



March 24, 2024



St. Bridget of Ireland Parish

Mass Intentions This Week

("†" Indicates this person is deceased)

Saturday, 8 AM March 23, Lenten Weekday

8:00 AM †Enrico Imbrogno
by Angie Lucherini

Saturday 4 PM, March 23, Vigil of Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

4:00 PM †Thomas Dolan by his family

Sun., March 24, Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

8:30 AM †Louis Misarti by his family
11:00 AM †Our Parishioners

Monday, March 25, Monday of Holy Week

7:00 AM †Ernest Jeffers Sr.
by his family

Tuesday, March 26, Tuesday of Holy Week

8:00 AM †Michael Antonelli
by his family

12:10 PM *Mass at St Maurice*

Wednesday, March 27, Wednesday of Holy Week

7:00 AM †Norma Samala
by her family

Thursday, March 28, Mass of the Lord's Supper

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
7:30 PM †For all Priests of our Diocese

Friday, March 29, Good Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
3:00 PM Liturgy of the Passion and
Death of our Lord & Communion
5:30 PM Soup & Bread Supper
7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 30, Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
10:00 - 11:00 AM Confessions
12:00 PM Blessing of Easter Food
7:30 PM Easter Vigil Mass offered for
the Parishioners of St. Bridget's

Sunday, March 31, Easter

8:30 AM Parishioners of St. Bridget's
11:00 AM Parishioners of St. Bridget's

Please pray for the departed souls of our loved ones. Grant them perpetual rest and comfort in the arms of our Lord.



Good Friday Soup & Bread Supper

Friday, March 29th from 5:30-6:45 PM. Join us for a light supper before the evening stations of the cross. There is no cost for the meal however there will be baskets for donations to help defray the cost and for donations for Loaves and Fishes. Stations of the Cross will be at 7 PM, what better way to observe Good Friday then by walking the path of our Lord via the Stations of the Cross.



Holy Week and the Easter Triduum:

Our High Holy Days are celebrated during Holy Week on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday – the Easter Triduum. It's when we celebrate who we're all about as Catholic Christians.

March 28th, Holy Thursday:

- 9:00AM morning prayer
- 7:30 PM the Mass of the Lord's Supper, we will celebrate the institution of the priesthood and the Eucharist.
- Adoration at the Repository following Mass until midnight.

March 29th, Good Friday (*a day of fasting and abstinence*):

- 9:00AM morning prayer
- 3:00 PM the Service of the Lord's Passion
- Good Friday Soup & Bread Supper 5:30 - 6:45 PM
- Stations of the Cross 7:00PM

March 30th, Saturday:

- 9:00AM morning prayer
- Confessions will be heard on Holy Saturday morning, April 8th, from 10:00 to 11:00 AM.
- Holy Saturday Blessing of your Easter Food at 12:00 PM
- March 30th, Saturday, 7:30 PM, Easter Vigil Mass

This Mass the liturgical high point of the entire year. We strongly encourage everyone to attend this beautiful Mass. The celebration of Easter, as a vigil, invites us to break out our most potent symbols of God's action, and our response. Our vigil is a statement, individually and collectively, that we are ready to be renewed and to live out of the grace we've received.

March 31st, Easter Sunday:

Mass will be celebrated at 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM.
Children's Easter Egg Hunt following the 8:30 AM Mass

New Members of St. Bridget's Memorial Fund

†Julia R. Ursone

enrolled by Michael Molgano

†Gary Belmonte

enrolled by Madeline & Joseph Sabato

Saint Bridget Memorial Fund is for those who wish to "memorialize" their loved ones (living or deceased) in perpetuity. Mass is offered at least once a month for all those enrolled. Memorial cards are available to acknowledge the enrollment. Please contact the parish office to enroll your loved ones.

Need more information? Please visit our website:
www.stbridgetofireland.com.

Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest. ~Matthew 21:9



In a seeming contradiction, Palm Sunday Mass begins with the reading of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The joyous crowds strewed palm branches before Him, crying out, "Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest." Today, the faithful commemorate this inspiring scene by processing into their churches, carrying palm branches. The Gospel, however, is the full narrative of the Passion of Christ, culminating with Jesus' death on the Cross.

But is it a contradiction? Is Jesus' glorious entrance into Jerusalem at the beginning of the week in any way opposed to His crucifixion? Certainly not. From a worldly perspective, the week ends in tragedy. But from the perspective of the Eternal Father, the welcome Jesus receives as He enters Jerusalem is the welcome given to the Savior of the World. His Cross would become the culmination of that act of salvation. Jesus' entrance into that holy city was rightly celebrated with great joy, though the people did not understand that the throne their new King would mount was the Cross.

Today, the faithful all over the world are invited to celebrate Passion Sunday spiritually, meditatively, and interiorly. Our participation is not just the recalling of a historic event; it's a real participation in that event. Our hearts must begin outside of Jerusalem's gate, and we must courageously and joyfully accompany our Lord into that holy city. During that first Holy Week, the people's joy arose from their belief that Jesus would be an earthly ruler Who would free them from Roman oppression. Today, we express our joyous acclamations as we spiritually accompany our Lord to the city of His crucifixion because we know that Jesus' Kingship is much more than an earthly triumph. His triumph is an eternal one that invites us to share in His Eternity. His triumph is a sacrificial one that invites us to share in His Sacrificial Love. His triumph is a glorious one that invites us to share in the Glory of His Resurrection.

Walk with our Lord today into that holy city of Jerusalem. As you do, know that the earthly city of Jerusalem is also now a spiritual one. The events that took place there two millennia ago transcend and permeate all time. As a result, the events of Holy Week today are just as significant as they were long ago. Through the Mass, we are there. We walk with our Lord, witness all He accomplished, receive His Body and Blood sacrificed on the Cross and memorialized in the Eucharist, and are resurrected with Him on the third day. *(continued on next column)*

(continued) Commit yourself to this journey today, an eternal pilgrimage with our Lord to the Eternal City of Heaven.

Most glorious King, blessed are You Who continuously comes to us, leading the way to Heaven. Hosanna in the highest! As I begin this most Holy Week, commemorating Your gift of salvation, I pray that this commemoration will also be a real and transforming participation in Your life, death, and resurrection. Thank You for redeeming us, dear Lord. Please open my heart to receive Your grace fully. Jesus, I trust in You.



Bishop Caggiano has designated Monday, March 25 as "Reconciliation Monday" throughout the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Parishes within each of the nine Deaneries which comprise our Diocese will offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation from 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm, so that the lay faithful may experience God's mercy as Holy Week begins.

Priests will be hearing Confessions at the following locations in our area on Reconciliation Monday from 3 pm to 9 pm:

- ♦ St. Aloysius Parish: 21 Cherry Street, New Canaan
- ♦ St. Thomas More: 374 Middlesex Road, Darien
- ♦ St. Matthew Parish: 216 Scribner Avenue, Norwalk
- ♦ Church of St. Cecilia/St Gabriel: 1184 Newfield Avenue, Stamford
- ♦ Sacred Heart Parish: 37 Schuyler Avenue, Stamford
- ♦ St. Catherine of Siena Parish: 4 Riverside Avenue, Greenwich



Special Collection for the Holy Land

(Good Friday, March 29, 2024)

Pope Francis has asked parishes throughout the world to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land where they represent less than 2% of the population. Your support is essential to help the Church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools, and offer religious education. The Good Friday Collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines of Christianity in Jerusalem, Nazareth, and Bethlehem, and many other locations. The pandemic had hit Christians in the Holy Land particularly hard since most depend on pilgrims for their income. The war has made the situation even more difficult. In these times of crisis, the Pontifical Good Friday Collection is necessary to meet the basic needs of the People of God who remain in the Holy Land and assist in maintaining a Christian presence where the Church was born. Please be as generous as your means allow. Thank you.

"Give generously to him and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to." Deuteronomy 15:10