Palm Sunday

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

Matthew 21:9

OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

April 9, 2017
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord -
Seeing Christ Clearly

We start today looking through the portals of Jerusalem, seeing crowds of people, cheering and waving palm branches in the air. The whole atmosphere is one of joy, triumph, and celebration. We can get distracted or enthralled by the scene, and not see clearly the features of Jesus as he enters. But our readings from Isaiah and Paul’s letter to the Philippians clarify his features for us. He is the Suffering Servant, meek and mute before his captors and persecutors; he is the very image of the unseen God, yet will not clutch at equality with God before he endures his final confrontation in humility. Isaiah and Paul help us “behold the Lamb of God” before we hear the story of his final and greatest confrontation. It is important that we see Christ clearly before we hear the account of his passion, for we—his Body through baptism, the church—now bear his face. We must, with him, enter into this time of trial so we can, also with him, enter into his final triumph.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
(Sunday April 23)

✦ All parishioners are invited to participate in the special celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday, the Sunday after Easter. A special service will be conducted after the 10:30 a.m. Mass to highlight the celebration.

✦ Our Lord promised St. Faustina complete forgiveness of sins and punishment to all those who will go to Confession (during Lent or during Holy Week) and receive Holy Communion on this day.

✦ In addition, Pope John Paul II granted a plenary indulgence for the devout observance of Divine Mercy Sunday.

✦ So come, celebrate, and bathe in Our Lord’s ocean of graces and unfathomable mercy.

This is the day of extraordinary graces and “complete forgiveness of sins and [of its due] punishment” for those who approach Him in trust and faith.

Reconciliation schedule:
Good Friday April 14, 10:30 a.m. - noon

The Novena to Divine Mercy begins on Good Friday.

You can find the Novena on-line if you google “Divine Mercy Novena”
All are invited to participate
2017 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday, April 13
7:00 p.m.  Solemn Mass of the Lord’s Supper
           Prayer and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until midnight.

Good Friday, April 14
10:00 a.m. Stations of the Cross with Music
12:15 p.m. Stations of the Cross with Music
4:00 p.m.  Commemoration of Our Lord’s Passion and Death
           (a) Liturgy of the Word
           (b) Veneration of the Cross
           (c) Holy Communion

For those who wish to make the Stations of the Cross privately,
the church will be open at 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Good Friday.

Easter Vigil Mass

Saturday, April 15
8:30 p.m.  Easter Vigil
           (a) Service of Light
           (b) Liturgy of the Word
           (c) Liturgy of Initiation
           (d) Liturgy of the Eucharist

Easter Masses

Sunday, April 16
6:15 a.m.  Easter Mass
7:30 a.m.  Easter Mass
9:00 a.m.  Easter Mass
10:30 a.m. Easter Mass
12:00 p.m. Easter Mass
2:15 p.m.  Easter Latin Mass

Confessions
Friday, April 7: 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 8: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Good Friday, April 14: 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon
ARE YOU NEW TO RESURRECTION PARISH?

We would like to welcome you to our parish family. In order to better serve you, please fill out a registration card which is located at the entrances of the church and leave it with an usher or put it in the collection plate. You may also register by stopping by the church office. A reminder that one needs to be a registered member of a parish in order to be a Baptismal or Confirmation sponsor.

WE WELCOME OUR NEWEST PARISHIONERS:

M/M Joseph Schmerbeck,
Drs. Figueroa-Ayarza and Family, Don Bradford,
M/M Max Lindstrom,
Dolores M. Arnold, Edward Dandreano

May they experience the love of Christ here at Resurrection Parish and may we all help them feel welcome in their new church home.

MINISTRY OF THE SICK

IMPORTANT NOTE TO ALL PARISHIONERS
AND VISITORS:

When admitted to the hospital please register as Catholic and notify the parish office immediately, 481-7171. Resurrection priests visit the hospitals daily.

To protect your privacy hospitals do not give out information on patients without their permission.

The following hospitals are attended to by the parish in which they are located:

* Gulf Coast Hospital - visited daily by St. John XXIII Parish, 561-2245
* Lee Memorial Hospital - visited daily by St. Francis Xavier Parish, 334-2161
* Lee Memorial and Hospice at Health Park - visited daily by St. Columbkille Parish, 489-3973

Lenten Prayer -

Almighty and Everlasting God,
You have given the human race Jesus Christ our Savior as a model of humility.
He fulfilled Your Will by becoming Man
And giving His life on the Cross.
Help us to bear witness to You
By following His example of suffering
And make us worthy to share in His Resurrection.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son.
Amen.

