

Are you the Christ, THE SON OF THE BLESSED ONE?

MARK 14:61





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PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION MARCH 28, 2021

SATURDAY, MARCH 27

Mass of Anticipation for Palm Sunday

4:00PM Lillian E. "Dolly" Healey—34th Anniversary

SUNDAY, MARCH 28

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

9:00AM Alfred Luciano—Memorial

10:30AM Fr. Gerald W. Hussey—2nd Anniversary

MONDAY, MARCH 29

Monday of Holy Week

7:30AM Lois W. Stetkiewicz—Memorial

12:05PM Richard Singleton—Memorial

TUESDAY, MARCH 30

Tuesday of Holy Week

7:30AM Lois W. Stetkiewicz—Memorial

12:05PM Special Intention

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31

Wednesday of Holy Week

7:30AM Emily & Frederick Milller—Memorial

12:05PM Lillian E. "Dolly" Healey—34th Anniversary

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 1

The Mass of the Lord's Supper

7:00PM The Dec'd Bishops & Priests of Providence

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2

3:00PM The Stations of the Cross

7:00PM The Liturgy of the of the Holy Cross

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 3

The Easter Vigil

7:30PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

9:00AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

10:30AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy





Dear Parishioners:

We begin Holy Week today on Palm Sunday. This year, thanks be to God, we are able to gather in Church, receive palm branches, and worship our Savior in Church not from our living rooms. Holy Week is the most sacred time of the year, for it is now that we will commemorate, and remember, the last week of Jesus' life on this earth.

These are the days leading up to the great Easter Feast. The Lenten season of sacrifice, penance, fasting and self-denial is about to come to an end, but this coming week is extremely important for all Christians. The greatest focus of the week is the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ and the events that led up to it.

The Church has celebrated Holy Week as early as the fourth century with profound solemnity and deep devotion. It begins with Palm Sunday, which marks Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Palm branches are blessed and we have a solemn entry into the Church.

However, the central feature of Palm Sunday, is the proclamation of the Gospel of the Passion of Our Lord. It is the only Sunday of the year the entire Passion is read. We listen devoutly and reflect prayerfully upon the account of our Savior's suffering and crucifixion.

The Sacred Triduum begins on Holy Thursday, as we reenact the Lord's Last Supper, which He shared with His apostles on the night He was betrayed and arrested. This is one of the most beautiful and solemn liturgies of the entire

liturgical year. On this night, our Lord instituted the Holy Eucharist and the Sacred Priesthood. Our Mass of the Lord's Supper at OLM is at 7:00pm and the Church remains open until Midnight for prayer before the Altar of Repose as we recall our Lord's time of prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane.

On Good Friday, the day of the crucifixion and death of our Lord, we have the veneration of the Cross. We reverence the Cross in order to show honor and respect for Christ's sacrifice for our sake. There is no consecration of the Eucharist on this day, and the Communion we receive is from the Holy Thursday Mass.

We will mark our Savior's crucifixion with Stations of the Cross at 3:00pm, the very hour our Lord is thought to have died. And then at 7:00pm we celebrate the Solemn Service of Good Friday with the Veneration of the Cross.

Holy Saturday is a day of silent prayer and devotion as we recall our Savior in the tomb. We keep watch for the expectant rising of Our Savior. Only one Mass is permitted on Holy Saturday, the Easter Vigil. It is the Mother of all Vigil Masses and begins after sundown at 7:30pm on Holy Saturday.

We begin in darkness and bless the new light as we rejoice in the Light of Christ Risen! Those who have been preparing are fully received through Baptism, Communion and Confirmation into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil.

On Easter Sunday, we celebrate the glory of the Resurrection and rejoice; the tomb is empty and the Lord is

Risen! We have scheduled Masses at 7:30am, 9:00am and 10:30am for Easter Sunday.

The OLM School Cafeteria is available for any overflow, and a large screen will air Easter Mass live for those gathered there. This should accommodate everyone who wishes to come to Mass in person on Easter Sunday. Holy Communion will be brought to the school for those participating from the cafeteria.

