

Passion (Palm) Sunday – April 5, 2020

ST. MARY PARISH **NO MASSES**

ST. PETER'S, Ayton **NO MASSES**

ST. THOMAS, Harriston **NO MASSES**

Passion (Palm) Sunday begins the most sacred week of the Church year—Holy Week. During these days, we prepare ourselves for Easter by prayerful reflection upon the events of Jesus' Passion and death. You might display a crucifix in a prominent place this week, as reminder of the salvation Christ won for us. The crucifix can also be the focal point for family prayer during Holy Week. The Passion as found in Matthew's Gospel might be read as follows throughout the week:

Sun. April 5: Matthew 21:1-11

Mon. April 6: Matthew 26:14-25

Tue. April 7: Matthew 26:26-35

Wed. April 8: Matthew 26:36-56

Thu. April 9: Matthew 26:57—27:14

Fri. April 10: Matthew 27:15-54

Give me a person of prayer, and such a one will be capable of accomplishing anything.

-St. Vincent de Paul

Before prayer, endeavour to realize whose presence you are approaching, and to whom you are about to speak.

-St. Teresa of Avila

**Daily TV Mass
"Warming Faithful Hearts"**

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Gospel at the Procession with Palms

Matthew 21:1-11

Jesus enters Jerusalem as the crowd waves palm branches and shouts, "Hosanna!"

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-7

The Lord's Servant will stand firm, even when persecuted.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 22:8-9,17-20,23-24

A cry for help to the Lord in the face of evildoers

Second Reading

Philippians 2:6-11

Christ was obedient even to death, and God has exalted him.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 26:14—27:66

Jesus is crucified, and his body is placed in the tomb. (shorter form: Matthew 27:11-54)

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we begin Holy Week, the days during which we journey with Jesus on his way of the cross and anticipate his Resurrection on Easter. Today's liturgy begins with the procession with palms to remind us of Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem.

The events of Jesus' Passion are proclaimed in their entirety in today's Liturgy of the Word. Those events will be proclaimed again when we celebrate the liturgies of the Tridium—Holy Thursday's Mass of the Lord's Supper, the Good Friday of the Lord's Passion, and the Easter Vigil.

The story of Jesus' Passion and death in Matthew's Gospel focuses particularly on the obedience of Jesus to the will of his Father. As Jesus sends his disciples to prepare for Passover, he indicates that the events to come are the will of the Father (Matthew 26:18). In Jesus' prayer in the garden, he prays three times to the

Father to take away the cup of suffering, but each time, Jesus concludes by affirming his obedience to the

Father's will (Matthew 26:39-44). Even Matthew's description of Jesus' death shows Jesus' obedience to the Father.

Jesus' Passion and death are in accordance with all that was foretold. And if the events were foretold, then God is in control.

Jesus acts in obedience to the Father even in death, so that sins may be forgiven. Matthew makes this clear in the story of the Lord's Supper. As Jesus blesses the chalice, he says: ". . . for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins." (Matthew 26:28)

Sometimes we are like Judas, who betrays Jesus and comes to regret it. We are sometimes like Peter, who denies him, or like the disciples, who fell asleep during Jesus' darkest hour but then act rashly and violently at his arrest. Sometimes we are like Simon, who is pressed into service to help Jesus carry his cross. Sometimes we are like the leaders who fear Jesus or like Pontius Pilate, who washed his hands of the whole affair. Jesus dies so that our sins will be forgiven.

The events of Jesus' Passion, death, and Resurrection are called the Paschal Mystery.

We are left with one final task—to meditate on these events and on the forgiveness that Jesus' obedience won for us.

Spiritual Communion:

My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I long for you in my soul. since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

The God who protected Daniel from the lions is the same God who will protect you and your family from any virus and disease.

Corona Virus Prayer:

Dear God , I pray for healing for all those affected by this deadly virus.

We pray that all negative outcomes to be resolved in your healing hands. Amen.

We need to find God, and God cannot be found in noise and restlessness. The more we receive in silent prayer, the more we can give in our active life.

-St. Teresa of Calcutta

"Even through the world is in chaos right now, I have to thank God that I have a house, food, water, warmth and love. Thank you for blessing me!"

To all my friends and families.

In these troubled times remember never lose hope. Know that you are loved. We may be far apart. But you are always in my heart.

**The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
Ps 23:1**

PRAY FOR THE SICK

We pray for all our sick parishioners, especially Nellie Franco, Colleen McManus, Adell Mueller, Mary Carney, Dustin Purvis, Lucas Reinhart, Laura Walker, Bert Holmes, David McCarthy, Lonta Williams, Glen Wright, Bob McIntee.

Please pray the Rosary for peace in our families!