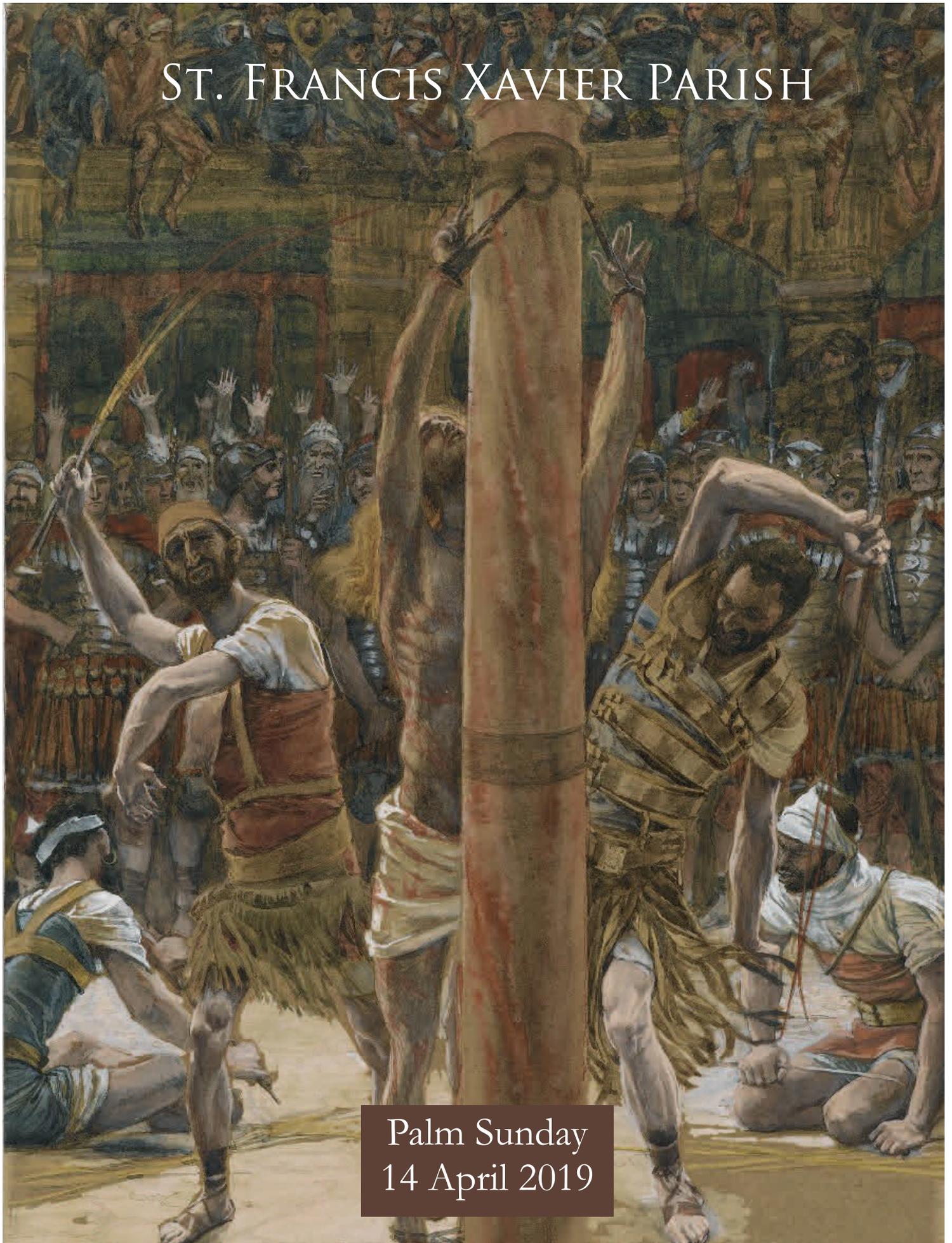


ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



Palm Sunday
14 April 2019

St. Francis Xavier, Acushnet – Diocese of Fall River

Mass Schedule

(April 13th - April 21st)

