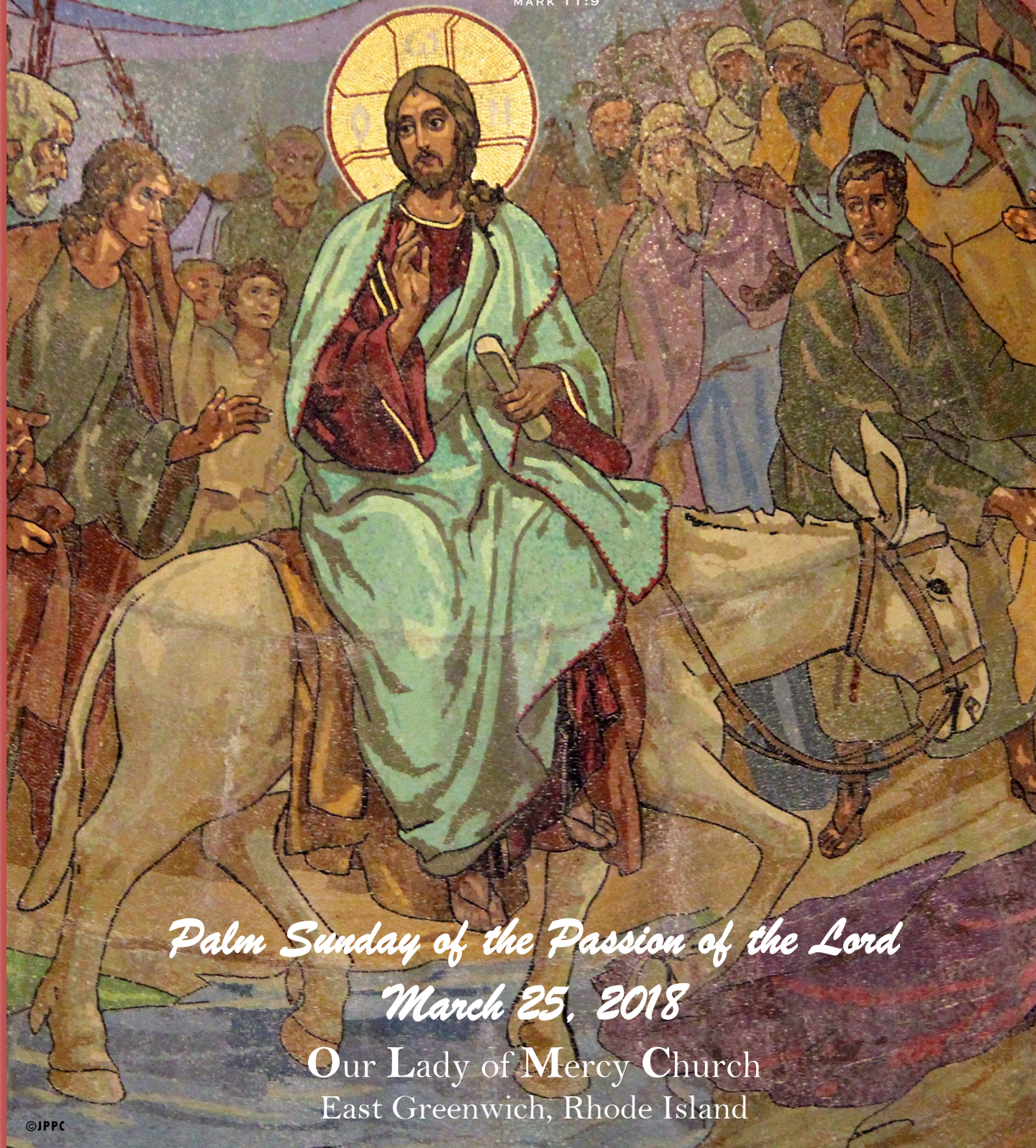


“Hosanna!

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

MARK 11:9



Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

March 25, 2018

Our Lady of Mercy Church
East Greenwich, Rhode Island



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Mass Intentions



for the Week

©JPPC

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD MARCH 25, 2018

SATURDAY, MARCH 24

Mass of Anticipation for Palm Sunday
 4:00PM Frank Wildenhain—Birthday Remembrance

SUNDAY, MARCH 25

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
 7:30 AM Richard J. Casey, Jr.—Memorial
 9:00 AM Maria Paletta—Month's Mind
 10:30AM Bethany Briggs—11th Anniversary
 5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church

MONDAY, MARCH 26

Monday of Holy Week
 7:30AM Souls in Purgatory
 12:05PM Mary Florence Wynne—Month's Mind

TUESDAY, MARCH 27

Tuesday of Holy Week
 7:30AM John Gardner—Memorial
 12:05PM Agnes & Peter Mellon—Memorial

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28

Wednesday of Holy Week
 7:30AM Emily & Frederick Miller—Memorial
 12:05PM Darlene Sczerbinski—Memorial

HOLY THURSDAY, MARCH 29

Mass of the Lord's Supper
 7:00PM Bishops & Priests of the Diocese of Providence

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 30

3:00PM Stations of the Cross
 7:00PPM Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

HOLY SATURDAY, MARCH 31

Easter Vigil
 8:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 1

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
 7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church
 9:00 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church
 10:30AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church





Dear Parishioners:

Holy Week is the week that changed the world. We begin this most sacred of weeks with the celebration of Palm Sunday and the Proclamation of the Passion of our Lord. This day inaugurates Holy Week with the triumphal entrance of Jesus in Jerusalem.

