



hosanna

he is here

blessed

Palm Sunday

9th April 2017

From the Pastor's Desk



This Sunday, we celebrate Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord that marks the beginning of Holy Week in which we commemorate the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Hailed during Palm Sunday, ridiculed during Good Friday, but exalted on Easter Sunday. All of these events we will unfold this week, especially as we enter into the Triduum. But the question is, how can we make this week holy in order to get into the paschal mystery that Jesus endured for us?

Let me share with you the thoughts of Fr. Jerry Orbos, an SVD priest, who came up with a meaning for every letter of the acronym HOLY WEEK. Hopefully this can be of help to us. He said:

H – Halt! Stop for a while or at least slow down, especially this week.

O – Off with your worldly concerns. Turn off your cellular phones if you have to, so that you can focus on your spiritual life this week. Don't let the world and its cares disturb the tranquility of your mind and soul this week. Let the world go by and let the Lord take care of everything.

L – Listen. If you are in the Off or Silent Mode, then you can really listen, pray and meditate. Take time to listen to God and tell Him what's happening with your life. Allow the Father to wrap His loving arms around your shoulders once again and just listen. Is there something you are missing in your life? Is there something more you need to do in your life?

Y – Yield to God. Let go of your grip on your own life. Be on the lookout for His road signs as you travel on. Listen to His instructions and you will find your way.

W – Warm up your Relationships. Time to allow your loved ones feel that warm-and-sunny spring you, not the cold-and-cloudy-winter you. Reach out to the people you have taken for granted or left out altogether. Time to call a friend or family members. Call, text, write, smile and hug. Use anything that will help you repair, restore and revitalize your relationships.

E – Erase the burdens of guilt and sin with a good, honest and humble confession. Heed God's call: "Come back to me with all your heart. Don't let sin keep us apart. Long have I waited for your coming home to me." In response to God's love, may we also say to God, especially this week: "Create a clean heart in me, O God. Give back to me the joy of your salvation." Time also to erase hurts, resentments, anger and ill feelings. Forgive people who hurt you and ask for forgiveness from people you have hurt, cheated, used or abused in any way.

E – Express your love. Whatever you do, especially this week, like praying, fasting, works of penance and deeds of charity, let them all be expressions of your love and gratitude to God. Let them be done, not out of fear or out of obligation.

K – Kneel down. In humility, kneel down in prayer before God and thank Him for suffering so much, for dying on the cross and for rising again for our salvation. Somebody died for you and me. Let us not allow this week to pass without personally thanking Him.

Have a HOLY WEEK!

Below is our schedule for HOLY WEEK:

Holy Monday - Regional Penance Service here at 7:00 P.M.

Holy Tuesday – Meeting with Ushers and Greeters at 6:30 P.M.

Holy Wednesday – Mass will be at 8:00 A.M.

Holy Thursday – **CHRISM MASS – Blessed Sacrament Cathedral at 10:00 A.M.**

Mass of the Lord's Supper with the Washing of the Feet at 7:00 P.M.

Adoration until 11:00 P.M.

Night Prayer at 11:30 P.M.

Good Friday – Liturgy of the Word/Veneration of the Cross/Communion Service at 1:30 P.M.

Tenebrae at 8:30 P.M.

Holy Saturday – Altar Server Practice at 10:00 A.M.

Blessing of the Easter Food Baskets at 12:00 Noon

Easter Egg Hunt at St. Mary Cemetery (weather permitting) at 1:00 P.M.

Easter Vigil - 8:30 P.M.



PARISH NEWS

CALENDAR of Events

April 10th Lenten Penance Service (Here) - 7:00 P.M.
April 11th Greeters/Ushers Meeting - 6:30 P.M.
April 12th 8:00 A.M. Mass—No Evening Mass
April 13th Parish Office Closed
 7:00 P.M. - Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper
 Adoration until 11:00 P.M.
April 14th Parish Office Closed
 Divine Mercy Novena Begins
 1:30 P.M. - The Lord's Passion
 8:30 P.M. - Tenebrae
April 15th 10:00 A.M. - Altar Server Practice
 12:00 Noon - Blessing of the Food Baskets
 1:30 P.M. - Easter Egg Hunt - St. Mary Cemetery
 8:30 P.M. - Easter Vigil Mass
April 16th No Religious Education Classes—Easter Break
 No Choir Practice



The Divine Mercy Novena begins on Good Friday. It is a nine day prayer (Novena), in preparation for the Divine Mercy Feast Day, celebrated on the Sunday after Easter (April 23rd). This Novena and chaplet may be prayed in church or at home. Pamphlets will be available at each entrance of the church. What better way to celebrate the Easter Season than spending fifteen minutes each day asking Our Lord for mercy for ourselves and the entire world.

