

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

No happy ending in this World

The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint and I know that I shall not be put to shame. *Isaiah 50:7*



Many people live with the unconscious or conscious expectation that eventually things will get better; hunger, poverty, oppression and wars will vanish; and all people will live in harmony. Their lives and work are motivated by that expectation. When this does not happen in their lifetimes, they are often disillusioned and experience themselves as failures.

But Jesus doesn't support such an optimistic outlook. He foresees not only the destruction of his beloved city, Jerusalem, but also a world full of cruelty, violence and conflict. For Jesus there is no happy ending in this world. The challenge of Jesus is not to solve all the world's problems before the end of time but to remain faithful at all cost.

Are your expectations grounded in Christian faith?

Regulations for Fast & Abstinence

Good Friday is a day of fast and abstinence.

FASTING - is for ALL between the ages of 14 and 60 years of age. On a fast day, one full meal is allowed. Two other minor meals, may also be taken according to each one's needs. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids such as water, juice and milk are allowed.

ABSTINENCE - is observed by ALL who are 14 years and older. On days of abstinence no meat is allowed.

PLEASE NOTE: When health or ability to work would be affected, the law **DOES NOT OBLIGE**.

Astinenza e digiuno per Quaresima

Ricordiamo a tutti i parrocchiani di osservare l'astinenza e il digiuno durante la Quaresima.

- **Astinenza** significa non mangiare carne.
- **Digiuno** significa un solo pasto completo nella giornata e non mangiare tra i pasti.

Il giorno di astinenza e digiuno è il **Venerdì Santo**. Tutti i venerdì sono giorni di astinenza. Sono tenuti all'astinenza persone dai 14 ai 60 anni che sono in buona salute. L'astinenza può essere sostituita da un atto di carità.

Holy Thursday - Let God Shape You

Jesus was fully aware that he had to come from God and was returning to God (*John 13:3*)

Lent asks us each year to give careful consideration to death and the life to come. Thinking about one's own death is not easy because it naturally leads to a whole host of difficult questions: "Does my life have meaning? Have I made any difference in the world? Have I loved as I ought?"

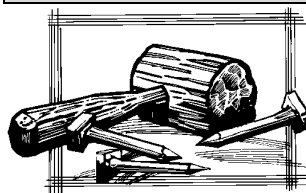


Many of life's decisions and questions could be simplified if, like Jesus, we kept one thought above all else: We have come from God and are returning to him. We cannot take into eternity our possessions, awards and recognitions, nor fortune or fame. We have only one thing to present to the Lord on that final day: our soul.

So do not ask, "does my life have meaning? Have I made any difference in the world?" Those questions speak about accomplishments, which you cannot take with you into the next world. Instead ask yourself whether you have allowed God to mould you like soft clay into the person he created you to be.

Lord, do with me as you please.

Good Friday - Truth Exists



Pilate said to him, "Then you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." Pilate said, "What is truth?" *John 18:37-38*

Pilate's question, "What is the truth?" can be read in two very different ways. He may have asked it with a sincere desire to know, or it could have been a mocking question uttered in disgust. Since he did not wait for an answer, it is probably the latter - someone caught in a no-win situation. Though Pilate wanted to release Jesus, he had the makings of a riot on his hands. In the midst of this, Jesus wanted to talk philosophically about truth?

He would have none of it. With mockery, Pilate calls into question whether truth exists at all. A great many people today share this same attitude, questioning whether there is any such thing as objective right and wrong. For them, truth is little more than personal opinion. When we believe that truth is relative, it leaves a lot of wiggle room to justify whatever we want to do.

But to question whether objective truth exists is to run the grave risk of acting like Pilate who knowingly condemned an innocent man.

The Paschal Triduum

Lent ends during the day on Holy Thursday. **Triduum** means "**three days**". The Paschal Triduum is the 3-day season - sunset to sunset - Thursday night to Easter Sunday. During these 3 days, we keep one festival - our Passover, our Easter. We join with all the people of our parish and with all Christians in every time and place to fast, pray and keep watch. The Church keeps the Paschal Fast from Good Friday through the Easter Vigil. Unlike the penitential fasting of Lent, it is the fasting of joyful anticipation and anxious yearning for the Easter sacraments. **A large part of being a Catholic means observing the Triduum each year - the summit of our liturgical year.**

Holy Thursday - Foot Washing - An essential part of the liturgy is the Washing of Feet, a sign of service to one another given to us by Jesus at the Last Supper.