Sat.	Apr 13	Palm Sunday (Vigil) (Rd) <i>Pro Populo</i>
Sun.	Apr 14	Palm Sunday (Rd) Rose & Manny Medeiros <i>Month's Mind</i>
Mon.	Apr 15	Monday of Holy Week (Vi) Donny, Helen & Jean Guenette
Tues.	Apr 16	Tuesday of Holy Week (Vi) Maria Mende & Mother
Wed.	Apr 17	Wednesday of Holy Week (Vi) Bob Dullea <i>Tenebrae Service</i>
Thurs.	Apr 18	Holy Thursday (Wh) Mass of Lord's Supper Bob Vigeant
Fri.	Apr 19	Good Friday (Rd) Passion Liturgy
Sat.	Apr 20	Easter Vigil (Wh) For Deceased of the Parish
Sun.	Apr 21	Easter Sunday (Wh) For the Parish <i>Pro Populo</i>

Financial Report

Income:

4th Sunday in Lent.....\$4,633.76
Catholic Relief Services.....\$1,479.66

Prayers Please

... for all the sick of our parish: those homebound, in the hospital, and nursing facilities; and for all the souls in purgatory.

Sanctuary Lamp

If you are interested in this weekly memorial, please contact the parish office. *During Eucharistic Adoration please pray for the following person/s for whose intention the Sanctuary Candle burns this week: **Walter Bohn***

HOLY WEEK CONFESSIONS

Monday, 15 April: 5:30 to 6:30pm & starting again at 7:00 pm until all are heard.
Good Friday, 19 April: 5:30 to 6:30pm
Holy Saturday, 20 April: 3:00 to 4:00pm

FROM FR. WILLIAMS

WHY COME TO HOLY WEEK SERVICES?

This is the most important week of the year for Christians. As we begin today by remembering the Lord's entrance into Jerusalem at the start of the Passover celebrations, our liturgies help us to reflect on the events that are the reason for our hope for salvation as Christians.

St. John 13:1 sets the tone for this week: "Before the feast of Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to pass from this world to the Father. ***He loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end.***"

We say so often and so easily "Jesus loves me" – but how conscious are we in our daily lives of ***just how much*** He loves us? I hope everyone reading this will make an effort to attend as many of the Holy Week services as possible: if you do, I promise you that you will have a far more profound realization of just how much Jesus does love you, because you will better know what He did to show it. Among the highlights of this week:

Tenebrae: This service, the name of which means "darkness" in Latin, takes place at 7 p.m. this Wednesday, traditionally called "Spy Wednesday" because it is the day on which Judas made his deal to betray Jesus. It is a service of readings that help us to enter into the following days, characterized by the gradual extinguishing of candles that ends with the church being in darkness.

Holy Thursday: At 7 p.m., we celebrate the institution of the sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Holy Orders, and also commemorate Jesus washing His disciples' feet, with the admonition, "I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do."

Good Friday: At 3 p.m., we have the solemn reading of the Passion of Christ. This is followed by the veneration of the cross – one of the most moving experiences in the liturgical year. Few things can better bring home the reality of Christ's sacrifice than putting our hands on the cross and kissing the images of the wounds that are the reason for our salvation.

Holy Saturday: At 7:30 p.m. we begin the solemn Easter vigil, the most important Mass of the year. While a little longer than a normal weekend Mass, in one service it encapsulates all of salvation history and helps us to understand our place in God's plan. This year is especially special because we will welcome two new members into the Church: Lauren Pimentel & Adam Clavell. Celebrating alongside them their reception of the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Communion can help to awaken within us a fresh appreciation for these sacraments we've already received.

PARISH INFORMATION

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Fri: 9:30am – 4:00pm

Please make an appointment to meet with

HELPFUL CONTACTS

Religious Education: 508-998-7445

School: 508-995-4313

School Fax: 508-995-0456

ACCESSIBILITY

- Open for Prayer Every Day
- Wheelchair Lift
- Cry-room

St. Francis Xavier Parish 125 Main Street Acushnet, MA 02743

tel: (508)-995-7600 fax: (508) -995-1794

email: info@sfxparish.com

Fr. Riley J. Williams, Administrator

[rjw@sfxparish.com]

Deacon David Pepin

[dbp@sfxparish.com]

Mr. Steven Guillotte, Director of Pastoral Services

[sng@sfxparish.com]

Mrs. Michelle Russo, Principal

[mrusso@sfxacushnet.com]

Mrs. Anabela Shaughnessy, Asst. Principal

[ashaughnessy@sfxacushnet.com]

