

April 5, 2020

Holy Week and the Receiving of Easter Water

Dear Friends of Holy Apostles Church,



It was so encouraging to see how many people came to receive palms and participated in our first attempts at live streaming our masses last Saturday and Sunday. The response was enormous!

So, this week, we will be live streaming Holy Thursday mass(bilingual) and Easter Sunday masses: 9:30am in English and 11:30am in Spanish. Once again, you will find these live streamed on our website, holypostleschurchfamily.org and our Facebook page, Holy Apostles Church (Rochester). And I will also be giving daily reflections the other days...

Furthermore, on Holy Saturday, I will be blessing the new Easter Water, and I will make that Easter Water available in Holy Water bottles on Easter Sunday from 1-2pm, just as we did with the Palms. All you have to do is drive your car into our Parking lot on Warner Street, come down our driveway towards Lyell Ave. You open your passenger side window and before you exit, I will place a holy water bottle of the new Easter Water on the front passenger side seat. You can then use the new Easter Water to bless yourself and your family as we begin the Easter season!

May the Lord continue to bless you and strengthen you and fill you with His peace as we enter the depth of this Holy Week and the celebration of the Sacred Triduum: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. While we cannot be physically together for these anointed celebrations, we can be united in spirit, as we go through them. With that in mind, you will find here simple reflections that you may find helpful at home to keep you focused on these powerful days of remembering Who God is and what He has done for us in Jesus!

God is with us! He will not leave us or abandon us! He came that we might have life and have it to the full! May His resurrection power fill you with new hope and take away every anxiety and fear. The timing of this pandemic and these sacred celebrations, in my mind, is not a coincidence... the Lord is reminding us in the strongest of ways that He is with us and that in Him, we will be victorious!

May you have a blessed rest of Holy Week and a glorious Easter!



Reflection for Holy Thursday - "Do This In Memory of Me"



Please read ~ Exodus 12:1-8,11-14, 1Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-15

On this special night Jesus gathered His Apostles around the table to share in the bread and wine that would symbolize His Body and Blood. This sharing of the Eucharist continues just as powerfully as on that first night. Yet before we come to the banquet, we must do something else...

We must be washed. We must be made clean. Before the Disciples can share the bread and cup with Jesus their feet must be washed. They entered the room dirty, worn from all the travel, and tired. Usually a servant would do this task...not tonight. The Disciples were shocked when Jesus humbly knelt before them. Peter protested...like most of us do. Yet, can't we hear Jesus today as clearly as Peter did then. We must let Him...we must let Jesus see and remove the dirt and grime off our feet.

The grime of selfishness, of pride, of judgment, of lies and gossip. The dirt of revenge, unwillingness to forgive, holding onto grudges. The grime of being mean, losing our patience, and refusing to be kind and loving. The dirt of self-hate, negativity, and not allowing love to come into our hearts. The grime of doubting God's love for us, not being excited about our faith, of ignoring God's call to become a disciple for Him. There is so much dirt and grime yet...

Jesus does not hesitate...Jesus wants to know us thoroughly! It is then that He can wash us and make us clean. He does this gently, lovingly and thoroughly...if we let Him. Can you share with Jesus right now...in this moment ~ how much you love Him. Close your eyes, be prayerful and share with Jesus how much you desire for Him to wash you, cleanse you, forgive you, and to heal you. Take some time with Jesus in this moment! Share with Him your dirt and grime and most importantly feel His grace and His love for you...His unconditional love for YOU! Then come to the table of the Lord.

Jesus want us and invites us to come to His table in memory of Him... There is a place just for you. You belong! You are welcomed just as you are! Jesus wants you and I to receive the food that will heal us, strengthen us, and that urges us to become more...to become what we receive...to become more like Jesus. This is the miracle of the Eucharist...it strengthens us and nourishes us so that we may become more like Jesus. There is no other food like it. This food and drink, Jesus Body and His Blood, is EVERYTHING!

*Thank You Jesus for this Gift of
Your Body and Blood.
I believe that it will give me all that
I need to become more like You!*





**GOOD
FRIDAY**

Prayers - Good Friday

**** Please place a Cross where you can see it while in prayer.**

Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of Your Son, Jesus. May I always be thankful for the love that Jesus has for me ~ that He would die for my salvation!

Philipians 2:6-11

Though he was in the form of God, Jesus did not deem equality with God something to be grasped at.

Rather, He emptied himself and took the form of a slave, being born in the likeness of men.

He was known to be of human estate, and it was thus that He humbled Himself, obediently accepting even death, death on a cross!

Because of this, God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name above every other name,

So that at Jesus' name every knee must bend in the heavens, on the earth, and under the earth, and every tongue proclaim to the Glory of the Father: JESUS CHRIST IS LORD!

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit...

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen

Readings for Today ~ Isaiah 52:13-53, Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9, John 18:1-19:42

~ Take time for silent prayer after each Scripture Reading

Let us now turn to God our Father and pray for ~

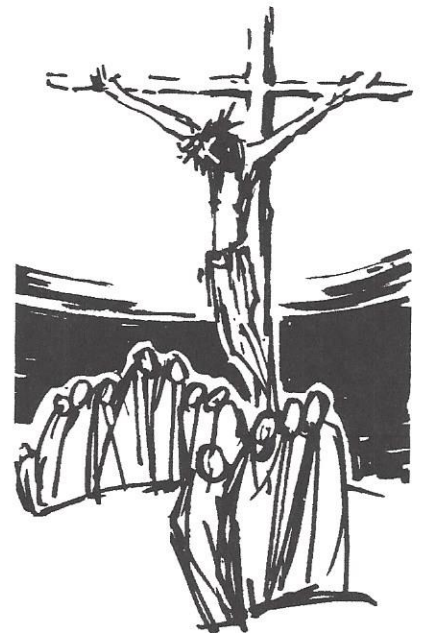
Our Pope, Pope Francis, Bishop Matano, and all priests that lead us.

For all people who will be welcomed in our Church and receive Sacraments.

Comfort those who struggle and are in pain; body, mind and spirit.

For all those who are ill. For those who have died ~ may the angels bring them to Heaven.

For all those who do not believe in God and for those who have lost their faith.



Easter Blessing



*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
The Lord has truly Risen! Alleluia!*

Lord, Jesus thank You for Your Love!

You have brought light into our darkness...

*Hope into our fears,
Peace into our spirits and
Love into our harden hearts!*



Lord, may we be thankful each day for Your sacrifice.

May we rejoice knowing that salvation can be ours.

May we walk in Your grace!

*Continue to bless us as we share Your promises to the world,
as we strive to care for those in need,
and as we deepen in our commitment to
love in Your name, O Lord.*

*On this most sacred day we also offer to you the
prayers that are in our hearts at this time.*

Lord, thank You for listening to our intentions this day.

*May the joy of Your rising O Lord
continue to bless us and all those whom we love! Amen!*

