

April 6, 2025

CLUELESS ABOUT THE FUTURE

As Jesus was approaching the final days of his life and was staring torture and death in the face, each of the Gospels tell us how clueless the apostles were about what was about to happen in Jerusalem and what Jesus' arrest, torture, and death would mean for them. In the Gospels of Mark and Matthew, the apostles John and James beg for the best seats in Jesus' kingdom, having not listened at all to Jesus' lament over his impending death. In the Gospel of Luke, an argument breaks out at the Last Supper over which of the apostles is the greatest. In the Last Supper account in John, Philip complains that he does not know who Jesus is; Thomas complains that he does not know where Jesus is going; and Peter considers Jesus' act of humble service (foot washing) to be highly inappropriate and only grudgingly agrees to take part in it. Truly it was only with the grace of the Holy Spirit that the Church ever got off the ground.

Next weekend (April 12-13) we begin our solemn celebration of Holy Week by recalling Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. In a big city like Chicago, with its diverse population, it is easy to remain clueless about the significance of the liturgies of Holy Week. The services of Holy Week are unique, in that they invite us to experience through various rituals that crucial week in Jesus' life: his entry into Jerusalem, his last supper, his arrest, his conviction, his crucifixion, and his resurrection. Making the whole journey with Christ engages us in a way that simply coming to Mass on Palm Sunday and Easter does not. During Holy Week we enter into the central mystery of our faith, but also the central mystery of our lives: Jesus died and rose for us, so that we might share in his glory.

During the years I was at the Servite Parish in St. Louis, we had lots of funerals. One of the drivers for the local funeral home was named Carl. Whenever it was near Easter and Carl was my driver to the cemetery, I could be certain that he would regale me about Holy Week in Ste Genevieve when he was a kid. Ste Genevieve is a town of about five thousand people sixty miles south of St. Louis and is the oldest town in Missouri. It was settled in the early eighteenth century by French colonists, when most of the central United States belonged to France. Today Ste Genevieve is a tourist town with quaint shops and inns; but the Ste Genevive that Carl remembered from the 1930's and 1940's was a very isolated place, a strongly Catholic community surrounded by the Bible Belt. During Holy Week, work schedules, school schedules, and social activities were reduced, so that everyone could participate in Holy Week Services. The Palm Sunday Procession snaked through the narrow streets of the village, with just about everyone participating. There was the solemn exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Holy Thursday after the evening Mass, with crowds of people gathered around the Repository Altar, which was itself surrounded by an avalanche of flowers. Because church bells were not rung on Good Friday, altar servers would run through the streets calling people to the three hour service on Good Friday afternoon; and when the service was over, an eerie silence fell over the town out of reverence for Christ's death.

Perhaps Carl embellished things a bit, but that does not mean that we cannot experience the essence of what Carl described in our parish beginning next weekend. One of the changes brought about by the pandemic is that many of us now have more flexible work schedules. More of us can plan to be at church. So, if your schedule permits it, make Christ's journey from death to new life an integral part of your life next week. We begin with the blessing of palms at all of our weekend Masses. The 10:30 Mass (weather permitting) will begin with the blessing of palms in the garden and a procession into church. As the Palm Sunday liturgy moves along, the tone changes from celebratory to solemn, from a triumphal entry at which crowds waved palm branches to quiet and solemn as we tell the story of Jesus' crucifixion and death. Our other liturgies of Holy Week lead us through the pain of death to the joy of resurrection. So, make plans to be present Holy Thursday evening, Good Friday at noon or in the evening, and then Holy Saturday evening, when we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and welcome our new Catholics. We won't have altar servers running through the streets reminding you to come to church; so, program the schedule in your calendar and set your alarms.

Fr. Joe

EVENINGS OF FAITH: Every Wednesday during Lent we will have Mass in Church at 6:00pm, a Lenten meal in the Parish Hall at 6:30, and a speaker or Lenten ritual from 7:00 to 8:00pm. Here is our schedule for this year:

- March 12 Homelessness In America (*Doug Fraser*)
- March 19 The Christmas Story for Adults (Fr. Joe)
- March 26 The Roots of Our Faith (Fr. Lou Cameli)
- April 2 The Way of the Cross for Today
- April 9 The Seasons of Life (Mary Worden)
- April 16 Lenten Reconciliation Service

THE SEASONS OF LIFE

In Chicago we complain about two seasons, winter and construction; but in truth we witness winter, spring, summer, and fall. Our lives have seasons as well. Mary Worden, a clinical psychologist at the Claret Center, will explore the human experience of development in each season of life, seeing in each season of life challenges and opportunities for our body, mind, and spirit. This is the fifth presentation in our Wednesday *Evenings of Faith* series, Wednesday, April 9 at 7:00pm.

Every Wednesday in Lent, there will be Mass in Church at 6:00pm, followed by a meal in the Parish Hall at 6:30pm, and the presentation at 7:00pm. Reservations are required only for the meal, and may be made online, by phone, or by signing the list in the back of church.