Mrs. Janine Hammarquist, Rel. Ed. Coordinator

[jlh@sfxparish.com]

HOLY MASS

Sunday 8:00am & 10:30am

Saturday Vigil 4:00pm

Monday-Saturday 9:00am

First Friday 9:00am & 6:00pm

Latin/Extraordinary Form: As Announced

CONFESSIONS

Monday 5:30-6:30pm

Saturday 9:30-10:00am

Saturday 3:00-3:45pm

First Fridays 6:45-7:15pm

Any Time by Appointment

ADORATION

Mon - Friday 9:30am-9:00pm

Saturday 9:30am-2:45pm

VESPERS

Monday: Vespers with Benediction

Tuesday: Vespers

Wednesday: Vespers with Benediction

(Vespers begins at 6:30 pm)

ON THE COVER

I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; my face I did not shield from buffets and spitting. The LORD GOD is my help, therefore I am not disgraced... (Is 50:6:7)

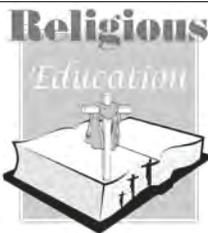
The farsighted utterances of the prophet Isaiah generally known as the Suffering Servant Prophecies (which include the quotation above) are written in the past tense. This should amaze not only Christians, but every person with an open mind toward religion. This is because if, for instance, we heard a man saying: “I went to the grocery store and picked up some fruits and vegetables”, we must assume that this man already completed the task. Such would also be the case if we overheard the man say, “I gave my back to those who beat me...” In this case we would surmise that the man was captured by an enemy and mistreated *in the past*. Yet, this same sentence was written by Isaiah some seven centuries *before* the action ever came true. For some reason, the Spirit of God wished to describe a future event using the past tense. This is not a case of “going back to the future”, but rather of going forward to the past!

Why didn’t Isaiah write instead, “I *will give* my back to those who *will beat* me...” like when he wrote, “a virgin *will conceive* a son and *will call* him Immanuel? Why is the Incarnation in the future tense for Isaiah, but the Passion in the past tense? One spiritual explanation is that since the future tense of a verb gives the sense of something that still has to be proven, the past tense gives the sense of it being proved. Hence, while the Spirit wanted the Incarnation to require our verification, the Spirit desired that the Passion be already verified. In spiritual terms this means that we are to await the joy, having acknowledged the sacrifice.

To commemorate the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ on this **Palm** or **Passion** Sunday, we have placed on our bulletin cover another work of **James Tissot** entitled *The Scourging on the Back* (1894 – courtesy of the Brooklyn Museum). Here we see the sad but glorious fulfillment of the quotation of Isaiah. We say “here” because even though the Passion is in the past we explore its science and its art in the present during every season of Lent. Whether in the Stations of the Cross or the reading of the Passion or the meditation on the Crucifix or in the present suffering of ourselves or of those we love, we attempt to experience and understand the loving and redeeming sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Many other denominations of Christians would desire that Catholics just get over it; that we take Jesus off our crosses and move on to the Resurrection. Well, we do get there eventually, as we will next Sunday. But first we prefer to be faithfully biblical and revel with Isaiah in the past and future tenses. We also revel with the Psalmist in the present tense as when he proclaims of Our Lord’s sacrifice, “My heart *is ready* O’ God; my heart *is ready!*” (Ps 108:1)

Palm Sunday - April 14, 2019



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: On all Monday evenings 7:30-8:30pm. Every grade level will have a scheduled hour of Adoration from October-May. All students in that grade level should make every attempt to join us for this hour.

****Level 2 has Eucharistic Adoration every Monday in April****

First Communion Rehearsal *Thursday May 2nd 6:30pm* for all First Communion students in the church. Rehearsal for Readers & Gift Bearers only will be on *Sunday April 28th at 9:00am* in the church. Please keep our First Communion Students in your prayers as they prepare to receive Holy Communion for the first time in May.

PARISH PROPERTY CLEAN-UP: All Confirmation Students, *Men of St. Joseph* and *Women of Grace* and any parishioner that would like to lend a helping hand are invited to join in cleaning up around the church and rectory. This is our once per year outdoor spring cleaning when we prepare our property before First Communion & Mother's Day and this year a special Diaconate Ordination for Steve Booth. We will meet on the grounds **after the 9:00am Mass on Sat., April 27th**.

