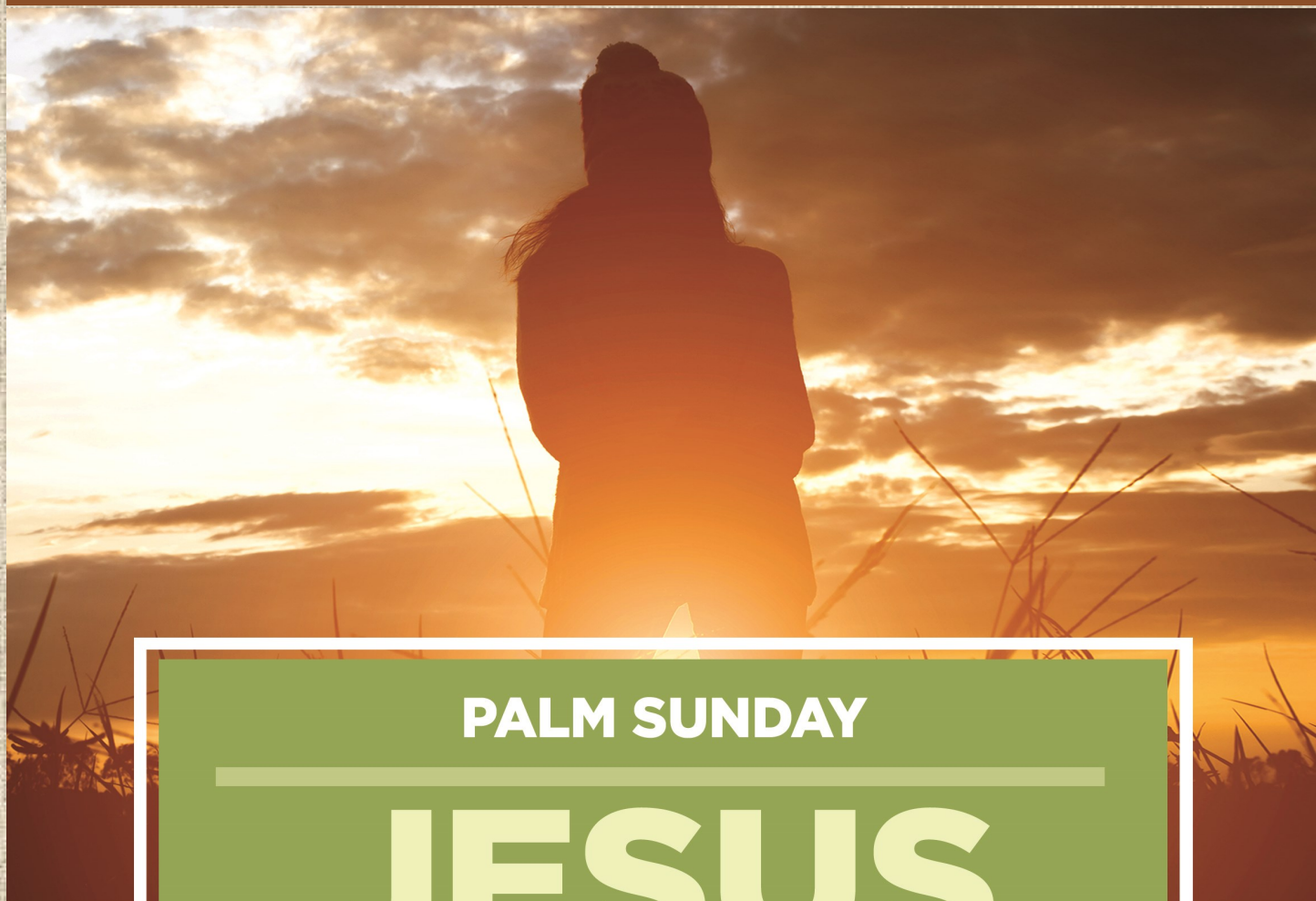


Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Community

Watervliet/Green Island NY



PALM SUNDAY

JESUS

And when he entered Jerusalem
the whole city was shaken and
asked, "Who is this?" And the
crowds replied, "This is Jesus
the prophet, from Nazareth
in Galilee." —Mt 21:10-11

