



April 13, 2025

GLORY DAYS HAVE PASSED ME BY

Some people reach their peak early in life. I am one of them. In May of 1960, when I was seven years old, I arrived at the hour of my greatest fame and achievement. Even becoming a televangelist during the pandemic can only be termed a faint shadow of past glory. When I was in the first grade, I portrayed the central character in my school's float in the Cotton Carnival Children's Parade in downtown Memphis. This is a feat that could never be duplicated today by anyone.

During much of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the biggest economic industry in Memphis was the cotton industry. In 1931 a group of cotton merchants formed the Memphis Cotton Carnival Association to promote the industry in the face of hard economic times and the advent of synthetic competition. The Cotton Carnival was mostly a thing for rich people (with their secret societies, parties, and debutante balls), but it was also a city-wide celebration. Every year the Association named a King and Queen of the Cotton Carnival. The couple arrived on a barge floating down the Mississippi River amidst fireworks and then presided over a series of parades that took place in downtown that week. King Cotton was usually an older man who headed one of the cotton brokerage firms and the Queen was one of that year's debutantes (apparently no one thought that was creepy). For the Children's Parade, all the white schools (including the Catholic schools) were invited to contribute a float or a band to the parade. The theme of our float was Pinocchio, and I got to dress as Pinocchio himself, with appropriate false nose. I am certain now that I was selected because my parents had been asked to help decorate the float and I was tossed in as an incentive. Still, I remember the thrill of passing in front of thousands of people and waving energetically as we passed the Royal Viewing Platform. Little did I know when I stepped off the float an hour later that an era would soon come to an end. A few years later the schools and the parades were integrated and white people stopped participating (which is the way WE usually handled integration in Memphis). Downtown lost its luster and the public events associated with the Cotton Carnival soon faded away, until finally the name itself disappeared.

Some of you, like me, may have been in a parade; but all of us have seen a parade. Perhaps you were part of the zillions of people viewing the St. Partrick's Day Parade a few weeks ago. During the liturgies of this coming week, we will have a number of rituals that look like parades but are called processions. What is the difference between a parade and a procession? There are no spectators at a procession. Even those who are not actually marching in the procession are seen as actively participating in it. As the group moves past us, we ourselves are drawn into the mystery being celebrated. By our very presence we are expressing our belief and commitment to Christ.

A simple procession through the Church begins each weekend Mass, and then we are invited to participate in the Communion procession. The liturgy for Palm Sunday calls for the blessing of palms to take place at a remote location at the principle Mass, and then for the faithful to process with palms into Church (which we will do at the 10:30 Mass, weather permitting). This recalls Jesus' own triumphant entry into Jerusalem. On Holy Thursday night, when we celebrate the origins of the Eucharist, we will have a procession through church with the Blessed Sacrament. As members of the congregation, we bow, genuflect, or otherwise show reverence for Christ's presence in the Eucharist as the procession passes. At the Good Friday Passion Liturgy, we are all invited to come forward and reverence a bare wooden cross. It is one of the most moving ceremonies of the year, as each person finds his or her own way of expressing love and gratitude for the sacrifice of Christ. Finally, at the Easter Vigil Mass, there is a procession to the baptismal font, where we will baptize nine young people and adults, and later confirm all fourteen participants in this year's OCIA and invite them to make their First Holy Communion.

At every Mass we are called to be active participants in the liturgy through our responses and our singing; but we participate more intimately during Holy Week as we journey with Christ from death into new life. I strongly encourage all of you who can to make this journey with Christ: to come to the Holy Thursday Mass at 6:00pm, to attend Good Friday services at either 12:10 or 6:00pm, and come on Holy Saturday at 8:00pm for the first Mass of Easter, when we will bless fire and water, tell the story of our salvation, and welcome the new members of our faith community.

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.
- March 26 The Roots of Our Faith (Fr. Lou
- April 2 The Way of the Cross for Today
- April 9 The Seasons of Life (Mary Worden)
- April 16 Lenten Reconciliation Service

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.



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.

HOLY WEEK COLLECTIONS

The Holy Thursday collection is for Bonaventure House, an Alexian Brothers Ministry which provides counseling and support services to those living with HIV/AIDS, addictions, and mental health issues.

The Good Friday collection goes to the Church in the Holy Land, supporting parishes and schools, maintaining Christian shrines, and enabling a Catholic presence to remain in the Holy Land as a witness to peace.



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:

KEITH HERBSTRITT & JESSICA PINTO STEPHEN PROFFER & PAULA ROMANCHUK



HYMNS: #146, #422, #162 (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 12 2025

Sun 13th 5:00 Assumption Parishioners 9:00 † Rosemary Reeves 10:30 † Charles & Marion Joachim 5:00 † Michael & Rose Marie Sopko, Helen Morris, Deceased of Sopko, Morris, Pfiester & Jenkins Families Mon 14th 7:00 The Dubuque Family Tues 15th 7:00 Bob Gordon (b'day)

7:00 Bob Gordon (b'day) Wed 16th 12:10 Bob Gordon (b'day)

Thurs 17th 6:00 † Lillian Lacrosse

Pre-Planning Services

* Closest Location to Assumption with

Supervised Parking Available

<u>GETTING MARRIED AT ASSUMPTION</u>: You do not have to be a registered parishioner to get married at Assumption. You do have to be free to marry in the Catholic Church and you do have to participate in the marriage preparation process. For more information, call the Parish Office.

<u>ASSUMPTION YOUNG ADULTS</u>: Assumption Young Adults is for those in their twenties or thirties, married, single, or coupled. They participate in various social, service, and spiritual activities. Find out more by emailing assumptionaya@gmail.com.

GENERATION TO GENERATION: Many of you will have received an invitation by mail to participate in the Archdiocesan Capital Campaign called *Generation to Generation*. It is designed to address long-term needs in the Archdiocese and Assumption Church. Please respond generously when you receive your invitation.

BAPTISM PREPARATION: The next preparation session for parents (and, if possible, godparents) of infants to be baptized is Monday, May 12 from 7:00 to 8:15pm in the Rectory. This session is for new parents and for parents who have never before attended a preparation session. Call the Parish Office to register. It is not necessary to wait until the baby is born to attend. Baptisms normally take place at 1:15pm on the second and fourth Sundays of the month and on the first weekend during Mass.



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