Please Join Us...

The Donuts and Beverage Social will be held in the Fellowship Hall today, immediately following mass. Please remember to stop in and extend a friendly hello to your fellow parishioners.

DIOCESAN LENTEN APPEAL

Our DLA is in progress and I thank those who have given to this appeal. If you have not yet made your pledge, please prayerfully consider doing so. If you did not receive or have misplaced your DLA letter/pledge card, commitment envelopes are located at all of the church entrances. Please take one of these envelopes home with you, fill them out, and drop in the collection basket next weekend, mail in or drop off at the Administrative Office. If anyone needs help in filling out their envelope, call the parish office at 724-295-2281 or stop by (9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.) and assistance will be provided.

Diocesan Lenten Appeal

Diocesan Target - \$43,279.00
 Parish Target - \$68,279.00
 Pledges to Date - \$57,408.00
 Number of Donors - 181
 Diocesan Target Achieved!!!

Due to the early submission of the April 9th bulletin, there is no update available from last week's totals.

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If you have any questions, please contact Beth Macurdy at: bmacurdy@ufcw.org or call her at 724-295-9411.

Easter Flower Offering Envelopes - Remember your loved ones this Easter by making a donation for flowers and decorations for the sanctuary during the Easter season. Envelopes were included in your monthly packet. **Deadline is Monday, April 10th, at 12:00 Noon.**

The Teen Ministry will hold their annual Easter Egg Hunt on Holy Saturday, April 15th, at 1:00 P.M., at St. Mary Cemetery (weather permitting). All children, from preschool to 3rd grade, are invited to attend. **Please sign-up your child on the sign-up sheet located at the rear of the church TODAY, to ensure that enough prizes are available for the children.**

Becoming a Member of St. Mary, Mother of God Church

Welcome! It is a great joy to welcome new members to our parish community. Please register as soon as possible in order to participate in our various programs, ministries and activities. Just drop this form in the collection basket and we will send you a detailed registration form. If you are already a member and have changed any of your personal information (address, phone number, name, etc.), please return the changes on the form below. It is important to keep our records up to date.

St. Mary, Mother of God Membership Request / Change

Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Number: _____

New Registration Change Address/Phone
 Moving



Are you trying to cut down on the paper you use? Is the check you write to our parish one of the few checks that you write anymore? You can give greener by using Online Banking. You can set up the amount that you would like to give on a schedule that meets your needs and you never have to worry about writing another check, forgetting your envelope, or having cash in your wallet. Keep God at the top of your giving list! *When you sign up, please remember to provide your envelope number.*



Freeport Meals on Wheels is in desperate need of drivers for delivery routes in Freeport, Sarver, Cabot and Saxonburg. Anyone interested in volunteering an hour or two of their time, one or more days a month, should contact Betsy Olsen at 724-353-1424 for details. Meals are delivered on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

St. Mary, Mother of God



Good Friday
April 14th, 2017



A non-denominational evening service of Tenebrae will begin at 8:30 P.M. with a Lenten musical presentation beginning at 7:45 P.M. The evening's service will dramatically reflect in meditation and song on the readings from the passion of Jesus Christ, leading into the darkness of the Crucifixion.

We are pleased to have guest vocalist, Jamie Phillips, and guest organist, Susan Myford...

Service is open to the entire community!



"A Community Time of Reflection"

Allegheny Valley
Association of Churches



Volunteer Luncheon

Date: Friday, April 28th, 2017

Time: 11:30

Place: First United Presbyterian Church
913 Lock St.
Tarentum, PA 15084

You are cordially invited to attend our annual celebration for all our volunteers. We welcome volunteers from all programs as well as office and support volunteers. Church volunteers who assist with Hospitality Network are also encouraged to join us.

• Join us for an afternoon of fun, good food, entertainment and enjoyable fellowship!

Please R.S.V.P. by April 17th to the AVAC office

Phone: 724-226-0606
Fax: 724-226-3197
Email: avac@avaoc.org



The Homebound Ministry is available to take the Eucharist to anyone temporarily or permanently home and unable to attend Mass on a weekly basis. To be added to this list, call the Administrative Office at 724-295-2281 or John at 724-294-9486.



