

PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY

March 28, 2021 ~ Bulletin No. 13 Vol. XXXVII

CALENDAR ~ March 27-April 4, 2021

Sat 27	5:00pm 2:00pm	Mass for ROS Florence Hill by Chuck & Janet Hill Third Order Carmelite Meeting, Parish Hall
Sun 28	9:00am 11:30am 3:00pm 7:30pm	Mass for ROS Larry Keyes by Peggy Keyes Mass for ROS Mr. & Mrs. Phillip O'Reilly by the O'Reilly Family Mass for the Parish AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information
Mon 29	9:00am 7:00am	Mass for Evan Hill, Happy Birthday from Chuck & Janet Hill Men's Prayer Group
Wed 31	7:00pm 10:30am 7:45pm	Mass for ROS Elena Duran by Alicia Lane Prayer Group, Parish Hall Bible Study, Parish Hall
Thurs 4/1	7:00pm	Mass for Josephine Lugo, by Mike & Karen Lugo
Fri 2	12:10pm 2:30pm 3:00pm 7:00am	No Mass Stations of the Cross Good Friday Service Men's Prayer Group
Sat 3	7:00pm	Mass for Gabriel & Michael Lugo by Brian & Rachel Harrill
Sun 4	9:00am 11:30am 3:00pm 7:30pm	Mass for ROS Jay Lane by Alicia Lane Mass for ROS Beverly Axline by Don Axline Mass for the Parish AA Meeting, call Floyd Kunkle at 289-6336 for information

Schedule for Holy Week

3/28 Palm Sunday~Regular Sunday Schedule
4/1 Holy Thursday ~ 7:00pm Bilingual Mass
4/2 Good Friday Stations ~ 2:30pm
4/2 Good Friday Service ~ 3:00pm
4/3 Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Service ~ 7:00pm
4/4 Easter Sunday ~ Regular Sunday Schedule



40 Cans for 40 Days Next week is Easter Sunday, and the final day for contributions towards the Days "40 Cans for 40 Days". Thank you for all your contributions.

Next Sunday is *Yokefellow Sunday* Our item to contribute is canned meat.

Second Collection ~ Next Sunday ~ Seminarian Education

Called By God... Supported By You

On Easter Sunday, April 4th, there will be a second collection, the Spring Seminary Education Collection. Please be generous.

SAVE THE DATE

Knights of Columbus – VIRTUAL Fraternal Benefits Session
Wednesday March 31st, 7 to 8 pm For Members AND Parishioners

Topics include an overview of recent changes to the Order, changes to the Insurance program, and preparing to navigate the ever-changing tax landscape.

Sponsored by Field Agent – Brian Cilone
Email: Brian.cilone@kofc.org Phone: 623.202.5956

From the Holy Fathers

"Whoever exalts race, or the people, or the state, or a particular form of state, or the depositories of power, or any other fundamental value of the human community—however necessary and honorable be their function in worldly things—whoever raises these notions above their standard value and divinizes them to an idolatrous level, distorts and perverts an order of the world planned and created by God."

~ Pope Pius XI ~

Mit Brennender Sorge, 3/14/1937



Wisdom of the Saints

"Mary understood the great value of Suffering. While the Apostles fled, she went to meet the Savior on the way to Calvary, and stood beneath the cross, in order to share His grief and shame to the end. And she carried Him to the grave, firmly trusting He would rise."

~ Blessed Titus Brandsma ~
d. 1942



For Annulment Information Contact:

Rachel Harrill 1-828-447-1908 or
Email: Rachel_harrill@yahoo.com

COLLECTION CONTRIBUTIONS

We encourage parishioners to make their contributions by mailing them in to:

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION RC CHURCH
1024 W. Main Street
Forest City, NC 28043

You can make online donations through the following link:

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/immaculateconceforestcity>

Collection Information for March 21:

Regular Offering: \$6,298.00

Good Friday is the beginning of the Divine Mercy Novena. Divine Mercy Sunday is April 11.

