



# Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord ~ March 25, 2018



[Christ Jesus] humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. — Philippians 2:8

## Weekly Mass Intentions



### Saturday – March 24

8:00am- † Isabel Maria Quiñones

5:00pm- † Anna Scully

7:30pm- † Parish Community Intentions

### Sunday – March 25 ~Palm Sunday~

8:30am- † Pancrazio LaMorte

10:00am- † Nuncio Lattanzio

11:30am- † Parish Community Intentions

1:30pm- † Parish Community Intentions

6:00pm- † Parish Community Intentions

### Monday – March 26

8:00am- † Mildred Butler

12:05pm- † Libby Guardiani

### Tuesday – March 27

8:00am- † Lawrence & Mary Iannucci

12:05pm- † Robert Keegan

### Wednesday – March 28

8:00am- † Concetta & Guiseppa Fortunato

12:05pm- † Offered by: OLMC Parish

### Thursday – March 29 ~Holy Thursday~

7:30pm- † Ronald Francis, Jr. Offered by: OLMC Parish

### Friday – March 30 ~Holy Friday~

3:00pm- Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord English Service

7:00pm- Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord Spanish Service

### Saturday – March 31 ~Easter Vigil~

7:30pm- † Andrew & Ralph Frulio Offered by: Frulio Family

### Sunday – April 1 ~Easter Sunday~

8:30am- † Msgr. Augustin J. DiBalsi & Pop Offered by: Family

10:00am- † Grace & Ciro Frulio Offered by: Frulio Family

## Weekly Memorials

Bread & Wine ~ † For All Souls

Tabernacle Candle ~ † in Purgatory

Memorial Candle ~ †

Memorial Candle ~ †



## Liturgical Minster's Schedule MARCH 2018

### Saturday 5:00 PM

Lector: Linda Graves & Lindford Smith (carry Gospel Book)

E. M.: Lindford Smith, Peg & Tom Ventrudo Sub: Cinderella Wonsewitz

### Sunday 8:30 AM

Lector: Cefereino Albarracin & Linda Torres (carry Gospel Book)

Sub: Joan Fortunato

E.M.: Delmeter Carey, Joan Fortunato & Linda Torres Sub: Diane Carbonaro

### Sunday 10:00 AM

Lector: Thelma Washington (carry Gospel Book)

E.M.: Alexis Crowdell, Dianne Murphy & Crescencia Pascua Sub: Emmanuel Fode



## PALM SUNDAY PASTOR'S MESSAGE

*My face I did not shield from buffs and spitting knowing that I will not be put to shame (Isaiah 50: 7)*

Jesus faces his final destination after three years of walking, preaching and healing in Galilee and Judea. From what we read in the Gospels, most people who had encountered him had formed a strong opinion of Jesus. Many had become his followers, thinking him a prophet, a miracle worker, the Messiah, or the Son of God. Others, however, thought him dangerous, and a rabble-rouser who threatened their hold on power under the Roman government. In the Gospel we hear now, Jesus is greeted with the branches of palm trees, often used to welcome returning heroes. "Hosanna" we cry. "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord". Since this year we read the Passion according St. Mark, it is interesting to see that there is a change of attitudes and feelings although the characters and the city are the same. In the Gospel that was read before the procession, the crowd was supportive, joyous, loving. In the Passion which is the Gospel today, the crowd is quite the opposite. Our palms still lying on the pew behind us, the crowd has become hostile shouting "Crucify him!" to Pilate, painting Jesus as a fraud and a real threat to their interests. As we listen to Mark's account of the Passion, let us imagine the confidence Jesus had in his Father, enabling him to be obedient to the point of death. The Passion of Christ forces us to think of the passion that is still being endured. People of our world: the sick, the prisoners, the immigrants, the deported, the poor and homeless: all are suffering their own crucifixion. On this Palm Sunday that begins Holy Week, let us learn from Isaiah's Suffering Servant. He is resolute, with a confidence that enables him to face anything. Listen to what he has to face: being spat upon, being assaulted, and being beaten. The Servant did not fight back, he did not run, he did not even lift his arms to defend himself. How is he able to do this? He had the words of God and so he relies on God for help. Today we also have the Word of God who comforts us. Let us reflect on this and increase our confidence in the God who faces death so that we can have life. Let us be encouraged by the words of St Paul (second reading) reflecting on the wonderful sacrifice of Christ who was able to redeem the world by his exaltation on the cross. There is quite the contrast between the male and female friends of Jesus in the Mark's account of the Passion. We can see the hearts of the true friends of Jesus so we can take advantage of the true spiritual behavior as disciples of the suffering Jesus. It is curious to note that all the apostles fail Jesus. One betrays him, one denies him, the closest ones fall asleep. They all deserted him when he is arrested and the young Mark run away naked. On the other hand, the account of the Passion begins with a woman anointing Jesus with perfume. It is said that three other women witnessed the crucifixion as close as they could. Moreover, once concluded the celebration of the Sabbath, these same women went to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body. May the sweet Jesus give us loyalty, courage and love of these holy women so we can respect and be in solidarity with the crucified people of our own time.

Fr. Hernan P., S.J.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

These readings are found complete on our parish web page ([www.olmcsi.org](http://www.olmcsi.org)). Click on "USCCB Daily Readings."

