

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

APRIL 13, 2014



A Note from Fr. Joe.....

The four Gospels record seven different sayings of Jesus from when he was hanging on the cross. They can serve as an excellent Holy Week meditation, so I wanted to share them here with you. But I'm providing the Scripture citations, as well, because it's helpful to look at the sayings in their broader context in the Passion story.

- "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mark 15:34 & Matthew 27:46)
- "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34)
- "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (Luke 23:43)
- "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." (Luke 23:46)
- "Woman, behold your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." (John 19:26-27)
- "I thirst." (John 19:28)
- "It is finished." (John 19:30)

One of the things you may have noticed is that none of the evangelists records all of Jesus' final words. In fact, in the Passion proclaimed from the Gospel of Matthew this Palm Sunday, we only find the saying that many would consider the most difficult to hear. "And at about three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'" It's believed that the reason Matthew includes the words in a mix of Hebrew and Aramaic is so to explain why some of the bystanders misunderstood, thinking that Jesus was calling for Elijah. *Eli* in Hebrew or *Eloi* in Aramaic may have sounded like Elijah, but it actually translates as "My God."

And we certainly have come to recognize that, in his darkest hour, Jesus was indeed calling out to God the Father. His cry echoes those times we may have felt abandoned or forsaken, when in our loneliness, our suffering, our grief, we could only throw a single syllable toward heaven – "why?" In his humanity though, Jesus reminds us that we're never alone. As I've said so often, he gets it, he understands. But, even in his cry itself, there is a glimmer of hope that can't be extinguished. For Jesus' question comes from the opening of Psalm 22, which he was quoting. And, as one commentary notes, it's likely that he was thinking of not just one line, but the psalm as a whole, which reaches its conclusion with words such as these – "For God has not spurned or disdained the misery of this afflicted one, Did not turn away from me, but heard me when I cried out...The generation to come will be told of the Lord, that they may proclaim to a people yet unborn the deliverance you have brought."

Yes, in this Holy Week, generations later, we still are proclaiming the deliverance the Lord has brought us through Jesus the Christ. And, as we walk with him to Calvary, once again, we recall his words not only of suffering, but also of hope, forgiveness, and love; words that will shine all the brighter in the light of Easter. As Lent concludes then this Holy Thursday, join in the celebration of the Triduum, beginning with the Mass of the Lord's Supper. These days are, without a doubt, the holiest and most special of the Church year. If you haven't had a chance to avail yourself yet of the opportunity for Reconciliation, please note that the Sacrament will be celebrated as part of a Communal Service in the Villanova Church this Monday at 7:30pm. Additional times are scheduled, as well, on Tuesday and Wednesday. Please consult this bulletin, our website, or parish mailings for more information on all that is planned...

A Blessed Holy Week!

Fr. Joe

Stewardship Thought for the Week

"As they were marching out, they came upon a man of Cyrene, Simon by name; this man they compelled to carry His cross." Matthew 27:32

The Lord calls us to love God and to love our neighbor. Every day we are presented with opportunities to love our neighbor and help him "carry his cross". These opportunities aren't usually big events, they are usually ordinary occurrences like helping someone carry their groceries or holding the door open for someone. The key is putting the other person's needs before your own and not expecting anything in return.



TRIDUUM 2014
THE HOLIEST OF DAYS

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 17TH
8:00PM Mass of the Lord's Supper -
Villanova Church
Solemn Adoration until 11:00PM in Corr Hall Chapel

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18TH
3:00PM Celebration of the Lord's Passion
Villanova Church

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 19TH
EASTER VIGIL
8:00PM (Villanova Church)

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 20TH
7:30AM - Villanova Church
9:00AM - Rosemont Chapel
9:45AM - Villanova Church
11:00AM - Rosemont Chapel
11:30AM - Villanova Church

There is No Evening Mass at the Villanova Church on Easter Sunday.

FOR SAFETY REASONS OCCUPANCY IS LIMITED IN THE VILLANOVA CHURCH TO 650 PERSONS AND IN THE ROSEMONT CHAPEL TO 550 PERSONS. **This will be strictly observed.**

Parking for the Villanova Church is in the Main Lot on Lancaster Avenue EXCEPT for persons with Special Needs. For your safety and the safety of all, please follow the directions of the Public Safety Officers. Thank you!

