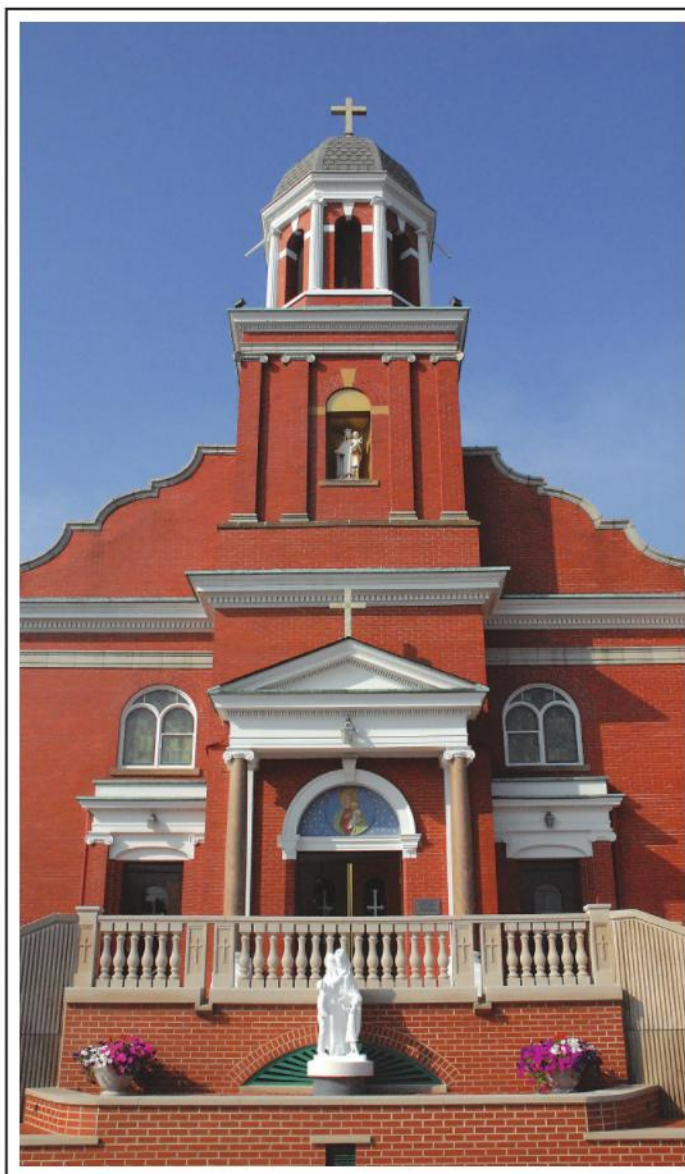
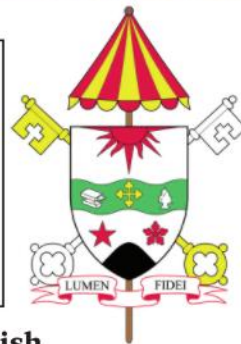


PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL BASILICA

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel - St. Anthony of Padua Parish
343 Via Mt. Carmel • Youngstown, Ohio 44505



- Pastor:**
Rev. Msgr. Michael Cariglio.....Ext. 103
- Church Phones:**
Office & Rectory.....(330) 743-4144
Religious Education743-3508
Church Hall743-7740
Lower Church Hall.....Ext. 114
Fax743-1035
- Church Secretaries:**.....743-4144
OfficeExt. 100
Mrs. Marie Ronyak.....Ext. 101
Ms. Barbara McOwen.....Ext. 141
Mrs. Cathy ZackExt. 100
- Office Hours:** Mon. thru Fri. .. 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Permanent Deacons:**743-4144
Mr. Anthony Palasca, JrExt. 142
Mr. Mark Izzo 330-533-1857
- Director of Music:**.....743-4144
Mr. Craig Ziobert.....(330) 770-6504
- Director of Religious Education:**
Mrs. Therese Ivanisin..... Ext. 121
olmcTherese@gmail.com or 330-743-3508
Youth Ministry Coordinator, Melissa Varso. Ext. 122
olmcMelissa@gmail.com
- Church Caterer:**.....743-7740
Mr. Louis Fusillo..... Ext. 131
or 759-4010 (H)
- Parish Council Chairperson:**743-4144
Mr. Louis Fusillo..... Ext. 143
- Business Manager/Accountant:**
Mr. John Didek, Jr..... Ext. 100
- Sunday Masses:**
Saturday Evening.....5:00 p.m.
Sunday.....9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.
- Weekday Mass:**Daily at 12:00 noon
- Baptisms:** Saturday after the 5:00 p.m. Mass
and Sunday after the 11:00 a.m. Mass.
- Sacrament of Penance:** Saturday 11:00 - 11:30 a.m.
or by personal request.
- Weddings:** Please schedule marriage at least 6 months
in advance.
- E-mail:** olmc343@aol.com
- Website:** www.OLMCSTA.com



