

**Palm Sunday of The Passion of the Lord
April 9, 2017**

As Holy Week begins, the “whole city” (Jerusalem then, our world now) asks the pivotal question, “Who is that?” (Matthew 21:10). Who is Jesus for us – for me? The crowds reply, “Jesus, the prophet” (21:11). Even modern non-believers acknowledge Jesus as an important teacher. But we disciples know the infinitely deeper truth proclaimed by Roman soldiers toward the end of Matthew’s Passion: “Truly, this was the son of God!” (27:54). As Jesus enters Jerusalem, “the whole city was shaken” (21:10). But no matter how poor our discipleship, how grievous our sins, Jesus coming should not frighten us. For, to the dismay of zealots hoping for revolution, to the disappointment we too sometimes feel when Jesus declines to intervene dramatically in the world, the Church, or our lives this King rejects coercive violence and political power plays. Demonstrating that God’s redemptive power springs instead from poverty and peace, “King” Jesus comes “meek and riding on an ass” (21:5). Jesus will judge us on our practical charity toward those in need, hungry, thirsty, without clothing or shelter, the infirm and imprisoned.

Israel’s lament to a seeming silent God, “Why have you forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46) on the lips of Jesus, God’s suffering and self-emptying servant, signals abandonment, but not despair. Though the specter of separation haunts their Last Supper, Jesus promises that he will “drink [the wine] new” with his disciples in the Father’s Kingdom (26:29)

In his agony then, and in the Church today, Jesus pleads, “Remain here and keep watch with me” (Matthew 26:38). Shrinking from suffering’s cup, Jesus nevertheless prays as he had taught us, “Your will be done!” (26:42). Faced with armed foes, Jesus practices what he preached: loving his enemies, rejecting violence, renouncing retaliation. While Judas’ despair leads to self-destruction, Peter lets Jesus turn his remorseful tears into forgiving streams, to which all have access once “the veil of the sanctuary is torn in two” (27:51).

Far from ending bleakly, Matthew’s Passion comforts the Church, wounded by betrayal and denial, scarred by scandal and sin, and us, always falling and rising, sinning and repenting. For, although Jesus seems dead-tomb secured, seal fixed, guard set-his silent Abba (and ours) is already stirring nature, stirring hearts. An earthquake signal creation’s seismic shifting, and even the dead rise. True, hostility to Jesus will never be lacking, but neither will courageous discipleship, sometimes where least expected: Gentiles, soldiers professing faith, a wealthy elder reverently caring for Jesus’ body. Even we, disciples who too often “look on from a distance” (Matthew 27:55), respond to Christ’s Passion today by professing of that timeless faith: he “rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.”

Question of the Week

As I carry home the blessed palms that celebrate Jesus’ victory, how will I embrace and implement Jesus’ gentle, loving way of bringing about God’s kingdom into my corner of the world?



Saturday, April 8, 2017

Vigil of the Fourth Sunday of Lent

4:00p.m. Darrell & Elodie Gabriel – Francis Hai Cao – Joseph Ngan Cao & Mary Pham – Ellsworth McKendall – Leonard Belton – Corrine Singletary – Chris H. Davillier, Sr. – Intentions of Paul Fogle

Sunday, April 9, 2017

Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:30a.m. Darrell & Elodie Gabriel – Francis Hai Cao – Joseph Ngan Cao & Mary Pham – Earthy B. Lazard – Melvina Kepp – Calvin Tate – Walter Banks III – Lawrence Miller, Jr. – Corrine Singletary – Ellsworth McKendall – Delorita Reddick – Melvin Thomas – Audrey Porter

10:30a.m. Guillory & Balancier Family – Lamar & Shirley Smith – Fred & Dorothy Johnson – Melvin Thomas, Jr. – Dennis Washington – Lordeas Glapion Nix – Joan Mathieu – Jackie Hicks

12:00p.m. For the Parishioners of St. Maria Goretti Parish

Monday, April 10, 2017

8:30a.m. Catherine Bertrand – Willie & Gloria Waller – Joseph Ngan Cao & Mary Pham – Ellsworth McKendall – Joseph James Slater, Sr.

6:00p.m. All Poor Souls in Purgatory.

Tuesday, April 11, 2017

8:30a.m. Dennis Washington – Joseph Ngan Cao & Mary Pham – Ellsworth McKendall – Willie & Gloria Waller – Norwood A. Slayer – Anthony Pierre

6:00p.m. All Souls in Purgatory

Wednesday, April 12, 2017

8:30a.m. Joseph Cong Cao – Peter & Mary Kham Nguyen – Joseph Ngan Cao & Mary Pham – Ellsworth McKendall – Dennis Washington – Doris Orticke – Joseph James Slater, Sr.

