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## Breath of Life

THE PASTORAL CARE NEWSLETTER  
OF MATULAITIS HOME

Volume 9, Issue 3  
Easter, 2023

### HOLY WEEK:



Holy Week begins on April 2<sup>nd</sup> with Palm Sunday, a celebration which includes a Gospel reading of the Passion of the Lord: the story of Jesus' condemnation, crucifixion, and death on the Cross. On Palm Sunday, we remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem when people spread their cloaks and laid down palm branches on the road before Him while calling out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

It was customary to cover the path of someone thought worthy of the highest honor – something like our practice of rolling out a red carpet. Yet Jesus did not come with a great show of power, a conquering king astride a war horse; instead, He came humbly riding a donkey, revealing Himself as our Prince of Peace Whose kingdom is not of this world.

The word *hosanna* was used as a cry for help in the Hebrew Bible, meaning something like "save, I pray!" Here its meaning is transformed into a jubilant cry of praise, a term declaring a special honor to the one who saves. Jesus is thus recognized and honored as the prophesied Messiah, the one sent by God for the salvation of the world.



We remember and celebrate this event by processing with palms, which are blessed by the priest at the beginning of the Mass, and singing a hymn of praise to Jesus, "Hosanna in the highest!" Christians will often keep their palm following the service, sometimes folding it into the shape of a cross, and display it in their home along with a crucifix or other religious images, a reminder of Holy Week, the most sacred and holy time in the Christian tradition, and honoring Jesus as our Savior and King.

Other readings follow during the Palm Sunday Mass, culminating with a dramatic reading of a Gospel account of the Passion, thus beginning Holy Week with a preview of all that will happen to lead us to our Easter Sunday celebration.





**Daily:** Holy Mass, 10:30am in the Chapel. Memorial Masses are offered for all residents who have died here; dates are posted at the reception counter, by the elevator, and at Center Court.

**Weekly:** Hymns & Prayers program is offered at 2:30pm on Mon. and Thurs.

Volunteer-led Rosary Group prays in the Chapel on Sundays at 1:30pm.

- 4.2.23 Palm Sunday**  
Holy Mass 11:00am Chapel
- 4.6.23 Holy Thursday**  
NO MORNING MASS  
Hymns & Prayers 10:30am Chapel  
Mass of the Lord's Supper 4pm
- 4.7.23 Good Friday**  
NO MASS  
Stations of the Cross  
10:30am Chapel  
Passion Service & Veneration  
of the Cross 3pm Chapel
- 4.8.23 Holy Saturday**  
NO MASS
- 4.9.23 Easter Sunday**  
Holy Mass 10:30am Chapel
- 4.13.23** 13<sup>th</sup> of the Month Rosary Club  
1:30pm Chapel *Monthly*
- 4.16.23 Divine Mercy Sunday**  
Adoration with  
Chaplet of the Divine Mercy  
1:30pm Chapel
- 5.13.23** 13<sup>th</sup> of the Month Rosary Club  
1:30pm Chapel *Monthly*
- 5.18.23 Ascension of the Lord**  
**Holy Day of Obligation**  
Holy Mass 10:30am Chapel
- 5.28.23 Pentecost Sunday**  
Holy Mass 10:30am Chapel

## Holy Thursday & Good Friday



April 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> mark two of the most sacred and solemn days in the Christian calendar and begin the Easter Triduum: Holy Thursday and Good Friday.

On Holy Thursday, we recall the Last Supper, when Jesus demonstrated our call to selfless love with a humble servant's heart by washing the disciples' feet. Also, during this sacred meal, Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist, giving His very flesh and blood to us in the appearance of bread and wine. Jesus then wept and prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, knowing that His betrayal was at hand, trusting in God the Father despite the terror He felt, praying, "Thy will be done!" (Mt 26:42). Betrayed by one of His own disciples, a trusted friend, Judas handed Jesus over to those seeking His execution.

On Good Friday, we remember Jesus' trial before Pontius Pilate as the crowds – who only days before welcomed Jesus like a king on Palm Sunday – cried out "Crucify him!" We recall His journey to the Cross where He gave His life for the salvation of the world. And every step of this journey, we remember His love for us: "He loved his own in the world and he loved them to the end" (John 13:1).



While the rest of the world puts away their Easter baskets and eggs, the Church continues the celebration of Easter for 7 weeks, bringing us to the **Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord** on May 18<sup>th</sup>, a holy day of obligation, followed by **Pentecost Sunday** on May 28<sup>th</sup>. During the 7 weeks of Easter, we hear the accounts of Jesus' encounters with His disciples after His Resurrection – on the road to Emmaus, in the Upper Room, with doubting Thomas, etc. On the 40<sup>th</sup> day of Easter, always a Thursday, we celebrate Jesus' Ascension into heaven and His promise to send the Holy Spirit to be with us and help us. "You will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem ...and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

It is this coming of the Holy Spirit that is celebrated on the 50<sup>th</sup> day of Easter, Pentecost Sunday, when the



disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and empowered to proclaim Jesus' Incarnation, Crucifixion, and Resurrection to

the whole world – regarded as the birth of the Church.