**Masses
For The Week**

Sat., March 27:

12:00 noon Amanda Marie Ferraro by Ronyak & Rouan Family
5:00 p.m. Carmi Olesky by Joe & Robin McCormack

Sun., March 28: Palm Sunday of The Passion of The Lord

9:00 a.m. Special Intention
11:00 a.m. Joseph (B)& (B) Dorothy Mancini by daughter, Mary Louise

Mon., March 29:

12:00 noon Frances (A) & Dominic (A) Esposito by Family

Tues., March 30: Third St. Anthony Novena

12:00 noon Irene Mezzopeso (A) by Frank Mezzopeso
7:00 p.m. Novena & Benediction

Weds., March 31:

12:00 noon Mildred Santangelo by Margaret Snyder

Thurs., April 1: Holy Thursday

7:00 p.m. Carmel Lucarell (A) by Cafaro Family

Fri., April 2: Good Friday

7:00 p.m. Passion of the Lord

Sat., April 3: Holy Saturday

12:00 noon Blessing of the Easter Food
8:00 p.m. Frank Mastroiana by DeBartolo Family

Sun., April 4: Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

8:00 a.m. Carmela Tundo, Salvatore Romano by daughter, Anna Sams
10:00 a.m. Carolina Esposito by Husband & Children
12:00 noon Craig Esposito by Family



Parish Support

March 21 (183 envelopes) \$7,035.00
St. Anthony Shrine \$1,451.00



The Sacrament of Penance Lent 2021
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Basilica
Every Saturday of Lent at 11 a.m.

And

Wednesday March 31 7 to 8 p.m.

Buona Pasqua

P.S. For weekdays—two Confessors—social distance observed

WEEKEND ASSIGNMENTS—April 10/11
Ordinary-Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

5:00 p.m. Deacon Anthony Falasca, Jr., Rose Bisignani
9:00 a.m. Deacon Mark Izzo, Kirk Kreuzweiser
11:00 a.m. Deacon Mark Izzo, Stephanie Chimento

LECTORS

5:00 p.m. Ron DiBacco
9:00 a.m. Matthew Shaw, Danielle Shaw
11:00 a.m. Vince Pilolli

ALTAR SERVERS

5:00 p.m. Anthony Micco, Alex Micco
9:00 a.m. Francisco Rivera-Ocasio, Santino Rivera-Ocasio
11:00 a.m. Scott Cross, Dominic Cross, Louis Cross



Apostolate of Perpetual Adoration
Being in the SONLIGHT at Eucharistic Adoration helps reveal to us our sins!

Eucharistic Adoration helps you to examine your conscience. The longer you remain in the presence of God, the more you will reflect upon your failings--your sins. Sin is a "virus" that corrodes and damages your soul. Without the proper medicine, the "virus of sin" attacks you and cripples you spiritually.

Remember, being in the SONLIGHT, it is Jesus himself who will make your sins more recognizable. Eucharistic Adoration is a beautiful precursor to confession. St. Clare of Assisi said, "Gaze upon Him, consider Him, contemplate Him, as you desire to imitate Him." It will always prepare you for the worthy reception of the healing Sacrament of Confession. Call to schedule an hour of absorbing true SONLIGHT Maria Panozzo @ 330-372-5141. Call to schedule an hour of absorbing true SONLIGHT Maria Panozzo @330-372-5141 or Jean Talley @330-758-3335.

