



Blessed Trinity

Weekend Magazine

Over 60 YEARS COURAGEOUSLY *Living the Gospel*

April 2, 2023 • Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

This Palm Sunday, which Passion character are you?

By Tom Hoopes

I ask myself: How am I like that guy, or that woman? And how should I change to be more like the good guys?



Palm Sunday is also called “Passion Sunday” because the Gospel for the day is the entire long Passion account. The reading is filled with a gripping narrative and insights that have changed history. But for me, I find the best approach is to focus on the minor characters. After all, I am one of those minor characters in the continuing story of Jesus’s life. I ask myself:

How am I like that guy, or that woman? And how should I change to be more like the good guys? Call it a Palm Sunday Examination of Conscience.

“A woman came with an alabaster jar of perfumed oil ... She broke the jar and poured it on His head. There were some who were indignant.” Am I like the woman who anoints Jesus? Do I see how great Jesus truly is, and give him my best, not counting the cost? Or am I like the disciples who count everything, keeping a careful scorecard, and think it is a waste to spend too much of my time on Jesus?

“Jesus said, ‘One of you will betray me.’ ... They began to be distressed and to say to him, one by one, ‘Surely it is not I?’ Do I think of myself as above reproach? Do I continually rationalize my behavior in my head so that I come off as a hero? Or do I have an objective view of myself, seeing my weaknesses as well as my strengths? God knows the real me only.

In the Garden of Gethsemane “He said to them, ‘My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch.’ He advanced a little and fell to the ground and prayed ... When he returned he found them asleep.” In what areas of my life am I asleep? Where is it that I know Jesus has asked me to “keep watch” – in my conversations, in my entertainment, on the internet, or when I shop? Do I keep a sharp lookout, or am I sick of trying and just want to turn my conscience off?

“Again the high priest asked Him and said to Him, ‘Are you the Christ, the son of the Blessed One?’ Then Jesus answered, ‘I am; and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven.’ ... They all condemned Him.” Am I like Christ’s accusers? Will I not take Christ’s “Yes” for an answer? I have seen again and again how Jesus Christ is exactly who he says he is — exactly who the history of Western civilization says he is. He is the son of God who came in power and changed the world. And yet, I still hesitate. I still worry that it’s too crazy to believe in Jesus, it’s too embarrassing, it’s “blasphemy” against the culture. He stands before me, inviting belief.

Peter “began to curse and to swear, ‘I do not know this man about whom you are talking.’ And immediately a cock crowed a second time. ... He broke down and wept.” Am I like Peter? Do I easily drop my faith? Do I distance myself from Him when I am talking to someone who doesn’t share my faith?

If so, do I react like Peter? Do I feel the pain of my betrayal? Do I repent and wish I had treated my friend better? Do I return in tears, like Peter, or flee like Judas?

Continued on page 2



PASTOR

Rev. Wayne C. Genereux

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Deacon Lionel Roberts,
Deacon Emeritus

CLERGY ASSISTANCE

Fr. Jack McDowell, OFM
Fr. Anthony Fortunato, OdeM
Fr. Victor Bartolotta

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday Masses

Monday - Saturday 8:00 AM

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil at 4:00 PM
Sunday

8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

Follow the Sunday Mass on our
website, btsp.org.

Confessions will be held
Saturdays 2:45-3:45

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... Continued from cover

“A man called Barabbas was then in prison. ... Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas to them.” Jesus Christ died for my sins to release me from eternal punishment. But the first person His passion released was Barabbas, a rebel who had committed a murder. We don’t know what he was like. In *The Passion of the Christ* he is a thug delighted at his good luck. How do we look at our redemption by Jesus? Are we grateful, letting it motivate a change of heart? Or are we merely relieved, lulling ourselves into presumption? We are like Barabbas: Rescued from a terrible fate that we deserved.

They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon ... to carry His cross.” Jesus said, “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.” Do I do that? Do I find ways to step out of my comfort zone for Jesus every day? Or do I grumble, accepting the cross begrudgingly or rejecting it?