It is hard to believe that just one year ago our Church was locked and we celebrated Holy Week with just the priests and sisters of OLM. The Sacred Triduum, standing at the heart of the Easter season, is an intense immersion in the fundamental mystery of what it is to be Christian.

During these holy days, we suffer with Christ so that we might rise with Him at His glorious Resurrection. Holy Week is a time to clear our schedules of unnecessary activities. Our minds and hearts should be fixed on Jesus and what He did for us. Let us bear the Cross so that we may be worthy of wearing the crown He wore. St. Bruno remind us: *"While the world changes, the Cross stands firm."*

Holy Week 2021 our Churches are open! Come to the Triduum and have a Blessed and Prayerful Holy Week! Be well. Stay safe. Do good. God Bless.

Ask Father

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.



Weekly Collection

March 21, 2021

Weekly.....	\$8,014.00
EFT.....	\$4,529.00
	Total=\$12,543.00
Outreach.....	\$2,049.00

March 23, 2020

Weekly during Lockdown.....	\$4,705.00
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Thank You for Your Generous Support!

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



Saturday Evening Mass of Anticipation

The 4:00PM Saturday Evening Mass moves to 5:00PM and Saturday Confessions from 3:00pm to 4:00PM on Saturday, April 10, 2021.

Please support the Catholic Charity Appeal, make your pledge today



2021 OLM Parish Goal= \$190,000
 2021 Pledged (to date)=\$97,041
 2021 Total of Pledges (to date)=221

2020 Goal= \$200,000
 2020 Amount Pledged= \$131,236
 Total Number Parishioners Pledges=290

Thank you for your

Congratulations

Annual Youth Ministry Diocesan Awards

St. Timothy Award

Congratulations to OLM Parishioner and Senior Altar Server **Grace Dobrzynski**, a LaSalle Academy Senior, for receiving the St Timothy Award, the highest National Catholic Award given to a youth. The St. Timothy Award is a National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry Award given by a diocese to a Catholic youth who lives as a disciple of Christ, sets a positive example for other youth, witnesses to their faith by exhibiting Catholic morals and integrity and demonstrates Gospel values through service to others in their parish, school, and within their community.

Companions on the Journey Award

Congratulations to the 2021 "Companions on the Journey Award" recipient, OLM Parishioner, **Cynthia Cavanagh**, a teacher at the Prout High School. The Companions on the Journey is a National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry Award given by a diocese to adults who demonstrate a commitment to young people and provide a Catholic faith witness and excellence and outstanding leadership in youth ministry.



In your charity please pray for the happy repose of the souls of the faithful departed most especially **Edith Sheppard** whose Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at OLM last week.



Striving to be Saints & Scholars!

- **Tuesday, March 30:** 9AM School Lenten Mass for Grades 1 & 2 (no livestream)
- **Wednesday, March 31:** OLM School Community Zoom Meeting at 7:00pm
- **Thursday, April 1:** Holy Thursday Half-Day with dismissal at 11:30am
- **Friday, April 2:** No School on Good Friday
- **Monday, April 5:** No School on Easter Monday

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Sunday, April 11: Mass at 5pm & Class following Mass. Topic: "Holy Eucharist". Mass is for First Communion students and their families only.

Sunday, May 2: Mass at 5pm & Class following Mass. Topic: "Receiving the Real Presence." Mass is for First Communion students and their families only.

Saturday, May 8: First Communion Mass & May Crowning at 12:00PM

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

THE TRIDUUM & EASTER AT OUR LADY OF MERCY

The Triduum will be livestreamed on olmparish.org

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 1

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

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2

Solemn Morning Prayer at 8:00am
Stations of the Cross at 3:00pm
Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
with Veneration of the Cross at 7:00pm

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 3

Solemn Morning Prayer at 8:00am
Easter Vigil Mass at 7:30pm

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4

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



**PALM
SUNDAY**



**HOLY
THURSDAY**



**GOOD
FRIDAY**



**EASTER
SUNDAY**

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