



# OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF JOLIET-IN-ILLINOIS

Most Rev. R. Daniel Conlon, Bishop

701 S. EOLA ROAD † AURORA, IL 60504

WWW.OLMERCY.COM

**OUR VISION: TO OFFER EVERY PERSON A LIFE-CHANGING ENCOUNTER  
WITH JESUS, GROW DISCIPLES, AND SEND THEM ON MISSION.**

## PARISH PRIESTS

Fr. Don E. McLaughlin, Pastor  
Fr. Mark J. Bernhard, Parochial Vicar

## TRANSITIONAL DEACON

Rev. Mr. Senovio Sarabia, Jr.

## PERMANENT DEACONS

Deacon Tim Kueper  
Deacon Tony Martini  
Deacon Mike Plese  
Deacon Phil Rehmer  
Deacon Art Tiongsom

## PARISH OFFICE

(630) 851-3444  
(630) 851-3468 FAX  
Monday-Thursday.....8:30am-4:30pm  
Friday..... 8:30am-1:00pm

## MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday.....4:00pm  
Sunday.....7:30am, 9:00am  
                  10:45am, 12:30pm, 5:30pm  
Monday-Friday .....8:00am  
Rosary prayed after all daily Masses

## HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

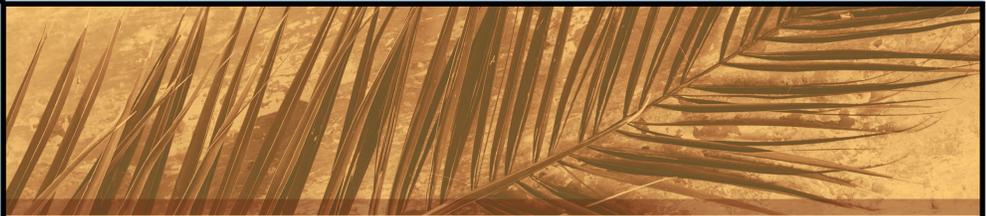
Schedule varies. Consult the Mass Schedule in the bulletin or website.

## CONFESSIONS

Saturday.....3:00-3:45pm  
1st Fridays of the Month....8:30-9:00am  
Or by Appointment

## PRAYER CHAPEL

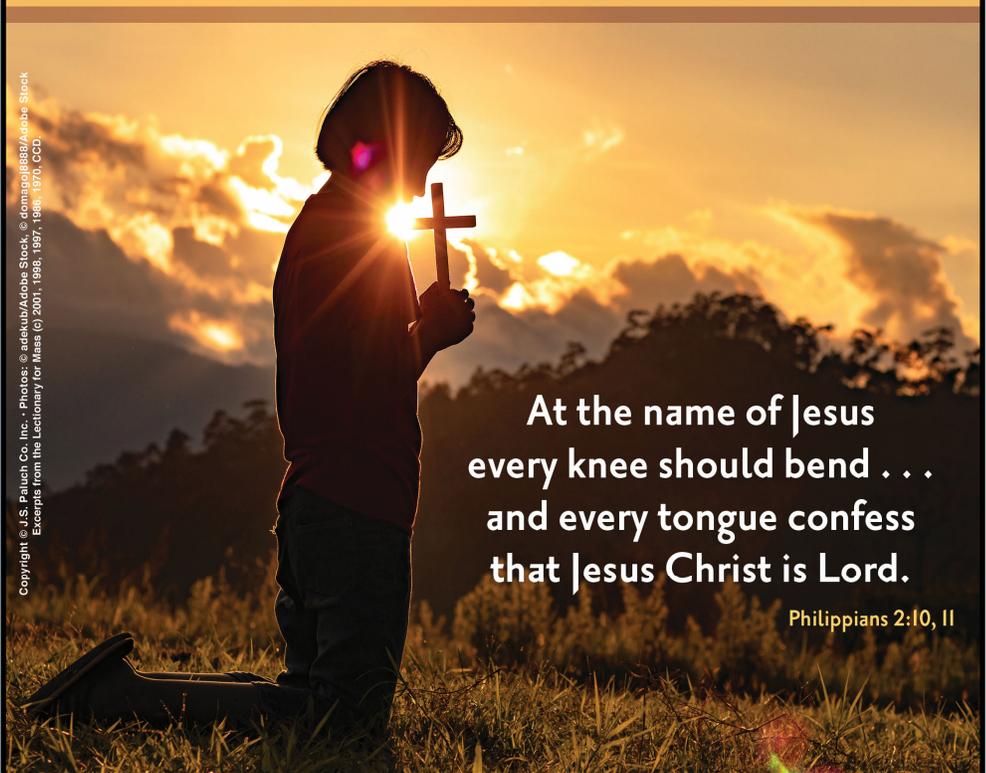
Open Daily .....7:00am-8:00pm  
Adoration.....Monday & Thursday  
                  8:30am-6:00pm  
Benediction.....Monday, 6:00pm



April 5, 2020

# Palm Sunday

## OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD



At the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend . . .  
and every tongue confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Philippians 2:10, 11

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Excerpta from the Lectionary for Mass (c) 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970, CCC



From The Pastor's Desk...  
Also Known as Chardonnay W(h)ines!

