



PAX CHRISTI

Catholic Community

952-941-3150 • www.paxchristi.com • Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord • Week of March 25, 2018

AT A COMPLETE LOSS

Written by Fr. Marc Paveglio, Parochial Vicar

Palm Sunday, while not the highest celebration of the Church year, might be the most jarring.

Think about it: At first, the liturgy opens with a joyful procession to welcome Christ, seated on a donkey, who enters the city of Jerusalem to the acclamations of children and the waving of palm branches. There is peace, there is *shalom*. We sing with full voice the praises of the Lord who brings salvation; we say with the little children, "Hosanna in the highest!" The humble, poor, and hurting who had heard about Jesus the Prophet had their hearts lifted when they finally laid eyes on Him. Finally—something good is about to happen!

But from there on out, it's a nosedive.

The rest of the Mass is a spiritual and emotional dissonance as we cry out in the psalm, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" We hear how Jesus became obedient "to the point of death—even death on a cross." Through the Gospel of Mark, we mystically enter into the suffering of the Christ, who is spit upon, punched, mocked, betrayed, abandoned, and crucified. So intense were the sufferings of Jesus, that, after a mere three hours of torture (which was on the shorter side for imperial Roman standards), "Pilate was amazed that he was already dead" (Mark 15:44).

It's hard to grasp the magnitude of the shock that befell both Jesus' disciples and the people of Jerusalem. In just a few days, the apparent *Messiah of the nation* and the *bringer of everlasting peace to every Jew* went from triumphant ascending king to dead victim of the fates.

Hadn't Jesus predicted His passion numerous times? Indeed He had. But His words were misunderstood, passed off as strange rabbinical riddles, or simply ignored out of fear.

And so Jesus' disciples are entirely at a loss. Their hopes are dashed. They cannot even begin to make sense of their lives. Just when the last puzzle piece seemed to fit, it was like someone had rammed the whole puzzle into a paper shredder. If all the puzzle pieces are dust, how can you ever hope to see the picture again? To top it all off, Jesus' closest friends and followers hid themselves, fearing that they might be tortured next.

For the disciples, everything was going to be *so perfect*, but now everything is *gone*. Palm Sunday can be jarring. It can feel like a total lack of control. And this is a good thing.

It is a good thing because we humans are enslaved to being in control. We love being secure in ourselves. We are attached to being unattached. We enjoy existing as individuals who determine our futures without anyone else to get in the way or hamper our self-made perfect life. "As long as I'm always in control," we believe, "no one can ever hurt me."

When He freely entered His suffering, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, *surrendered* control of His life to God. And God raised His Son from the dead for eternal life. This is the Good News. Even when it seems like I have lost everything, when my vise-grip on reality is broken, when I feel utterly powerless—precisely *there*, God is in control of my life. God can be trusted. God is faithful. God will fulfill His promises. We are not victims of our circumstances. We are children of God. We are loved and cherished by the Creator of All Things.

When you're living in Good Friday, believe that Easter Sunday will come. Let God be in control. Place your life into His hands. He will raise you up—because He loves you.

LENT: DISCIPLES ON A MISSION

We encounter Jesus this week in Jerusalem, a community he knew well. We prayerfully enter our own communities too, encountering those who are hungry and thirsty, those who need our help. How does our Lenten journey motivate us to serve those we meet in our daily lives? Visit csrcricebowl.org for more.



UPCOMING EVENTS

CALLED TO LIFE: YOUNG ADULT DISCERNMENT SMALL GROUP

Wednesdays, April 4, 11, 18, 25, 6:30–7:30pm RSVP

FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Friday, April 6, beginning with Mass at 8:30am

CENTERING PRAYER

Thursday, April 12, 9:00am, Prayer Space, Room 221

PARISHIONERS' ART EXHIBIT

April 15–May 13

JUSTICE SPEAKER SERIES

FOSTERING HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES: THE FOOD GROUP

Sunday, April 15, 12:30pm, Room 212

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP DAY

Sunday, April 22, 12:30–4:00pm, Lunch in Room 212 RSVP

BOOMERS AND BEYOND SPRING RETREAT

Thursday, May 8, 9:00am, \$15 RSVP

SOULCOLLAGE® – OPEN CARD MAKING SESSION

Tuesday, May 8, 6:30–8:30pm RSVP

SR. HIGH SERVICE/JUSTICE TRIP

Week of June 24–30, Chicago, IL, Fee of \$250 RSVP

VACATION BIBLE CAMP

July 23–27, 9:00am–12:00pm, Ages 3 – 5th grade youth RSVP

DRAMA CAMP

July 23–27, 9:00am–3:00pm, 6th – 8th grade youth RSVP

MIDDLE SCHOOL SERVICE CAMP

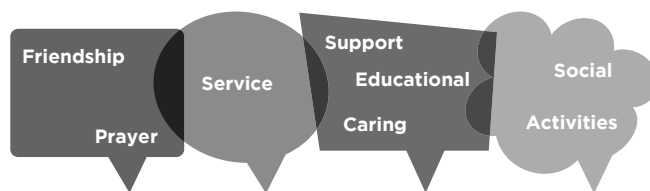
July 23–27, 8:30am–4:00pm RSVP

PRAYER CORNER

PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE LOVED ONES:

Michelle, Carol, Kari, Diane, Katherine, Sherry, Jim, Pam, Bill, Scott, Bethany, Ryan, S.U., Kathleen, and Irene.

Pax Christi offers, as a community, the gift of prayer. If you would like to have your name listed in this Prayer Corner during a time of need, contact Pastoral Care, 952-941-3150.



BOOMERS & BEYOND

PAX CHRISTI SENIOR MINISTRY

Sign-up at www.paxchristi.com/boomers to receive info on upcoming events.

Upcoming events include:

April 6: First Friday Coffee and Conversation

April 19: Feed My Starving Children – Chanhassen

May 8: Annual Boomer Retreat

Event information available at paxchristi.com!

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Monday, March 26

8:30am MASS
6:00pm FF Ad Hoc Meeting
6:00pm Scout Pack 348 Parent Mtg.
7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 370

Tuesday, March 27

8:30am MASS
9:00am Rosary Group
7:00pm Bell Choir
7:00pm Alanon
7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous

Wednesday, March 28

11:00am Tai Chi
6:00pm MASS
6:30pm RCIA Rehearsal

Holy Thursday, March 29

7:00pm MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
8:00pm Adoration in the Chapel

Good Friday, March 30

3:00pm Living Stations
5:00pm Living Stations
7:00pm CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION

Holy Saturday, March 31

9:00am Women's AA Group
9:00am Overeaters Anonymous
12:00pm Blessing of Easter Food
8:00pm EASTER VIGIL MASS

Sunday, April 1

7:00am EASTER MASS – Sanctuary
9:00am EASTER MASS – Sanctuary
9:00am EASTER MASS – Nazareth Hall
11:00am EASTER MASS – Sanctuary
11:00am EASTER MASS – Nazareth Hall
No 5:00pm Mass

Monday, April 2

NO MORNING MASS
BUILDING AND PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

ADDITIONAL DETAILS AND EVENT
REGISTRATION AT
WWW.PAXCHRISTI.COM



Week #37 Contributions

This Year
Actual

20,540

This Year
Budget

27,000

Variance from
Budget

(6,460)

Last Year
Actual

2,050,728

Variance from
Last Year

135,853

YTD through Week #37

2,186,581

2,004,000

182,581

17–18 Contributions Goal – \$2,785,000

EFT and credit card giving available. Visit www.paxchristi.com for more information.