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
FINAL OPPORTUNITIES IN LENT

Communal Reconciliation Service
This Monday, April 14th, at 7:30pm
in the Villanova Church

Also in the Villanova Church:
This Tuesday, April 15th 3:30pm-4:30pm
and
this Wednesday, April 16th
3:30pm-4:30pm; 6:30pm-7:30pm

Rosemont Chapel:
This Wednesday, April 16th 6:30pm-
7:30pm

Other Local Penance Services:
St. Pius X This Tuesday, April 15th 7pm
St. Anastasia This Wednesday,
April 16th 7:30pm



FINAL STATIONS OF THE CROSS

"So you could not keep watch with me for one hour?"
(Lk 26:40b)

This Wednesday, April 16th at 7:30pm in the Villanova Church led by members of the Parish's 3 Councils: Pastoral, Finance, and Stewardship

THE GREAT PASCHAL FAST

Those alone can truly feast, who have first fasted!

The great "Paschal or Easter Fast" begins on Good Friday. Here's how Vatican II's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy puts it, "Let the Paschal Fast be kept sacred. Let it be celebrated everywhere on Good Friday and, where possible, prolonged throughout Holy Saturday so that the faithful may attain the joys of the Sunday of the Resurrection with uplifted mind and welcoming heart." (Paragraph 110) We encourage you to join in the Paschal Fast, up until the Easter Vigil, again as your situation permits. At the minimum, Catholics who are 14 years of age and older are to abstain from eating meat on Good Friday; Catholics from the age of 18 through 59 are to fast on Good Friday, which means limiting oneself to a single full meal, while the other two meals are to be kept light. Please note that these practices should never be allowed to endanger your health.



Masses for Holy Week

Mon., April 14th 12:05PM-RMCH	Monday of Holy Week John & Margaret Gallagher
Tues., April 15th 12:05PM-RMCH	Tuesday of Holy Week John L. Roethlein
Wed., April 16th 12:05PM-RMCH	Wednesday of Holy Week Elizabeth McManus - Felix
Thurs., April 17th 8:00PM-VNCH	HOLY THURSDAY Mass of the Lord's Supper
Fri., April 18th 3:00PM-VNCH	GOOD FRIDAY Celebration of the Lord's Passion
Sat., April 19th 8:00PM-VNCH	HOLY SATURDAY Easter Vigil
Sun., April 20th	EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD
7:30AM-VNCH	<i>Alleluia</i>
9:00AM-RMCH	<i>Alleluia</i>
9:45AM-VNCH	<i>He</i>
11:00AM-RMCH	<i>Is</i>
11:30AM-VNCH	<i>Risen!</i>

THERE IS NO EVENING MASS AT THE VILLANOVA CHURCH ON EASTER SUNDAY.

Thank you for your participation in God's Plan for Giving. Your generosity for the weekend of April 5 and 6, 2014:

Number of Envelopes	311
Envelope Amount	\$14,127.00
Loose Cash	\$1,890.00
Electronic Offerings	\$2,197.88
Other	\$215.00
Total	\$18,429.88
10% Tithe	\$1,842.99
April 14, 2013	\$19,101.88



The Parish Office will be closed on Good Friday, April 18th and Easter Monday, April 21st!!



Schedule of Events for the week of: April 13, 2014
Recitation of the Rosary after the daily Liturgy.

Monday, April 14, 2014

Golden Living Ministry	10:30AM
Art Class - PC-1	11:00AM
Food Addicts in Recovery - Café	7:00PM
Communal Reconciliation - VNCH	7:30PM

Tuesday, April 15, 2014

BP Screening after 12:05 Mass	
Preschool Stations of the Cross in Courtyard	9:15AM
Eldernet - Aud	1:00PM
Bible Study - PC-2	7:00PM
Genesis Bells - Aud	7:00PM
Choir Practice - VNCH	7:30PM

Wednesday, April 16, 2014

Exercise - Aud	10:00AM
No Religious Education Program	
Reconciliation at VNCH	6:30-7:30PM
Reconciliation at RMCH	6:30-7:30PM
Stations of the Cross at VNCH	7:30PM

Thursday, April 17, 2014—HOLY THURSDAY

Morning Prayer - RMCH	9:00AM
Bible Study - PC-2	10:00AM
Mass of the Lord's Supper - VMCN	8:00PM

Friday, April 18, 2014—GOOD FRIDAY

Preschool Closed	
Office Closed	
Morning Prayer - RMCH	9:00AM
Celebration of the Lord's Passion - VNCH	3:00PM

