino, Phd, with us on April 29<sup>th</sup> to lead us through an Awakening of our Brains to the Fruits of the Year of Mercy. We will understand the brain functions we can control and how to do it. We can learn to listen and act from our hearts and souls to reduce stress, enhance physical wellness and stay smart in challenging times. Join us in Pedata Hall after the 9AM Mass for coffee and bagels. Bring your lunch with something to drink and take advantage of this special opportunity to grow both physically and spiritually.

The cost of the day is \$10.00.

Registration: Please send your name, phone number and email address if you have one with a check for \$10.00 made out to St. Joan of Arc to Mary Bernard, 206 Shalstone Lane, Marlton, NJ 08053, by April 15, 2017. If you have any questions, contact Mary at [weberwards@comcast.net](mailto:weberwards@comcast.net) or call 856-596-3227.

**OUR PROMISE TO PROTECT** The Diocese of Trenton is committed to the initiatives outlined in the U.S. Bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People in regard to the reporting and investigation of sexual abuse allegations involving minors. If you have been sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or if you know of someone who was, you can report that abuse through the diocesan Abuse Hotline: 1-888-296-2965 or via e-mail at [abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org](mailto:abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org). The Diocese of Trenton reports any allegations of sexual abuse to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. Anyone with an allegation is also encouraged to provide that information to local law enforcement authorities.

**Advance Notice:**  
**John Steinbeck's**  
***The Grapes of Wrath***  
**Deacon Jim Casa**

I never reveal summer 'read the book - see the movie' programs prior to Memorial Day Weekend; however, I will make an exception for the next project. Steinbeck's epic novel of the Joad family's migration from the Oklahoma dust bowl to the promised land of California is a powerful story of the power of a family's love, determination, sorrow, pain, hope and redemption. ***The Grapes of Wrath*** is more of an experience than a novel and, because it will be the longest book of our programs, I wanted to give you a head start for you to set aside your reading time. Don't let the book's length frighten you; it will be worth your effort (and, if you read ***The Grapes of Wrath*** way back in high school or college, do a re-read this summer).

In September, we will gather to watch the classic film based on the novel, starring Henry Fonda and directed by John Ford. Watch for our formal kick-off announcement on May 28.

**THE GENNESARET RETREAT** – This is a weekend retreat for those living with Life Changing Illness. Provided on this time of respite is a staff of Medical Personnel, Spiritual Directors, a caring team of helpers to assist retreatants, a retreat setting that allows time for rest and quiet, a focus on God's love, forgiveness and faithfulness. There is no cost to this retreat. For more information please call Hilare Reinold at 732-566-7237 or 732-371-1724.

May 19, 20, 21 and Oct 20, 21, 22 in 2017 at the Archdiocesan Retreat Center in Kearny, NJ





**April 8 – April 9 2017**  
**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

**Living the Good News Today**

*“Christ became obedient to the point of death.”*

Thirty years ago, I learned how to pray the *Liturgy of the Hours* (Divine Office). As a complement to the Mass, the Church offers this beautiful prayer at the various liturgical hours of the day throughout the whole world—a continuous wave of prayer that gives praise and glory to God. It doesn't take long after learning the pattern of this prayer to see that there are repetitions that we come to expect:

- The psalter is a four-week (28 days) cycle of psalms, canticles, Scripture readings, the Lord's Prayer, and intercessions;
- Three canticles from the Gospel of Saint Luke are recited daily at Morning, Evening, and Night Prayer (easy to memorize them!).
- On certain days of the week or during certain seasons of the year (Advent, Christmas, Lent, or Easter), the same psalms, canticles or Scripture readings can be a cornerstone for that day's prayer every week.

In the *Liturgy of the Hours*, this weekend's second reading from Saint Paul to the Philippians is one of those important canticles--part of every Sunday Evening Prayer I (sundown on Saturday night, when the Church begins the commemoration of the Lord's day of resurrection).

In March 2001, Pope St. John Paul II gave a general audience in Rome in which he announced his intention to begin weekly catecheses on the psalms and canticles of the *Liturgy of the Hours* to attract more lay faithful, in the spirit of the Third Millennium, to deepen their relationship with Christ. The Holy Father wrote: *“By praying the Psalms as a community, the Christian mind remembered and understood that it is impossible to turn to the Father who dwells in heaven without an authentic communion of life with one's brothers and sisters who live on earth.”*

After the pope made this announcement, I began to look forward to his weekly reflections, especially because the Holy Father provided such beautiful images for meditation during and after the prayers of the *Liturgy of the Hours*. He mapped them back to the early saints and Fathers of our Church tradition—centuries of faithful believers who handed the faith over to us today. Have fun with this link:

<http://members.wolfram.com/billw/psalter/jp2-b16-commentaries.html>

On Palm Sunday, we stand and participate in the Passion of Jesus Christ. As a prelude to this compelling Gospel, though, the canticle from Philippians offers us a unique vantage point from which to contemplate the suffering and death of Jesus, true God and true man, for all of humanity.