Dispensation From The Obligation To Attend Sunday Mass

The Catholic faithful who reside in the Diocese of Youngstown and all other Catholics in the diocese and especially those who are sick, or at high risk of becoming sick continue to be dispensed from their Sunday obligation until further notice. The Easter Duty obligation is extended for a period of one year from the end of the Easter Season.2020.



Earl Ducay, Martha Aliberti, Regina Altiero, Melinda Amon, Peter Angelides, Karen Banic, Fred Batcha, Sandy Battaglia, John Beene, Madelyn Brudis, Tina Bury, Zayne Bryce, Eugene Calcagni, Isabelle Corradi, Kim Bowser, Marko Calko, Dominic Calko, Thomas Caravella, Janice Marinelli Campbell, Lori Capone, Michael (Cal) Calipare, Carl J. Carbon, Roseann Cencia, Joseph Cencia, Anthony, Cathy Chimento, Joseph Chimento, Stephanie Chimento, Christopher Centofanti, Damian Chordas, Joseph R. Cioffi, Mary Rose Colucci, Johnny D., Ed Derek, Anna DeLuco, Kurt Dilisio, Michelina DiVito, Greg Diorio, Grace Ducay, Angela Elmo, JoAnn Elmo, Roberta Elmo, Dolores Elston, Deacon Anthony Alaska, Gina Fecko, Jason, Monroe, Mara Frease, Sebastian Green, Margie, Joseph Haus, John, Reese, Lisa, Joshua, David, Carl Jr., Kaylee, JoAnn George, Emily Gerome, Rose Giampetro, Donald "Duke" Girardi, Dante Greco, Dominic Greco, Josie Greco, Jennifer Greco, Michael & Carol Gromada, Claudia Hernandez, Sean Holden, Gail Hubbert, George Iati, Loretta Julian, Mark Julian, Peter Julian, Kerri, Glory & Family, Jeff Knorr, Dennis Kopnisky, Jackie Golden, Gerard Kopnisky, Hillary, William & Melinda Kopnisky, Agnes Kowis, Rocco Kovacs, Leann P., Lenny & Cheryl, Lavonne, Lucille, Linda Maiorana, Baby Dominic Malachi, Cheryl Maniccia, Allan Maniccia, Mary Louise Mancini, Bill Marcavish, Missy Marrie, John Mascardine, Jennifer McCon, Paul and Greg Medina, Jean Medina, Livia Marinelli, Ellen Monroe, George Panno, Beverly Poidmore Pariza, Mary Pesa, Ronald Pesa, Phil Pillin, Ron Pondillo, Sr. Brielle, Vincent, Paul III, Giovanna Pace, Isabel Pupino, Joseph Pizzola, Nicholas Poccia, Barbara Poghen, James Poghen, Charles Richards, Joseph Richards, Joseph Ridel, Chris Ritter, Scott Rodgers, Marti Runyan, Mark Roberts, Richard Rouan, Ben Russo, Chuck Saulino, Mark Stilson, Carmel Scocca, Ellie Sullenberger, Chris Sultan, Betty VanSuch, Greg VanSuch, Paula VanNest, Rita Varacali, Jodi Walters, Kathleen Wienand, Anna Mae Williams, Lilah Dovie, Todd Zamary, Skevos Zimbillas, **Mary, Help of the sick, pray for us! Please let us know when the person is well. Thanks be to God.**

DAILY MORNING OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, though the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world. I offer them for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart: the salvation of souls, reparation for sin, and the reunion of all Christians. I offer them for the intentions of our bishops and of all Apostles of Prayer, and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father this month.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION.

Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney

Founder of the Knights of Columbus God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Blessed Michael McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue, may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body which is the Church. Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify Blessed Michael McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (here make your request). Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Anthony Shrine and Novena

\$40.00 GIFT

In loving memory of MARY ANN PELLEGRINI by Cleto Ms. Dena Tufaro

\$25.00 GIFT

In memory of DON CHEFFO by Jackie

Mr. Dominic Colucci
Mrs. Barbara J. McOwen

\$20.00 GIFT

In memory of JOHN KASTELLO & In memory of WILLIAM MASSARO by Mr. Phillip Pillin

\$10.00 GIFT

Mrs. Diane M. Sheets
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Struble

PONTIFICAL GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

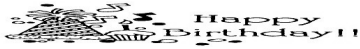
Pope Francis has asked our parish to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which help-s Christians in the Holy Land. Your support helps the church minister in parishes, Provide Catholic schools and offer religious education. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines. The wars, unrest and instability have been especially hard on Christians, In these times of crisis, the Pontifical Good Friday Collection provides humanitarian aid to refugees. When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you become **an instrument of peace and join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land.** **PLEASE BE GENEROUS!**

CHRISM MASS

The annual Chrism Mass will be held on **Tuesday, March 30, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Columba Cathedral.** Due to pandemic restrictions and limited seating, the Chrism Mass is closed to the public and attendance is by invitation only. You are invited to watch the Chrism Mass via live steam at: www.doy.org/Media/Cathedral Live Stream. It will rebroadcast on ETC-Ecumenical Television Channel on **Tuesday, March 30 at 8:00 p.m. and on Wednesday, March 31 at 10:00 a.m.** In Canton it will rebroadcast in Canton on WIVM TV 39 and Spectrum Cable 989 and in Massillon Channel 128 on Thursday, April 1 at 10:00 p.m. The Ecumenical Television Channel can be live steamed at doy.org/Media/ETC Live Stream.

The Knights of Columbus Council and Assembly will once again be sponsoring a mixed doubles bocce league at the parish bocce courts beginning Mid-May and ending by Labor Day. League will most likely play on Tues, Weds and Thurs nights. A minimum of 4 players is required for a team, with no more than 10 members. If you would like to have a team, please call or text Sam Accordino at 330-518-1962 or Grand Knight Scott Schulick at 330-727-8507. Entry fee is \$100 per team payable to Knights of Columbus 15086. Deadline to register your team is April 26, 2021.

The Carnivals Venezia committee would like to thank all parishioners and friends who recently supported the letter campaign appeal in lieu of being able to have the event this year. Your generosity has overwhelmed the committee as \$10,000 was raised to help support the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Basilica Endowment to support the study of Italian language and culture at Youngstown State University. Those interested in supporting this initiative may contact Msgr. Cariglio or Scott Schulick at 330-727-8507.



Birthdays for the week of March 28-April 3

Leonard DePinto, Pat Ranalli, Clara Donchatz, Toni Hammond, Maria Salreno, Ms. Karli Weller, Vincent Morgione, John Pipala, Amelia Carrabbia, Rosemay Muccillo, Roberta Elmo, Phyllis Prato, Angela Foltz, Gregory Hall, Thomas Howley, David Walp, Theresa Palermo, Connie Gagliano, Leonard Perry, Anthony Pizzuto, Scott Schulick, Frank Carbon, Michael Bane II, Santino Cocca, Mario Pesa, Maria Batcha, James Wolf, Deborah Sammarone, Matthew Caldwell, Nicolette Pizzuto, Anastasia Hall, Anthony Napoli, Sandra Ciminero, Bonnie Katzman, Roberta Crowe, Theresa Dellick, Dominic Mordocco, Chelsey Santucci, Charlene Vinion, Frank Orzechowski, Donna Campana, James DiCioccio, Josephine Homsey, Joshua Mansfield, Natalie Davis, Sandra Kopnisky, Paula VanNest, Lucille Vukovich, John Hammond.



Craig's Corner

A note from our Music Director

I remember when the movie, *The Passion of the Christ* came out back in 2004, I was 14 years old. Seeing just how graphic the movie was, many people were skeptical to see this because it was “scary” or “gory.” However, in a way sometimes it takes something big to alter our way of thinking. Until the pandemic, Holy Week was something we celebrated every year, so what makes it different than just “any other Palm Sunday?” It can be something as graphic as watching a movie but sometimes music with or without text can evoke emotion in us that words cannot.

