

St. Francis Xavier Parish

912 SEVENTH STREET, MOUNDSVILLE, W. VA. 26041
304-845-1593
sfxmoundsville@comcast.net



April 5, 2020

Palm Sunday

OF THE PASSION
OF THE LORD

At the name of Jesus
every knee should bend . . .
and every tongue confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Philippians 2:10, 11

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Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass (c) 2001, 1998, 1997, 1996, 1970, CCD.

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; Is 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]

Bishop Brennan has directed that there will be **NO PUBLIC MASSES DURING HOLY WEEK.** Father That Son will celebrate the Paschal Triduum (including Easter) but without a congregation.

MASS INTENTIONS

If you have requested a Mass intention for a particular date AND you would still like to have that Mass said on that day, please contact Father: he will say Mass for your intention. Otherwise, all Mass intentions will be rescheduled for new dates once the Diocese lifts the suspension.

CREATE A FAMILY PRAYER SPACE AT HOME

In the coming weeks, families will be spending more time together at home. One good use of this time would be to pray together on a regular basis. This prayer time together can be enhanced by creating a place in your home dedicated to prayer.

Making a place for prayer in our home can help us do what the Gospel tells us, to go into an "inner room" to pray (Matthew 6:6). Make your prayer place as quiet, uncluttered, and "desert-like" as possible. It can be the corner of a room or any unused space. Furnish your prayer place with a Bible, prayer books, cross, rosary, icons, and a candle. Encourage family members to use the prayer place for personal as well as family prayer. You can bless your place of prayer, saying:

Come, Holy God. Dwell in this place of prayer,
and bless it with your peace and presence.
Bless all who seek you here.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

If you are unable to go to Mass, one idea for prayer together is to find a resource with the prayers and readings for Sunday Mass and pray those together.

You can find the readings online at www.usccb.org.

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PRAYER IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC

O God of compassion,
your people are anxious
in this time of pandemic.
Send your Holy Spirit among us
to dispel our fears.
We cry out to you in our confusion;
comfort us in our affliction.
Grant our leaders wisdom to guide us.
Strengthen and sustain those who are ill,
and be with those who care for them.
Help us to travel this road
in solidarity with our neighbors,
with our eyes fixed on the salvation
promised us through the death and resurrection
of your Son,
who is Lord forever and ever.

Amen.

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OFFERTORY

COLLECTION: March 22, 2020

Envelopes	\$ 605.00
Building Repairs	\$ 500.00
Priest Retirement	\$ 10.00
Catholic Relief	\$ 10.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 150.00

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

We are turning down the thermostat and cutting back our operating expenses as much as possible (although bills keep arriving ...)

Father is fielding calls from members of the community who are turning to churches for help. If you are facing hardship or if you know of a parishioner facing hardship as a result of the pandemic, please call Father.

For those who are able, please send your weekly offering by mail to: St. Francis Xavier Church, 912 7th Street, Moundsville, WV 26041.

We are grateful for the generosity of our parishioners – particularly at this time.

Rev. That Son Ngoc Nguyen, pastor

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSIONS):

Sat. 3:30 p.m., or any other time upon request.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:

By appointment. Contact the parish office at least six months before the date of the marriage.

Pre-Cana is required.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

By appointment. The Diocese requires instructions beforehand for the parents.

Contact the parish office.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (P.S.R.):

Sundays during the school term at 9:00 a.m. to 9:50 a.m. for Grades 1-12.

REGISTRATION AND CHURCH SUPPORT:

Parishioners should be properly registered at the Parish Office

Church Office Phone: 304-845-1593

Church Hall Phone: 304-845-9238

Xavier Hall Phone: 304-845-7080

Rev. That Son Cell: 408-858-7467

Parish Office Email:

sfxmoundsville@comcast.net

Website: sfxmoundsville.org

MASS SCHEDULE:

Weekends: Saturday - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday - 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.

Weekdays: Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m.

Holy Day Mass Schedule:

8:00 am, 7:00 p.m.

PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS & FRIENDS

Prayer Request: Joseph Grampa, Anna Mae Veronis Holiday, Diane and Ronnie Hill, Connie Howard, Eleanor Smith, Catherine Pellerin, Mary Coffield, Jim Conner, Thomas Sullivan, Sara Walters, Diane Young, Tex Reynolds, Bobby Kleinedler. **Homebound:** Semon & Phyllis Prado, Doris Murphy, Rachel Kerekes. **Nursing Home:** Bertie Gaughenbaugh, Bill Tennant, Gary Dobbs, Patricia Schmidt, Helen Remke, Barbara Meyer, Ron Jaworski.

In Sympathy

Our Parish offers prayers and condolences to the family of: *Elizabeth Jean Potts*
May she rest in peace.



Welcome to these new babies and congratulations to their families!

Callum Swails Freeland on March 13
Parents: Sean Freeland & Kerri Swails Freeland
Grandparents: Larry & Denise Freeland

Grace Whitelatch on March 20
Parents: Latrisha and Bill Whitelatch
Grandparents: Lottie & Jerry Durbin

FUTURE ALTAR SERVERS



Grace Whitelatch &
big sister Lilly



Callum Swails Freeland

FIVE SIMPLE WAYS TO CELEBRATE HOLY WEEK AT HOME

Create a simple prayer space in your home, and gather there to pray during the week.

Palm Sunday: At your regular Mass time, read the first Palm Sunday Gospel (Mt 21:1–11) and meditate on or discuss what Jesus might be thinking as he enters Jerusalem for the last time.

Holy Thursday: Bake bread for sharing at dinner; make a ritual of stripping the dinner table of all cloths and decorations after dinner.

Good Friday: Pray the Stations of the Cross at 3 p.m.

Holy Saturday: In the morning, read Psalm 64 and break your Good Friday fast solemnly with a simple meal.

Easter Sunday: Dress up the dinner table again. Include candles and crosses, so that the candy baskets aren't the only festive items present. Sing Alleluia and read the Easter Gospel (Matthew 28:1-10) with solemnity and joy.

Look online for other suggestions for celebrating Holy Week at home, to deepen and enrich your experience at this time of social isolation.

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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*

Office of Safe Environment

To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, contact local law enforcement, or contact WV Child Protective Services: 800-352-6513. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese, contact this diocesan number: 888-434-6237.

