

Divine Savior & Our Lady of the Lakes Palm Sunday Prayer Reflection

Start by the sign of the cross: +

Place yourself before the presence of God by being still.

Sunday Readings:

Isaiah 50:4-7

Psalm 22:8-9, 17-19, 19-20, 23-24

Letter to Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel of Matthew 26:14-27:66

<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/040520.cfm>

You can get the readings on: The Daily Bread Booklet, Missalettes, Bible etc.

Fr. Gideon's Reflection: Why did Christ empty himself so completely?

There was a story in the National Geographic about a family that decided to adopt an exotic pet. The family felt that having cats, dogs, birds was too ordinary and they wanted to take it a notch higher. So, they decided to adopt a kinkajou! Now, Kinkajou belongs to the same family as Raccoons, and they are mostly found in Central America. One thing about Kinkajou is that, they are cute and fun when young, but they grow nuts with age! In the case of this family, their exotic pet tried so many times to eat its own tail or even tear itself into pieces! The family members received several bites and scratches as they tried to save their pet from itself.

It is interesting that, no matter how painful the bites and scratches were, the family never gave up on their pet. They loved and cared for their Kinkajou so much, and they were determined to put all efforts to save it from harming itself.

As we celebrate Palm Sunday of the passion of the Lord today, this family reminds us of what God is doing. In our second reading and the gospel, we are reminded on how Jesus our Savior was crushed, humiliated and nailed on the cross as a convicted felon for our sake. The question that has lingered for centuries, and probably still in our hearts is; why did Christ has to empty himself so completely? Why does God love us with such abandon? The answer is surprisingly simple, it's in God's nature to love and save us. God saves us not only from ourselves, our sins, but even more so, from the pandemics that threatens our wellbeing. So my brothers and sisters, as we enter into Holy Week, the Easter Triduum-which is the heart of our faith and hope, know of God's love and salvation for you. Listen to him in the scriptures, especially the passion narratives and in prayer, and may His salvation inspire in us a new way of loving and emptying ourselves for others, especially in these times.

Creed: Pray the Creed

Intentions: Offer your personal prayers, pray for our parish families, pray for the safety of those working in the health sector, pray for those afflicted by the Covid-19 and for their families.

Conclude the prayers with a Hail Mary

Pray the Lord's Prayer

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

Conclude with the sign of the cross: +

A few things to keep in mind:

-If you want to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation please email or call Fr. Gideon to set an appointment.

-Note that a Mass is offered every day for our intentions.

-In case you want to pray in church on Mondays (St. Rose, Fredonia) or Tuesdays (at Our Lady of the Lake, Random Lake), please call the respective parish office in advance for further instructions. Given the governor's Order and directives from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, as a parish we encourage you to pray from home.

-Holy Week Schedule for our live streamed liturgies is as follows:

- Holy Thursday 4pm
- Good Friday 1pm
- Easter Sunday 8:30am
- For Easter Vigil please follow the live streamed celebration with the archbishop from the St. John Cathedral, Milwaukee,
<https://www.stjohncathedral.org/index.php/connected/>

-If we as a parish can be of any support to you and your family at this time, please do not hesitate to call or email us. God is with us and everything will be fine.