Palm Sunday’s texts and music offer two contradictory emotions. We begin Mass in joy with a trumpet fanfare welcoming Jesus into Jerusalem with palm branches. Then, in the blink of an eye, the tone changes. We hear the account of the Suffering Servant in Isaiah’s prophecy, and the account of Jesus’ passion and death. Our responsorial psalm states, “my God, my God, why have you abandoned me,” the offertory anthem speaks of the crowds cheering for Jesus’ execution (but does show a glimpse of the glory of Christ’s resurrection), while our communion hymn speaks of the wood of the cross. This year is a perfect year to renew in ourselves the passion of Christ like in the movie in 2004, since we didn’t get to celebrate Holy Week in person last year. Again we think of the paradox of the cross: how a symbol of torture is for us a symbol of hope and resurrection and new life. The cross we see covered this weekend in red (signifying Christ’s blood) next weekend will be graced with flowers and bright gold.

We cover these crosses and statues so that for Easter, the “New Beginning” of our lives renewed in the Paschal Mystery, we can look upon the images they contain and show with renewed vigor. We see these crosses and statues every week that we can become desensitized to their true meaning. As we know from last year, coming back to the basilica after so much time away made us see our faith in a new light. So therefore, we can use this Holy Week to see our faith in a new light: especially the cross. We cannot take this for granted. The price Jesus paid for us was too great: we need to be reminded of his torture and suffering, no matter how scary or gory it is: because it is in fact good – it is why we are saved.

This weekend’s postlude doesn’t hold back any emotion and by far one of the most difficult pieces I have ever learned as an organist. In some the 14 stations that I have been playing all Lent long, movement 9 is Christ’s third fall and the height of Calvary. The organ depicts the screams of the crowds shouting for Jesus to keep moving, it denotes a theme of persecution, it gets louder and louder as Jesus reaches the top of the hill where he will next feel the piercing blows of nails. At the top of the hill, Christ suddenly falls and the descending pattern of notes suddenly ends. The imagery in this piece is about as dark and as gory as the *Passion of the Christ* film.

The cross shouldn’t be something we are desensitized to. It is the price at which our salvation has been won. But for as scary, as dark, and as gory as it was, this same cross is also our symbol of hope and of resurrection. By your wounds, O Christ, we have been healed. Because of your holy cross, you have redeemed the world. **Palm Sunday Postlude: “Jesus Falls the Third Time” from *The Stations of the Cross for Organ* [Marcel Dupré]**



ST. ANTHONY LIGHT: March 28– April 3

In memory of DOMINIC CALUCCHIA by Phil & Marie Pillin

SANCTUARY LIGHT: March 28-April 3

In memory of JAMES & ELEANOR TAURO by Sandy & Natalie Tiriyeri

BLESSED SACRAMENT LIGHT: March 28-April 3

In memory of CARMEL M. JULIAN (B) by daughter, Marie & Don Ronyak

SACRED HEART LIGHT: March 28-April 3

In memory of DR. ALBERT LEONE by Ann Desimone

OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL LIGHT: March 28-April 3

In memory of IRENE MEZZAPESO (A) by husband, Frank

INFANT JESUS LIGHT: March 28-April 3

In memory of HELEN PUGLIESE (B) by Bob, Bonnie, Cindy, Nicole, Zack, Dena, Matt & Caleb

GUARDIAN ANGEL LIGHT: March 28-April 3

In memory of CARMELA BERONJA by Daughters and Granddaughters

ST. THERESA OF THE LITTLE FLOWER: March 28-April 3

In memory of DR. ALBERT LEONE by Mrs. Lori Hungerford & Family

ETERNAL FLAME: Sunday, March 28

In loving memory of ROBERT DIFABIO by Parish Family

ETERNAL FLAME: Monday, March 29

In memory of ELEANOR DELUCO by Parish Family

ETERNAL FLAME: Tuesday, March 30

In memory of GLORIA ROSS by Parish Family

ETERNAL FLAME: Saturday, April 3

In memory of JAMES & ELEANOR TAURO by Bob & Julie Rizer

HOLY CROSS LIGHTS: Wednesday, March 31

GUISIPPE & MARIANNE CALCAGNI by Angela DeTunno

Your donations to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Basilica and the Annual Tax Report 2020 to the I.R.S.