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Blessed Trinity Roman Catholic Church

Holy Week & Easter Liturgical Calendar 2023

April 3, 4, 5 Daily Mass 8:00 a.m.

April 4, Chrism Mass at the Cathedral 11am (Note time change)

Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle (Also available at dosp.org).

Celebrant: Most Reverend Gregory L. Parkes, and the Priests, Deacons of the Diocese

April 6, Holy Thursday Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer (No Mass at 8:00 a.m.)

7:00 p.m. Mass of the Lord’s Supper.

Altar of Repose for prayer and meditation.

Concluding with Night Prayer. Church closes at 9:30 p.m.

April 7, Good Friday: Divine Mercy Novena Chaplet Begins

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer (No Mass at 8:00 a.m.)

8:30 a.m. Stations of the Cross

3:00 p.m. The Lord’s Passion (Singing on Good Friday is Acapella)

7:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet Novena Begins (Singing on Good Friday is Acapella)

April 8, Holy Saturday Easter Vigil

(There is no 8:00 a.m. or 4:00 p.m. Mass)

Morning-Decorating for Easter (*Church will be closed till 6pm*)

6:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Novena Chaplet (Time Change this day only)

8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil

April 9, Easter Sunday Masses

(There will be no 6:30 a.m. Mass This Year)

8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

7:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Novena Chaplet

April 10-15 Divine Mercy Novena Chaplet Continues after Easter

7:00 p.m. Easter Sunday-Saturday April 15

April 16, Divine Mercy Sunday Mass Schedule

Masses: 8:00 a.m. (9:30 a.m. *Special Mass for Divine Mercy Sunday*),
11:30 a.m.



April 2, 2023

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Is 50:4-7 | Phil 2:6-11 | Mt 26:14—27:66

GROW AS A DISCIPLE

PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

As we begin Holy Week, we hear Matthew's account of the Passion. We see Jesus' humanity as he experiences *sorrow and distress* in the hours before his death. Three times, he asks the Father to "let this cup pass from me, yet, not as I will, but as you will." In our own human experience, I am guessing many of us have asked the Father to "let this cup pass" – for in addition to life's joys, we will all experience setbacks, struggles, and suffering. By example, Jesus shows us that we can turn to our Father, trusting in his will for us. Let this be a reminder in this holiest of weeks that we can bring our suffering and our doubts to the Father, knowing that the joy of Easter will come.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The final words of today's Gospel [shorter version] are those of the centurion and the men keeping watch over Jesus: "Truly this was the Son of God!" Let us keep in mind this central proclamation of our faith while attending Triduum services this week. On Holy Thursday, we remember the Last Supper and the institution of the Eucharist and the priesthood, celebrating Christ's outpouring of love for us. On Good Friday we venerate the cross as we solemnly recall the passion and death of Jesus. And of course at the Easter Vigil and on Easter Sunday, we celebrate the story of our salvation, culminating in Jesus' resurrection. As Christians, we know that the cross will give way to the empty tomb and the promise of new life in Christ. Let our voices be strong this week as we echo the centurion's words above, and may Jesus' name be praised forever!

PRAY Praying the Stations of the Cross allows us to walk with Jesus through his passion and death. Make that journey with Jesus this week.



Are You Hoping to Receive One of the Seven Sacraments With Us?

Matrimony

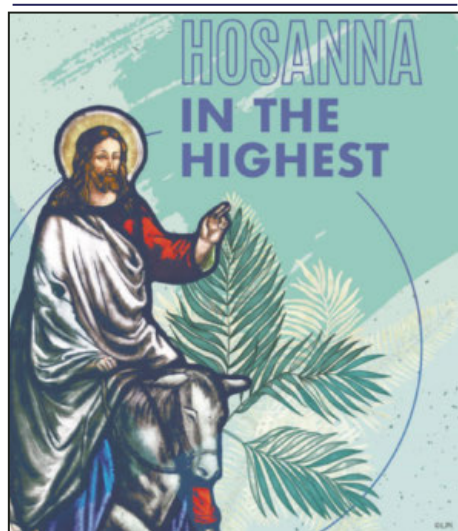
Congratulations on your engagement! Every Diocese in Florida requires at least six months preparation before marriage. Please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for an appointment before setting a date.