Saturday, April 19, 2014—HOLY SATURDAY

Morning Prayer - RMCH	9:00AM
RCIA Retreat - PC2	9:00AM
Easter Vigil Mass - VNCH	8:00PM

Sunday, April 20, 2014 - EASTER SUNDAY

St. Francis Inn Ministry	9:00AM
Rosemont Village Eucharistic Prayer Service	10:30AM
EASTER SUNDAY MASSES:	

- 7:30AM - Villanova Church
- 9:00AM - Rosemont Chapel
- 9:45AM - Villanova Church
- 11:00AM - Rosemont Chapel
- 11:45AM - Villanova Church

THERE IS NO EVENING MASS AT THE VILLANOVA CHURCH ON EASTER SUNDAY.





Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Office of the Archbishop
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299

April 13, 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On *Good Friday*, April 18, 2014, we celebrate the mystery of the Lord's Passion, contemplating the sacrifice by which Jesus redeemed the human race from sin and death. It also has been our longstanding tradition as Catholics to offer alms in support of the Catholic Community in the Holy Land.

As directed by our Holy Father, Pope Francis, funds generated by this collection support programs and services in the Holy Land. Support is needed to maintain the sacred places, to provide educational and pastoral programs as well as outreach programs for the poor through established charitable institutions.

On behalf of those Christians and others in so much need, I seek your most generous and sacrificial support of the **Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land** on **April 18, 2014**. I know that God our Father will reward your generosity beyond all measure.

Gratefully and with best wishes in Jesus Christ,

Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.
Archbishop of Philadelphia

"Masses in Interpreted American Sign Language"

We have an American Sign Language Interpreter at the 9:00am Mass in the Rosemont Chapel on the Second and Fourth Sunday of each month. The interpreter will be here on April 27, 2014.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

Monday: Is 42:1-7; Jn 12:1-11
 Tuesday: Is 49:1-6; Jn 12:21-13, 36-38
 Wednesday: Is 40:4-9a; Mt 26:14-25
 Thursday: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14; Cor 11:23-26; Jn 12:1-15
 Friday: Is 52:13—53:12; Heb 4:14-16, 5:7-9; Jn 18:1—19:42
 Saturday: Gn 1:1—2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a; Gen 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ex 14:15—15:1; Is 55:1-11; Bar 3:9-15, 32-44; Ez 36:16-17a, Rom 6:3-11; Mt 28:1-10
 Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8; Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10



CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES
is *YOUR* way to help the world.

**CRS Rice Bowl Reflection:
Assisting Our Neighbors**

25 percent of contributions to CRS Rice Bowl remain in our diocese, helping to support local poverty and hunger alleviation programs. This week we pray for people in our own community who struggle with poverty and hunger. Give to your Rice Bowl to support programs that help the poor in our own community, as well as in communities around the world.



**LENTEN SERVICE MINISTRY
40 CANS FOR LENT**

40 Cans for Lent - Purchase and deliver 40 cans of food for our sister parish's food closet. Suggested items include: canned tuna, fruit, pasta sauce, stew, chicken, coffee, etc. Bring your cans to the Rosemont Chapel or parish office.



A SPECIAL NOTE FROM FR. JOE

Check out our parish website for a new initiative from our Pastoral Council!

Now on the front page is a link to an **electronic suggestion box**. If you have any suggestions, ideas, or questions, please feel free to share those with us. As you will see from the form, the Council is asking that you provide your name and an email address or phone number, so that a member can follow up with you. Realistically speaking, not all suggestions or ideas will be able to be implemented, but know that they will be acknowledged and given serious consideration. An attempt will be made to answer any questions, as well.

Thank you in advance for taking the time and effort, as we continue to work together to fulfill our parish mission and to enhance our life here at St. Thomas of Villanova.



We extend a warm welcome to the newest members of our parish:

Nicholas & Natalie Dworechi & Family of Bryn Mawr

Resting in Peace:

Mildred Spross, mother of Janet Creedon

Remember those in need of our prayers, especially:

Julia Barlow, Frank Beston, Peggy Caulfield, Mary Ann Dadourian, Bob Ellison, Jack Geraghty, Patricia Ann Harley, Bridget Kelly, Garrett P. McAleer (baby), Rita O'Connor, Julia Boland Paparella, Loretta Prisco, Alice Rogers, Annie Sears and Michael Seeds.

Please pray for our soldiers assigned in Afghanistan and in other parts of the world, especially 1st Lt. Christopher Giuliano, Army, who is currently serving in Afghanistan and Colin Devlin, PO3, U.S.N. on the USS Mason in the Truman Strike Force.