We relive this historic event of salvation history at Mass with a procession into the church and a solemn blessing of palm branches. St. Augustine writes: *"The palm leaves symbolize homage, for they stand for victory. Our Lord is on the point of conquering by dying on the cross. Under the sign of the cross, he is about to triumph over the devil, the prince of death."*

On Monday of Holy Week, Bishop Tobin celebrates the Chrism Mass, a Mass in which the oil of the sick, used in the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, and the oil of catechumens, used in preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism, are blessed. Also, the sacred Chrism, used in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders, is consecrated.

At this Annual Mass, all priests of the diocese renew their priestly promises and their pledge to remain in communion with the bishop, our Chief Shepherd and head of the Church of Providence. The Chrism Mass reminds us that we are anointed at our baptism and that, through the ordained men He chooses, Christ continues the ministry of his one High Priesthood, a ministry of word and sacrament.

On Holy Tuesday we move ever closer to Jesus' Passion as the liturgy focuses on

Jesus announcing Judas' betrayal and Peter's denial. On Spy Wednesday, the traditional name for the day before Jesus is betrayed, Judas visits the chief priests of the Temple promising to betray Jesus in exchange for 30 pieces of silver. This day is traditionally called "*Spy Wednesday*" in reference to the "*spy*" or "*traitor*", Judas.

Holy Thursday marks the end of the holy season of Lent and the beginning of the most sacred time in our liturgical year: the Paschal Triduum. These three days are one unit wherein the greatest mysteries of our redemption are celebrated. On Holy Thursday we gather in the evening to celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper. We celebrate the institution of the ordained priesthood and the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

Holy Thursday is also called "*Maundy Thursday*" in reference to the "*mandatum*," which is Jesus' commandment to love one another. It is symbolized by his washing of the feet of the apostles, and the gesture is reenacted by the parish priests with the washing of feet of parishioners. On this holy night, the Eucharist is carried in procession to the altar of repose. There we adore Christ truly present in the Eucharist and keep watch with him as did the apostles in the Garden of Gethsemane.

On Good Friday we fix our gaze on the Cross. There is no celebration of Mass on this most somber day in the Church's calendar. In the solemn ceremonies of Good Friday — the adoration and veneration of the Cross, the reading of the Passion and the reception of

Holy Communion — we not only behold the wood of the Cross, but we also unite ourselves and our crosses to our Savior.

Holy Saturday is a holy day of "*waiting*," when Jesus is said to have "*descended into the dead*" to bring the just souls who died before his sacrifice on the cross to the glories of heaven. We wait in prayer until the Easter Vigil, which begins in the dark and ends in the light of Christ's resurrection.

It is a solemn and beautiful liturgy as those coming into the Catholic faith are baptized, received and confirmed. The Alleluia and the singing of the Gloria return to the liturgy, and church bells that have been silent ring joyfully.

St. Augustine calls the Easter Vigil, the "*Mother of all Vigils*." This year at OLM we baptize one adult, receive a non-Catholic into the Church and confirm several other adults.

On Easter Sunday, we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ in which he conquered death itself and opened the gates of Heaven to us. And so we proclaim with great joy on Easter: "*The Lord is Risen. He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia!*"

Please join us this week for the celebration of Holy Week 2018. Holy Week is indeed the week that changed the world, so let it change your world this year! Do good. Be well. A Blessed Holy Week to you all!

Father Healey



What is the symbolism of the Palm Branches?

Five weeks ago we stood in the church and received ashes. We were reminded of our mortality, our sinfulness, and our need for penance and prayer. Those ashes were the remnant of Palm Sunday branches from last year. This year we once again receive new palm branches. This symbolizes new growth and rebirth. This begs the question: have we experienced new spiritual growth and rebirth these days of Lent, or are the only things new in our lives the palms in our hands?

It is also interesting to note that on Palm Sunday we combine two things: the glorious welcome with palms of Jesus into Jerusalem, and (while holding those same palms) the crying out of "Crucify him! Crucify him!" during the Gospel. The palms symbolize our human weakness and how easily we can be drawn from faithfulness to faithlessness. During Palm Sunday Mass we take up our role as the mob that condemns Jesus to death. We are not just actors in this, however, since Jesus was crucified for all sins throughout all time, including our own.

