

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

ENDURING HOPE

Today's passage from Isaiah presents us with a common human dilemma: what do we do with our suffering? The speaker describes himself as God's faithful servant, who suffers beatings and mockery. We can't be sure who the speaker is, but we can see his extraordinary response. He chooses not to fight back, not to respond to violence with violence. He chooses to endure with hope that God, in God's own way, will deliver and vindicate him. Christians later saw this passage as a poignant description of Jesus' suffering in his passion.

We all have many experiences of tragic or undeserved suffering. We might desire to run from our pain, or to inflict suffering upon others, or to live in despair. In faith, we are invited to share in the suffering of Jesus, sharing also with all who suffer similarly. We can place our wounds in God's hands. We may live in enduring hope that Christ is indeed present and accompanies us in our pain. In God's own way, our suffering may be transformed, so to serve God's purposes.

A NEW KINGDOM

The Gospel of Matthew, using various symbols from scripture, presents Jesus as the true and victorious king who begins a new kingdom. After his royal entrance into Jerusalem, Jesus ascends his scandalous and paradoxical throne, the cross. The cross reveals the nature of his kingdom, based on God's forgiveness and sacrificial love. Evil forces thrive when violence stirs even more violence. By accepting his suffering and offering forgiveness, Jesus broke the primary cycle of violence. The Gospels proclaim that the powers of evil, though continuing their effects today, were decisively defeated on the cross.

The resurrection of Jesus launches the reign of God, which will be fully complete upon Jesus' return. We are now offered a new path for being human by which, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we may partner with God to create new cycles of life and hope.

Today's Readings: Mt 21:1-11; Isa 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14 — 27:66 [27:11-54]

ESPERANZA DURADERA

El pasaje de hoy del profeta Isaías nos presenta con un dilema humano común, ¿qué hacemos con nuestro sufrimiento? El profeta se describe a sí mismo como un fiel siervo de Dios, que sufre golpes y burlas. Exactamente no se sabe quién escribió este texto, pero podemos apreciar su extraordinaria respuesta. Él elige no contraatacar, no responder a la violencia con violencia. Él elige sobrellevar con esperanza que Dios, a la manera de Dios, cumpla y lo justifique. Tiempo después los cristianos vieron en este pasaje una descripción del sufrimiento y pasión de Jesús.

Todos tenemos muchas experiencias de un sufrimiento trágico o innecesario. Podemos desear echarnos a correr y alejarnos de nuestro sufrimiento, o lastimar u ocasionar sufrimiento a alguien más o vivir con desesperación. Con fe, estamos invitados a compartir el sufrimiento de Jesús, y acompañar aquellas personas que conocemos que están sufriendo. Podemos poner nuestras heridas en las manos de Dios. Podemos vivir con una esperanza persistente de que Cristo en verdad está presente y nos acompaña en nuestro dolor. A la manera de Dios, nuestro sufrimiento puede ser transformado, para que sirva para los propósitos de Dios.

UN NUEVO REINO

El Evangelio de Mateo, usando varios símbolos de las Escrituras, presenta a Jesús como el verdadero y victorioso rey que comienza un nuevo reino. Después de su entrada real a Jerusalén, Jesús asciende a un trono paradójico y escandaloso, la cruz. La cruz revela la naturaleza de su reino, basado en el perdón de Dios y su amor expiatorio. Las fuerzas del mal prosperan cuando la violencia suscita más violencia. Al aceptar su sufrimiento y al ofrecer perdón, Jesús rompe el círculo primario de la violencia. Los evangelios proclaman que las fuerzas del mal, aun cuando continúan sus efectos hasta hoy, fueron derrotados en la cruz.

La resurrección de Jesús pone en marcha el reino de Dios, el cual será cumplido al regreso de Jesús. Ahora se nos ofrece, como seres humanos, un nuevo camino por medio del cual y empoderados por el Espíritu Santo, podemos ser colaboradores junto con Dios para crear ciclos nuevos de vida y esperanza.

Lecturas de hoy: Mt 21:1-11; Is 50:4-7; Sal 22 (21):8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24; Flp 2:6-11; Mt 26:14 — 27:66 [27:11-54]