6:00p.m. All Souls in Purgatory

Thursday, April 13, 2017

NO MORNING MASS

7:00p.m. Holy Thursday Mass

8:00p.m. Adoration

Friday, April 14, 2017

NO MORNING MASS

3:00p.m. Solemnly Liturgy

6:00p.m. Way of the Cross Veneration of the Cross

Saturday, April 15, 2017

NO MORNING MASS

3:00p.m. Confession

8:00p.m. Easter Vigil Mass



Announcements

“No matter what....TRUST GOD” “You say---Nobody loves me. GOD says----I love you.” (John 3:16) Eucharistic Adoration Monday thru Friday 9:00a.m. until 12:00 noon and Saturdays 12:00 noon till 3:00p.m.

Bible Study

The Lenten Theme this year will be: **Lord, Increase My Faith?** A different aspect of faith has been explored through the Scripture Readings for each Sunday. The Bible Study theme for this week in Lent is **Passion Sunday: Faith That Is Victorious.** The Bible Study theme for Palm /Passion Sunday is: A Faith that is Victorious. The Bible Study is based on the readings for **Palm/Passion Sunday Year A. At the Procession with Palms: Matthew 21:1-11; Reading I: Isaiah 50:4-7; Responsorial Psalm: 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24; Reading II: Philippians 2:6-11; Gospel: 26:14 – 27:66 or 27:11-54.** The Bible Study can be found on the parish website: www.smgmola.com/BibleStudy. Join us each Monday in the Center at 7:00p.m.

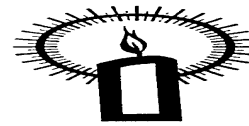


Thursdays, 8:00p.m. in the Center where you might win and have some fun with friends & family.

The St. Maria Goretti RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) now moves to the period of Purification and Enlightenment. This is the period for the preparation for the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation. This year three adults have decided to become Catholic Christians. **The Parish Invites Those Who:** Have expressed an interest in becoming Catholic? Has a child over the age of seventeen who has not been baptized? Was baptized Catholic as a child, but has not celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist? Are Catholic and would like to know more about their faith? Who is married to a Catholic and would like to know more about the Catholic Faith. **Join us on our Journey of Faith. This week's topics: The Third Scrutiny – Lord Increase my Faith? A Faith that Victorious – The Lord's Prayer – Victory one day at a time.**

These sessions will focus on the Bible, the teachings and experience of the Church and prepare individuals to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. **As we prepare to receive into full communion this Easter, the faith journey continues every Tuesday night in the Chapel at 7:00 p.m.** For more information please contact Deacon Terrel J. Broussard, Harold Broussard, Byron Martin or any RCIA member or email at: tbroussard@smgmola.com, or visit the web site at www.smgmola.com.

We welcome everyone into our parish. If you have not filled out a census card, the cards can be found on the table at the entrance of the church.



Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary Lamp in the Church for this week will burn in memory of Ellsworth McKendall.

The Sanctuary Lamps in the chapel this week will burn in memory of Bessie Byrd and Jessie Hall and Family.

Holy Week

**Thursday April 13, 2017
(NO MORNING MASS)**

Confession	4:000 – 5:00p.m.
Holy Thursday	Mass 7:00p.m
Adoration	8:00p.m – Midnight

**Friday, April 14, 2017
(NO MORNING MASS)**

Good Friday	
Solemn Liturgy	3:00p.m.
Way of the Cross	6:00p.m.
Veneration of the Cross	

**Saturday, April 15, 2017
(NO MORNING MASS)**

Confession	3:00p.m. – 5:00p.m.
Vigil Mass of Easter	8:00p.m.

**Sunday, April 16, 2017
Masses**

8:30 -10:30p.m. & 12:00 noon



This Week in our Parish

Monday, April 10, 2017

10:30a.m.	Sr. Dance Class – Center Area
6:00p.m.	Zumba Excerise Class – Center Area
7:00p.m.	Mission Retreat - Church

Tuesday, April 11, 2017

6:00p.m.	ENONAC – Center
7:00p.m.	4 th Degree Knights - Rms. 3 & 4- Kitchen
7:00p.m.	Mission Retreat - Church

Wednesday, April 12, 2017

6:00p.m.	Lake Carmel HOA – Rm. 9
7:00p.m.	Liturgical Dance Practice – Center
7:00p.m.	Parish Mission – Church

Thursday, April 14, 2017

	Holy Thursday - No Bingo
4:00p.m.	Confession- Chapel

Friday, April 15, 2017

Good Friday

Saturday, April 16, 2017

	Holy Saturday
10:00a.m.	Star Class – Rm. 10