

St. Lawrence Martyr Church

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PASTORAL TEAM:

Rev. Fr. Thomas Lim, *Pastor*

Rev. Fr. Anish K. Antony C.F.I.C., *Associate Pastor*

Rev. Fr. Russell Asch, *Chaplain to the Faithful participating in the Extraordinary Rite of the Latin Mass*

Julia Di Paolo - *Secretary*

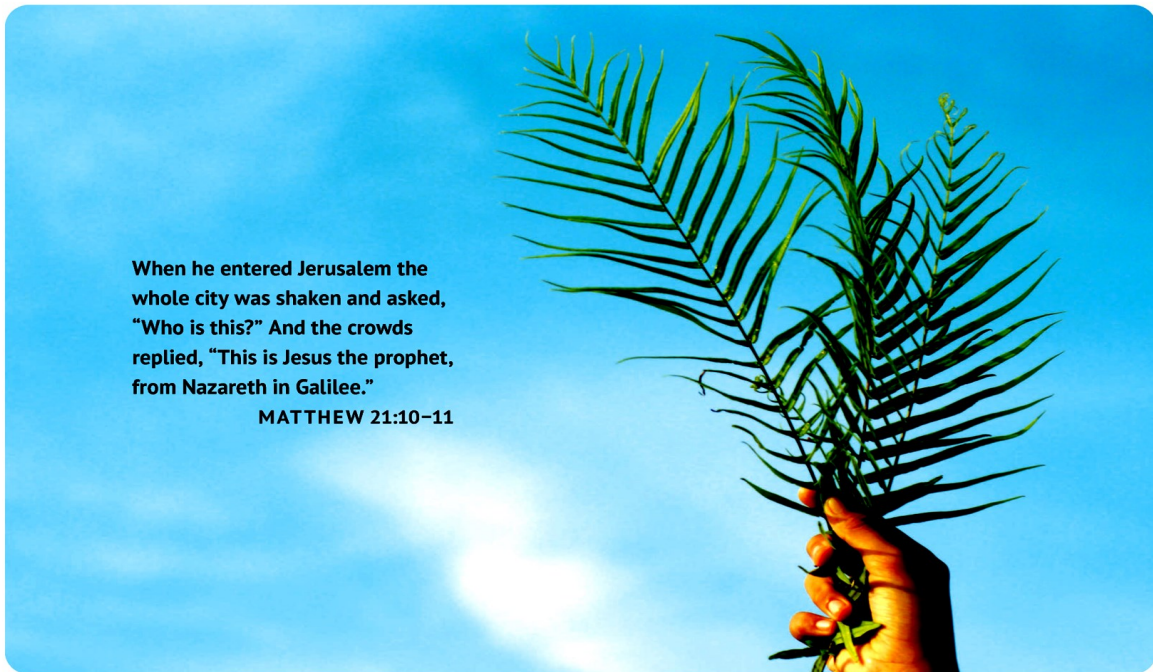
Our Parish COMMUNITY

April 2, 2023

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion (A)

Matthew 21:1–11 / Isaiah 50:4–7 / Philipians 2:6–11

Matthew 26:14–27:66 or Matthew 27:11–54



When he entered Jerusalem the whole city was shaken and asked, "Who is this?" And the crowds replied, "This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee."

MATTHEW 21:10–11

The Art of Dying

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

When I was much younger and idealistic, I might have been ready to die for some worthy cause. Friends about my age had the same experience.

There was something romantic about giving our lives then. Something glorious—or so we thought. There was the brotherhood and sisterhood of us all, peace and non-violence, nuclear arms opposition, equal opportunities for education and housing. Many of us now over fifty thought we would lay down our lives for any one of those dreams.

For some of us, things have changed. We've grown older and, perhaps, wiser, and it seems we're not so eager to die anymore. The glamor has been tarnished, and, for some, the romance

has turned from infatuation to disillusion. Death seems like a tragedy, continually rearing its strength to destroy in full or in part the fruit of our lives.

Yet death continues to remain the only doorway into real life. Without death there is no life—in this life or

in any life. For that reason, then, one of the tasks of life is to learn how to die well, something we also need to teach our children. It takes a lifetime to learn how to die for one another, and that is why our young people need a community of adults who seek to master the art of dying. It is also why, for one long week,

we tell the story of Jesus and of how, for the sake of us all, he did not back away from death. ●

Reflect

Who has sacrificed for you? Have you "paid it forward" with gratitude?

