

From the Pastor's Desk:

Dear Friends:

Today the Church is celebrating the Palm Sunday which is also known as Passion Sunday to commemorate the beginning of Holy Week and Jesus' final agonizing journey to the cross. The word passion comes from a Latin word Passio meaning "to suffer," and we meditatively go with the sufferings of Jesus. Here we have the rejoicing with the coming of Jesus and at the same time a reminder of his suffering that is to come in a short time. In the liturgical calendar Holy Week begins with the Sixth Sunday in Lent. Palm Sunday reminds the faithful of the glorious and triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. As Jesus entered into Jerusalem the crowds greeted him with shouts of joy and proclaimed him as the messianic king. They spread their cloaks on the ground and placed the palm branches on the street and shouted "Hosanna to the Son of David" and "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord". The Gospels tell us that Jesus rode into the city on a donkey, as foretold by the Prophet Zechariah, and in so doing emphasized the humility that was to characterize the Kingdom he proclaimed. In biblical times, the regional custom called for kings and nobles arriving in procession to ride on the back of a donkey. The donkey was a symbol of peace and those who rode upon them proclaimed peaceful intentions. The laying of palm branches indicated that the king or dignitary was arriving in victory or triumph. Today's readings present us the glorious triumph of a king and this is combined with his sufferings. The Gospel during the procession tells us of his victory and the latter reading reveals in painful detail the physical sufferings of Jesus. There is the rejection, pain, misunderstanding and humiliations. And yet through it all Jesus stands firm, faithful to God till the end. In the process there is a transformation. The leader becomes a servant; shame turns to honor; mockery becomes praise; fear turns to trust; abandonment becomes love; despair turns into hope; and above all death blossoms into new life.

The meditation on today's readings should enable us to do our wounding to sin and rising with Jesus, which will result in our healing, reconciliation, and redemption. Proper participation in the Holy Week liturgy will also deepen our relationship with God, increase our Faith, and strengthen our lives as disciples of Jesus.

God Bless You!

Fr. Madanu Lourdu Raju

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FORMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

CCD: Catholic Christian Discipleship

We pray at every Mass: "**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**" In Luke's Last Supper and Passion Gospel, he first says that Jesus tells the disciples that he has "eagerly desired to eat this Passover" with them. The Passover meal required meat from a lamb that had been sacrificed at the temple. This commemorated God saving his people by using the blood of a lamb at the first Passover. Jesus' words point to both suffering and hope because Jesus fulfills the Passover on the cross. **Jesus is the new lamb whose blood is shed to save God's people.** Let us meditate on the significance of the symbol of the Lamb during Holy Week and Easter.

Classes: Wednesday - April 17th

Gilman: **Grades K - 5: 3:40 - 5:00 p.m.**

Grades 6 -11: 6:15 - 7:30 p.m.

Sheldon: **No Class due to Blue Hills Concert**

+ All **Gilman** catechists, there will be a **Catechist Meeting** on **Wednesday, April 17th at 5:15 p.m.**

+ **Confirmation** is **Sunday, April 28th** at 2:00 p.m. at **Our Lady of Sorrows** in **Ladysmith** at 2:00 p.m. **Practice begins at 1:00 p.m.**

Have a Blessed Holy Week ~ Sister Marianna

OUR WEEKLY GIVING

Ss. Peter & Paul		
Adult Envelopes	\$	1,203.00
Loose		134.00
Total		1,337.00
Total from April 8, 2018		1,282.00
Building Fund		760.00
World Mission		65.00
Easter Flowers		10.00
St. Stanislaus		
Adult Envelopes	\$	812.00
Loose		97.00
Total		909.00
Total from April 8, 2018		511.05
Building Fund		306.00
World Mission		30.00
St. John		
Adult Envelopes	\$	584.00
Loose		137.00
Total		721.00
Total from April 8, 2018		1,980.00
Building Fund		212.00
St. Michael		
Adult Envelopes	\$	210.00
Loose		41.00
Total		251.00
Total from April 8, 2018		284.00
Building Fund		28.00
World Mission		100.00
Easter Flowers		10.00

(Totals include only the basic collection)

Called to Become Saints
Catholic Services Appeal 2018-2019

The Annual Catholic Services Appeal is underway throughout the Diocese. The "fair share" responsibility is listed below. As of **April 1st**, we have collected:

Payments

	Assessment	& Pledges	Amount Due
Ss. Peter & Paul	\$ 11,393.00	\$ 6,790.00	\$ 4,603.00
St. John	\$ 9,158.00	\$ 5,660.00	\$ 3,498.00
St. Stanislaus	\$ 5,234.00	\$ 5,234.00	PAID IN FULL
St. Michael	\$ 2,789.00	\$ 2,789.00	PAID IN FULL

SAVE the DATE! On **Saturday, August 17th**, St. John's is hosting a fundraiser at Paradise Shores 4. There will be dinner, dancing and raffles. You don't have to dance - just come and enjoy. We are lucky to have Cathy Reitz and 7 Swing Big Band for entertainment. They play music from the 30's, 40's and 50's including all the jazz classics we know and love. Ticket information will be coming soon. Please join us!

OUR SPONSOR THIS WEEK

TOYCEN of Ladysmith
 Highway 27 North
 Just North of the
 4-way stop in
 Ladysmith
 CHEVROLET WILL BE THERE BUICK (715) 532-3333