



# ST. FRANCIS POLISH NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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April 2, 2023

Liturgy for Palm Sunday & Easter Sunday Book, pg. 17

*Blessing of the Palms & Procession*

"Hymn of Faith" then Mass Book page 63.

**READING I** - Isaiah 50:4-7

The Lord GOD has given me a well-trained tongue, that I might know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them. Morning after morning he opens my ear that I may hear; and I have not rebelled, have not turned back. I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; my face I did not shield from buffets and spitting.

The Lord GOD is my help, therefore I am not disgraced; I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame. The Word of the Lord. *R/ Thanks be to God.*

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** -

Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24

*R/ My God, my God,*

*why have you abandoned me?*

All who see me scoff at me; they mock me with parted lips, they wag their heads: "He relied on the LORD; let him deliver him, let him rescue him, if he loves him."

*R/ My God, my God,*

*why have you abandoned me?*

Indeed, many dogs surround me, a pack of evil-doers closes in upon me; They have pierced my hands and my feet; I can count all my bones.

*R/ My God, my God,*

*why have you abandoned me?*

They divide my garments among them, and for my vesture they cast lots. But you, O LORD, be not far from me; O my help, hasten to aid me.



*R/ My God, my God,  
why have you abandoned me?*

I will proclaim your name to my brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will praise you: "You who fear the LORD, praise him; all you descendants of Jacob, give glory to him; revere him, all you descendants of Israel!"

*R/ My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?*

**READING 2** - Philippians 2:6-11

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. The Word of the Lord. *R/ Thanks be to God.*

**VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL** -

Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.

**GOSPEL** - Matthew 26:14-27:66

(see separate sheet)

**OFFERTORY HYMN** -

*Amazing Grace*

**COMMUNION HYMN**

*- Nearer My God to Thee*

**RECESSIONAL** -

*Prayer of St. Francis*



# St. Francis Weekly "Faith Renewed"

## "I WAS IN PRISON, AND YOU VISITED ME."

When I stop and think about it, nobody can love everybody. You can't even like everybody, and you certainly can't help everybody. So how am I supposed to reach out in love to the kinds of people Jesus mentions in the Gospel?

I may not be drawn to people who are poor or in prison, but Jesus is. He loves everyone, and he says that if we are kind to them (even if we are not drawn to them naturally) I am kind to him: "Whatever you did to one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."

He also says: "What you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me."

This week the Church celebrates the arrest, imprisonment, and death of Jesus. In a sense, his whole message, the whole Gospel can be summarized in five words: you did it to me.

That is the key here. If I believe that, I will live differently.

## † 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 usually have the blessing of our Easter foods on Holy Saturday at 1:00 p.m., a token of gratitude to God for all his gifts of both nature and grace. But because of the corona virus and for the safety of our parishioners and friends, this year this tradition will be not be observed. 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 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.

A sheet of the specific blessings will be posted on the St. Francis website so you may bless your baskets at home with your family.

### 2023 Upcoming Events

**Thursday, April 6 - 7:00 pm:** Holy Thursday Mass

**Friday, April 7 - 7:00 pm:** Good Friday Liturgy

**Saturday, April 8 - 1:00 pm:** Blessing of Easter Baskets

**Sunday, April 9 - 9:00 am:** Easter Sunday Mass

**Fri., Sat. & Sun., April 21, 22 & 23:** Yard Sale

**Sunday, May 21 - 3:00 pm:** Spring Fund-raiser Dinner

**Sunday, May 28:** Quinceañera

**Saturday, September 2:** Quinceañera

*Some interesting facts about ...*

### **The Movie PASSION OF CHRIST:**

“Mel Gibson warned actor Jim Caviezel that playing the character of Christ was going to be very difficult and that if he accepted, he most likely would be marginalized by Hollywood.

Caviezel asked for a day to think about it and his response to Mel, who was funding and directing the movie was: "I think we have to make it, even if it is difficult." And something else, my initials are J.C., and I am 33 years old. "I didn't realize that until now." Mel responded with “You're really scaring me you know.”

During filming, Jim Caviezel who plays the part of Jesus lost 45 pounds, he was struck by lightning, he was accidentally struck twice during the scourging scene leaving a deep 14-inch scar, he dislocated his shoulder when the cross was dropped into the hole with him on the cross. He then suffered pneumonia and hypothermia from being nearly naked with only a loin cloth on the cross for endless hours. The crucifixion scene alone took 5 weeks of the 2 months of shooting.

His body was so stressed and exhausted from playing the role that he had to undergo two open heart surgeries after the filming production.

Jim explained, “I didn’t want people to see me. I just want them to see Jesus. Conversions will happen through that.” Almost like a clairvoyant prediction, many amazing things happened.

Pedro Sarubbi, who played Barabbas, felt that it was not Caviezel who was looking at him, but Jesus Christ himself, as he played that role, he said of Caviezel, “His eyes had no hatred or resentment towards me, only mercy and love.” Luca Lionello, the artist who played Judas, was an avowed atheist before shooting began. He eventually converted, and baptized his children.

One of the main technicians working on the film was a Muslim converted to Christianity.

Some producers said they saw actors dressed in white they didn’t recognize during one of the filming sessions, and when they reviewed the recordings they realized they couldn’t see them in that footage.

The Passion of the Christ is the highest grossing US religious as well as the highest R-rated film of all time, with \$370.8 million! Worldwide, it grossed \$611 million. More importantly, it has reached 100’s of millions of people around the world.

Mel Gibson paid \$30 million out of his own pocket for the production of the film, because no studio would take on the project.

Today Jim Caviezel simply and boldly proclaims his faith in Christ, and the miracle it was for him to represent Christ as an actor and a greater believer of Christ because of this experience.

### **YOU MIGHT WANT TO TUNE IN...**

"Religion and Rock" - a nationally syndicated, 60-minute, classic rock program with Msgr. Jim Vlaun for over 30 years! R&R airs every Sunday from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. on WBAB-FM 102.3 FM or 95.3 FM and Saturday evenings at 11 p.m. and Sunday evenings at 7:00 p.m. on “The Catholic Channel” on Sirius/XM channel 129!

*Take a moment out and pray...*

† † † † † † **PRAYERS** † † † † † † †

**Health Needs:** Lord God, Jesus, our Savior, Mary and all the Saints, we ask you to bring peace and your healing touch to those who are ill, afraid or worried. Amen.

**Health Needs of:** All who have COVID & Debbie Marciano, Beverly Hester, Gregory Klein, Iris Cafran, Shelley Francis, Robin Musmanno, Barbara Young, Nancy Fernandez Petrozza, Sophia Kyriakakis, Billy Murphy, Ottavia Daquino, Linda Frysztacki, Jean (Sheena) Alterio, Jorge Juan, John Luis & Daniella Vasquez, Ann Klein-Siebuhr, Eileen McChesney, Rosemary Rosen, Joe Glovack, Jimmy Lenahan, Carla Calabrese, Janis Siebuhr, Debbie Gribaldi, Louise & Anthony Kuzniewski, Tina Carey, Barbara Montenegro, Robbie & Tracy Lazzarini, Maureen Lennon, Jim Myers, Jessica Arrubla, Debbie Tino, Ira Mark Gabe, Maria Sisto, Eric Peck, Claudette Gross, Elena Accomando Capuano, Lucy Silva, Richard Paczkoski & for all caregivers.

**Requiem Intentions for faithfully departed:**

Eternal rest give unto them, O Lord, and let the perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.