RESURRECTION CALENDAR

ALL events take place in the Parish Center unless otherwise stated.

Adoration, First Fridays, 8:30 - 9:30 a.m.
Bereavement & Beyond Ministry, Mondays, 10:00 a.m. For more information call Alouise 481-8168
Coffee & Donuts, Sundays after 10:30 Mass
Craft Club, Tuesdays, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Men’s Club, 2nd Monday of month, 7:00 p.m., Sept. - May
Men’s Gospel Forum, Fridays 8:30 a.m.
Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Novena, Saturdays after the 8:00 a.m. Mass, church
Prayer for Priests, Thursdays after the 8:00 a.m. Mass, chapel
RCIA, Sundays, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass, for info, 482-6883
Rel. Ed., September - May
Resurrection for Life, for info, call Judy at 287-1237
Resurrection Prayerline Ministry, call Deanna Latell 481-1170.
Rosary, before daily Masses and Tues. & Thurs., 1:30 p.m., chapel
Rosary Makers, 3rd Thursdays Oct. thru May, 9-11 a.m.
St. Vincent DePaul Board Meeting, 1st Tues. every month, 7:00 pm. For SVPD assistance call 239-600-6749, or email, svdp@resurrectionch.org
Teams of Our Lady, call Joann for more information, 482-7982
Women’s Guild, 3rd Wednesday every month, 8:30 a.m. Sept. - May
Calling All Moms…
You are invited to share in a new ministry for mothers!

SWF Catholic Moms: Where mothers are nourished, strengthened and cherished, and families are celebrated!

Come join fellow Moms…….
Every first and third Thursday of the month from 9:30-11:30 in the Church of the Resurrection Parish Hall

For more information contact Amanda Gavini at:
239-222-0452 or girlyamanda@yahoo.com
MORNING

WEDNESDAY
10:00am - 11:30am
April 12
PARISH CENTER
Fr. Dave Pivonka
DVD series

“AT THE CENTER OF THE CHURCH IS THE EUCHARIST, WHERE CHRIST IS PRESENT AND ACTIVE IN HUMANITY AND IN THE WHOLE WORLD BY MEANS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.”
—Pope St. John Paul II, General Audience Sept. 1989

EVENING

WEDNESDAY
7:00pm - 8:30pm
April 12
PARISH CENTER
Fr. Dave Pivonka

...FREEDOM IS THE ABILITY TO LIVE RESPONSIBLY THE TRUTH OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND WITH ONE ANOTHER."
—Pope St. John Paul II

Many are slaves to anger, envy, jealousy, comparisons, and addictions. You do not have to live like that. In this segment, we will discuss how the Holy Spirit can bring you greater freedom.

Questions: Call 481-7172

RESURRECTION FOR LIFE

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE ABORTION CLINIC AT 3900 BROADWAY, FORT MYERS EVERY 2ND SATURDAY (after the 8:00 Mass) FOR THE ROSARY.

This week’s Sanctuary Candle:
for Joy Moneuse
by Leonard & Carmella Dixon

CELEBRATE MASS ON THE 25TH OF EACH MONTH FROM THE ANNUNCIATION TO CHRISTMAS FOR A GREATER RESPECT FOR ALL HUMAN LIFE.

See the schedule of Masses throughout the Diocese of Venice at www.dioceseofvenice.org/respectlife.

Diocese of Venice Respect Life
1000 Pinebrook Road
Venice, FL 34285
941-441-1101

Sanctuary Candle:
for Joy Moneuse
by Leonard & Carmella Dixon
Wondering about becoming Catholic?

Who are the people who show God’s love to you?

Is something missing in your life?

Are there spiritual things you hunger for?

What questions surface for you at this time?

Will you join us to inquire???

“Seeking and Finding”
April 30 - 10:00am - 11:00am
Resurrection Parish Center -
You are invited to reflect, discuss and discover …
Come and See! Continental Breakfast included.
Call Joanne - 481-7171

Lighthouse Catholic Media Kiosk

Check out one of our newest CD’s:

**CONFESSION**
by Fr. Larry Richards

Based upon his proven and powerful parish mission presentation, Fr. Larry Richards’ talk on Confession has become the #1 talk in North America dealing with the Sacrament of Reconciliation. He is riveting, honest, humorous, very human, and often touchingly gentle. Fr. Larry provides listeners with hope for a closer, healing relationship with Jesus Christ.

