

A Reflection from Fr. Joseph



Today’s celebration joins two observances: the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and the suffering and death that followed that. Ordinarily on Sunday, we celebrate and remember the Resurrection of Jesus. But with next Sunday being Easter, the great annual celebration of the Resurrection, this Sunday we prepare to celebrate that resurrection by remembering intensely his Passion and death. Each year, therefore, faithful Catholics will hear the entire account of Jesus’s suffering and death, his Passion. Today’s liturgy alone allows us to hear and ponder the entire paschal mystery, which encompasses Jesus’s death and resurrection.

The length and power of the Gospel, an entire two chapters from Mark’s Gospel, occupies our attention. But before that, the Church lays a foundation for understanding Jesus’s suffering and death with the beautiful second reading from St. Paul’s Letter to the Philippians, a powerful hymn to Christ as the God who emptied himself even to death on the Cross. This hymn expresses the mystery of Christ’s self-emptying love: that though he was in the form of God, he humbled himself, taking the form of a slave, even accepting death, death on a Cross. That death leads then to his exaltation, and his worship by all of creation. In Paul’s theology, the Cross reveals who Jesus truly is.

This Philippians hymn gives the theology, and the Gospel gives the history, the story of how Jesus empties himself through his death on the Cross. This year, we hear Mark’s account, which ends with the centurion professing that Jesus truly was the Son of God, the climactic moment of Mark’s Gospel in which the Cross reveals who Jesus truly is. In the opening verse of his Gospel, Mark identifies Jesus as the Son of God (Mark 1:1), but as the story progresses, it is only demons who recognize him as such (cf. Mark 1:24; 5:7). In the center of Mark’s Gospel, Peter proclaims that Jesus is the Messiah, but he does not understand what that means, and earns Jesus’s rebuke for urging him against God’s plan of crucifixion (Mark 8:27-33). Jesus three times explains that the Messiah must suffer, die, and be raised, but Peter and the apostles do not understand (Mark 8:31; 9:31-32; 10:32-34). They are still looking for a glorious Messiah, but Jesus is a suffering servant, who came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:43). Jesus’s true identity as the Son of God can only be seen at the foot of the cross, and in proclaiming Jesus to be the Son of God, the centurion speaks for all of humanity and indeed all of creation. This is what the Philippians hymn demands: that every tongue shall “confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.”

The context in which St. Paul uses this hymn in Philippians is important, for he is not primarily interested in teaching his readers about Christ, but in using the example of Christ to teach them how to live. We are to follow Jesus in his self-emptying love, embodied in lives of service: not to be served but to serve and to give our own lives for Christ and the gospel.

In the words of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, by following him in suffering, we will follow him in glory (Sp. Ex. 95). It is an eloquent answer to that fundamental question of human existence, the problem of evil and suffering: a God who empties himself to suffer with us and leads us through suffering into glory.



Holy Week is the week which precedes the great feast of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday - it includes the last days of Lent and the beginning of the Easter Triduum. During Holy Week,

the Church celebrates the mysteries of salvation accomplished by Christ in the last days of his life on earth, beginning with his messianic entrance into Jerusalem.

CHANGE IN MASS TIMES - Please note that there will NOT be a Novena Mass this coming Wed. Mar 27th, as all the priest of the Archdiocese will be attending the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral.

PLEASE BE REMINDED THAT GOOD FRIDAY IS A DAY OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

- Mon. Mar. 25th** - Is. 42:1-7; John 12:1-11
- Tue. Mar. 26th** - Is. 49:1-6; John 13:21-33, 36-38
- Wed. Mar. 27th** - Is. 50:4-9a; Mat. 26:14-26
- Thurs. Mar. 28th** - HOLY THURSDAY
 Chrism Mass: Is. 61:1-3a,6a,8b-9; Rev. 1:4-8; Lk. 4:16-21
 Mass of the Lord’s Supper: Ex. 12:1-8,11-14; 1Cor. 11:23-26; Jn. 13:1-15
- Fri. Mar. 29th** - FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
 Is. 52:13-53:12; Heb. 4:14-16, 5:7-9; John. 18:1-19:42
- Sat. Mar. 30th** - HOLY SATURDAY
 The entire Liturgy of the Word
- Sun. Mar. 31st** - THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD
 Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Col. 3:1-4 or 1 Cor. 5:6b-8; John. 20:1-18



HOLY LAND COLLECTION - Each year, on Good Friday, there is a collection for the Holy Land, in support of the Christian communities, to fund the work and the upkeep of the Holy Sites and the formation of future priests. Please give generously.