No Classes on Sun. April 14th (Palm Sunday start of School Vacation) or **Sunday April 21st** (Easter Sunday)

Classes Resume on Sun. April 28th.

To keep informed of important dates please visit our Parish Master Calendar on our website at www.sfxparish.com or email Mrs. Hammarquist at jlh@sfxparish.com

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

On this Palm Sunday our parish school students are especially grateful to offer a generous service to the entire diocese. On Friday, 5 April our students and supporters gathered in the parish church at 1:00 pm to pray (and record) the diocesan-wide Mass which will be televised on Palm Sunday. While it may seem a little thing, every Mass is a glorious thing; and we are particularly glad to have the opportunity to have celebrated Mass with Father Williams for all the ill and homebound in the diocese that might not otherwise be able to come and worship on Palm Sunday. Even if these individuals have no one to bring them a blessed palm, they will be blessed with the faces of our young students basking in the Holy Eucharist. This brings me to a point that is not directly a school matter, but as school principal *and* parishioner I would like to mention: If you know of any Catholics in our area who are homebound and not able to attend Mass because of an illness, please let the parish office know, so that these individuals might receive Holy Communion at home. *Have a blessed Holy Week!*

God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

April 19th - Good Friday (Holy Land)
April 21st - Easter Sunday - Retired Priests
April 28th - Diocesan Assessment

NEW PARISH MOM'S GROUP: Parish mothers who have young children at home are invited to join in with a new parish group entitled *St. Zelie's Mom's Group*, named so for St. Therese of Lisieux's saintly mother. The next meeting of the group will be on Thursday, 25 April and every Thursday afterward. The full schedule is for the moms to meet at 8:00 am for a walk (with any children) in Pope Park (weather permitting) and then to proceed to our parish church for 9:00 am Mass. After the 9:00 am Mass the moms and kids will meet from 9:30 to 10:30 am in the parish Hospitality Room for coffee, refreshments, and fellowship. Please note that if you are not able to attend the full schedule each time, you are still welcome to participate where you can on the Thursday morning (e.g. if you cannot make the morning walk, you can meet up with the group in the church for Holy Mass).

Last weekend you may have seen flyers being distributed at the Sunday Masses. However, if you did not receive one and are interested in joining the group, please contact Kristin Carrigg at kristincarrigg@gmail.com or you may contact Steve in the parish center if you have any questions regarding this new apostolate.

Please spread the word to any such moms you know who are looking for faith-filled fellowship!

HOLY WEEK CALENDAR

Sunday	April 14	
Rel. Ed Levels 1-6	9:15-10:15am	Parish Ctr.
Rel. Ed Levels 7-9	11:40am -12:40pm	Parish Ctr.
Monday	April 15	
<i>Eucharistic Adoration:</i>		
<i>Rel. Ed Level 2</i>	7:30-8:30pm	Church
Tuesday	April 16	
Vespers	6:30pm-7:00pm	Church
<i>Women of Grace:</i>		
<i>Book Study</i>	7:00 pm	Parish Ctr.
Wednesday	April 17	
Vespers & Benediction	6:30 - 7:00pm	Church
<i>Tenebrae Liturgy</i>	7:00pm	Church
Thursday	April 18	
Divine Office	9:00am	Church
<i>Mass of the Lord's Supper</i>	7:00pm	Church
Visitation of the 7 Churches	8:30pm	Bus Ride
<i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</i>	8:30-11:00pm	Church
Friday	April 19	
Divine Office	9:00am	Church
<i>Passion Liturgy</i>	3:00pm	Church
Confessions	5:30-6:30 pm	Church
Stations of the Cross	7:00pm	Church
Saturday	April 20	
Divine Office	9:00am	Church
Blessing of Easter Food	9:30am	Church
Confessions	3:00-4:00pm	Church



Women of Grace

It is truly a blessing to have so many faith inspired women join us for this awe-inspiring faith-sharing study. We again thank Allison Gingras for taking time out of her busy schedule to be here and offer her insight in writing one of the three journals in this series. We are concluding this Tues. noon and 7pm. *"The Gift of Invitation: 7 ways Jesus invites you to a Life of Grace"* written by Allison Gingras is also a great journal for self-discovery if you could not join us for this study. In looking at the diverse group of women that we had join us I believe we can all learn something new about ourselves and help each other with where we stand with God as we take a deeper look into our Life of Grace.