Standard deduction by IRS for each tax payer for 2020 is \$12,400. For a married couple standard deduction is \$24,800. However, if your deductions exceed these amounts you may need your record of donations to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Basilica for further deductions. Call the rectory during office hours and we will gladly supply you with a signed document for the I.R.S. Thank you for all you do. God’s choicest blessings.

PALM SUNDAY

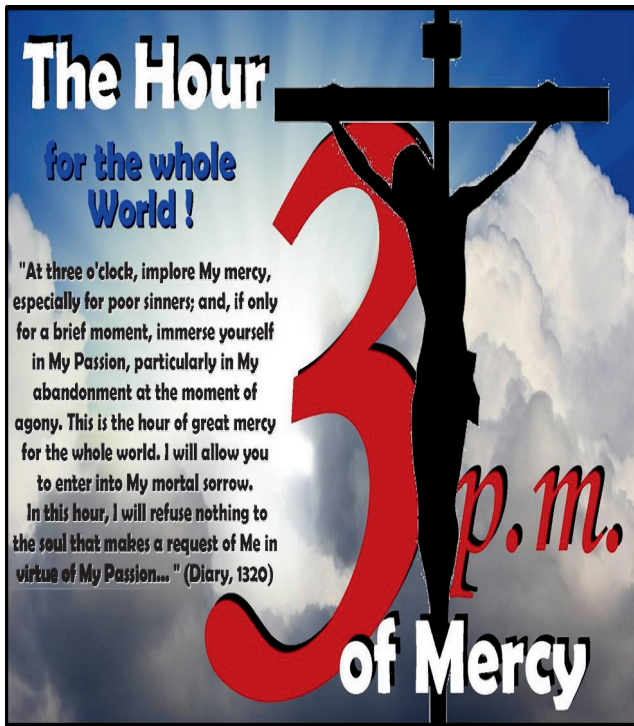
Friday The Day Christ died for us

Every Friday the Basilica will broadcast for the home-bound the following spiritual exercises on Face Book:

12 noon Daily Mass

3:00 p.m.. The Hour of Divine Mercy with
The Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Benediction of the Most
Blessed Sacrament.

Basilica is open for in person worship during the above times.
Welcome!



EVERY SUNDAY Mass at 11am on Facebook for the home-bound and persons in nursing home and assistant living.

To access to Face Book: Our Lady of Mount
Carmel Basilica -Youngstown



The Week Ahead

Tuesday, March 30:

12 noon St. Anthony Mass & Novena (#3)
7:00 p.m. Benediction & Novena

Holy Thursday April, 1:

7:00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday, April 2:

7:00 p.m. Celebration of the Lord's Passion
& Death

Holy Saturday, April 3:

12 noon Blessing of the Easter Food
8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday, April 4:

8:00 a.m. Mass
10:00 a.m. Mass
12 noon Mass



ST. ANTHONY MASS & NOVENA

Each Tuesday at 12 noon and ending on June 8th. **Our Lady of Mt. Carmel—12 noon Mass and Novena. At 7:00 p.m. there will be Benediction and Novena.**

St. Anthony of Padua Church

5:30 p.m. Novena & Benediction of the Blessed
Sacrament

PRAYER TO ST. ROCCO

O Great St. Rocco, deliver us,
We beseech thee, from the
Scourges of God; through thy
Intercession, preserve our
Bodies from contagious
Diseases, and our souls from
The contagion of sin.
Obtain for us salubrious air;
But, above all, purity of heart.
Assist us to make good use
of health, to bear sufferings
with patience; and, after thy
example, to live in the practice
of penance and charity, charity, that
we may one day enjoy the
happiness which thou has
merited by thy virtues.
St. Rocco, pray for us—3 times