April 18: Knights of Columbus Spaghetti Dinner, 10:30am-3:00pm in the Parish Hall. Take-out orders are available. COST: Large Plate = \$5.00; Small Plate = \$3.00. Spaghetti Dinner also includes salad, drink and dessert. **THERE IS A SIGN-UP SHEET IN THE NARTHEX FOR SPAGHETTI DINNER ITEMS AND BAKED GOODS. Bring items by April 11th.**

The Seven Last Words of Christ

Today is Passion (Palm) Sunday, the first day of Holy Week. With seven days until Easter Sunday, perhaps it is a good time to consider the seven last words of Christ on the cross on Calvary. The last words of a dying person generally bring an important message to the listeners. Often, those spending the last hours with a loved one wait for a final message.

“Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.” (Luke 23:34)

The seven last words of Jesus held a few surprises for the listeners. Executioners and observers expected curses, cries of pain, spitting...They certainly didn't expect a prayer of forgiveness. Venerable Fulton Sheen wrote: “The executioners expected a cry but not the kind they heard. The Scribes and Pharisees expected a cry too, and they were quite sure that He who had preached “Love your neighbor” would now forget that Gospel with the piercing of the hands and feet... Everyone expected a cry, but no one, with the exception of the three at the foot of the cross expected the cry they did hear.” Dr. Edward Sri writes “For this is exactly what Jesus had been talking about from the beginning of His public ministry: Love your enemy. Pray for those who persecute you. Forgive those who trespass against us. Now, Jesus gives a powerful example of what He Himself taught.”



“Today you shall be with me in paradise.” (Luke 22:43)

Jesus was crucified between two men, known as thieves. Both ridiculed Jesus, but finally, one thief begged Jesus...“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Sri writes: “The good thief makes a bold request, but Jesus gives him even more than he asked for...the thief asked simply to be remembered, and Jesus offers him Paradise.” Fulton Sheen writes: “Amidst the clamor of the raving crowd, in all that delirium of man's revolt against God, no voice was lifted in praise and recognition, except the voice of a man condemned. It was a cry of faith in Him whom everyone else had forsaken, and it was only the testimony of a thief.”

“Behold, your son...Behold, your mother.” (John 19:26-27)

“In His dying moments, Jesus was thinking of you, wanting to give you one, last precious gift that was dear to His own heart-His mother, Mary. More than a gift, really...a treasure. When Jesus said ‘Behold your mother’ we see John, the ideal disciple, a representative of all the faithful disciples.” (Sri) “What a destiny to have the Mother of God as my mother, and Jesus as my Brother!” (Sheen)

“My God, My God! Why have you forsaken me?” (Matt 27:46)

For the 21st century reader, these words seem like a cry of despair. But for a 1st century Jewish man, these words are anything but! They are the words from the first line of Psalm 22, a psalm about a righteous man being persecuted by his enemies. Certainly the man is in anguish throughout the first two verses of the psalm, but in the next three, the mood changes. Sri writes “These are not the words of a man in despair...remembering God's faithfulness in the past gives him confidence in his present ordeal to trust that the LORD will rescue him...It is a cry of great hope in the darkness.”

“I thirst.” (John 19:28)

This is another reference to Psalm 22 where the man feels he is dying of thirst when he says “My tongue cleaves to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.” Mother Teresa of Calcutta told her sisters to take that phrase “I thirst”, and put their name in front of it, and imagine that Jesus was talking directly to them. Try it. The next time you are sitting before the tabernacle, imagine Jesus calling YOUR name...

“_____, I thirst.” Fulton Sheen put it this way. “He (Jesus) asks man for a drink; not a drink of earthly water-that is not what He meant-but a drink of love. “I thirst-for love.”

“It is finished.” (John 19:30)

These words are announcing the completion of something that has reached its intended destination or outcome. He is referring to something that is part of a larger plan and a great work that is now achieved...Jesus is announcing that in offering up His life on the Cross, He has accomplished His Father's plan. The Father's plan of salvation from the beginning of time has now been consummated in Jesus' death on Calvary.” (Sri)

“Father, into your hands I commend my Spirit.” (Luke 23:46)

This last phrase should make it clear to us that Jesus is a willing victim, and to the end, is actively handing His life over to the Father...Jesus, Himself-not the chief priests or Roman soldiers-is the one doing the final giving over of His life...“I command my Spirit.”

Sources: *No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk Through the Passion* by Dr. Edward Sri, and *The Crisis of Jesus from the Cross: An Anthology* by Ven. Fulton Sheen