PALM SUNDAY – APRIL 2ND, 2023



THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

The accounts of the Passion given by the four evangelists are not identical. The basic outline of these dreadful events was clear enough. It is confirmed by the contemporary Jewish historian Josephus, who tells us that Jesus was crucified by Pontius Pilate at the instigation of the Jewish leaders. The task of the gospel-writers is not to relay to us the raw facts, but to help us understand their significance. Each stresses a particular aspect. For instance, John underlines that this was the triumph of Jesus: he shows his divinity already at the arrest-scene. He himself yielded up his Spirit only when he had completed his task. Matthew's preoccupation with Judaism dictates that he show in detail how the events accord with God's plan revealed in the scriptures. Almost every incident is told in such a way that hearers familiar with the scriptures would catch allusions to the biblical writings: nowhere is this more obvious than in the account of the death of Judas. Though Pilate the governor must bear the final responsibility, Matthew also stresses the pressure put on him by the crowd manipulated by the politically adept Jewish authorities, culminating in the horrific cry, 'His blood be on us and on our children' – an allusion to the sufferings undergone by the next generation during the siege of Jerusalem by the Romans. The significance of the events is further underlined by the apocalyptic earthquake at Jesus' death, and by the immediate release of the blessed dead, who come at last into the Holy City.

È allo stesso tempo l'ora della luce e l'ora delle tenebre.

L'ora della luce, poiché il sacramento del Corpo e del Sangue è stato istituito, ed è stato detto: "Io sono il pane della vita... Tutto ciò che il Padre mi dà verrà a me: colui che viene a me non lo respingerò... E questa è la volontà di colui che mi ha mandato, che io non perda nulla di quanto mi ha dato, ma lo risusciti l'ultimo giorno" (Gv 6,35-39). Come la morte è arrivata dall'uomo così anche la risurrezione è arrivata dall'uomo, il mondo è stato salvato per mezzo di lui. Questa è la luce della Cena.

Al contrario, la tenebra viene da Giuda. Nessuno è penetrato nel suo segreto. Si è visto in lui un mercante di quartiere che aveva un piccolo negozio, e che non ha sopportato il peso della sua vocazione. Egli incarnerebbe il dramma della piccolezza umana. O, ancora, quello di un giocatore freddo e scaltro dalle grandi ambizioni politiche.

Lanza del Vasto ha fatto di lui l'incarnazione demoniaca e disumanizzata del male.

Tuttavia nessuna di queste figure collima con quella del Giuda del Vangelo. Era un brav'uomo, come molti altri. È stato chiamato come gli altri. Non ha capito che cosa gli si faceva fare, ma gli altri lo capivano? Egli era annunciato dai profeti, e quello che doveva accadere è accaduto. Giuda doveva venire, perché altrimenti come si sarebbero compiute le Scritture? Ma sua madre l'ha forse allattato perché si dicesse di lui: "Sarebbe stato meglio per quell'uomo se non fosse mai nato!"? Pietro ha rinnegato tre volte, e Giuda ha gettato le sue monete d'argento, urlando il suo rimorso per aver tradito un Giusto. Perché la disperazione ha avuto la meglio sul pentimento? Giuda ha tradito, mentre Pietro che ha rinnegato Cristo è diventato la pietra di sostegno della Chiesa. Non restò a Giuda che la corda per impiccarsi. Perché nessuno si è interessato al pentimento di Giuda? Gesù l'ha chiamato "amico". È veramente lecito pensare che si trattasse di una triste pennellata di stile, affinché sullo sfondo chiaro, il nero apparisse ancora più nero, e il tradimento più ripugnante? Invece, se questa ipotesi sfiora il sacrilegio, che cosa comporta allora l'averlo chiamato "amico"? L'amarezza di una persona tradita? Eppure, se Giuda doveva esserci affinché si compissero le Scritture, quale colpa ha commesso un uomo condannato per essere stato il figlio della perdizione?

Non chiariremo mai il mistero di Giuda, né quello del rimorso che da solo non può cambiare nulla. Giuda Iscariota non sarà più "complice" di nessuno.

CHRISTIANS IN THE HOLY LAND NEED YOUR HELP.

NEEDS OF THE HOLY LAND SPECIAL COLLECTION ON GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 7:

Our collection today is a Pontifical request for the Holy Land in support of Christian communities, the works of the Holy Land and the upkeep of Holy Sites. Let us give generously to respond to the needs of the Church in the land of Jesus.

