

Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church

April 9, 2017/PALM SUNDAY

PASTOR'S CORNER

With today's celebration of the Lord's entry into Jerusalem, we commence the holiest days of the Christian calendar. They are the days of the suffering and triumph of our God. But the suffering and the triumph are not neatly divided between the before and the after of the moment of the Resurrection. The glory of the Lord infuses even Jesus' death. His death was not loss. It was painful, to be sure, and it was not illusory. The Church has always insisted, against the early Docetist and Gnostic heresies, on the true body and complete human nature of Jesus Christ—and consequently that his death on the Cross was not an illusion. These heretics thought it intolerable that God would even concern himself with our world, much less lower himself to *become* a part of our world and suffer pain and shame. But that is precisely the revelation of God we receive in Christ Jesus: a God who loves the world so much that he sent his only Son to take flesh and die. For our sake. The opening prayer for today's Mass says: *Almighty ever-living God, who as an example of humility for the sake of the human race to follow caused our Savior to take flesh and submit to the Cross, graciously grant that we may heed his lesson of patient suffering and so merit a share in his Resurrection.* Similarly, on Wednesday of this week we hear: *O God, who willed your Son to submit for our sake to the yoke of the Cross....*

God *caused* Jesus to take flesh and submit to the Cross; he *willed* him to submit to the yoke of the Cross. What kind of God is it that causes and wills the Cross for his only Son? It is unheard of in the history of religions that any god would do such a thing. It is the last thing we would wish for our own children. If we would be true Christians, we must cease any attempt to control God, or accept only a God whose ways we can understand.

But without pretending to comprehend God's ways, we must at least understand this: in willing the Cross for his Son, he does not intend him *evil*. For when Christ is lifted up on the Cross—and only then—can our stony hearts understand what it means that *God is love*. Jesus speaks of his passion and death as his "glory." He says repeatedly in the Gospel of John that the world must know of his love for the Father, and that love cannot be displayed in its full power except by willingly drinking the "cup" of suffering to its bitter dregs. In his hour of suffering he bore every kind of torment we can imagine, or both body and spirit, and the bodily pains are only a sign of the suffering borne in the depths of the heart of the God-Man. And he would have done it all for you, alone, had you been the only human being ever to exist, for the love he had for the Father and for us would need to be made known—no less than the Father's love for the Son, and the Father's love for us. This is how "God is love" is translated for us.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP All parishioners should participate fully in parish life (*this especially means worshipping at Mass on all Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation*), be registered here, and contribute to the support the parish to the extent possible. We often get requests for recommendations and permissions for parishioners to serve as godparents and sponsors. If we don't know you, we can't give that testimony on your behalf. You may have been baptized here (or gone to Catholic schools) but you need to be currently practicing and registered in your local parish (children are obviously registered with their parents; adults need to make their own arrangements). The Church requires that baptisms and marriages be celebrated in one's own parish. If one is not an active parishioner, problems could arise at those important times.

Baptisms Usually 1st and 3rd Sundays. Contact the pastor to schedule. First-time parents please also schedule a "pre-Jordan" preparation class—offered the 2nd Wednesday of each month, at 7:15 p.m. in the parish center.

Weddings Active parishioners contact the parish office no later than six months prior to the desired wedding date. Marriage preparation normally includes several meetings with a priest, several meetings with a mentor couple of the parish, a weekend of conferences offered by the diocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life, NFP training, and FOCCUS diagnostic. *If someone in your family is planning to get married*, please encourage them to speak to their pastor. The marriages of Catholics (whether or not they're marrying other Catholics) need to be conformable with Church law, and that requires that they receive suitable catechesis in preparation for marriage, and marry according to a certain rite.

Eucharistic exposition Wednesdays following the noon Mass until 7:00 p.m. Benediction. For information, and to volunteer to take hours of adoration, contact Regina Cano at (614) 582-8588.

Knights of Columbus Contact Trinidad Cano at (740) 819-8002. The K of C offer a hot breakfast every 4th Sunday following morning Masses, and lead the Rosary after the 11:00 Mass on 5th Sundays.

Choir We're always in need of more voices in the choir. Contact the parish office or the choir director Mrs. Adams. Weekly rehearsals are Wednesdays, after Benediction.

Funeral luncheons Contact Mary Margaret Murphy at (740) 452-4454.

Rental information To reserve Rosary Hall or Activity Center (i.e. the school gym) contact Mary Ann Ewart at maewart@gmail.com or (740) 319-2449.

Pregnancy counseling Heartbeat Family Center/Pregnancy Distress: (740) 450-5437, www.heartbeats.org.