APRIL 5, 2020

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Gospel Meditation ~

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Human beings are united in their suffering. When we find ourselves in a painful moment, our first reaction is “why me?” as if we are the only person on earth who ever encountered this challenge. Going through life with a “why me” attitude only finds us wallowing in the mire of self-pity and never seizing opportunities or graces. We walk in solidarity with every human being in the experience of suffering. Believing that the goal of life is the elimination or avoidance of suffering is simply an illusion that keeps us entrenched in a collective myth. This myth distorts us and limits us.

There are living witnesses among us showing how courage and determination can overcome any degree of hardship, pain, loss, or tragedy. Folks finding the normalcy of their lives suddenly torn asunder are faced with options: opportunity or despair, stay or leave. Jesus stands before us as the prime example of endurance and perseverance. He is the One who showed humility through both the triumphs of life (by learning to be humble) and the tragedies and injustices (by learning how to be obedient). To secular ears, this may be perceived as nonsense. But to those with the eyes of faith, they are pearls of great price.

True humility tempers the temptation we have to become complacent and prevents an excessive relishing of life's successes and affirmations. Learning obedience keeps us faithful to our relationship with God so that we can find the courage to endure any depth of hardship, disappointment, betrayal, or agony. While we may want our cup of suffering to be taken away, it simply cannot be. Somehow and somewhere in the seemingly opposing experiences life can deal us, God is present with His reassuring, compassionate, empowering, and persevering love. To be true to who we are and who God is, we must take up the cross of suffering, even when it's the hardest and most apparently senseless thing to do.

Only our soul can understand these things, but our minds cannot, so they continue to run to secular ideas and solutions to pain and hardship. It goes without saying that we need to do all we can to eliminate as much senseless, unjust suffering as possible. Hunger, violence, abuse, exploitation, rejection, prejudice, homelessness, disrespect for life, and a whole host of other sins all result in suffering that is within our control. Then, when we face the uncontrollable kind of suffering or find ourselves the victim of injustice, what do we do? ©LPi

Readings for the Week of April 5, 2020

Sunday: Mt 21:1-11/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-

9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 [2a]/Phil 2:6-11/Mt 26:14—27:66 or 27:11-54

Monday: Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14 [1a]/Jn 12:1-11

Tuesday: Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17 [cf. 15ab]/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34 [14c]/Mt 26:14-25

Thursday: Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18 [cf. 1 Cor 10:16]/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15

Good Friday: Is 52:13—53:12/Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25 [Lk 23:46]/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1—19:42

Saturday: Vigil: Gn 1:1—2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a/Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 [30] or Ps 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20-22 [5b]/Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11 [1]/Ex 14:15—15:1/Ex 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18 [1b]/Is 54:5-14/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 [2a]/Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [3]/Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [Jn 6:68c]/Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28/Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 [42:2] or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3] or Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19 [12a]/Rom 6:3-11/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/Mt 28:1-10

Next Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 [24]/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10



PASTORAL STAFF

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Call for information or appointment

Currently, the PARISH
OFFICE is CLOSED to the
public until further notice.

However, you may still continue
to mail in your weekly parish
envelopes OR drop them off in
the MAIL SLOT at the 7th Ave.
Entrance Door.

Thank you for your continued
support to Immaculate Heart of
Mary.

God bless you always.




Care for Creation ~

Reading-Philippians 2:9 —“God greatly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name.”

Pope Francis-Laudato Si—“Our world has a grave social debt toward the poor who lack access to drinking water, because they are denied the right to a life consistent with their inalienable dignity.”

Catholic Social Teaching-USCCB,1991—“What can we in the Catholic community offer to the environmental movement, and what can we learn from it?”