Mass Intentions for the Week

SATURDAY APRIL 1ST – SABATO

5:00 P.M. - For All Our Parishioners

SUNDAY APRIL 2ND – DOMENICA

8:30 A.M. - For All Our Parishioners

10:00 A.M. - Per Tutti I Nostri Parrocchiani

11:30 A.M. - For All Our Parishioners

1:00 P.M. - Pro Populo

5:00 P.M. - For All Our Parishioners

MONDAY APRIL 3RD – LUNEDÌ

8:30 A.M. + Guillermo Gallego Jr

12:00 P.M. + Holy Souls in Purgatory

TUESDAY APRIL 4TH – MARTEDÌ

8:30 A.M. - Fred Leung

12:00 P.M. - Intentions of the Santos Family

WEDNESDAY APRIL 5TH – MERCOLEDÌ

8:30 A.M. - Special Intention

12:00 P.M. - Johnathan Rodrigues

HOLY THURSDAY APRIL 6TH – GIOVEDÌ

4:00 P.M. - Pro Populo (Latin)

7:00 P.M. - For All Our Parishioners (English)

GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 7TH – VENERDÌ

11:00 A.M. - English

1:00 P.M. - Italian

3:00 P.M. - English

7:00 P.M. - Stations of the Cross

8:00 P.M. - Latin

HOLY SATURDAY APRIL 8TH – SABATO

8:30 P.M. - For All Our Parishioners (English)



Weekly Offertory

Last Week's Collection: \$5,078.60

ShareLife: \$6,651.70

Thank you for your generosity!

PALM SUNDAY – APRIL 2ND, 2023



Dear Friends in Christ, a few years ago, I came across a Christmas card that was sitting on my Pastoral Associate's desk titled, "The Donkey Carrying God." The card depicted a donkey that was walking in the dead of night with a tabernacle fastened on its back. Inside the card were written the words: "*The donkey that carried Our Lady to Bethlehem took another form in my thoughts. For he carried the Word - a dumb animal, carrying a Virgin who carried God - and so he was the carrier of God too. His bells were the first church bells, for Mary was the first Church, the first tabernacle of Christ*" (Catherine Doherty, Foundress of Madonna House). How wonderful for that donkey - a beast of burden that is so often ridiculed for being slow, dimwitted, and insignificant - to have the privilege of carrying the Virgin Mary, with Jesus in her womb!

Today the universal Church celebrates Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week. In the Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem, the Church offers us a powerful image of another "donkey carrying God." In keeping with His humble ways, our Lord did not enter the Holy City of Jerusalem by way of some ostentatious royal carriage; nor did He ride some majestic horse as many powerful figures of the world are inclined to do. Jesus entered Jerusalem riding the animal of the common people, a donkey, an ass that didn't even belong to Him. And in doing so, He fulfilled what had been spoken by the prophet, "*Tell the daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey*" (Zech 9:9).

On the surface, these words from the prophet Zechariah appear simple enough; however, a closer look reveals many layers of meaning. In fact, Pope Benedict XVI during a homily for World Youth Day XXI unpacked for his young audience what Zechariah's prophecy says about the future king. In the first place, Zechariah depicts him to be "*a king of the poor, a poor man among the poor and for the poor.*" Secondly, he will be a king of peace: "*he will cause chariots of war and war horses to vanish, he will break bows and proclaim peace.*" And finally Zechariah affirms that he will be a king whose universal kingdom of peace will extend "*from sea to sea...to the ends of the earth*" (cf. Benedict XVI, Homily on 9 April 2006).

All these three characteristics prophesied by Zechariah - poverty, peace, and universality - find their culmination in the sign of the Cross. In Bethlehem, Mary wrapped her newly infant Son in swaddling cloths; on Calvary, our Lord hung on the Cross with nothing more than a few pieces of cloths to cover his naked body. Throughout His Galilean ministry, Jesus spoke about loving and praying for your enemies; on the Cross, Jesus petitioned His Father to grant his enemies forgiveness for their actions, and thereby instill peace into their mind and heart. In the desert, "*Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live*" (Num 12:9); it is on the Cross, where Jesus is lifted up from the earth, who draws all people to Himself (cf. Jn 12:32). And so, no one, who looks upon the Cross and firmly believes in Christ, will be denied a share in the victory of His Cross.

