

ST. MARY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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Newsletter: April 2, 2020

For many people these are fear filled times, but they don't have to be. As 2 Timothy 1:7 says:

... God did not give us a Spirit of fear, but of Power and Love and of a Sound Mind

which means that:

- Through our relationship with God we have His Power and can do all things, conquer all things.
- Through our relationship with God we can show His Love and kindness to others regardless of our situation.
- Through our relationship with God we have a Sound Mind that can take our thoughts captive, think about things calmly and discern His guidance rather than simply react and be fearful.

The challenge to you is to focus on God, not on fear this upcoming week because ...
This is Holy Week, the most powerful, faith filled week of the year!



May God touch your heart, mind, and soul with His love and peace. I pray this in Jesus' name.
Fr. Marvin Bries

Televised 10 am Palm Sunday Mass **Blessed Palm Leaves are available in advance**

St. Mary Parish will televise Palm Sunday Mass (April 5) at 10 AM on Guttenberg's Channel 6 TV Station and on Facebook Livestream: <https://facebook.com/events/s/live-streaming-of-mass/3457603607601374/?ti=as>

The Parish Men's Group will be handing out Blessed Palm Leaves at the below times:

Saturday April 4 – From 4 PM to 5 PM

Sunday April 5 – From 8 AM to 9 AM

We will be paying strict attention to Social Distancing conventions for your protection.

- ◆ Please drive up to the front of St. Mary Church, stop your car, **STAY in your car** and a member will hand you the palm leaves you need through your car window. After that you can drive away so we can service the next car.
- ◆ Please do not use this as an opportunity to stop and chat as we will need a smooth flow of traffic.
- ◆ Our men will be wearing protective gloves
- ◆ We will respect the six foot distancing rule of thumb
- ◆ For sanitary reasons, parishioners must have the Palm Leaves handed to them by one of our volunteers. No one should handle the Palm Leaves other than our volunteers.

Your weekly donations and financial gifts are needed now more than ever

You saw in this week's Guttenberg Press some examples of the efforts by our School and our Parishioners to help feed children that are not in school, and to support our community as we brace for the Corona Virus' coming to Guttenberg. Please remember to continue your weekly financial gifts to the Parish so that we can maintain our efforts and operations during this unprecedented time.

Your weekly donations can be mailed to: St Mary's Church; PO Box 847; Guttenberg, IA 52052.

THANK YOU for your continued support of Time, Talent, and Treasure. We pray that God be with you, bless you, keep you safe and at peace during this challenging time.

Why shouldn't you tell an Easter Egg a joke? *It might crack up!*

Find Resources for Families to Celebrate
Holy Week at Home at:

Find us on Facebook: St. Mary/St. Joseph/Immaculate Conception

<https://www.pinterest.com/dbqarch/>

Holy Week Remembered and Experienced

At the heart of our faith is the Paschal Mystery: the Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ. All of salvation history leads up to and goes forth from these saving events. The purpose of this is to call to mind Jesus' final week. We call this Holy Week because Jesus' public ministry culminates with his suffering, death and resurrection.

What follows is a brief description of each day of Holy Week. It is hoped that you might read it each day of this week and prayerfully walk with Jesus in his most difficult and yet glorious week. It is a great blessing to consider the Lord's last week and walk with him.

Palm Sunday: Our celebration of Holy Week begins Sunday as we remember the triumphal entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem to begin his final week and initiate his Passion. (Read Mark 11:1-11) As you think about your palm leaf considered that you are part of that vast crowd. Let the palm remind you to praise him with your prayerful presence during the sacred Triduum. Pray with Jesus as he considers the difficult days ahead of him.

Monday of Holy Week: According to Matthew 21, Mark 11, and Luke 19, Jesus returns to Jerusalem today and, seeing shameful practices in the Temple area, he cleanses the Temple. (Read Mark 11:15-19) Pray with Jesus as he is zealous to purify us.

Tuesday of Holy Week: According to Matthew, Mark, and Luke, Jesus again returns to Jerusalem where he is confronted by the Temple leadership for what he did the day before. They question his authority. He also teaches extensively, using parables and other forms. There is the parable of the vineyard, the parable of the wedding banquet, the teaching on paying taxes, and the rebuke of the Sadducees who deny the resurrection. (Read Mark 11:27-12:27) Pray with Jesus and listen carefully to his final teachings just before his passion.

Wednesday of Holy Week: Traditionally this day was called "Spy Wednesday" because it was on this Wednesday before the crucifixion that Judas conspired to hand Jesus over. For this he was paid 30 pieces of silver. In the evening, Mary of Bethany anoints Jesus with costly perfumed oil and he says Mary has anointed him for his burial! (Read Mark 14:1-11) The wicked are plotting against Jesus. Are you praying?

Holy Thursday: This marks the beginning of the sacred Triduum, or "three days." Earlier this day Jesus had given instructions to the disciples on how to prepare for this most holy meal, which will be his last supper. In the Mass of the Lord's Supper, we remember that Last Supper which Jesus shared with his disciples. (Read Mark 14:12-25) We are in the upper room with Jesus and the Apostles and do what they did. Through the ritual of washing the feet we unite in service to one another. Through our celebration of this first Mass and Holy Eucharist we unite ourselves to Jesus and receive his Body and Blood. After the Last Supper (First Mass), the apostles and Jesus made a short journey across the Kidron Valley to the Garden, where he asks them to pray and he experiences his agony. (Read Mark 14:32-41)

It is an ancient custom to spend an hour before the reposed Blessed Sacrament tonight. We are with Jesus in the Garden and pray as he goes through his agony. It was near Midnight that Jesus was betrayed by Judas, was arrested and taken to the house of the High Priest. (Read Mark 14:43-53)

Good Friday: Early this morning he was bought before Pilate who transferred his case to Herod. Herod sent him back to Pilate who, sometime in the mid-morning, bowed to the pressure of the Temple leadership and the crowds, and condemned Jesus to a horrible death by crucifixion. (Read Mark 15:1-15) In the late morning Jesus was taken by the soldiers through the city and up the hillside of Golgotha. By noon he is nailed to the cross where he hangs in agony for some three hours. He dies around three in the afternoon. He is taken down from the cross and placed in the tomb hastily before sundown. (Read Mark 15:16-47) Today is a day of prayer, fasting and abstinence. In the evening, we enter into time of prayer as we reflect on Jesus' death on the cross. We also pray for the needs of the world.

Holy Saturday: The body of Jesus is in the tomb but His soul is among the dead to announce the kingdom. The hour is coming, and now is when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear it will live. Consider what it must be like for the dead in Sheol to awaken to the voice of Jesus! (Read John 5:25)

Tonight, after sundown we would normally gather for the Great Easter Vigil where we will experience Jesus rising from the dead. (Read Mark 16:1-7) We would gather in darkness and light the Easter fire which reminds us that Jesus is light in the darkness. He is the light of the world. We listen to Bible stories describing God's saving work of the past. Normally, suddenly the church lights are lit and the Gloria is sung as we celebrate the moment of Christ's resurrection. He Lives! Our vigil ushers in an Easter joy that never ends!

By Msgr. Charles Pope, the Pastor of Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian in Washington, D.C.

Easter Sunday: Jesus Christ our hope and salvation has risen! God has triumphed over evil. Love has conquered death. We are filled with Joy. Renewed by the resurrection we go forward to share the good news. Our duty is to bring the hope and joy of the risen Jesus to everyone we encounter. AMEN!