Prayer requests (740) 453-8397, (740) 297-7164, (740) 588-0314, or (740) 704-3136

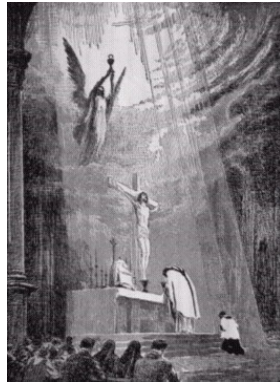
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MASS INTENTIONS

It is a holy and pious thought to pray for the dead.
cf. 2 Maccabees, 12.



Sunday, April 9

PALM SUNDAY

5:00pm (Sat.) John & Peg Mattingly (+)
7:00am People of the parish
9:00am Marcia K. Dunkle (+)
11:00am Joe Rosta (+)

Monday, April 10

Monday of Holy Week

8:00am Betty Mercer (+)
12Noon Richard & Dorothy Feicht Family (+)

Tuesday, April 11

Tuesday of Holy Week

8:00am Joe Rosta (+)
12Noon End to abortion

Wednesday, April 12

Wednesday of Holy Week (Spy Wednesday)

8:00am Tom Quinn (+)
12Noon Lori Clifford (+)

Sacred Triduum of the Lord's Passion

See special schedule



Weekly Calendar

Sunday, April 9: PALM SUNDAY: Beginning of Holy Week

No CCD, RCIA

Coffee and doughnuts after 11:00 Mass only

Monday, April 10

7:00 p.m. Scouts (Parish Center)

Tuesday, April 11

No Bible Study this week: resumes next week

6:00 p.m. Rosary for Life (church)

RCIA (Parish Center)

Wednesday, April 12

No Eucharistic exposition or Benediction

7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal (church)

SEE SCHEDULE OF HOLY WEEK TRIDUUM LITURGIES

Sunday, April 16: EASTER SUNDAY

No CCD, RCIA

No coffee and doughnuts

Parish Finances

Weekend of April 2

Main collection total \$10,650.13*

Weekly Budget 11,538.00

This week's deficit - 887.87

Thank you!

** This figure includes envelope and loose amounts. It does not include automatic electronic donations.*

Upcoming special collections

Apr 14 Good Friday/Holy Land Christians
Apr 23 Catholic Home Missions
Apr 30 Church in Central & Eastern Europe
May 7 St. Vincent de Paul Society
May 21 Catholic Communications Campaign

Please remember St. Thomas Aquinas
Church in your will.

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A homily on the Passion of the Lord

by Pope St. Leo the Great (390-461)

Our understanding, which is enlightened by the Spirit of truth, should receive with purity and freedom of heart the glory of the cross as it shines in heaven and on earth. It should see with inner vision the meaning of the Lord's words when he spoke of the imminence of his passion: *The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.* Afterward he said: *Now my soul is troubled, and what am I to say? Father, save me from this hour. But it was for this that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your Son.* When the voice of the Father came from heaven, saying, *I have glorified him, and will glorify him again,* Jesus said in reply to those around him: *It was not for me that this voice spoke, but for you. Now is the judgment of the world, now will the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all things to myself.*

How marvelous the power of the cross; how great beyond all telling the glory of the passion: here is the judgement-seat of the Lord, the condemnation of the world, the supremacy of Christ crucified.

Lord, you drew all things to yourself so that the devotion of all peoples everywhere might celebrate, in a sacrament made perfect and visible, what was carried out in the one temple of Judea under obscure foreshadowings.

Now there is a more distinguished order of Levites, a greater dignity for the rank of elders, a more sacred anointing for the priesthood, because your cross is the source of all blessings, the cause of all graces. Through the cross the faithful receive strength from weakness, glory from dishonor, life from death.

The different sacrifices of animals are no more: the one offering of your body and blood is the fulfillment of all the different sacrificial offerings, for you are the true Lamb of God: you take away the sins of the world. In yourself you bring to perfection all mysteries, so that, as there is one sacrifice in place of all other sacrificial offerings, there is also one kingdom gathered from all peoples.

Dearly beloved, let us then acknowledge what Saint Paul, the teacher of the nations, acknowledged so exultantly: *This is a saying worthy of trust, worthy of complete acceptance: Christ Jesus came into this world to save sinners.*

God's compassion for us is all the more wonderful because Christ died, not for the righteous or the holy but for the wicked and the sinful, and, though the divine nature could not be touched by the sting of death, he took to himself, through his birth as one of us, something he could offer on our behalf.

The power of his death once confronted our death. In the words of Hosea the prophet: *Death, I shall be your death; grave, I shall swallow you up.* By dying he submitted to the laws of the underworld; by rising again he destroyed them. He did away with the everlasting character of death so as to make death a thing of time, not of eternity. As all die in Adam, so all will be brought to life in Christ.



