

St. Francis Weekly "Kompositions"

† PALM SUNDAY †

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of "Holy Week." On this day we commemorate the last triumph of Our Lord Jesus Christ on earth. On this day we celebrate the triumphant entry of our Lord into Jerusalem; when the multitudes, going before & following after Him, cut off branches from the trees and strewed them in His way, shouting, "Hosanna, to the Son of David. Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord."

"The Palm Sunday triumph of our Lord only led to His death. But we know that this death was not a failure. It was through His passion and death that He conquered the world and entered into His Kingdom. So the faithful join in this triumphant celebration in an act of homage and gratitude to Christ our King!

† PASCHAL TRIDIUM †

For Christians the Paschal Tridium ("Three Days") is the focal point of the entire year. During these days, covering the period from the evening of holy Thursday through the evening of Easter Sunday, we celebrate our faith in the paschal mystery of Christ with the greatest fervor and intensity. In the liturgy we commemorate the passion, death and resurrection of Christ as the means of our salvation. Through our baptism, we share in the death of Christ and so hope to share in his resurrection. The liturgy of the Paschal Tridium then invites us to reflect on where we are in our own Paschal journey in Christ.

† MAUNDY THURSDAY OR HOLY THURSDAY †

The name Maundy comes from the Latin word which means "command." It refers to the new command Jesus gave his disciples on the "Thursday before he was crucified. On that night, long ago, he served the "Last Supper" of bread and wine, washed his disciples' feet and said, "A new command I give you; Love one another."

—John 13:13

Church bells fall silent on this day and are not heard again until Easter morning. Instead of tinkering bells, wooden clappers are used during divine services. The altar is stripped at the end of the service to symbolize Christ being stripped of his power. "The holy sacrifice is interrupted and will not be offered again until Holy Saturday.

† GOOD FRIDAY †

Good Friday used to be called God's Friday, because it was the day Jesus was crucified. This is the most solemn day of the year, as we recall the sufferings and death of Jesus. We take this time to journey the "Stations of the Cross," Christ's road to Calvary. The Bible says that when Jesus hung on the cross, the sky became dark from noon until three o'clock in the afternoon. During those hours, traditionally, the faithful may meditate in public or private, on the sufferings of Our Lord on the Cross and remember the words He spoke on the Cross... Take time to remember, read the Passion, meditate, pray! We share now in sorrow, grief and pain...

† HOLY SATURDAY † BLESSINGS OF EASTER FOODS

Holy Saturday is liturgically a day of deepest mourning, a day which the Church spends at our Lord's sepulchre, meditating on His sacred Passion and death. There is no Mass and the altars are bare.

As we end the Lenten penitential period in pious preparation for a festive Paschal season. We have the blessing of our Easter foods on Holy Saturday, April 19th at 1:00 pm, a token of gratitude to God for all his gifts of both nature and grace. Traditionally the baskets are filled with foods covered in a white linen cloth. The foods are symbolic to the season; such as a lamb, formed in butter or cake, representing Christ slain for our sins; horseradish, symbolizes the bitterness of the Passion; eggs, symbolize 'new life' and resurrection. Today the baskets may be traditional or contain items special to the owner. Baskets are then placed on the altar & in a quiet ceremony the priest blesses & sprinkles the food with holy water.

The blessing has a very "special significance," in that it represents the belief that the Lord is part of our daily life and is

SAVE THE 2014 DATES

April 15th - Scranton Clergy Conference

April 17th - Holy Thursday Mass - 7 pm

April 18th - Good Friday Liturgy - 7 pm

April 19th - Holy Saturday - 1 pm

Blessing of the Easter Baskets

April 20th - **Easter Sunday - 9 am**

April 27th - Henry & Lillian Zaradich Renewing Vows

June 7th - EM Pride Day - 10 am - 1 pm

June 22nd - Mary Zaradich - Confirmation

always among us!

The baskets are brought home and set aside until Easter morning. At that time the egg is first broken - the symbol of new life, shared by the family in an exchange of good wishes.

The Blessing has been advertised and opens another opportunity for our surrounding community to see and learn about our church. Please attend and be a friend and bring a friend! Thank you!

HOLY WEEK is upon us...pray, meditate, attend Holy Week Services, grow in your spirit...as we prepare for EASTER SUNDAY!



"I am
the resurrection
and the life."

John 11:25