**Parishioner Comments:**
I re-evaluated my entire way of living because it made me realize that I was not as close to God as I thought!

*Brandy - Arlington, VA*

I intend to use this with high school students in our parish Religious Education program!

*Claire - Wilmington, VT*
“On that Good Friday many disciples went back crestfallen to their homes. Others chose to go out to the country to forget the cross. I ask you... How do you want to go back this evening to your own homes?... Each of you has to answer the challenge that this question sets before you.”

— Pope Francis, World Youth Day 2016

From Palms to Passion
Mt 21:1-11 and Mt 26:14—27:66

Palm Sunday is the sixth and final Sunday of Lent. It is sometimes called “Passion Sunday” because it marks the beginning of Holy Week. There are two Gospel readings for Palm Sunday. The first, during the blessing of the palms, tells the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem in triumph. The second reading tells the story of the Passion and death of the Lord.

Holy Week is the most sacred time of year for Catholics. It’s okay if your Holy Week list of things to do includes coloring eggs, cleaning and baking for Easter, or traveling to a relative’s home. There’s nothing wrong with secular Easter activities. But it is important to balance the secular with the sacred by keeping the “holy” in Holy Week.

If you work or go to school, try to set aside time every day this week for quiet prayer, Scripture reading, and meditation. Offer up any pain or difficulties you experience and unite your sufferings with the pain of Christ. Make it a point on Good Friday to let go of resentments and forgive those who have hurt you.

Your greatest temptation during Holy Week will be sacrificing on your spiritual needs because there is so much going on. If you let that happen, your Easter celebration may look perfect on the surface, but it will feel spiritually empty.

FOR REFLECTION

› How did your observance of Lent help you prepare for Holy Week?
› What do you plan to do during Holy Week to observe the passion and death of the Lord?
› What things in your life have to die before you can be resurrected with Jesus into new life?
Make Holy Week special for the whole family by turning off television, computers, and electronic games from sundown on Holy Thursday until Easter morning. Pray the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary together as a family. Plan to attend all of the Triduum liturgies. Volunteer as a family to help decorate your parish church on Holy Saturday for the Easter Vigil.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- Leftover palms are burned and the ashes are used next year on Ash Wednesday.
- The Chrism Mass is where holy oils are blessed.
- The word “Triduum” means “three days.” It starts at sundown on Holy Thursday and includes Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

**Entering into the Passion of Christ**

Here are some things to meditate on this week as you journey with Jesus to Calvary:

- **The condemnation of Jesus**: Have you ever been judged unfairly? Have you ever judged others?
- **Jesus’ acceptance of the cross**: What are the crosses in your life?
- **Jesus falls three times**: In what ways have you fallen? How have you picked yourself up?
- **Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus**: How have you helped others carry their crosses?
- **Veronica wipes Jesus’ face**: Who was kind to you during difficult times?
- **Jesus is stripped of his garments**: How are you being called to let go of external things?
- **The Crucifixion**: Are you able to forgive those who have hurt you?
- **The death and burial of Jesus**: Do you believe that by following Jesus you can be transformed?

**Catechism Connection**

“This sacrifice of Christ is unique; it completes and surpasses all other sacrifices. First, it is a gift from God the Father himself, for the Father handed his Son over to sinners in order to reconcile us with himself. At the same time it is the offering of the Son of God made man, who in freedom and love offered his life to his Father through the Holy Spirit in reparation for our disobedience.”

— *Catechism of the Catholic Church, 614*

**Lenten Prayer**

This week’s prayer is known as the “Three O’Clock Prayer” (part of the Divine Mercy Chaplet when it is said at 3:00 p.m.) in remembrance of the graces we received at the moment Jesus died:

“You expired, O Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls and an ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty yourself out upon us. O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in you. Amen.”

Shutterstock.com
We are seeking an enthusiastic and knowledgeable Middle School Science teacher to join our school family and enrich our student's love of learning. Interested candidates must be fluent in 21st Century Educational Technology, and can email their resume with a cover letter to Mr. John Gulley, school principal at john.gulley@stfrancisfortmyers.org.