EASTER MASSES

As we have done these past few years, we alter our Mass schedule for Easter, so as to be able to accommodate as many people as possible in church. The Vigil Mass for Easter will be at 8:00pm (It must begin after sunset). On Easter Sunday morning, Masses will be at 7:00, 8:30, 10:00, 11:30, and 1:00pm. There is no evening Mass on Easter Sunday. There will be music at all Masses except 7:00am.

RECONCILIATION SERVICE

On Wednesday of Holy Week, April 16, at 7:00pm, we will have a Reconciliation Service with opportunity for private confession from one of three confessors. This is a great way to bring Lent to a close and prepare to receive the new life of Easter.

PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION

The 10:30 Mass on Palm Sunday will begin with a blessing of palms in the garden and a procession into church.



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, April 13

Mass at 5:00pm Sat, 7:30, 9:00, 10:30, 12:15, 5:00pm Sun

(Procession with Palms at the 10:30 Mass)

Monday and Tuesday of Holy Week, April 14-15 Mass at 7:00am and 12:10pm

Wednesday of Holy Week, April 16

Mass at 7:00am, 12:10pm, 6:00pm Reconciliation Service at 7:00pm.

Holy Thursday, April 17

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at 6:00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until midnight

Good Friday, April 18

Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at 12:10pm and 6:00pm Stations of the Cross at 3:00pm

Easter, April 19-20

Mass at 8:00pm Saturday; 7:00, 8:30, 10:00, 11:30, 1:00 Sunday

WEDDINGS:

DAVID JONES & AMANDA MIKOLAJCZAK KEITH HERBSTRITT & JESSICA PINTO



<u>HYMNS</u>: #663, #454, #140 (except 5pm Sunday)

PRAY FOR THEM: Annette Russo, Davy Hart, Frank Cardenas, Erin Gentile, Kathy Escher, Patrick McRae, Rich DiVito, Carolina Gomez, Willie & Mary Priego, Mike Foster, Peter Lammer.

MASS INTENTIONS ~ WEEK OF APRIL 5, 2025

Sat	5th	5:00 † Michael & Rose Marie Sopko,
		Helen Morris, Deceased of Sopko,
		Morris, Pfiester & Jenkins Families
Sun	6th	7:30 † Danny Garvey
		9:00 † Joan Oosterbaan
		10:30 † Fr. Michael Doyle, O.S.M.
		12:15 Assumption Parishioners
		5:00 † Dorothy C. Brennan
Mon	7th	7:00 † Daniel Schuman
		12:10 Jacob Replogle
Tues	8th	7:00 The Dubuque Family
		12:10 Souls in Purgatory
Thurs	10th	7:00 † Louis Nix
Sat	12th	7:30 † Elizabeth Hulette

GENERATION TO GENERATION: Generation to Generation is a capital campaign which benefits the Archdiocese of Chicago and Assumption Parish. When you are approached about making a pledge, please respond generously.

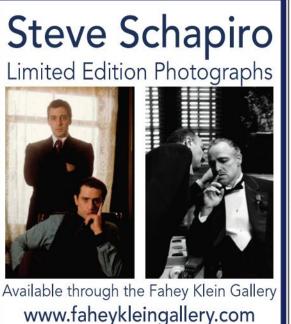
HAPPENING AT HOLY NAME: Stations of the Cross: a Native American Catholic Journey of Healing and Reconciliation will take place Friday April 11 at 4:00pm at Holy Name Cathedral. This Service is sponsored by the St. Kateri Center of Chicago.

<u>A NOTE FROM FR SIPLE</u>: "I take this opportunity to thank the wonderful parishioners of Assumption Parish for the generous sharing check.to Our Lady of Sorrows. The two monthly breakfasts for the poor continue to be our way of fulfilling the Lord's command to serve as we are served. The costs of serving the breakfasts have risen to almost \$800, but we continue to find the means to care for Christ in his poor."

ROSARY OF THE SEVEN SORROWS: During Lent, the Rosary of the Seven Sorrows of Mary will be prayed every Sunday morning at 11:40am. All are welcome. Rosaries are provided.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: The Way of the Cross will take place following the 12:10 Mass on the Fridays of Lent.







Promote your Business AND support your Parish.

Give us a call! 800-994-9817

Contact us today for a customized, reliable waste management, recycling, or dumpster quote.

630-261-0400

DISPOSAL/RECYCLING SERVICES

323-934-2250



Ed the Plumber Ed the Carpenter 773.471.1444

Best Work • Best Rates
PARISHIONER DISCOUNT

EWTN.COM/RADIO

Global Catholic





1056 West Chicago Avenue (312) 421-0936 www.michalikfuneralhome.com

- * Burial, Cremation, and Pre-Planning Services
- * Closest Location to Assumption with Supervised Parking Available