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Sacred Triduum of Holy Week, 2017

Holy Thursday, April 13

*Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:30 p.m.
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until midnight*

Good Friday, April 14

*Celebration of the Lord's Passion 3:00 p.m.
Stations of the Cross 7:00 p.m.*

Holy Saturday, April 15

Easter Vigil Mass 8:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 16

*Regular Sunday Mass Schedule, i.e.,
7:00, 9:00, & 11:00 a.m.*

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Festival News

This year's festival will be held June 8-10. The children's games chairpersons (Jill Phillips and Kacie Bell) are in need of gently used stuffed animals and 2-liter soft drinks. Donations may be dropped off at the school or parish offices. Next planning meeting is Wednesday, April 19, 6:00 in the Parish Center. Anyone who wants to help in any capacity is welcome to attend.

Church Cleaners

We have a crew of dedicated church-cleaners who work one Saturday morning per month to keep the interior of the church (and sacristy, restrooms, etc.) ship-shape and glistening. More help is needed. If you're willing and able to assist, contact Karen Lyon at karen_lyon@yahoo.com. *Service hours can be credited to students for this work*

Bishop Fenwick Preschool

We are currently accepting registrations for the 2017-2018 school year. Children aged 3 to 6 are exposed to an environment where they are loved, cared for, and safe. Licensed by the Ohio Department of Education, we offer various activities that keep children engaged and learning. Our curriculum fosters mastery of Ohio's Early Learning and Development Standards and promotes Kindergarten readiness. We offer half-day and full-day programming. After-care is also available. We have two-, three-, four-, and five-day flexible scheduling options to meet the needs of busy families. Children can purchase a kid-friendly, nutritious lunch from the cafeteria and also participate in gym and music. We invite you to join us for our Spring Open House on Monday, April 10, 5:30-7:00 p.m., at 139 N. Fifth Street. We hope to see you all soon!

Bishop Rosecrans Athletic Booster

Booster Mania Recent Winners: Fr. Ralko, Jeff Shawger, Brandon Besser, Fran & Ron Koverman, Kelsey Meyer, Ed Middaugh, Mike Butcher, Ronald Paul, Bruce Kolopajlo, Stephanie Bridwell, Aaron Monroe and Charlie White. Thank you for your continual support.

2017 Diocesan Senior Citizens Celebration June 6

The 40th annual diocesan Senior Citizens Celebration is Tuesday, June 6, 2017, at St. Joan of Arc Church at 10700 Liberty Road in Powell. Bishop Campbell will celebrate Mass at 10:30 a.m. Mass will be followed by a luncheon. Registration cost is \$10. This annual event is a great opportunity for food, faith, and fellowship with seniors from the 23-county Catholic Diocese of Columbus. When registering, please make check payable to the Office for Social Concerns, Catholic Diocese of Columbus, 197 E. Gay Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. Questions? Call (614) 241-2540 or email socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org. Registration deadline is June 1.

Please pray for the home-bound of the parish:

Margaret Gladys Abbott, Nancy Arledge, William & Jan Barry, Mary Batteiger, Gertrude Bell, Madelyn Bronkar, Mathilda Clark, Bart & Josephine Cooper, Mary Cowden, Herman Crock, Michael Curtis, Jeanne Dittmar, Frances Feerick, Evelyn DiVincenzo, Betty Fedor, Beverly Foley, Isabel Gilchrist, Mary Ellen Grafton, Florence Herbert, Sandra Honeywell, Patricia Huck, Eileen Johnston, Mike Kline, Dorothy Loewendick, Henry Long, David Macenko, Dolores Mahon, Josephine Marshall, Patricia Perone, Alice Pitcock, Mary Polascak, Mary Postlewaite, Mary Rosta, George and Barb Ridenour, Joe and Barbara Ritchey, Mary Lou Scott, Barbara Schumacher, Loretta Silfko, Terri Woods

ZANESVILLE CATHOLIC TEENS

Two upcoming events!

Sunday, April 2, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

St. Nicholas Church Teen Center

Walk With Christ: *Walking Stations of the Cross, a joint middle school/high school event.*

Good Friday, April 14, 9:00 a.m.

Walking Stations of the Cross

Meet in St. Nicholas Church

All are invited to join Zanesville Catholic Teens as we walk through downtown Zanesville remembering Christ's journey to the Cross as we pray for the needs of our community.

THE DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA seek to promote the welfare of the community in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church through unity, friendship, and charity. All women aged 16 and up are welcome. The next meeting is **Tuesday, April 11, 6:00 p.m. at St. Nicholas Parish Office.**

Thursday Bible Study

The Thursday after Easter (April 20) the Jeff Cavins Bible Study Program resumes in the parish office, at 6:30 p.m. This is part of a 24-party Bible Study designed by Jeff Cavins, and is being headed here in our parish by Mary Baker. Cost for the materials is \$34.95 + shipping, and the registration deadline is April 10 (*this Monday!*). For more information, call Mary Baker at (740) 297-5851 or email at marytbaker@hotmail.com.