Adoration - Following the Holy Thursday liturgy, all parishioners are invited to participate in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Adoration is both a private devotion and a communal one. We are individually invited to come for **adoration until 10:00 pm.**

Good Friday - Today's Liturgy is comprised of the celebration of the Passion, Veneration of the Cross and the Eucharist. All are invited to the Veneration of the Cross. It is our response to the Passion. We behold Christ in his great act of love, and we respond with loving veneration. Veneration does not mean bowing to some idol. Veneration of the Cross means loving service to the cross and taking up one's cross and following Christ crucified.

Holy Saturday - Easter vigil - begins in darkness, and a voice intones: ***Christ our light!*** The Paschal Candle, lit from fire - begins its journey among us. We respond, ready for the fullness of light: ***Thanks be to God!*** To know that sin and death have been conquered as he dwells within us now and forever:

Good Friday Collection *in support of the Holy Land*

The mission of the **Commissariat of the Holy Land** is to help Christian communities of the Holy Land, made possible with the generosity of all Catholics world wide. Each year your gift sustains apostolic and social works and the upkeep of the Holy Shrines and Sites that have been entrusted to the Franciscans for centuries. An important challenge that we face is the revival of the Church and the mission of formation of future priests.

On Good Friday, there will be a Pontifical collection for the Holy Land in support of Christian communities. Let us be generous and show solidarity to the needs of the church in the land of Jesus. Thank You.

Il Triduo Pasquale vissuto in tre giorni

Il significato del triduo pasquale è fondato sulle tappe storiche del mistero pasquale. Ogni giorno del triduo richiama l'altro e si apre sull'altro. Il centro su cui tutto converge è la Veglia Pasquale con la sua celebrazione Eucaristica. Il triduo è la Pasqua di Cristo celebrata in tre giorni. Il triduo della passione, morte e della risurrezione del Signore ha inizio con la messa in Coena Domini, ha il suo vertice nella veglia pasquale e la domenica di risurrezione.

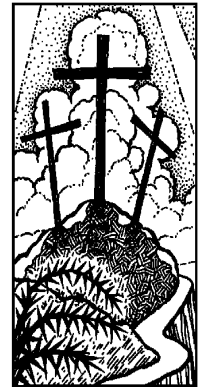
L'inizio del triduo con la messa "in Coena Domini"

La messa in Coena Domini ha un tono festivo e i testi biblici e le orazioni pongono in risalto che Cristo ci ha dato la sua pasqua nel rito della cena che esige, da parte della comunità, il servizio e la carità come condivisione del mistero della pasqua di Cristo. Così cogliamo il gesto della lavanda dei piedi, non come scenografia liturgica, ma come stile che la chiesa assume nel vivere il mistero della Passione di Cristo.

La celebrazione conclude con le specie consacrate riposte in un tabernacolo preparato per l'occasione, che sarà poi oggetto di adorazione, e serviranno per la celebrazione del venerdì santo.

Venerdì Santo

In questo giorno si celebra la Passione del Signore con la liturgia che comprende **la Parola** - **la Venerazione della Croce** - **la Comunione**. Il tono è solenne e nello stesso tempo mette in risalto il perché si è stati convocati, non per lagnare alla croce con un vuoto sentimentalismo, ma per adorare il legno della croce e diventare così misura del nostro amore. La croce ha il posto predominante in questa liturgia e va guardata così come c'è la fa contemplare l'evangelista Giovanni. Non è il giorno di lutto, ma giorno di un'amorosa contemplazione del sacrificio, fonte della nostra salvezza.



Le Meditazione della Via Crucis

Accanto alla celebrazione liturgica vera e propria vige la pia pratica della "Via Crucis".

Sabato santo

Questo giorno è senza celebrazione eucaristica, viene celebrato il riposo di Cristo nella tomba dopo il vittorioso e glorioso combattimento della croce. Viene meditato il mistero salvifico della discesa di Cristo nel mondo della morte e si attende il terzo giorno.