HOLY THURSDAY
7:00PM

MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER



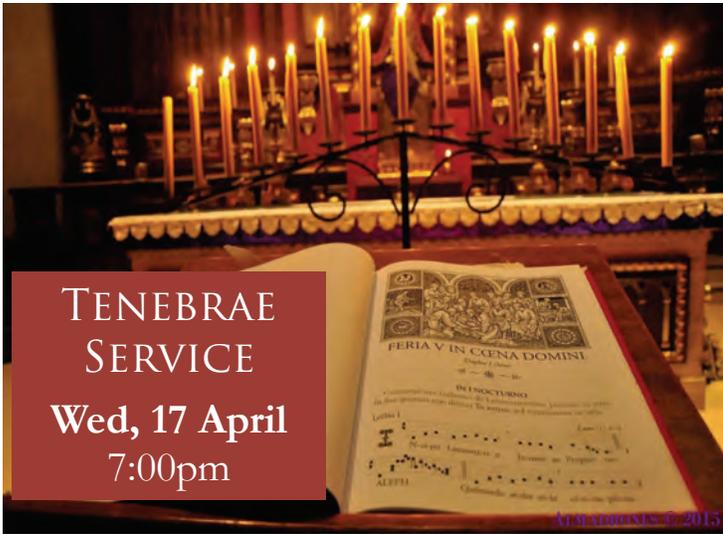
(Eucharistic Adoration until 11:00 pm)

MONTH'S MIND MASS

We remember the following individuals that were deceased in the past month at our 14 April, 10:30 am Mass:

Jeanne DeMilio
 Carlos Almeida
 Susan Felipe

THE SEVEN CHURCHES: As we do annually on Holy Thursday (18 April) we will be renting a bus to take the parish Youth Group and other parishioners on a visitation of seven local churches *after* the 7:00 pm Holy Thursday Mass. The bus will leave at approximately 8:15 pm from our parish parking lot and visit the seven churches for the purpose of Eucharistic Adoration especially in the commemoration of the arrest and Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Please join Father Williams and other parishioners as they participate in this excellent Holy Triduum tradition.

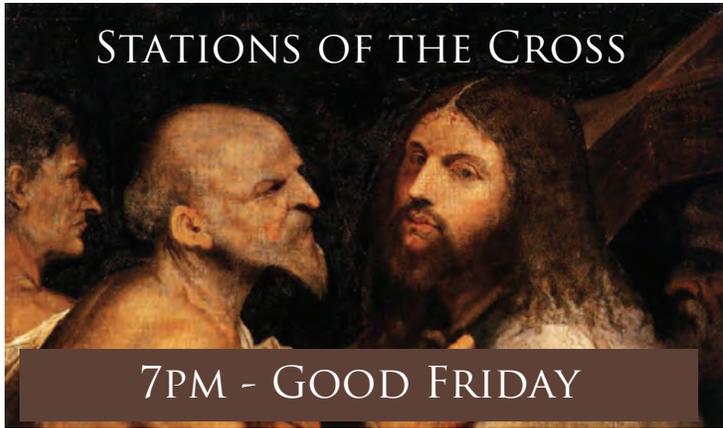


TENEBRAE SERVICE

Wed, 17 April
7:00pm

READINGS FOR WEEK OF APRIL 14, 2019

Sunday: Lk 19:28-40 (37)/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 [2a]/Phil 2:6-11/Lk 22:14--23:56 or 23:1-49
 Monday: Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14 [1a]/Jn 12:1-11
 Tuesday: Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17 [cf. 15ab]/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
 Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34 [14c]/Mt 26:14-25
 Thursday: Chrism Mass: Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9/Ps 89:21-22, 25 and 27 [2]/Rv 1:5-8/Lk 4:16-21
 Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18 [cf. 1 Cor 10:16]/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15
 Friday: Is 52:13--53:12/Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25 [Lk 23:46]/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1--19:42
 Easter Vigil: Gn 1:1--2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a/Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 [30] or Ps 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20-22 [5b]/Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11 [1]/Ex 14:15--15:1/Ex 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18 [1b]/Is 54:5-14/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 [2a]/Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [3]/Bar 3:9-15, 32--4:4/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [Jn 6:68c]/Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28/Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 [42:2] or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3] or Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19 [12a]/Rom 6:3-11/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/Lk 24:1-12