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Please Pray for the Sick

Prayer List Updates



- | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Danny Rae Schexnayder, Sr. | Paul Muñoz, Sr. | Baby Sophia |
| Sandra Jean Guerra | Joe Espinoza | Antonio Mendoza |
| Kayla Scott | Virginia & Jose Ponce | Sophie Alonzo |
| Maria Langley | Victoria Orosco | Helen Lloyd |
| Irma Urias | Henry Vidal | Odilion G. Flores |
| Mary S. Martinez | Hope Esquivel | JoAnn Almaguer |
| Frances Lozano | Victor Cruz | Diana Calderon |
| Mary Escalera | Tomas Johnson | Janie Ramirez |
| Maximus James Tobar | Deacon Jesus Rodriguez | Liz |
| Suzanne Gutierrez | Rosalinda Esparza | Ana Garcia |
| Terry Moreno | Daniel Rodriguez | Gina |
| Sarah Contreras | Rosie Flores | Pedro Maldonado, Sr. |
| Jose Flores | John Ruiz | Sandra Garza |
| Frances Ramirez | Jessica Diaz | Elena Gonzales |
| Marty Carrera Tobias | Robert Campos | Roxanne Joseph |
| Jesse R. Diaz | Gloria Martinez | For All Afflicted with |
| Celina Herrera | Carlos Guardiola, III | Coronavirus |
| Kevin Ryan Martinez | Joe R. Martinez | |
| David Santoyo | | |

We thank God for the healing of so many sick parishioners. Please be courteous and call the Parish Office if your loved one is no longer suffering or sick. Thank you.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

March 22—29, 2020

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Weekly Collection / 10 AM | -\$3,074.40 |
| Mail-In Collection | -\$1,757.00 |
| 2020 Gift of Giving | -\$ 5.00 |
| Arch. Catholic Relief 2nd Collection | -\$ 3.00 |
| TOTAL | \$4,839.40 |

Online Donations March 15—April 2nd \$612

THE CROSS

We should glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom is our salvation, life and resurrection, through whom we are saved and delivered.

—Entrance Antiphon, Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, The Roman Missal

Announcements

www.stjohnberchmans.com

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK



Saturday, April 4

12:00 p.m. † Inez Camarillo
Thanksgiving Chas & Chantal—Family

Sunday, April 5 Palm Sunday

10:00 a.m. † Mr. Guadalupe Treviño - Nora Treviño
† Guadalupe & Ernestina Huerta—Stephen Payne
† Daniel Arzola - Familia
† Juan C. Velasquez—Family
† Paul G. Salinas - Grace Salinas
† Aurelia Garai—Family
† Ryan Sanchez—Sanchez Family

Monday, April 6

Tuesday, April 7

12:00 p.m. † Hilda Torres

Wednesday, April 8

12:00 p.m. † Guadalupe Huron Saldaña

Thursday, April 9

12:00 p.m. † Alicia Suarez Escobedo

Friday, April 10

12:00 p.m. † Frank Cosme

Saturday, April 11

12:00 p.m. † George Hernandez

Sunday, April 12

10:00 a.m. † Mr. Rosario Juarez—Angelica Canales
† Elvira Moreno—Ultreya
† Daniel Arzola—Familia
† Alfredo & Carmen Solis—Family
† Ryan Sanchez—Family
† Jose, Juanita & Jesus Castillo—Family
† Paul Salinas—Grace Salinas

Gift of Life Miss Frances Trevino—Nora Trevino

In Loving Memory

We pray for the souls of our dearly departed who have passed from our parish community:

† **Christina Herrera**

Sanctuary Light

**Natalie Cuellar
Michael Cuellar**



FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

As we commence Holy Week and continue to adjust to our new way of life regarding COVID-19, allow me to share how we will celebrate the Triduum: Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

- [Thursday, April 9th at 7:00](#) in the evening: Holy Thursday, bilingual mass(limited to only 10 persons including the priest) .
- [Friday, April 10th at 3:00](#) in the afternoon: Good Friday, the Passion of Christ followed by the liturgy of the Word, adoration of the cross and communion.
- [Saturday, April 11th at 8:00](#) in the evening: Bilingual mass for the celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord.
- [Sunday, April 12th at 10:00](#) in the morning: Easter Sunday, Bilingual mass for the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord.

All celebrations within the church including masses, Stations of the Cross and rosaries are limited to 10 persons as required by the CDC guidelines are broadcast on live stream only of the exception of daily mass.

The following celebrations are still maintained:

- Daily mass Tuesday thru Saturday at 12:00 noon
- Daily Rosary Monday thru Sunday at 6:00 in the evening
- Sunday mass at 10:00 in the morning

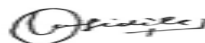
Additionally, St. John Berchmans continues to function as a parish, fulfilling daily obligations on behalf of our parishioners. The church relies on the donations of our parishioners and if these donations cease , our parish will not be able to meet its obligations and responsibilities. Please consider the following options:

- Mailing a check to: 1147 Cupples Road, San Antonio, TX 78226
- Insert your donation envelope in the mail box located at the entrance door
- PayPal: administrator@stjohnberchmans.com
- Cash App: [\\$StJohnBerchmans](https://www.cash.app/$StJohnBerchmans)
- Venmo: administrator@stjohnberchmans.com
- Or by calling the parish office at [210 434-3247](tel:2104343247) and paying by credit card

Thank you for your dedication to St. John Berchmans. Let us remain calm and vigilant as we face this trying time together.