At his general audience on 19 November 2003, Pope St. John Paul II continued his weekly catecheses by

moving from the psalms to the canticles, starting with Philippians 2:6-11:

*“In addition to the psalms, the Liturgy of Vespers includes certain Biblical Canticles. The Canticle just proclaimed is undoubtedly one of the most significant and theologically rich. It is a hymn placed in the second chapter of the Letter of St Paul to the Christians of Philippi, the Greek city that was the Apostle's first stop of missionary proclamation in Europe. The Canticle is thought to be an expression of the original Christian Liturgy and it is a joy for our generation, after two millennia, to join in the prayer of the Apostolic Church.”*

As we once again begin Holy Week, let us embrace what Pope St. John Paul II had hoped for the People of God. Taking time with the canticle from Philippians, let us ponder the mystery of faith, which we acclaim at every consecration during Mass. St. Paul reminds us of the humility of the Son of God, the Word-Made-Flesh, who emptied Himself and *“became obedient to the point of death.”* What was Christ teaching us in this loving and total giving of self?



Pope St. John Paul II quoted Saint Ambrose, Doctor of the Church, on this same Scripture passage:

*“Christ, hung on the tree of the Cross... was pierced by the lance, whereby blood and water flowed out, sweeter than any ointment, from the victim acceptable to God, spreading throughout the world the perfume of sanctification.... Thus, Jesus, pierced, spread the perfume of the forgiveness of sins and of redemption. Indeed, in becoming man from the Word which He was, He was very limited and became poor, though He was rich, so as to make us rich through His poverty (cf. II Cor 8: 9). He was powerful, yet He showed Himself as deprived, so much so that Herod scorned and derided Him; He could have shaken the earth, yet He remained attached to that tree; He closed the heavens in a grip of darkness, setting the world on the cross, but He had been put on the Cross; He bowed His head, yet the Word sprung forth; He was annihilated, nevertheless He filled everything. God descended, man ascended; the Word became flesh so that flesh could revindicate for itself the throne of the Word at God's right hand; He was completely wounded, and yet from Him the ointment flowed. He seemed unknown, yet God recognized Him” (III, 8, Saemo IX, Milan-Rome 1987, pp. 131, 133).*

The crucifixion was a startling “descent” for those who did not yet understand what exaltation was to come for Christ Jesus, who emptied Himself. Without Christ's humility, we would never have known the victory of the resurrection. Let us join with St. Paul in declaring the awesomeness of our God!

*“Every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God.”*

Teresa S. Redder, OFS

**April 8 – April 9 2017**  
**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

**WEEKLY PLANNER**

**SUNDAY April 9<sup>th</sup>**

***Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord***

Adults RCIA LIB

No Baptisms

**MONDAY April 10<sup>th</sup>**

Confessions 5:00pm to 5:30pm

Children's RCIA 5:00pm PHMO

Cub Scouts 5:00pm – 8:00pm

**TUESDAY April 11<sup>th</sup>**

Religious Ed. Fall Program 5:30pm - 6:45pm

SVDP Meeting 7:00pm SVDP Center

Legion of Mary 7:00pm PHCR

Columbiettes 7:30pm Lib

Knights of Columbus 7:30pm PHMR

**WEDNESDAY April 12<sup>th</sup>**

Religious Ed. Fall Program 5:30pm - 6:45pm

OLPH 7:15pm Chapel

**HOLY THURSDAY April 13<sup>th</sup>**

School Half Day

**8:30am** Morning Prayer

Confessions 12:00pm to 12:30pm

**7:30pm** Mass of the Lord's Supper

Following Mass – The Garden Experience

Eucharistic Adoration until midnight

(Night Prayer at 11:45pm)

**GOOD FRIDAY April 14<sup>th</sup>**



**8:30am** Morning Prayer

**11:00am** Stations of the Cross

(Sacred Heart Cemetery)

**3:00pm** The Lord's Passion – Veneration of the Cross and distribution of Holy Communion

**7:00pm** Stations of the Cross

**HOLY SATURDAY April 15<sup>th</sup>**

**8:30am** Morning Prayer

**11:00am** Blessing of Easter food

**8:00pm** Solemn Easter Vigil

Reception in Parish House immediately following Mass

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**EASTER SUNDAY April 16<sup>th</sup>**

***Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord***

**7:30am Mass**

**9:30am Mass Church & Auditorium**

**11:30am Mass Church & Auditorium**

**Parish Office Closed**

Divine Mercy Chaplet after 11:30 Mass in the Church

**No 7pm Mass**

**EASTER MONDAY April 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Parish Office, Chapel and School Closed**

Divine Mercy after the 8:30 Mass in the Church

**TUESDAY April 18<sup>th</sup>**

School Closed

No Religious Ed. Classes

SVDP Meeting 7:00pm SVDP Center

Legion of Mary 7:00pm PHCR

Knights of Columbus Basketball 7:00pm Gym

**WEDNESDAY April 19<sup>th</sup>**

School Closed

No Religious Ed. Classes

OLPH 7:15pm Chapel

**THURSDAY April 20<sup>th</sup>**

School Closed

Mass Music Practice 6:00pm Church

Boy Scouts 7:00pm PHMR

Adult Choir 7:30pm Church

**FRIDAY April 21<sup>st</sup>**

School Closed

**SATURDAY April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive

