

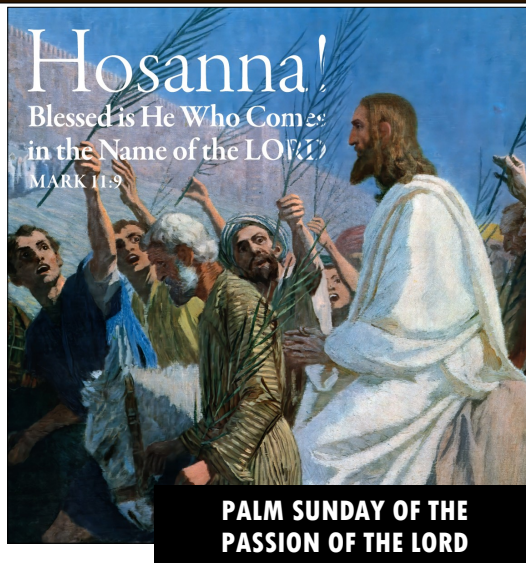
This Sunday, called Palm or Passion Sunday, is the first day of Holy Week. Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday are called the *Triduum*—three days that are the highlight of the Church year. There are two Gospels proclaimed at today's Mass. The first Gospel, proclaimed before the procession with palms, tells of Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. Riding on a borrowed colt, Jesus was hailed by the crowds as they blessed God and shouted "Hosanna!" This event is reported in each of the four Gospels.

At the Liturgy of the Word on Palm Sunday, the events of Jesus' passion are proclaimed in their entirety. In Lectionary Cycle B, we read the passion of Jesus as found in the Gospel of Mark. We will hear these events proclaimed again when we celebrate the Triduum later in the week. On Good Friday, we will read the passion of Jesus from the Gospel of John.

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus' passion and death are presented as the consequence of the tension between the Jewish authorities and Jesus that had been building throughout his public ministry. This tension reached its breaking point when Jesus drove the merchants and moneychangers from the Temple. After this event, the chief priests and scribes began seeking a way to put Jesus to death, and yet, this is only the surface explanation for his death.

When Jesus was arrested and brought before the Sanhedrin—the council of Jewish priests, scribes, and elders—he was charged with blasphemy, citing his threat to the Temple. When he was brought before Pilate, however, the religious authorities presented his crime as a political one, charging that Jesus claimed to be king of the Jews. In continuity with a theme of Mark's Gospel, the messianic claim of Jesus is widely misunderstood.

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus' disciples are rarely models of faith and do little to invoke confidence in their capacity to continue his ministry



after his death. They fare no better in Mark's narrative of Jesus' passion and death. At the Last Supper, the disciples insisted that none among them would betray Jesus. When Jesus predicted that their faith would be shaken in the events ahead, Peter and the other disciples protested vehemently. Yet in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus returned three times to find them sleeping. Jesus prayed in agony over his impending fate while his disciples slumbered through the night. Just as Jesus predicted, Peter denied Jesus, and the disciples were absent during Jesus' passion and death. Only the women who had been followers of Jesus in Galilee are said to have been present at the Crucifixion, but they remained at a distance.

Throughout this Gospel, Mark challenges the reader to consider the claim with which the Gospel begins: Jesus is the Son of God. When we read Mark's account of the passion, we begin to comprehend the deeper theological statement being made about Jesus' death. In Mark's telling of the passion narrative, Jesus understood his death to have been preordained, and he accepted this death in obedience to God's will. Jewish Scripture is quoted only once, but there are several references to the fulfillment of the Scriptures. Jesus understood his anointing in Bethany as an anticipation of his burial, and he announced that this story would be told together with the Gospel throughout the world. Jesus predicted his betrayal by Judas as well as Peter's denial. At his arrest, Jesus acknowledged that the preordained time had arrived. Jesus was both confident and silent before his accusers. After he was sentenced to death, Jesus did not speak again until his final cry from the cross. The bystanders misunderstood and believed that he was calling for Elijah. The Roman centurion, however, affirmed what Mark has presented throughout this Gospel: Jesus is the Son of God. Nowhere was this revealed more fully than in his death on the cross. (con't on page 3)



Saint Thomas the Apostle Catholic Parish Robstown, Texas and Saint Patrick Mission, San Patricio, Texas

DIOCESE OF CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS • 16602 FM 624 • Robstown, Texas 78380

Phone: 361-387-1312 or 361-387-7842 • Fax: 361-387-9311

Website: www.christon624.com • Email: stthomastheapostle@christon624.com

Parish Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.



Pastor: Rev. Philip J. Panackal
Secretary: Ann Clarke
Bookkeeper: Anna Ramos
Housekeeper: Yolanda Tobòn
Knights of Columbus Council #9318

Holy Day Vigil @ St. Thomas: 6:30 PM
Saturday Vigil Mass @ St. Thomas: 5:30 PM
Saturday Vigil Mass @ St. Patrick: 4:00 PM
Weekday Masses @ St. Thomas: 12:00 Noon on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday
CONFESSIONS @ St. Thomas: 30 Minutes before Masses or by appointment

Deacon: Bill Cleavelin (361-208-2146)
DRE: Michele Hoelscher (361-244-2138)
EDGE: Pauline Pechacek
LIFETEEN: Rachel Unterbrink
Catholic Daughters of America Court #2290

Holy Day Mass @ St. Thomas: 12:00 PM Noon
Sunday Masses @ St. Thomas: 8:30 AM & 11 AM

Sacristan: Jerry Knesek
Music Director: Vic Benys
Plant Manager: Gary Clarke
Custodian: Rosalva Treviño

Holy Rosary: Thurs. 11:40 AM
Divine Mercy: Fri. 11:45 AM

CONFESSIONS @ St. Patrick Mission: 3:30 PM

**"Could you not keep watch
for one hour?"**

Mark 14:37

Masses and Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024

4:00 PM: **Mass @ St. Patrick Mission**
†Elaine McCown by Herb & Mary Helen Brauchle
5:30 PM: **Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle**
†Harlew Conally by Betty Conally

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024 **PASSION OF THE LORD**

Mass @ St. Thomas the Apostle

8:30 AM: *Parishioners*
11:00 AM: **Collective MASS**
†Arturo Lopez by John & Annette Freeman
†Jay and Rita Floyd by John Floyd
†Jill Ranly by Michael Rektorik
†Jim Landreth Sr. by Sammy & Shirley Syamken



MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK MARCH 25, 2024

12:00 PM: **NO MASS**

TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK MARCH 26, 2024

Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: Lily Grace Dee (Birthday) by David & Susie Tajchman

WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK MARCH 27, 2024

Mass @ St. Thomas

12:00 PM: Fr. Philip (Anniv. of Ordination) by CDA of St. Thomas

HOLY THURSDAY MARCH 28, 2024 - Mass @ St. Thomas

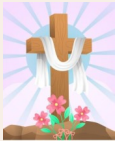
7:00 PM: Emily Hewlett (Birthday) by Pat Landreth

GOOD FRIDAY MARCH 29, 2024 - Services @ St. Thomas

3:00 PM: Stations of the Cross, Divine Mercy, Passion Narratives

HOLY SATURDAY MARCH 30, 2024

7:45 PM: **DIVINE MERCY NOVENA**
8:15 PM: **EASTER VIGIL @ St. Thomas the Apostle**
†Kay Havelka by Jerry Burkhardt



EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2024

RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

8:30 AM: **Mass @ St. Patrick Mission**
†Pamela McCown Forshage by Kate McCown
10:00 AM: **Collective MASS @ St. Thomas the Apostle**
†Bill Rakowitz by John & Annette Freeman
†Rosemary Floyd by John Floyd
†Curtis Luther Roberts by Jay Muse
†Wayne Tate by Elizabeth Hackfeld
6:00 PM: **DIVINE MERCY NOVENA**



Please Pray for ...

**All the homebound, sick and suffering of our parish,
especially all those who have asked us to pray for them:**

David Rowden, Brandon Fernandez, James Nemec, Emil Prukop,
Patricia Nemec, Fred Nemec, Mari Beth, Petra Tobon, Larry Bryant,
Mary Elva Estrada, Valerie Rich, Frances Sparks, Jason Cavalier,
Angie Gomez, Lincoln Polasek, Tyler Skidmore, James O'Brien,
Marty Douglas, Cindy Cleavelin, Frank Prukop, Juan Rodriguez,
Wallace Prukop, Ashley Jimenez, Charlie & Jean Chapman,
Joe Arnold Guerra, Richard Barraza, Charlie Toler, Richy Price,
Barry Kimbal, Liz Yaklin, and the Barrera/Ybarra Family.

Please call/email the parish office to include a person on the 2024 PRAYER LIST.

LECTORS for MARCH 30-31, 2024

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Patricia Bryant
Sunday, 8:30 AM: Terri Kimmel
Sunday, 11:00 AM: Velma Garcia



EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION for MARCH 30-31, 2024

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Tony Arredondo
Sunday, 8:30 AM: Deacon Bill, Matt Kimmel
Sunday, 11:00 AM: Jesse Garcia, Javier Flores

ALTAR SERVERS for MARCH 30-31, 2024

Saturday, 5:30 PM: Matthew Cortino, Michael Cortino
Sunday, 8:30 AM: Casey Gwynn, Gabriel & Cyprian Kimmel
Sunday, 11:00 AM: Taylor Dusek, Brantley Cook

USHERS for MARCH 30-31, 2024

Saturday, 5:30 PM: B. Havelka, W. Riebschleager, D. Kurtz, J. Freeman
Sunday, 8:30 AM: M. Rektorik, M. Reilly, B. Gwynn, R. Mendiola
Sunday, 11:00 AM: R. Polasek, D. Dusek, D. Gonzalez, R. Carrillo

CHRISM MASS

You are invited to join Most Rev. Bishop Michael Mulvey on
Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. for the CHRISM MASS.

Diocese of C.C.

CONFESSIONS

St. Peter, Prince of the Apostle
Monday, March 25, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

St. Thomas the Apostle
Wednesday, March 27, at 7:00 p.m.

MASS OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

EASTER VIGIL - Saturday, March 30, 2024 at 8:15 PM
at St. Thomas the Apostle

EASTER - Sunday, March 31, 2024 at 8:30 AM
at St. Patrick Mission

EASTER - Sunday, March 31, 2024 at 10:00 AM
at St. Thomas the Apostle

Our deepest condolences to the Barrera Family
on the death of



†Mrs. Esther Barrera

Mother of Roxana Ybarra of St. Thomas



Please keep the family in your prayers.
May her soul rest in peace.

Pastor and Parishioners

INFORMATION CORNER

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

Baptism: Call the parish office to register for the Sacrament of Baptism. All paperwork must be completed before attending class or scheduling Baptism. See website for more information.

Bulletin: Bulletin announcements are due on Monday by 1:00 PM.

LITURGY OF THE DAY

Reflection on the Gospel Reading (Mark 14:1—Mark 15:47).

During **Holy Week**, we prayerfully remember the events of Jesus' passion and death. As we meditate on the cross, we ask again and anew what it means to make the statement of faith that Jesus, in his obedient suffering and dying, revealed himself to us as God's Son.

FAMILY CONNECTION: Palm Sunday, also called Passion Sunday, marks the beginning of **Holy Week**. During this week, we prepare ourselves for Easter by prayerfully reflecting on the events of Jesus' passion and death. During this week, your family might display a crucifix in a prominent place as reminder of the salvation that Christ won for us. This can also serve as the focal point for family prayer during Holy Week.

Because of the length and complexity of the passion narrative, it is difficult for children to remain attentive when it is proclaimed in its entirety. Families can make it a tradition to read a portion of this Sunday's Gospel each day of Holy Week, providing ample opportunity for children to ask questions and respond to the events described there. In this way, the entire week can become a "way of the cross."

Each day during Holy Week, the family can gather in a prayerful space with a crucifix as its focal point. The passion as found in Mark's Gospel might be read as follows throughout the week:

Sunday: Mark 11:1-10 (Gospel at the Procession with Palms)

Monday: Mark 14:1-11

Tuesday: Mark 14:12-26

Wednesday: Mark 14:27-52

Thursday: Mark 14:53-72

Friday: Mark 15:1-41

Saturday: Mark 15:42-47

After reading from the Gospel each night, the family might reflect on the reading together. Conclude your prayer time together by praying the Lord's Prayer.

(Courtesy to Loyola Press)

From the Pastor's desk

Today's Mass Readings:

Mark 11:1-10 or John 12:12-16; Isaiah 50:4-7;
Psalm 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24; Philippians 2:6-11;
Mark 14:1—Mark 15:47.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

3/16-17/2024 Regular Collection: \$5,345.00
3/16-17/2024 Online Giving: \$1,789.00
TOTAL \$7,134.00

ST. PATRICK MISSION

3/16/2024 Regular Collection: \$537.76
Money Counters: Kim Gallagher and Connie Pilarczyk

**THE SYNODAL PROCESS**

**How can we know, then,
when the beliefs of the faithful are infallible?**

The only sure method is to apply the rule of Saint Vincent of Lerins: That which has always been believed everywhere and by all (*quod semper, quod ubique, quod ab omnibus*) is infallible. Such is the traditional doctrine of the Church. "The *sensus fidelium* is not what the laity and priests may think at a given moment, but the consensus among the bishops and the last of the faithful, throughout the world, over the centuries," explains Fr. Nazir-Ali, a former Anglican bishop and now a Catholic priest.

Hence it is rash to suppose that the faithful's opinion concerning some novelty is infallible at any given time. And it is even more foolhardy to imagine that one needs to consult virtuous persons of a deep-rooted faith, all the baptized, and even those who practice other religions or are atheists, to know what the Holy Spirit wants to say to the Church today.

To whom are the Synod promoters listening?

Synod organizers call for the widest possible listening, including hearkening to atheists:

Together, all the baptized are the subject of the *sensus fidelium*, the living voice of the People of God. At the same time, in order to participate fully in the act of discerning, it is important for the baptized to hear the voices of other people in their local context, including people who have left the practice of the faith, people of other faith traditions, people of no religious belief, etc.

... We must personally reach out to the peripheries, to those who have left the Church, those who rarely or never practice their faith, those who experience poverty or marginalization, refugees, the excluded, the voiceless, etc.

What are the dangers of such extensive listening?

Fr. Nazir-Ali warns: "Those consulted need to be catechized, perhaps even evangelized."

(to be continued)

From the Pastor's desk

SPECIAL OFFERING — MARCH 29, 2024**Holy Land Collection**

Diocese of C.C.

**40 CANS FOR LENT**

The Knights of Columbus Council #9318 of St. Thomas the Apostle are sponsoring a food drive during Lent. Bring your cans at any time and place them in the box provided in the foyer of the church. At the end of the Lenten season, the food will be distributed to the ARK.

Tony Arredondo, Grand Knight