Employment Opportunity for a full-charge bookkeeper at St. Francis Xavier Parish

General Description: This position performs all bookkeeping duties at the parish and Villa Francisco, maintains accounting records, processes receivables, payables and processes and records payroll. The position is responsible for generating reliable financial information for the Pastor and Finance Council and reports directly to the Pastor.

Job Duties/Responsibilities:
A. General Bookkeeping Duties
   Checks invoices for accuracy; records bills and bill payments in the QuickBooks Accounts Payable module
2. Processes payroll in ADP ensuring all compensation is properly included.
3. Timely reconciles Parish checking and savings accounts.
4. Maintains the general ledger in QuickBooks on a modified accrual basis
5. Stays abreast of changes to Diocesan Financial Policies and Procedures for Parishes and communicates such to Pastor and Staff as necessary.
6. Monitors cash flow and alerts pastor when spending is close to exceeding budget.
8. Handles sensitive information confidentially
9. Trains volunteer counters in established Parish counting procedures

Qualifications:
1. Associates degree or equivalent with significant coursework in accounting, Bachelor’s Degree in Accounting preferred.
2. Strong technical skills in the use of computers, and facility with QuickBooks, Microsoft Office Word and Excel, and familiarity with ADP Payroll
3. Team player with excellent interpersonal skills.
4. Ability to work effectively with minimal supervision.
5. 5 years of bookkeeping experience

Candidates are invited to e-mail a cover letter with their resume to the Pastor: anthonyhewitt2012@gmail.com

Like the blind man in last week's readings, Lazarus represents all humanity. He stands for “dead man”—for all those Jesus loves and wants to liberate from the bands of sin and death.

John even recalls the blind man in his account today (see John 11:37). Like the man's birth in blindness, Lazarus' death is used by Jesus to reveal "the glory of God" (see John 9:3). And again like last week, Jesus' words and deeds give sight to those who believe (see John 11:40).

If we believe, we will see—that Jesus loves each of us as He loved Lazarus, that He calls us out of death and into new life.

By His Resurrection Jesus has fulfilled Ezekiel's promise in today's First Reading. He has opened the graves that we may rise, put His Spirit in us that we may live. This is the Spirit that Paul writes of in today's Epistle. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead will give life to we who were once dead in sin.

Faith is the key. If we believe as Martha does in today's Gospel—that Jesus is the resurrection and the life—even if we die, we will live.

"I have promised and I will do it," the Father assures us in the First Reading. We must trust in His word, as we sing in today's Psalm—that with Him is forgiveness and salvation.

Yours in Christ,
Scott Hahn, Ph.D.
Saint Francis Xavier School welcomes you to join our family, tradition and journey with Christ. We are a Blue Ribbon School, accredited by the Florida Catholic Conference. Established over 75 years ago, Saint Francis Xavier School provides our students with an exemplary academic education built upon a Catholic foundation of spirituality and compassionate humanity.

**Mission**
Our mission is to Be Like Christ in all we think, do and say, while experiencing the joy of learning.

**Core Values**
Character, Citizenship, Leadership, Scholarship, and Service

**Education You Can Believe In**
In 1938, four Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, New York, courageously accepted God’s call and opened St. Francis Xavier School, the first Catholic school in Southwest Florida. Over the last 75 years, the original class of 68 students has grown to include more than 6,500 alumni. What makes St. Francis different is its dedication to academic excellence, founded on our Catholic faith, and its commitment to making a Catholic education affordable and accessible.

**Why Saint Francis Xavier Catholic School?**
- Qualified, experienced, dedicated and talented staff
- Cutting-edge technology including smart boards, iPads, laptops and computer labs
- Faith-based education connecting Catholic beliefs and values with everyday life
- Recess and specials including Art, Band, Computer, Media, Music, Physical Education, and Spanish
- Various extracurricular clubs and activities such as: American Heritage Girls, Art Fun, Chess Club, Chorus, Cub Scouts, Instrument Program, National Junior Honor Society, News Crew, Performing Arts Program, Running Club, Student Council, and S.T.R.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering and Math)
- Competitive Sports for 5th-8th grade students including basketball, cross-country, soccer, track and field, and volleyball

**The results speak for themselves!**
- Eighth grade students from Saint Francis Xavier School consistently earn 30-50% of the half tuition scholarships offered by Bishop Verot High School in Fort Myers.
- 99% of St. Francis Xavier School students go on to pursue higher education.
- Private and public school administrators agree that students from Saint Francis Xavier School are the most prepared for success entering high school.