Bishop Edward C. Malesic will lead a Divine Mercy Sunday outdoor service and Eucharistic procession on April 23rd at 3:00 P.M., in St. Clair Park, Greensburg. In the event of inclement weather, the service will be moved to Blessed Sacrament Cathedral.

The Melchizedek Project is a discernment group for those 18 or older who are discerning a vocation to the Priesthood. The group meets Sunday night at 6:30 PM at the Rectory, Holy Family Church, Latrobe.

The Upcoming dates are:

April 9 and 23.

Contact gbg vocations.org to register

St. Emma Gift Shop First Communion Items

St. Emma Gift Shop offers the largest selection of First Communion and Confirmation Items in the area.

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Mon. thru Sat. 10:00 - 4:00 p.m.

EASTER FOOD BASKETS

The Allegheny Valley Association of Churches' Food Bank will make an Easter witness this year with specially prepared food baskets. Each basket will contain a variety of food including fresh produce and a voucher with which to purchase meat. There will even be candy for their bunny basket!

AVAC's cost per basket is \$15.00. All donations will support this ministry.

Philanthropist Shawn Alan Feinstein has made a challenge to all non-profit, anti-hunger agencies including AVAC. All funds raised during the months of March and April for the Food Bank are eligible for a matching grant from the Feinstein Foundation. Please consider this in your giving.



Yes, I want to make an Easter witness to the needy.
Enclosed is my check for _____
Payable to the "AVAC Food Bank".
(Please mail your check with this form to:)

Allegheny Valley Association of Churches, Inc.
1913 Freeport Road
Natrona Heights, PA 15065

Name _____
Address _____

All donations will be acknowledged.



Thank you for helping to make someone else's Easter a special one.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Altar Servers	Extraordinary Ministers Of Holy Communion	Lector	Organist	Cantor	Greeters
Holy Thursday - 7:00 P.M.					
All Servers	Andrea Camerlo Betty Lou Nemcek Patty Hughes	Jackie DeFelice	Dave Wesolosky	Choir	All Greeters
Good Friday - 1:30 P.M.					
All Servers	John Nemcek	Tim Fogarty (N) Janice Meola (S)	Dave Wesolosky	Choir	All Greeters
Saturday - Easter Vigil - 8:30 P.M.					
All Servers	Betty Lou Nemcek Dave Brestensky	J. Nemcek; R. Svitek Judy Bergstrom	Dave Wesolosky	Choir	All Greeters
Easter Sunday 8:30 A.M.					
All Servers	F. Walker; L. Boylan K. Holbein; R. Check C. Carson	Laura Huth	Sue Myford	Jamie Phillips	All Greeters
Easter Sunday 11:00 A.M.					
All Servers	A. Volek; D. Rossey L. Isenberg; B. Cogley D. Lucovich	Marushka Steele	Dave Wesolosky	Choir	All Greeters

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK

<u>MASSES FOR PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD</u>	
SATURDAY: 4:00 P.M.	April 8th ✦ Judith Polana (Bill & Maryellyn Bale)
SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. 11:00 A.M.	April 9th ✦ Pat Pflugh (Ron & Linda Gallagher) St. Mary Parishioners
MONDAY: 8:00 A.M.	April 10th ✦ Charles Huth (Ellen Huth & Family)
TUESDAY: 8:00 A.M.	April 11th Mary Kristine (Beth Macurdy)
WEDNESDAY: 8:00 A.M.	April 12th ✦ John Yousko (The Pollicchio's)
THURSDAY: 7:00 P.M.	April 13th—NO MORNING MASS Evening Mass of The Lord's Supper
FRIDAY: 1:30 P.M. 8:30 P.M.	April 14th—NO MORNING MASS The Lord's Passion Tenebrae
<u>MASSES FOR EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD</u>	
SATURDAY: 8:30 P.M.	April 15th St. Mary Parishioners
SUNDAY: 8:30 A.M. 11:00 A.M.	April 16th St. Mary Parishioners St. Mary Parishioners

The Altar Bread and Wine were donated for this week in loving memory of **DANIEL B. HASTINGS**
By **Fred Walker & Forrest, Grey, Kaleb**

In acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ, The Sanctuary Lamp (Candle) will burn this week in loving memory of **LOVING SISTERS – CAROL & MARILYN**
By **Krumenacker Families (Brothers & Sister)**

Collections

Due to the early deadline for the submission of the April 9th bulletin, the weekly contribution report for April 2nd was not available. This information will be published in next Sunday's bulletin.

THANK YOU!

Saturday, April 15th, 2017

Jeannie Lepkowski and Mary Bertino

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