The Jewish people, who witnessed Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, shouted with great joy and excitement, "*Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!*" In Jesus, they recognized him as the One who truly comes in the name of the Lord and manifest the presence of God among them. As we hold our palms high today, let us also greet Jesus with the same words. Hosanna to the One, who is the same yesterday, today and forever. Hosanna to the Son of God, who came into the world in order to become our Lord, Saviour and Redeemer! Hosanna to the Lord of the universe, the Bread of Life, whom we receive in the Holy Eucharist! Pax Christi, *Jr. Thomas*

CONFESSION Schedule:

April 5, 2023
1PM - 6PM Wednesday



Holy Thursday:

4:00 PM - Latin Mass

7:00 PM - Bilingual

Good Friday:

11:00 AM - English

1:00 PM - Italian

3:00 PM - English

7:00 PM -

Stations of the Cross

8:00 PM - Latin

Saturday Vigil:

8:00 PM - English

Easter Sunday:

8:30 AM - English

10:00 AM - Italian

11:30 AM - English

1:00 PM - Latin

No Sunday 5 PM Mass

Obedience unites us so closely to God that it in a way transforms us into Him, so that we have no other will but His. If obedience is lacking, even prayer cannot be pleasing to God."

-St. Thomas Aquinas-

PALM SUNDAY – APRIL 2ND, 2023

Save
the
Date!

LITURGICAL WORKSHOPS:

The parish invites parishioners who signed up for the Liturgical Ministries to attend the workshop:

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion Workshop

- Saturday April 15th at 1pm

Ushers Workshop

- Saturday April 29th at 1pm



Pray
for
Vocations

Vocations' Reflection . . .

"Blessed is the one who comes in the Name of the Lord!" Are you being called to proclaim Jesus as a priest, deacon, brother or sister? If God is calling you to serve him as a priest, deacon, brother or sister, contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997. email vocations@archtoronto.org www.vocationstoronto.ca

Stewardship Reflection . . .

The donkey on which Christ rode into Jerusalem could've seen all the palms and praises being sung around him and been tempted to believe that he was the one they celebrated. However, we as onlookers can clearly see that the crowds are not praising the donkey, but the one sitting upon the donkey, Jesus Christ. This Palm Sunday let us learn from this image and ask ourselves, do we fully direct all of the praise, glory and honour of our actions to Jesus.



PRAYER FOR THE SICK:

We keep in our prayers the sick, the homebound, and the forgotten members in our community.



Dear Padre

April 2, 2023

Why do we call Jesus "the Lamb of God"? How did Jesus get that name, and why do we refer to him as a lamb? Doesn't that make him sound weak and helpless?

A lamb was a common animal of sacrifice for the Jews. The Passover account talks about sacrificing an unblemished lamb to God and eating its flesh so the people would have strength for the journey to the Promised Land.

Jesus is the perfect, unblemished sacrifice by which our sins are forgiven and we are made children of God. The Father provides Jesus as the sacrifice, and so Jesus is the Lamb of God, the sacrificial offering made because God loves us. Jesus chose to sacrifice himself according to the Father's plan. "He humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross" (Philippians 2:8). Jesus gave himself into our hands so we could be caressed by the hands of God.

Like the Passover lamb, the Lamb of God is food for us. We "eat his body" and "drink his blood." This food and drink gives us strength for our journey of faith. The food we receive from Jesus, the Lamb, is the nourishment we need to do as St. Paul begs the Philippians—and us—to do: "Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5). ●

— The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

Join our Pastor

Fr. Thomas Lim

PILGRIMAGE TO
TURKEY & GREECE
In the Footsteps of
St. Paul



June 02-15, 2023,
14 days

Flyers/registration
forms are found at the
lobby of the Church or
visit

[St Lawrence Martyr](#)

[Website](#)

To book call Sisca
4167318252



FATHER
YOU CALLED

SAINT LAWRENCE
TO SERVE YOU BY LOVE
AND CROWNED HIS LIFE
WITH GLORIOUS
MARTYRDOM.

HELP US TO BE LIKE HIM
IN LOVING YOU
AND DOING YOUR WORK.

AMEN

Ontario Prayer Breakfast 2023 Monday, April 3 - 7:15 to 9 a.m. EST

Arcadian Court 401 Bay Street, Simpson Tower, 8th Floor, Toronto, ON

AN IN-PERSON EVENT RECOMMENDED BY THE OFFICE FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN UNITY AND RELIGIOUS RELATIONS WITH JUDAISM The Ontario Prayer Breakfast is an annual opportunity for the Christian community to gather to support Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) and City Councillors in prayer. This ecumenically organized event brings together a diverse group of professional, political, corporate and faith leaders from across our province. This year, His Worship, Dan Carter (Mayor of Oshawa, Ontario) is the guest speaker. Join brothers and sisters in Christ for prayer, reflection and to hear the witness of individuals whose faith has sustained and guided them in their civicontarioprayerbreakfast.ca/ service. For participation and more details, register: <https://ontarioprayerbreakfast.ca/tickets-2-2-2>.