La veglia pasquale

Il sabato santo ha una liturgia vigilare che divide in diverse parti: **liturgia della luce**, **liturgia della Parola**, **liturgia battesimale**, **liturgia eucaristica**. A

PALM SUNDAY – PASSION SUNDAY

The glorious entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem is the declaration of his identity as a King. Holy Week is not only a recalling of the tragic events that took place in Jesus' life. Holy Week reflects our own corrupt nature. Holy Week stands as a powerful mirror for a world wounded by war, violence and moral corruption. As Jesus was scourged to bleed and die by violence, Holy Week becomes not only a past event, it is a living message for every age, especially our own era, which is marked by degradation of human dignity. Fear, violence, greed and refusal to obey God echo Jesus' suffering on the cross.

As we reflect on the Passion of Our Lord, we come to know that Jesus did not come with a display of power, but surrendering himself to violence, he conquered the world – evil – with Love. So let us surrender to Jesus who crushed hatred with Love and lay down our weapons of pride, evil intentions and welcome Jesus as **King to reign in our lives.**

DOMENICA DELLE PALME – LA PASSIONE

L'ingresso glorioso di Gesù a Gerusalemme è la dichiarazione della sua identità di Re. La Settimana Santa non è limitato a rievocare i tragici eventi della vita di Gesù. La Settimana Santa riflette la nostra stessa natura corrotta. La Settimana Santa si erge come un potente specchio per un mondo ferito dalla guerra, dalla violenza e dalla corruzione morale. Come Gesù fu flagellato e sanguinato dalla violenza, la Settimana Santa non è solo un evento passato, ma è un messaggio vivo per ogni epoca, specialmente per la nostra - segnata dalla degradazione della dignità umana. Paura, violenza, avidità e rifiuto di obbedire a Dio risuonano la sofferenza di Gesù sulla croce.

Riflettendo sulla Passione di Nostro Signore, comprendiamo che Gesù non è venuto con una dimostrazione di potere, ma rassegnandosi alla violenza, ha vinto il mondo – il male – con l'Amore. Dunque, deponiamo le nostre armi di superbia e cattive intenzioni e accogliamo Gesù come Re che regna nella nostra vita.

EASTER FLOWERS – FI ORI DI PASQUA

The deadline for submitting floral donations in memory of your deceased loved ones is this coming Tuesday, March 31st 2026.

PASTA NIGHT FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL

(because of Holy Week)

WILL BE THURSDAY -APRIL 9th 2026

Sponsored by the CALABRESE COMMITTEE



Mass Intentions

Mar.28 Saturday - PALM SATURDAY

5:00 Deceased of the Fiorentino/Giagnorio fam.-by Mark Fiorentino
Mary Ferro – by family

Mar.29 Sunday - PALM SUNDAY

9:00 Vito Zarra – by wife Rosa & family
Alessandro Terriaca -by Angelina Cameli
Lidia/Gerardo/Donato Del Vecchio – by Pasquale & Anna DelVecchio
Iole & Serafino Puglielli - by Joe/Maria Orsini
Vincenzo Elia – by wife Concettina & family
Giuseppa & Beniamino Elia – by Adelina
11:00 Jan Szpakowski – by wife Irena
Rosalie Morocco-Clark – by R.H.
Vince & Marie Morocco – by R.H.
Joseph Tirabasso – by A & N Mazzei
Iole Biamonte – by husband Sam & family

Mar 30 Monday - NO M A S S

Mar. 31 Tuesday -

8:00 Deceased of Litigio family – by family
In Honour of St. Jude – by G.S.G.

Apr. 1 Wednesday -

8:00 Special Intention – for the **AZZANO family** – by Francesca Azzano

Apr. 2 Thursday - HOLY THURSDAY

6:30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
Washing of the Feet
Adoration
8:00pm ** Confessions **
10:00pm Closing Prayers

Apr. 3 Friday – GOOD FRIDAY

3:00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion
Immediately followed by the Stations of the Cross (English/Italian)

Apr. 4 Saturday – HOLY SATURDAY

11:30am-12:30pm Confessions
8:00pm EASTER VIGIL
For All Parishioners and Benefactors

Apr. 5 SUNDAY – EASTER SUNDAY

9:00 For All Parishioners and Benefactors
11:00 For All Parishioners and Benefactors