Baptism

We are honored that you would like to choose Blessed Trinity Catholic Church for the baptism of your child! We ask that you please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for information regarding the pre-baptism class before scheduling a baptism.

Office Hours

Monday—Friday 9-12 and 1-4
Closed for Lunch Noon to 1 pm



Mass Intentions

Saturday, April 1, Vigil for Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

4:00 p.m. Virginia DiBenedetto (Dec)

Sunday, April 2, Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

8:00 a.m. Ray Glumbot (Dec)
9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners
11:30 a.m. Steven Clancey (Dec)

Monday, April 3, Monday of Holy Week

8:00 a.m. Fred Deuel (Dec)

Tuesday, April 4, Tuesday of Holy Week

8:00 a.m. Pete Di Benetdo (Dec)

Wednesday, April 5, Wednesday of Holy Week

8:00 a.m. Mass for Vocations

Thursday, April 6, Holy Thursday

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
7:00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper

Friday, April 7, Good Friday

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

Saturday, April 8, Vigil Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter

8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil

Sunday, April 9, The Resurrection of the Lord

8:00 a.m. Ray Glumbot (Dec)
9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners and
Rose Marie Schlessler (Dec)
11:30 a.m. Steve Clancey (Dec)

*The Altar flowers this weekend have been donated
in loving memory of Virginia DiBerneditto,
by her family.*



Apostles' Creed

At Mass today we are using the Apostles' Creed instead of the Nicene Creed. The origins of the Apostles' Creed are believed to predate the Nicene Creed. It is universally recognized by many Christians as a shared statement of our faith in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Apostles' Creed may be used at any Sunday Mass, but the church particularly recommends its use during Lent and Easter time. Why? Because the words of this ancient Creed have been used for centuries as the basis of our baptismal promises, and the seasons of Lent and Easter put a strong focus on baptism. During Lent we prepare those who will be baptized at Easter while readying ourselves to renew our own baptismal promises. As we recite the Apostles' Creed, it will stir up in our hearts our commitment to Christ which was first made at our own baptisms and prepare us to renew our promises this Easter.

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

As a Catholic, I am very grateful for the wonderful expression of the Mass. When united in this liturgical experience, we are not only present to the reality of the bread and wine becoming the real presence of Jesus, but are also connected spiritually to the institution of the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper and to the future heavenly banquet at the end of time. During the Eucharistic Prayer, this is a time to be truly as mindful as we can to what is happening in our midst. Our effort to completely surrender ourselves to the moment is a true act of stewardship.

When we hear the Gospel reading of the passion and death of Jesus at Mass, we are also being called to give of ourselves completely to the moment and to be truly caught up in the story. We should strive to be there at the events of over two thousand years ago, but also to what the reality of those events mean for us today. To do this effectively, we need to spend more time reflecting on the dynamics of the events of Jesus' passion. Hopefully, our Lent has been fruitful and we have spent time with devotions like the Stations of the Cross. Maybe we have taken time to read Scripture slowly and deliberately, taking time to let each aspect sink into our mind and spirit. If Lent has been instead a time of too much business and not much prayer and reflection, the good news is that it is never too late.

During this Holy Week, take some time to enter into the story of the Passion. Good stewardship calls us to not only give of that which can be seen, but also that which cannot be seen. Surrender your mind, body, and spirit to Jesus. He carries his cross before you and beckons you to follow him.

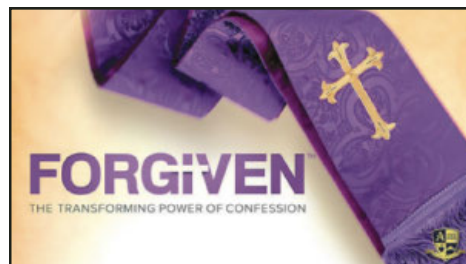
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EASTER ALTAR FLOWERS

For those wishing to contribute towards the Altar flowers, you may do so in two ways:

1. Use the Easter Flowers Envelope included in your envelope packet.
2. Complete this form and return it to the office with your donation.