THE HONICKMAN MINISTRY
NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Every Wednesday at 10:45am, a group of parishioners carpool to the Honickman Learning Center and Comcast Technology Labs in North Philadelphia.

Honickman provides adult basic literacy classes, GED classes and mentoring.

We are in need of mentors to work with adults who need help with basic reading and math. You would leave the Parish Center at 10:30am and return by 1:30pm. Your ministry will be life changing for your students and for you.

Please call or email Parish Coordinator, Fran Johannes at fran.johannes@gmail.com or 610-220-2766 or Anne Murphy at the Parish Center at service@stvparish.org.

Consider going with our parish team next Wednesday to "shadow" our volunteers. For more information on this Project H.O.M.E. Education Center go to www.projecthome.org and click on Education.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

PRAYERLINE

The parish prayerline is waiting for your prayer request. This week call Mary Ann Barrow at 610-525-4164 or email mabstv@verizon.net to activate the parish prayerline. Two parish teams are available for your special intentions.

PROJECT HOPE

This is a transportation ministry for our Parish. If you need a ride to your medical appointments or to food shop this week, please call Ann Von Herstenberg at 610-525-6026. Please give at least 3 days notice.

DINNERS TO THE DOORSTEP

This ministry is for parish families who are in crisis or for parish couples welcoming a new baby. Homemade dinners are delivered. Two parish coordinators keep a list of volunteers who are called as needed. If you are in need of this delicious community support, please call Maria Gunn at 610-291-7205.

ST. FRANCIS INN

We are forming a parish work group to serve the midday meal at the St. Francis Inn in Kensington on Easter Sunday, April 20th. The Inn tries to meet the immediate daily needs of the poor and homeless people they serve with food, clothing and hospitality. This ministry is open to anyone 16 years or older. For more information and to sign up, contact our parish coordinator, Ruth Reeder at 610-662-2055 or villanovaruth@aol.com.

Would you Like to be An Augustinian Volunteer??

Augustinian Volunteers are Catholic men and women between the ages of 21-29 who wish to serve God's people in partnership with the Augustinian Order and others. The service of the volunteers is with established educational, social, and health programs and varies according to the needs of the sponsoring site and the individual volunteer. Applications are currently being accepted for the 2014-2015 volunteer year for our sites in Chicago, IL, Lawrence, MA, Philadelphia, PA, San Diego, CA, Ventura, CA and Chulucanas, Peru. If interested, please visit www.osavol.org or contact us at osavol@gmail.com



St. Thomas of Villanova Parish is an Augustinian, Roman Catholic community. As the Body of Christ, we share our Time, Talent, and Treasure to fulfill our Baptismal commitment. Following the example of St. Thomas of Villanova, our patron, we take as our challenge the mission of Jesus the Christ and strive to love and experience God through worship, social justice, education, and evangelization.

St. Thomas of Villanova Preschool...



Palm Sunday



Spring has helped the children understand the "New Life" of Jesus during the Easter Season. As we continue to appreciate the beauty, wonder and new growth of the world around us, we are teaching the children how important it is to renew and reaffirm our faith in Jesus. We especially thank God for those people who are examples of faith and love to all our young children....their teachers, parents, families and friends.

PARISH VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE ARCHDIOCESAN MANNA FOOD DRIVE

Can you help with the Annual Archdiocesan MANNA Canned Food Collection on Sunday May 18th?

The Manna Canned Food Collection affords our faith community an opportunity to express our concern for needy people living within the geographic area of our own Archdiocese. Many struggling families and individuals turn to our emergency food cupboard for support during times of crisis. While all ages are represented in the faces of hunger, sadly the burden of poverty rests most heartily on our children.

Help is needed distributing Manna bags the weekend of May 10/11 (at whatever Mass you plan to attend) and help is needed taking the bags to the Auditorium after the Mass you will attend the weekend of May 17/18.

Contact Anne Murphy at the Parish Center at the 610-525-4801 or service@stvparish.org.

You are invited to a Parish Forum on
Wednesday, April 30, 2014
Promoting Good Health: Straight from the Experts



Topic: "Update on Osteoporosis and Bone Health"

Presenter: John L. Abruzzo, MD,
FACP, FACR, MACR

Parishioner Dr. Abruzzo is a retired Professor of Medicine at Thomas Jefferson University. He introduced osteoporosis as a clinical problem to Philadelphia and established the Jefferson Osteoporosis Center.