As we celebrate Pentecost, we might ask ourselves: are we holding back some part of our lives, are we allowing fear to guide us rather than opening our lives fully to the Holy Spirit? From the beginning of His ministry to His death on the Cross, Jesus held nothing back, giving His whole self that we "might have life, and have it more abundantly" (Jn 10:10). We are called to do the same. Every one of us, in every season of our lives, has 100% to give to God. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit would come and grant us the grace to give our 100%, trusting that God will then fill our lives with joy and that the fruits of the Spirit will be known in us.

Love, joy, peace – these are the characteristics of life lived by the Spirit; as Jesus said, "This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (Jn 13:35).





***The Divine Mercy message is one we can call to mind simply by remembering ABC:***

***A*** - Ask for His Mercy. God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.

***B*** - Be merciful. God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us.

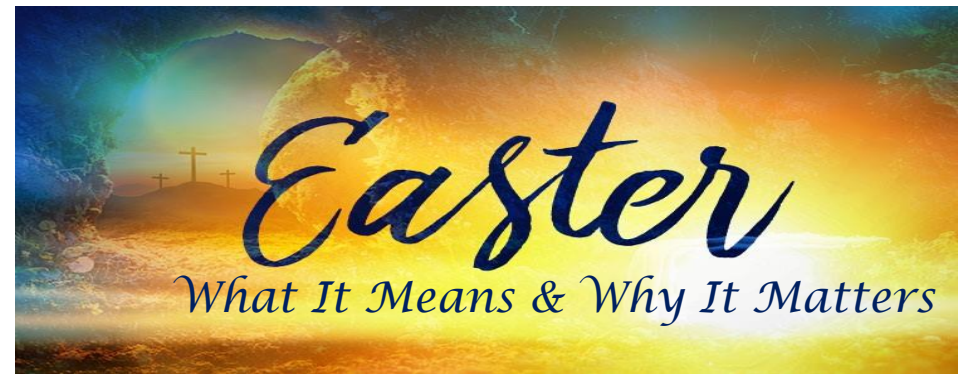
***C*** - Completely trust in Jesus. God wants us to know that the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive.



## **HOW CAN I PREPARE FOR** *Divine Mercy Sunday?*

- 1 SINCERELY REPENT OF ALL OUR SINS**
- 2 PLACE OUR COMPLETE TRUST IN JESUS**
- 3 GO TO CONFESSION BEFOREHAND**
- 4 PRAY THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET**
- 5 MEDITATE ON THE IMAGE OF THE DIVINE MERCY**
- 6 BE MERCIFUL TO OTHERS**

CATHOLIC<sup>sg</sup>



Easter is the most important Christian holiday, the reason for our hope and faith. Easter is the day we remember and celebrate Jesus' Resurrection from the dead, fulfilling God's promises throughout Scripture. It is through the Resurrection that we have the hope of heaven and eternal life. Without the Resurrection, Jesus would just have been a good man, a moral teacher and healer, a prophet; and while He is these things, it is through the Resurrection that we also know Him to truly be the Son of God, the second Person of the Trinity, and that we have hope for life in and through Him. This is truly a day for rejoicing, raising our voices in joyful "Alleluias"!

We may profess faith in Christ, claim Him as our Lord and Savior, but what does that mean for us in our day-to-day lives? Has our passage through the Lenten season to the joy of this Easter celebration brought us closer in friendship with Jesus? Have we come to know Him more intimately – our God who knows what it is to live, to have family and friends, to celebrate, to suffer, to grieve and cry, and even to die? Jesus knows all that we carry in our hearts, all the joy and grief of human life. May you open your heart to know and be known by Him and may the joy and hope of this season remain with you always!







The message and devotion to Jesus as the Divine Mercy is based on the writings of Saint Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun who, in obedience to her spiritual director, wrote a diary of about 600 pages recording the revelations she received about God's mercy. Even before her death in 1938, devotion to The Divine Mercy had begun to spread.

Along with the message of the Divine Mercy that Sr. Faustina received from the Lord between 1931 and 1938 to be shared with all people, our Lord commanded that a painting be created according to the pattern that Sr. Faustina had seen. Jesus requested to have this image venerated, first in the Sisters' chapel, and then throughout the world. The same is true with the revelations of the Chaplet, a series of prayers for God's mercy that are prayed using rosary beads. The Lord requested that this Chaplet be prayed not only by Sr. Faustina, but by everyone: "Encourage souls to say the Chaplet that I have given you."

Jesus also expressed to Sr. Faustina His desire that the Feast of Mercy be celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. We will celebrate here by praying the Chaplet together that afternoon as we spend time in adoration of Jesus in the Most Holy Eucharist. *Participating in the Communal Reconciliation Service on March 31<sup>st</sup> is a great way to prepare oneself for Divine Mercy Sunday!*

The message of The Divine Mercy is simple: God loves us – all of us. And, He wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all may come to share His joy.