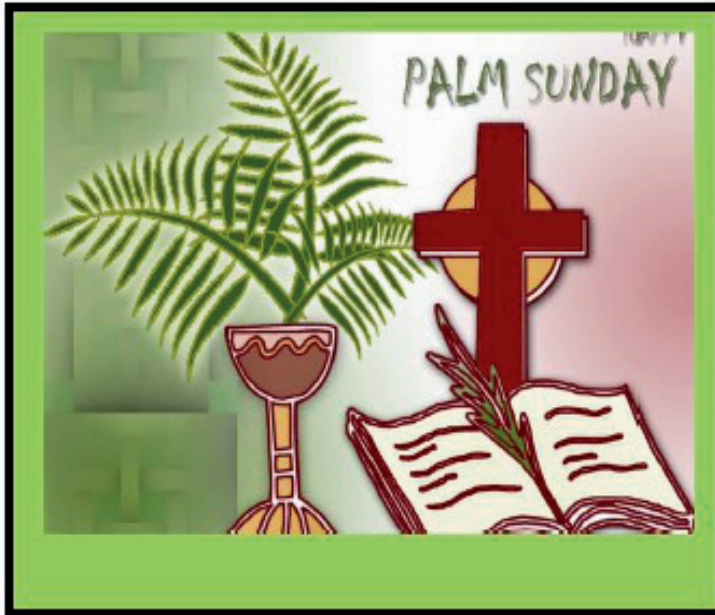
REGISTRATION: Members of the parish should be formally registered. If you are not receiving Our Lady of Mt. Carmel envelopes, please call the rectory Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m. For a change of address or telephone number, please call the rectory at 330-743-4144.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT:

"Pilate again said to them, 'Then what shall I do with the man whom you call the King of the Jews?' And they cried out again, 'Crucify him'" Mark 15:12-13

Jesus told us "whatever you do for the least of my brothers, you do for me". Every day we are presented opportunities to help someone. Every day we have the opportunity to see the face of Jesus in others and be the face of Jesus to others. Every day we pass by someone in need. Pray for the strength and courage to be the answer to someone's prayer.

Blood Drive, Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Msgr. Prokop Parish Center, 4500 Norquest Blvd., Austintown, OH 44515, Wednesday, March 31, 2021, 1:00p.m.—6:00 p.m. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-RED-CROSS or log on to RedCrossBlood.org and enter sponsor keyword: IMMACULATEHEART.



Ripples of Faith

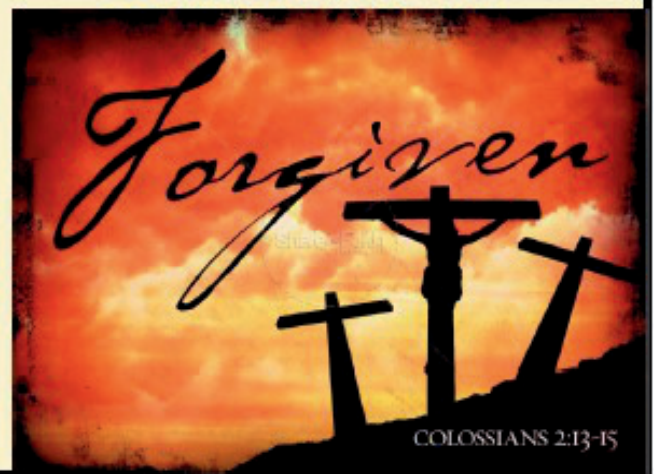
This week, as we stop and reflect on the life of Christ, let us ask what has it meant? How has God taken care of me this past year? What has He given to me throughout this year? It may not have been monetary but in faith, blessings, new understandings, friendships, family relationships, new perspective, deeper love and understanding of the need to have faith in God, in others and myself? Take time this 'Holy Week' and reflect, what have I given back to God? How have I kept the ripple of Faith going in my life and the life of others?