Passion Sunday - Holy Week & Easter Triduum - 2026 Masses & other Celebrations

March 28 Palm Saturday

3:30 – 4:30pm ** Confessions **
5:00pm Mass

March 29 Palm Sunday

9:00 am Mass (*Italian*)

11:00 am Mass

*Distribution and Blessing of Palms in the Parish Hall -
Procession from Hall to the Church
Distribuzione e Benedizione delle Palme nella Sala
Parrocchiale – Processione alla Chiesa*



March 30 Monday

NO MASS

March 31 Tuesday

8:00 am Mass

7:30 pm Chrism Mass at Cathedral
(*Blessing of Sacramental Oils*)

April 1 Wednesday

8:00 am Mass

6:00 – 7:00pm ** Confessions **

April 2 Holy Thursday

NO MORNING MASS

6:30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
With Washing of the Feet
Adoration

8:00 pm Confessions during Adoration

10:00 pm Closing prayers

April 3 Good Friday

3:00 pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion
Stations of the Cross
Immediately following the Service

April 4 Holy Saturday

8:00 pm EASTER VIGIL

April 5 Easter Sunday

9:00 am Mass (*Italian*)

11:00 am Mass

3-MONTH REPORT MONTHLY COLLECTION/EXPENSES

January Collections (2026)	\$10,333.04
January Expenses	20,188.42
February Collections	\$ 8,791.12
February Expenses	20,122.20
March Collections	\$10,311.89
March Expenses	22,652.69

SAINT JOSEPH TABLE - THANK YOU

We would like to express our most heartfelt gratitude to all of the wonderful bakers who provided the delicious sweets and cakes for our annual St. Joseph Table. (We raised \$1500). Thank you to all these bakers:

Carmela Bambara, Assunta Basile, Mary Catanzaro, Lucille Coleman, Anna DelVecchio, Joanne DiRisio, Lina Fazio, Anna Ferraro, Josephine Ferro, Theresa Forte, Lucia Fortino, Lucy Fortino, Franca Greco, Maria Iorio, Mary Lou Gallardi, Gilda Gulla, Mary Lou Jenkins, Carmela Larosa, Marianna, Mary Ann Magnotta, Giovanna Parrotta, Angela Pellegrino, Carmela Pellegrino, Silvana Rizzo, Paolina Romeo, Angela Romano, Flora Scordino, Edmay St. Angelo, Nancy Vout, Mary Zerafonitis.

A special note of thanks to PORTAGE BAKERY who baked and donated the special breads and pastries In Memory of Rosario 'Ross' Barone. We raised \$1500 for the church.

ST. JOHN'S UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
91 Lakeshore Road – St. Catharines
905-937-3393

They are currently collecting supplies for Ukraine. Donations can be dropped off at the above address. Most needed right now: over the counter medications – especially cold and flu remedies and vitamins for children and adults. In addition: Medical and homecare supplies, Diapers, Hygiene items, Foil emergency blankets.. Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated to purchase supplies. \$20 and over for a tax receipt. E-transfer of paypal – www.stjohnuc.com – or mail a cheque.

NIAGARA WAREHOUSE OF HOPE'S
GIANT FUNDRAISING GARAGE SALE
46 Broadway Avenue, St. Catharines
905-646-7237 – contact@nwoh.ca

Saturday 18th April 2026 – Starts 8:00a.m.
with BBQ Breakfast/Lunch

Crafts, Housewares, Toys, Electronics, Jewellery, etc.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK & THE HOMEBOUND

Vince Anania, Mary Argenta, Giuseppe Armenti, Leonora Ballena, Rosa Brew, Angelina Cameli, Rita Cameli, Domenic & Wilma Calabrese, Iole & Gus Crescenzi, Estelle Critelli, Angelina DiRienzo, Maria DiRienzo, Mario DiBiasi, Frank Dorazio, George Ellis, Carmen Fabiani, Thomas Flynn, Jenny Green, Salvatore LoGreco, Nancy Mazzei, Virginia McConnell, Patricia Millington, André Milot, Tina Pupo, Bettina Paola, Teresa Scozzafava, Gregg Serles, Mary Slovak, Deanna Spaetzal, Don Taddeo, Marianna Weber