### March 25: Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Isiah 50: 4-7  
Psalm 22: 8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24  
Philippians 2:6-11

### April 1: Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Acts 10:34, 37-43  
Psalm 118:1-2, 17, 22-23  
Colossians 3:1-4



**RECONCILIATION MONDAY** - "Lighten Up. Experience the power of forgiveness this Easter." We invite everyone for Lenten Individual Confessions this Holy Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup> from 4pm to 8pm. A priest will be available to hear your confession. Cleanse your heart and your soul before Easter. Pope Francis tells us "Every time we go to confession, God embraces us."

**EASTER MONEY BUNNY JACKPOT** - The MONEY BUNNY Raffle is here! We strongly encourage everyone to take part in this raffle. The Jackpot will be a big Easter basket filled with a huge stuffed bunny, lots of goodies and a \$200 cash prize. Chances will be sold at all the masses or you can also obtain them at the rectory. Drawing will be held on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. GOOD LUCK! And thank you for supporting this important fundraiser.

**HONOR YOUR LOVED ONES WITH AN EASTER FLOWER DONATION** - This Easter, honor your loved ones with a donation that will help decorate the church with Easter flowers. Any donation is certainly welcomed and gratefully received. On the donation envelope, please print the names of those you wish to honor and the envelopes will remain on the altar for the month of April. You may obtain the envelopes at the church entrance or in the envelope package you receive at home.

**SAVE THE DATE for the JOHN J. BRUNO BENEFIT BREAKFAST** - Save the date for this year's Annual John J. Bruno Benefit Breakfast. The Our Lady of Mt. Carmel - St. Benedicta School invites you to attend the Benefit Breakfast on April 28, 2018, 10am at the Excelsior Grand (2380 Hylan Blvd.) This year's honorees are Michael Coppotelli, James Cowan, Agnes M. Eckert, Coach Vincent McNiel, Robert Flanagan, Elizabeth Rossell, Theresa Signorile Emma Tapia and Sr. Antonia Zuffante. For information on purchasing your ticket or placing an ad in the journal, please call the rectory 718-442-3411 or the school 718-981-5131.

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS** - If you, or anyone you know is looking to be baptized, receive First Holy Communion, or Confirmation, please see Colin Vautrinot, one of our Coordinators for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. He will be available to answer questions, and take information after Mass at the entrance to the Church.

**GOLDEN WEDDING JUBILEE MASS** - Couples celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary anytime during the year 2018 are invited to attend the Golden Wedding Jubilee Mass with Cardinal Dolan at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2:15pm. Pre-Registration is required. Please contact your parish to register. The closing date to register for the mass is Monday, May 14, 2018.

**MASS HONORING GOD'S SPECIAL PEOPLE** - The Ministry for Inclusion at Blessed Sacrament Church (1091 Forest Ave) is cordially inviting you to join in a mass honoring all God's special people. The mass is scheduled for Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 11am. All participants will receive a special blessing. After mass there will be refreshments. Join them to share food, drink and fellowship. Any questions about this celebration can be directed to Lola 718-442-6993.

**COLLECTIONS:** March 18: \$4,434; Debt Relief: \$1,303. *Thank you for your continued generosity to our Parish!*



**PASSION** - The contrast between the processional reading in today's liturgy and the proclamation of the Passion is striking. We are given a glimpse of how profoundly the word of God is fulfilled in Jesus. First he must be hailed as the Messiah, the One who is to come. He must be acknowledged by all, though they do not know what they are saying. They think he is the promised king, a worldly king of the Jews who will free them from the Roman occupation. They do not yet understand, even the disciples, exactly where this triumphal procession is leading. In our lives, we too do not know where we are going. It is in faith that we can follow Christ wherever he may lead us, trusting that death is not the end, nor evil the victor.

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**PALM SUNDAY** - On Sunday, Christians all over the world will be carrying palms and other branches. That's because it's Palm Sunday, a celebration of the day Jesus entered Jerusalem before he was crucified and then resurrected, according to the Christian faith. Christians carry palms on Palm Sunday because according to the Gospels, Jesus' followers covered his path in palm fronds on the day he entered Jerusalem, after the custom of placing palms in the path of a high-ranking person. The palm branch also [signified victory](#) in Greco-Roman times, so the waving palms would have resembled a triumphal procession. In many churches, congregants twist palms into the shape of a cross to commemorate the day, or use other branches if palms are not easily accessible- in some parts of [Europe](#), churchyards are strewn with branches and flowers. The holiday is often celebrated with a procession. Jesus also arrived in Jerusalem on a donkey, which was considered [highly symbolic](#). At the time, a king riding a donkey symbolized peace, while a king on a horse symbolized war - while Jesus was not technically a king, his followers considered him to be King of Israel. Palm Sunday is depicted in all four Gospels, which isn't true of all stories about Jesus. In some congregations, the palms are burned at the end of Palm Sunday and the ashes are saved to use on [Ash Wednesday](#) of the following year. But most of all, Palm Sunday signifies the beginning of the last week of Lent - and the beginning of Holy Week.

**SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DePAUL GIVES BACK** - Our parish could share in the profits. For each car, truck or van, running or not that is donated the Society will give back to our church \$75/\$200 per vehicle. Maybe you don't have a vehicle, but a family member, friend or neighbor has an old or neglected vehicle in their driveway that they would like to dispose of. Call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at 718 491-2525.