ALTAR SERVERS

As per Holy Week schedule.



Servers are reminded to please sign-up for the Easter schedule of Masses in the sacristy.

SCHOOL NEWS

- This Monday we welcome back all our staff, students and parents to our school community. We hope you had an enjoyable Spring Break.
- **Noon Dismissal:** This coming Thursday.
- **School closed** - Good Friday & Easter Monday

THE CHRISM MASS

Join Archbishop Miller and the priests of our Archdiocese, this coming Wednesday, March 27th at 5 pm at Holy Rosary Cathedral, for one of the most solemn and significant liturgies of our church. All are welcome to attend.



HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE - Join us!



Holy Thursday - Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7 pm followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 12 midnight.
Good Friday: Stations of the Cross 10 am

Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at 3 pm
Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Mass at 9 pm
Easter Sunday Masses at 9 & 11 am & 5 pm.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

Up-Coming Events

Stewardship Reflection

"Pilate again said to them, 'Then what shall I do with the man whom you call the King of the Jews?' And they cried out again, 'Crucify him.'" - Mark 15:12-13

Jesus told us "whatever you do for the least of my brothers, you do for me." Every day we are presented opportunities to help someone. Every day we have the opportunity to see the face of Jesus in others and be the face of Jesus to others. Every day we pass by someone in need. Pray for the strength and courage to be the answer to someone's prayer.

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Days of Mercy 2024

Lent is a time to draw closer to God, to reflect on our lives, and to seek forgiveness and healing through the Sacrament of Confession. Many parishes are extending their arms wider, offering additional times for Confession so everyone has the chance to experience God's mercy during Lent. These special times are in addition to the regular confession schedules of each parish.

Whether it's been a while since your last Confession or you frequent the sacrament regularly, know that Jesus is waiting for you with open arms. As Pope Francis once said: *"God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy."* Rediscover the joy and peace that comes from reconciliation with God and with one another. For special Lenten Confession times, please visit rcav.org/confession

Weekend Getaway Marriage Conference

We are excited to partner with FamilyLife Canada to offer weekend getaways to married couples in our Archdiocese!

The Weekend Getaway is a marriage conference uniquely designed to enrich your relationship. For most couples, it's a chance to reconnect, re-establish the foundation, and rekindle romance. For others, it's a fresh start. For some, it will be the weekend that saves a marriage. Wherever you're at in your relationship, this retreat is a weekend to remember.

The next getaway is on the weekend of April 5-7, 2024 at the Penticton Lakeside Resort. The fee is usually \$299. Use promo code RCAVPEN to register for \$199.

Accommodations at Penticton Lakeside Resort for conference participants should be booked separately. Rates may vary.

Registration deadline: Wednesday, April 3. For more information, please call Joyce at 604-683-0281 ext. 223 or visit beholdvancouver.org/events



The International Pilgrim Image of Our Lady of Fatima will be visiting our Parish on April 12, 2024. Mark your calendars and plan to attend!

This 'once in a lifetime' experience is a great blessing for us, for our families and for our community. Let us take a moment to be with our Lady, as represented by Her image from 8:30 AM to 8:00 PM.

Marriage Anniversary Mass 2024

"Love isn't easy. No. But the most beautiful thing that a man and a woman can give each other is true love, for a lifetime."

- Pope Francis

On Sunday, May 12, Archbishop Michael Miller, CSB will be honouring couples celebrating milestone marriage anniversaries: five-year increments from 5 to 60 years, and every year beyond 60 years. The Marriage Anniversary Mass will be at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Port Coquitlam at 1:30 p.m. Registrations received by Friday, April 19, will receive their certificate at the Mass. Learn more and register at family.rcav.org/mam