The names of the donors will be listed in the bulletin. **Deadline for inclusion of your name in the Easter bulletin is Sunday, April 2.** The names listed for remembrance and honor will be placed on the altar.

Please Check One:

☐ In Honor of

☐ In Memory of

Donor's Name: _____

Donation Amount: \$ _____



Ecumenical Good Friday Stations of the Cross

St. Matthew Episcopal Church will be hosting their long-time tradition of **Ecumenical Good Friday Stations of the Cross**. There will be a short service in the church at 12:00pm which will be followed by the stations out on the property. After the Dismissal of the Crowd you may leave or return into the church for the Mass of the Pre-Sanctified.

The church is located at **738 Pinellas Point Drive South**, St. Petersburg, 33705. For more information call St. Matthew Episcopal Church at 727-866-2187.

What is a Pilgrimage?

What is a pilgrimage? Why do people go on them?

A pilgrimage is a spiritual journey to visit a holy site, such as the shrine of a saint, a place where the Blessed Virgin Mary has appeared, or an historic church or chapel. What makes a pilgrimage different from a vacation and a pilgrim distinct from a tourist is the spirit in which the journey is made. Pilgrimages are really a symbol of our spiritual journey in life, reminding us that this world is not our true home and that we spend our lives journeying to our homeland, which is the Kingdom of God.

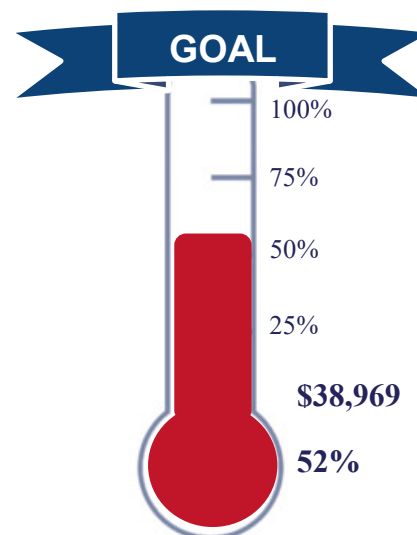
Pilgrimages — which can be as involved as a trip to Rome or the Holy Land or as simple as visiting the Blessed Sacrament in a local parish church — are also an opportunity for us to step out of the rhythms and limits of our daily lives to seek out connection with God in a special way, by visiting a holy place. At times, such as on a special feast, a jubilee, or the anniversary of the dedication of the church, special graces (called “indulgences”) can also be offered to pilgrims, helping to enrich our experience of the celebration.

In the end, pilgrimages are an ancient act of devotion and something that each of us can put into practice, helping us to discover how God is present in the world around us, in places both near and far. ©LPi



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CRS Rice Bowls

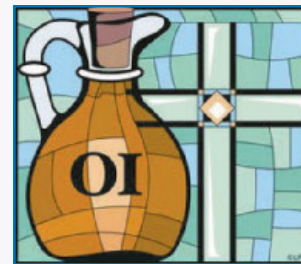
At the end of Lent, please **do not bring the Rice Bowls back to the church**, but rather, count the money you have collected and write a check payable to Catholic Relief Services and mail to:

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Harlan, IA 51593-0700

You may also donate online at
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Preeper, Helen
Privitera, Sandy
Riley, Marie
Roberts, Deacon Lionel
Romani, Angelo
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Stankiewicz, Cy
Tarnowski, Lawrence
Thompson, Susan E.
Thuline, James and Lil
Vanderbeck, Jay
Walsh, Thomas
Youngman, Ruth



Anointing of the Sick

To request the Anointing of the Sick for yourself or a loved one, please contact the parish office, 727-867-3663.

If you or a close family member would like to be added or removed from our prayer list, please contact the parish office at 727-867-3663.



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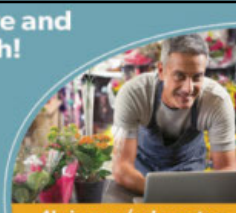
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