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

7PM - GOOD FRIDAY

Palm Sunday - April 14, 2019

PALM SUNDAY

OFFICE OF READINGS

BY ST. ANDREW OF CRETE, BISHOP

Let us go together to meet Christ on the Mount of Olives. Today he returns from Bethany and proceeds of his own free will toward his holy and blessed passion, to consummate the mystery of our salvation. He who came down from heaven to raise us from the depths of sin, to raise us with himself, we are told in Scripture, *above every sovereignty, authority and power, and every other name that can be named*, now comes of his own free will to make his journey to Jerusalem. He comes without pomp or ostentation. As the psalmist says: *He will not dispute or raise his voice to make it heard in the streets*. He will be meek and humble, and he will make his entry in simplicity.

Let us run to accompany him as he hastens toward his passion, and imitate those who met him then, not by covering his path with garments, olive branches or palms, but by doing all we can to prostrate ourselves before him by being humble and by trying to live as he would wish. Then we shall be able to receive the Word at his coming, and God, whom no limits can contain, will be within us.

In his humility Christ entered the dark regions of our fallen world and he is glad that he became so humble for our sake, glad that he came and lived among us and shared in our nature in order to raise us up again to himself. And even though we are told that he has now ascended above the highest heavens - the proof, surely, of his power and godhead - his love for man will never rest until he has raised our earthbound nature from glory to glory, and made it one with his own in heaven.

So let us spread before his feet, not garments or soulless olive branches, which delight the eye for a few hours and then wither, but ourselves, clothed in his grace, or rather, clothed completely in him. We who have been baptized into Christ must ourselves be the garments that we spread before him. Now that the crimson stains of our sins have been washed away in the saving waters of baptism and we have become white as pure wool, let us present the conqueror of death, not with mere branches of palms but with the real rewards of his victory. Let our souls take the place of the welcoming branches as we join today in the children's holy song: *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is the king of Israel.*

CATHOLIC NIGHT AT FENWAY PARK: is being held Monday, **June 24th** with game time at 7:10 pm. We are planning to get a bus again to take a parish group to the game against the White Sox. Ticket price is \$40 per person for the outfield grandstand. We will make order forms available soon and you can make your checks payable to *St. Francis Xavier Parish*. **The deadline to signup is April 25th.** (Forms are pinned up in the church narthex).

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LITURGY OF THE LORD'S PASSION: If you are able - please take **Good Friday** off or at least the afternoon off so you can attend the **Passion Liturgy at 3:00pm**. It is Catholic tradition to Venerate the Holy Cross and partake of the Blessed Sacrament consecrated the evening before at Holy Thursday Mass. **CELEBRATE YOUR FAITH!**
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ANNUAL PARISH CLEAN UP: Please join with your fellow parishioners on **Saturday 27, April at 9 am** to clean up and beautify the parish property. This is our one, big Spring spruce-up and we need all the help we can get. We will need assistance with sweeping and raking and weeding and spreading mulch and planting bulbs, etc. The more parishioners that come, the earlier we will finish; not to mention that we have much fun building comradery as we work side by side.

This year is especially important as we prepare not only for First Holy Communion, but also for the Ordination Mass of Steven Booth to the Diaconate on May 11th.

INDOOR SPRUCE UP: We have also begun to freshen up our parish center for the coming ordination. We have painted the parish center bathrooms and had all the floors stripped of old wax and refinished. Even the approach to the bathroom has new paint on the walls, ceiling, and cement floor. We have a plan to clean and improve many other areas before May 11th. Your continued support of the Building Fund allows us to complete these projects. Thank You.

NEWS ABOUT TONY PIMENTEL

On **Saturday, 18 May**, our beloved parishioner Tony will be ordained a Permanent Deacon. Tony has been in preparation with prayer and study for many years now and he will now officially move from "Acolyte" to "Deacon" in just one month. In these approaching days we ask that you keep Tony in your special prayers, Rosaries, etc., that the Holy Spirit will descend upon him each day in preparation of the great descent of the Spirit he will receive in Holy Orders. *St. Stephen and St. Lawrence, Pray for Tony!*