Dr. Abruzzo is an Associate Editor Emeritus of the Annals of Internal Medicine.

Bring your lunch!
Drinks and dessert will be provided.
Please join us!!

LENTEN SERVICE MINISTRIES

Do you have gently used cellphones and chargers sitting in a drawer?

Send it to Cell Phones for Soldiers which will provide cost free communication services allowing active duty military members to call home while deployed, and also helps veterans as they transition into post-combat life. For more information go to: <http://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com/buyback/landing.php>

Do you have a gently used laptop (and cords) you would like to donate? Dawn's Place in Philadelphia provides safe shelter and support to woman who have been commercially sexually exploited. The women can use your laptops. Your laptop can be delivered to the Parish Center during the week.

For more info, go to (www.ahomefordawn.org)

WELCOME VISITORS

Thank you for worshipping with us today. If you are visiting our beautiful church or chapel, please know you are most welcome!

If you have questions or are interested in joining our parish community, please call the parish office at 610-525-4801

LENT BY THE BOOK

The Gospel of the Family by Cardinal Walter Kasper, Paulist Press, 800-218-1903, or www.paulistpress.com \$9.95 — This book looks at the family as a "domestic church," with a God-given role in creation. Kasper also covers the problems that often arise within families and the need for mercy from God and each other.

The First Easter Bunny by Rich Lewandowski, Paulist Press, 800-218-1903 or www.paulistpress.com, book \$10.95; CD \$9.95 — This is the story of a bunny who witnesses the death and resurrection of Jesus, ages 4-8.

Journey into Joy by Andrew Walker, Paulist Press, 800-218-1903 or www.paulistpress.com, \$21.95 — Walker uses 14 full-color illustrations (well-known works of art) to celebrate the joys of the resurrection. This joy is expressed through prayer, poetry, scripture and reflection.

Consider Fasting This Way

Put down your "technology" and be fully present to what you are doing. If you are taking a walk, walk looking at your surroundings, listen as you go along. When watching television, only watch television.

Choose a quiet place to just sit with your eyes closed for a few minutes; absorb what is around you. Give God a chance to speak to you...

Begin and end your day without technology or media. Thank God for what the day holds and what the day held.

Quiet yourself throughout this Holy Week using a word or phrase to focus your attention on God and then go about your day's work doing all for the "greater honor and glory of God."

Wednesday, April 16, Parish Fast Day

Thank God for all the people in your life, those you have met and those you have yet to meet.

Paschal Fast from Good Friday until the Vigil on Holy Saturday

As you fast these two days pray for the Elect who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil and for the Candidates who will be received into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church during the Easter Season. Renew your baptismal promises in prayer and in action.

VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY EVENT

On Wednesday, April 23rd, Christopher Daly, a teacher at Villanova University, will offer an organ recital at Saint Thomas of Villanova Church on the University Campus. The program will begin at 7:00PM, and will feature the music of Buxtehude, Guilain, J. S. Bach, Elgar, and Vierre.

Admission is free and everyone is warmly welcome!

CARROLL AUCTION FOR EDUCATION

Archbishop John Carroll High School will be the site of the 31st annual **CAFÉ** (Carroll Auction for Education) on Saturday, April 26, 2014.

We invite you to enjoy the "**Wild, Wild West**" and join in our Silent and Live Auctions, Horse Races, Designer Bag Bingo, Raffles and Games of Chance. Doors open at 6:30pm with heavy butlered Hors d'oeuvres and numerous food stations available at \$45.00 per person in advance; \$50 per person at Door. **Come out and enjoy a night of fun, while helping to support Catholic education.**

For more information, please call the Advancement Office at 610-688-7610, ext. 127, or check us out at www.jcarroll.org under the alumni tab.



St. John Neumann Garage Sale

The annual garage sale at St. John Neumann Church, 380 Highland Lane, Bryn Mawr (19010) is planned for Saturday, April 26th from 9:00am to 3:00pm and Sunday, April 27th from 8:30am to 1:30pm.

This is a major fundraiser for the parish. You will find wonderful treasures at bargain prices, all donated by parishioners. Included are better clothing, a designer Boutique for lovely ready-to-wear apparel, accessories, jewelry, bric-a-brac, housewares, linens, toys, books, small appliances, electronics, holiday decorations, and furniture. This sale is now in two indoor locations including the new parish life center.