Please read attached detailed letter.

God Bless You,



Fr. Fidèle Dikete, Pastor

“ The people who walked in darkness have seen a Great Light”
Isaiah 9:2

fr.fidele@stjohnberchmans.com

Announcements

www.stjohnberchmans.com

TODAY'S READINGS

Gospel at the Procession with Palms — Jesus' entry into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-11).

First Reading — In spite of my sufferings I am not disgraced. I am not put to shame (Isaiah 50:4-7).

Psalm — My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? (Psalm 22).

Second Reading — Christ emptied himself, and God filled this emptiness with exaltation (Philippians 2:6-11).



God greatly exalted [Christ]
and bestowed on him the name
which is above every name. — *Philippians 2:9*

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 42:1-7; Ps 27:1-3, 13-14; Jn 12:1-11
Tuesday: Is 49:1-6; Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a; Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34;
Mt 26:14-25
Thursday: **Chrism Mass:** Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9;
Ps 89:21-22, 25, 27; Rv 1:5-8; Lk 4:16-21
Lord's Supper: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14;
Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18; 1 Cor 11:23-26;
Jn 13:1-15
Friday: Is 52:13 — 53:12; Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-17, 25;
Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1 — 19:42

Events for Holy Week ~ April 5—12, 2020

Sunday, April 5 Palm Sunday

10:00 a.m. Mass - Church

Monday, April 6

Tuesday, April 7

12:00 p.m. Mass—Church

Wednesday, April 8

12:00 p.m. Mass - Church
Passover Begins

Thursday, April 9 Holy Thursday

7:00 p.m. Mass - Church
The Sacred Paschal Triduum
Live Stream

Friday, April 10 Good Friday

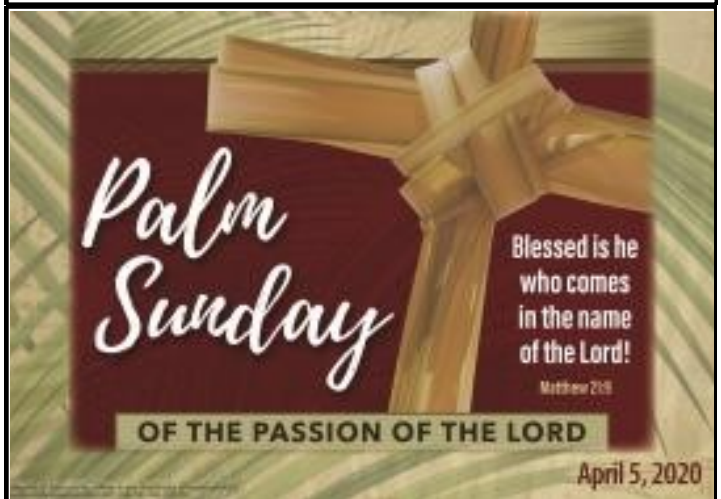
3:00 p.m. Passion of Christ
Passion of the Lord-Fast and Abstinence
Live Stream

Saturday, April 11 Holy Saturday

8 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass - Church
Easter Vigil in the Holy Night
Live Stream

Sunday, April 12 Easter Sunday

10:00 a.m. Mass - Church
Live Stream



HOLY WEEK AND THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Sunday, April 5 - Sunday, April 12, 2020

“The days of Jesus’ life-giving death and glorious resurrection are approaching, the hour he triumphed over Satan’s pride, the time we celebrate the great event of our redemption” (Preface of the Lord’s Passion II, *Sacramentary*). Thus the Church begins the one week of the year that we formally designate as “Holy.” Simple rituals can link the domestic church to parish church and Church universal. Enthroned Sunday’s palms where you pray, behind the family crucifix, even as part of front door decorations: “Christ reigns here,” they proclaim; “all are welcome!” During the first three days of Holy Week, ready Easter clothes, prepare festal foods, clean the house, beautify the yard. Late Holy Thursday afternoon, share Lent’s final meal before the Lord’s Supper Mass. Pitcher, bowl, and towel make a fitting centerpiece; perhaps conclude the meal by washing each other’s feet. On Good Friday, observe the paschal fast from food—from TV and computer, too! Then come to Holy Saturday’s Vigil with mind clear, stomach empty, and heart full of “holy anticipation” that bursts into living flame when the new fire is kindled.

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

All requests must be sent by email to osantoyo1104@gmail.com and will be finalized for approval by Father Fidèle. We ask that you submit your requests at least two (2) weeks in advance for placement in the bulletin.



NEW TO OUR PARISH AND WANT TO REGISTER AS A NEW PARISHIONER?

If you are interested in registering as a new parishioner at St. John Berchmans Church, please contact our Parish Office at 210-434-3247 to fill out a registration form.