Holy Thursday, April 1st @ 7pm



Good Friday, April 2nd @ 7pm



The following people will be welcomed into the Catholic Church throughout the upcoming Easter Season. Pray for them.

Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist

Noelle Christine Dean, Samuel Kennedy Krell Jr.,
Elizabeth Joy Khumprakob and Russell Glen Monroe

Profession of Faith, Confirmation and Eucharist

Brandon Tyler Davis, Lauren Rose Martauz and David Joseph Tharp



Seating available in the Basilica, Lower St. Joseph Hall and the Parish Social Hall. Communion will be distributed in all three areas. Masks are to be worn and social distancing.

Easter Vigil: Saturday, April 3rd @ 8pm

Easter Day: Revised Mass time for today only
Sunday, April 4th @ 8am, 10am and 12noon

PALM SUNDAY

Good News

INSPIRATION FOR DAILY LIFE

5th Sunday of Lent

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Ps 51:3-4,12-15
Hebrews 5:7-9
John 12:20-33

Monday March 22
Daniel 13:1-9,15-17,19-30,
33-62 or 13:41c-62
Ps 23:1-6
John 8:1-11

Tuesday March 23
Numbers 21:4-9
Ps 102:2-3,16-21
John 8:21-30

Wednesday March 24
Daniel 3:14-20,91-92,95
Dn 3:52-56
John 8:31-42

Thursday March 25
Annunciation of the Lord
Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10
Ps 40:7-11
Hebrews 10:4-10
Luke 1:26-38

Friday March 26
Jeremiah 20:10-13
Ps 18:2-7
John 10:31-42

Saturday March 27
Ezekiel 37:21-28
Jer 31:10-13
John 11:45-56

In our desire to trust God and follow Jesus wherever he leads us, it's not a sin to feel troubled about it.

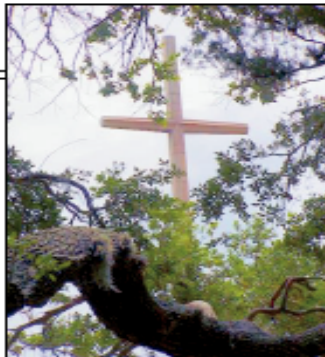
Yes, we do have to be willing to lose our lives (i.e., our own agendas, our own desires, our own ideas on what we should do with our time, etc.) so that we can unite ourselves to Christ and his mission. However, we don't have to like the loss.

The Gospel reading shows us that Jesus felt troubled by the sacrifices he would have to make. Yes, even Jesus himself felt troubled! And the Father glorified him.

Jesus came to earth to reveal God's ways and God's love and lead us to heaven. Now we, his followers, are called, commissioned, and prepared by the Sacraments to reveal God's ways and God's love to those around us, so that Jesus can lead *them* to heaven. That is the mission, the purpose of being Church, for all

of us – laity as well as clergy.

The Sacrament of Baptism initiates us into this calling. Confirmation commissions us to do it. Confession enables us to do it better. Marriage and Holy Orders give us a venue for perfecting it. The Anointing of the Sick converts our illnesses into opportunities to bear witness to Christ's Passion. And the Eucharist unites us so fully to the Passion of Christ that we become what we are called to do.



This is our everyday ministry of evangelization: We love others as Jesus loves them, we do for them what Jesus would like to do for them, and we spread the good news about this as a continuation of the ministry of Jesus.

Often, this involves making sacrifices and doing good to those who reject us and scourge us and crucify us or in any other way cause us to suffer. This is our unity with Christ, our Passion. We're not supposed to like it, but we are supposed to do it.

The Father honors us for this. Just like he glorified Jesus, he honors us with his compassion, his rewards, and his approval.

It's okay to feel troubled by the challenges we face in our mission. What keeps us going is knowing that God is raising us up. There is always resurrection after crucifixion.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. What troubles are you facing? Where is Jesus in this? Is he ahead of you, leading the way? Are you following him?
2. How do you feel hearing Jesus admit, "I am troubled now"?
3. When you make sacrifices for others, how does this connect you more closely to the human heart of Jesus?
4. How does the Father honor you as you serve in Christ's mission?

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