

Dear Friends,

This Sunday is known as Palm or Passion Sunday, it is the first day of Holy Week. So, permit me to say welcome to the celebrations of HOLY WEEK. Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday are called the Triduum, three days that are the highpoint of the Church liturgy. There are two Gospels proclaimed at today's Mass. The first Gospel, proclaimed before the procession with palms, tells us of Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. Riding on a borrowed colt, Jesus was hailed by the crowds as they shouted blessings and praise to God.

Who would have thought that the crowd who welcomed Jesus with such enthusiasm during his entry into Jerusalem would turn against him so quickly within days and demand his crucifixion and the release of Barabbas who had been condemned for murder? Their welcome and shouts for Jesus were superficial. Their support for him was only skin deep. It is easy for us to be part of a crowd that welcomed Jesus and it is easy to be part of a crowd that condemned him to death.

We remember history this week as we focus on the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus. This remembrance demands a future that is more than a repetition of the past. This remembrance should help us pay close attention to the suffering of our fellow human being, particularly, those who are innocent. It should help us to realize that nothing we do could be greater than what God has already done for us, we too should be ready and willing to spend our lives for the good of others.

This year's Chrism Mass will take place at St. Vincent de Paul in Austin on Tuesday at 10:30AM. Bishop Joe Vasquez along with all the priests in the Diocese will bless and consecrate the oils that will be used for sacraments from Easter Vigil until next Easter. It is a beautiful celebration during which the priests will also renew their commitment to their priestly ministry. In this celebration, the entire Church is fully present as we will have in attendance many permanent deacons, religious men and women and lay faithful of the diocese.

I invite you to join us and participate fully in all the liturgies of this Holy Week. On Thursday, we will celebrate a bilingual mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00PM. On Good Friday, We will have Stations of the Cross at 12:00 Noon and the Veneration of the Cross at 3:00PM. On Holy Saturday, we will celebrate the Easter Vigil Mass at 9:00PM. This is the mother of all nights. At the Vigil Mass, we will baptize and welcome into the Catholic Church new members. Our Easter Sunday Masses will be as every Sunday. Come celebrate with us the joy of the season.

Have a blessed Holy Week!!

Fr. Jude Uche, MSP

Domingo de Ramos

Nuestro viaje cuaresmal encuentra su clímax en la celebración de la Semana Santa. Nuestra liturgia comienza con la entrada triunfal de Jesús en Jerusalén, pero la lectura de la Pasión nos invita a caminar con Jesús a través del sufrimiento y la muerte también. La promesa de Dios es la plenitud de la vida, pero con frecuencia en su lugar nos aferramos a las promesas vacías de la vida que el mundo ofrece: poder, fama y riqueza material ¿A qué debemos morir para vivir más completamente con Cristo y compartir su vida?

Palm Sunday

Our Lenten journey climaxes in this celebration of Holy Week. Our liturgy begins with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, but the reading of the Passion invites us to walk with Jesus through suffering and death as well. God's promise is fullness of life, but often we cling instead to the empty promises of life that the world offers: power, fame and material wealth. To what must we die in order to live more fully with Christ and to share his life?

CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY APRIL 9

10 am First Communion Class

MONDAY APRIL 10

6:30 Gpo de Oracion Meeting-*Marian Rm*

TUESDAY APRIL 11

8 am Men's Group- *OLOG Room*

WEDNESDAY APRIL 12

5:30 Faith Formation

THURSDAY APRIL 13

Office half day

7 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper (Bilingual)

8-12 noon Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

FRIDAY APRIL 14

Office Close

12 Noon Youth Station of the Cross

3 pm Veneration of the Cross

SATURDAY APRIL 15

9 pm Easter Vigil (Bilingual)

SUNDAY APRIL 16

10:30 am Easter Egg Hunt

Mass Intentions

| | | | |
|-------|--------|---------------------|--|
| Sat. | Apr 8 | 5:30 pm | Marie Metcalfe + |
| Sun. | Apr 9 | 9:00 am 11:00 am | Brent Romero + Cruz Amezcua + Alejandro Quintero + |
| Mon. | Apr 10 | 6:00 am | |
| Tues. | Apr 11 | 6:00 pm | Nicholas Pritchett |
| Wed. | Apr 12 | 8:30 am | For the Persecuted Christians |
| Thurs | Apr 13 | 8:30 am | For the Persecuted Christians |
| Fri | Apr 14 | 12:00pm | For Victims of War |
| Sat | Apr 15 | 5:30 pm | For Victims of War |
| Sun | Apr 16 | 9:00 am 11:00 am | Nicholas Pritchett For the Families of St. Stephen. |

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The men's group meets every Tuesday morning at 8 am in the OLOG Room. If you have any questions please contact Robert Michalewicz.

Ministry Schedule for April 15-16, 2017

| Mass | Lector | Altar Servers | Ushers / Greeters | Ministers of Eucharist |
|----------|---|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| 5:30 PM | B Wald M Ramos P Watson J Villarreal | I Dworaczyk S Perez A Ortiz J Perez S Green | D Teague J Wilson G Pritchett | O Moreno R Schatte T Schatte Robert M B Yanez-S |
| 9:00 AM | B Hoelscher J Fulfer | C Carlson M Markham E Markham | M Dskocil B Johnson J LaCanne | Deacon Ernie L Simonette M Riley H Simonette C Brown |
| 11:00 AM | Y Ortiz P Garcia | F Ramirez D Arias M Hernandez De Jesus | M Esteves R Arias R Martinez | E de la Hoya E Olalde S Villarreal M Ramos L Perez |



The Amazing Grace Gift Shop is now officially open after all the masses.

If you would like to help, Please contact Mary Riley for more information. 254-231-8784.

Monetary Stewardship

Collection Last Week:

Regular: \$3,891.00

Online: \$ 338.36

Total \$4,229.36

Building Fund
\$ 4,186.00

remembering the words of the Lord who said, It is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35).

Killeen/Temple Deanery Lent Penance Service

April 10- St. Paul Chong Hassan, Harker Heights at 10 am & 7 pm

Office Closed

The Office will be closed Friday, April 14th and Monday, April 17th in observance of Holy Week



FAITH FORMATION

Wednesday, April 12 Faith Formation Classes - Holy Week
PreK-4th grade classes please bring a dozen hard boiled eggs to decorate.
Families may join students in Parish Hall from 5:30-6:30 pm to decorate eggs
Wednesday, May 10 Last Night of Faith Formation - Games & Picnic Dinner

HOLY WEEK

Holy Thursday April 13
Mass of the Lord's Supper
7:00 pm (Bilingual)
Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
8:00 pm- 12 midnight
Good Friday, April 14
Youth Station of the Cross
12 noon
Veneration of the Cross
3:00 pm
Holy Saturday, April 15
Easter Vigil
9:00 pm (Bilingual)
Easter Sunday, April 16
9:00 am Mass (English)
10:30 am Easter Egg Hunt
11:00 am Mass (Spanish)

St. Stephen Women's Society

SSWS will meet on Monday, April 10th at 6:30 pm on *OLOG Room*. The features speaker will be Dean Mooney, Manager of Floral Dept. Brookshire Bros. Mr. Mooney will bring and make some spring floral creations.

Easter Eggs Donations



St. Stephen will host annual Easter Egg Hunt for all children of the parish at 10:30 am on Easter Sunday, April 16. We are asking for donations of plastic eggs, candy and small items to put in the eggs. Please bring donations to the church office or place in the baskets in the back of the church. Thank you for your generosity and kindness.