Lent has been a period of prayer, fasting and almsgiving as a way of burning away the old attachments of sin, so that the new growth of virtue and holiness may take place. What if our Lent has not been particularly rejuvenating this year? Even now there is still time, since we have Holy Week ahead of us. As St. Teresa of Avila tells us: God can make up for lost time. The palms are not just something to stick on our crucifixes at home, or in our cars. I encourage everyone to see in these palm branches the tangible reminders of the call to holiness.

If you have questions about the Catholic Faith, please send them to Fr. Barrow via email at associate@olmparish.org



Weekly Collection

March 18, 2018

Weekly.....	\$12,051.00
EFT.....	\$2,219.00
	Total=\$14,270.00
Outreach.....	\$1,3320.00

If you have been away on vacation or visiting another parish, we kindly ask you to please make up your missed budget envelopes. We depend solely upon your weekly support to meet our weekly parish expenses.

Thank you for your generous support!

Please remember Our Lady of Mercy Church in your will or estate.

Second Collections

This Week: Rice Bowl Collection

Next Week: The Easter Collection



2018

CATHOLIC CHARITY APPEAL

Supporting the work of the Church

2018 Parish Goal=\$193,864

Pledged to date=\$89,938

% of Parish Goal=46%

Total Donors to date=203

Average Gift=\$423

% of Parish Participation=10%

Thank You for Your Generous Support!

You are invited to enter into the heart of the Christian story, the story that gives meaning to our lives, by walking the road of

HOLY WEEK

the week that changed the world



This Week at OLM School

- **Thursday, March 29th:** Half-Day & Early Dismissal
- **Friday, March 30th:** Good Friday, No School.

Discover the OLM Difference!
www.olmschool.org



• **Sunday, March 25th:** All Grade 8 Confirmation Candidates (Public, Private, Parochial & Home School) must attend **MANDATORY LECTURE** in the OLM School Cafeteria.

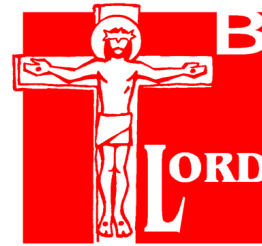
• **NO RE on Easter Sunday, April 1st! Happy Easter to all OLM RE students, teachers and families.**



• **OLM Food Pantry** is always in need of non-perishable food items especially during the cold winter months. Please leave items in Food Box in the vestibule.

• **For more information about OLM Outreach,** please contact Outreach Director, Doug Green at 884-4410 or by email at outreach@olmparish.org

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, Year B



The proclamation of the Passion is central to the liturgy on this final Sunday of Lent.

Because this is a B year in the three-year cycle of Sunday readings, the Passion according to Mark is read.

Lent ends on the afternoon of Holy Thursday. The season known as Triduum begins with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on that evening.

Triduum is celebrated as a unit which is why the Mass of the Lord's Supper and the liturgy for Good Friday have no concluding rites. The final blessing does not occur until the end of Mass at the Easter Vigil.



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Holy Week

at Our Lady of Mercy East Greenwich, RI

FRIDAY, MARCH 23
Living Stations of the Cross
at 1:00pm & 7:00pm

SATURDAY, MARCH 24
All-Day Confessions
9:00am through 3:00pm
Vigil Mass for Palm Sunday at 4:00pm

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 25
Masses at 7:30am, 9:00am,
10:30am & 5:00pm
Solemn Procession of Palms at the
10:30am Mass

**MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK,
MARCH 26**
Masses at 7:30am & 12:05pm
Confessions at 11:45am until Noon &
6:00pm until 6:45pm with 2 priests

**TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK,
MARCH 27**
Masses at 7:30am & 12:05pm
Confessions at 11:45am until Noon

SPY WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28
Masses at 7:30am & 12:05pm
Confessions at 11:45am until Noon

HOLY THURSDAY, MARCH 29
Solemn Morning Prayer at 8:00am
Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00pm
Adoration following Mass
until Midnight

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 30
Solemn Morning Prayer at 8:00am
Stations of the Cross at 3:00pm
Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at 7:00pm

HOLY SATURDAY, MARCH 31
Solemn Morning Prayer at 8:00am
Easter Vigil Mass at 8:00pm

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 1
Masses at 7:30am, 9:00am & 10:30am
No 5:00pm Mass on Easter Sunday

Our Lady of Mercy Youth Group

Attention All OLM Students in Grades 8 thru 12!

Join us this Sunday, March 18th from 7:00PM until 8:30PM at the OLM School Gym. For more information please contact Billy Burdier, OLM Youth Activities Coordinator, at 884-4968 or via email at youthactivities@olmparish.org

"Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire!"

—St. Catherine of Siena

**Pray
for
Vocations**

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