Care 4 Creation—“To save us from all that would separate us from you, O Holy Trinity, Deliver us.”

 In Memoriam ~ 2020-21		
In loving memory of our Families: The Carlsons, The Mardigans, The Foleys & The Butlers requested by Bob & Carol Carlson 2/7/21	In loving memory of Albert P Morelli, Donald & Eileen Gallagher Hogan requested by Don & Patti Hogan 1/10/21	In loving memory of Joseph V Germano requested by the Family 1/10/21
In loving memory of John A O'Brien requested by the Family 10/25/20	In loving memory of William T Sr, Julia F and Robert A Fahr requested by the Family 8/23/20	In loving memory of Bryan T Roberts (son) Raymond & Helen Werner (parents) requested by Judith Pope 7/19/20
In loving memory of The Barron & Rys Families requested by the Family 7/19/20	In loving memory of John T Sherlock requested by his wife and Family 7/19/20	In loving memory of the Edward Brooks Family, Foglia Family & Monticup Family requested by Rose Brooks & Family 5/24/20
Check your local TV station (Watervliet 1303) for time of taped Sunday Mass.		In loving memory of Adam & Katherine Novak John & Rosalie Novak & Florence Szpot requested by the Family 5/10/20

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

The 6 Characteristics of an Everyday Stewardship for Lent – Accountable

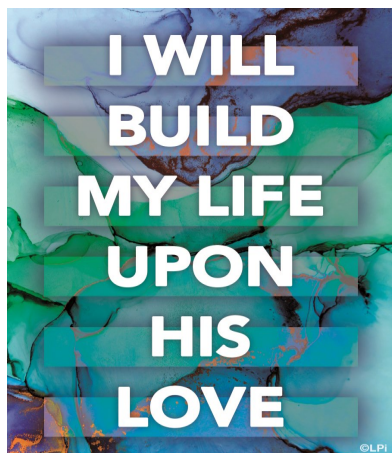
Easter is only a week away, and churches everywhere in the West are beginning the holiest of weeks. For a moment, even the secular world will bow to religious observances: closings on Good Friday, Easter baskets filled with treats, and television specials featuring Biblical figures. You and I will be reflecting on the meaning of Lent and how we have died and risen with Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Either we have prepared well for this Holy Week observance, or we are left lamenting that maybe next year will be when we get back on track.

The question before us is: "To whom are we accountable?" Did our Lenten observance only have to do with us? Does it matter to anyone if we really took this time seriously or not?

Both faith and community are gifts from God to us. The Church exists so we may live out that faith and respond to God's call, being strengthened by the grace imparted through the sacraments and the community in which we find ourselves. If we are accountable to no one, then the community is simply an option on a Sunday morning, much like golf or household chores. If we are not accountable to God, then our faith is simply something we look to periodically when we are sad or frightened.

However, if we are accountable to each other and to Jesus Christ, then we must answer for our stewardship gifts of faith and community. The Body of Christ is counting on us. Without a strong sense of accountability, we think our actions only affect us. In the end, we are connected to each other through Christ in such a manner that no one ever stands alone.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi



Since all regularly scheduled Masses are canceled until further notice, we will not be scheduling any new Mass intentions until this directive is lifted.

Intentions that have been previously reserved will be rescheduled at a later date before any new intentions are taken.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding of this situation.



For all the parishioners who have mailed their weekly contributions, or dropped them off in the 7th Avenue door Mail Slot of the Parish Office, —We greatly appreciate your continuing support and commitment. Many blessings to you.

IHM PRAYER MINISTRY~

We believe as faith-filled people, prayer matters and offers hope. If you think you might be interested in being part of the prayer tree ministry; which is made up of a group of people who pray for others —for anyone who would like to have prayers said for themselves for wellbeing; a relative, friend, or for a family member, contact **Brenda at 518 271-6184**.

Let us continue to pray for the well-being of one another, and an end to this virus.