*“The very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while other cut branches from the trees and strewed them on the road. The crowds preceding him and those following kept crying out and saying: Hosanna to the Son of David, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest.”* The words of Matthew’s gospel seem to ring a little empty this morning. There are no crowds here, no excitement and enthusiasm, no waving of palm branches to be blessed. It all seems so surreal. How is it that a virus has robbed Christians from celebrating the most holy and sacred time of the year? And quite likely it will be the same on Easter Sunday. These several weeks of no public Masses, no Holy Week liturgies, no Easter due to the COVID-19 virus has made me reflect on how lucky we are to weekly celebrate as a community the mysteries of our faith. It makes me reflect upon the Catholics throughout the world who only have a priest come once a month or even just once a year to celebrate Mass with them. How do they sustain and nurture their faith without weekly celebrating the Eucharist? It is so central to who we are as Catholics! They say that absence makes the heart grow fonder! I can only imagine their hunger. And now we get a taste of what some Catholics throughout the world experience throughout their lives. In the several weeks that you have not been able to receive communion, I pray that the absence indeed has made your heart grow fonder! And when we are able to celebrate public Masses again, I hope that you who come every week, and those who have been away for awhile will fill our church with loud Hosanna’s!!

Please be sure to check our website and app for resources to celebrate Holy Week at home. Let us not lose our sense of community.....join us for our livestreamed liturgies. In the meantime, know that Fr. Mark and I keep you in our thoughts and prayers. We miss you!!

Have a blessed Holy Week!

**PARISH PRIESTS**

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**SEMINARIAN INTERN**

**Rev. Mr. Senovio Sarabia, Jr.**  
ssarabia@usml.edu

## Liturgy Schedule & Mass Intentions

### Monday, April 6 - Holy Week

8:00 AM † Casilda Pena, by Agnes Schlobohm

### Tuesday, April 7 - Holy Week

8:00 AM † Hortensia Masangcay, by Family

### Wednesday, April 8 - Holy Week

8:00 AM Mass † Stanley Kerkla, by Carolyn Kerkla

### Holy Thursday, April 9

8:00 AM Morning Prayer

7:00 PM Lord's Supper

### Good Friday, April 10

3:00 PM Lord's Passion

### Holy Saturday, April 11

8:00 PM Easter Vigil

### Easter Sunday, April 12

7:00 AM Church † Mary Ellen Feldman, by Family

† Samantha Campion, by Tom & Joan Campion

9:00 AM Church † Tim Savoie, by Christina & Matthew Sincora

9:00 AM PLC † Lorraine Zamora, by Audrey Biegon

11:00 AM Church Int. Trinidad Famly

11:00 AM PLC James W Ray & James W Ray, Jr by Family

1:00 PM Church Int Paluch & Budny Families

**All Masses and Confessions have been cancelled until further notice. Please check the OLM website at [www.olmercy.com](http://www.olmercy.com) for updates.**

## BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL LAMPS

Votive lamps will burn this week before the Blessed Sacrament for the following intentions:

- |                          |                               |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Megan Gabaldon        | 9. The Feldman Family         |
| 2. The Sick              | 10. The Unemployed            |
| 3. Ailani Banuelos       | 11. Special Intention-C.H.    |
| 4. Medical Professionals | 12. Kathryn Martini           |
| 5. Father Don McLaughlin | 13. Joanna Tayaban's Recovery |
| 6. Father Mark Bernhard  | 14. Good Health for Ricky     |
| 7. The Vavra Family      | 15. The Pluskota Family       |
| 8. The Deceased          | 16. The Homeless              |

*If you wish to have a candle burning for your intention in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, you will find envelopes on the shelf in the Narthex near the Priest's Sacristy or in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.*

## Scheduled Mass Intentions

During this time in which Masses have been cancelled at OLM due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, intentions and the stipend for the Masses not celebrated will be sent to the Diocese of Joliet for retired priests and/or missionary priests to celebrate as soon as possible. It will not be possible for you to attend the Mass, as we won't know who, when or where the Mass will be celebrated, but the Mass WILL be celebrated. We decided not to re-schedule the Masses at OLM because the Mass intentions for 2020 and 2021 are nearly all taken. We appreciate your understanding.

## We pray for our sick, confined and their families

Please contact the Parish Office if you or your **immediate** family member wish to be added to the Sick List.

Mark Hoeksema  
Wayne Draper  
Ailani Banulos  
Julia Schremp  
Billy Walowski  
Kathy Walowski  
Flo Paprzycki  
Helga Manglinong  
Michael Dandan  
Charlene Oates  
Maria Luna  
William Nimmow

Jill Brisceno  
Lexi Brisceno  
Michael Butler  
Hailey Hartnett  
Thomas F. Sterling  
Henrietta Pineda  
La Moua  
Valerie Plesha  
Hedy Sterling  
Diane Pazos  
Diane Ramonas  
Diane Singer  
Joyce Craig

John Swanston  
Robert Ciulla  
Bridget Garry  
David Bakke

**Please note:** Due to the government legislation regarding patient privacy, names of people to be prayed for at Mass or in the Bulletin can be listed only if that person, or in the case of their incapacitation, the person delegated to their medical care, calls to give permission.



DESDE EL ESCRITORIO DEL PASTOR.....  
 ¡También conocido como Chardonnay W(h)ines!

*“La gran multitud extendió sus capas en el camino, mientras que otros cortaron ramas de los árboles y las esparcieron en el camino. Las multitudes que iban delante de Él y las que iban detrás gritaban y decían: Hosanna al Hijo de David, bendito es el que viene en el nombre del Señor; Hosanna en las alturas.”* Las palabras del evangelio de Mateo parecen sonar un poco vacías esta mañana. No hay multitudes aquí, no hay emoción y entusiasmo, no se agitan las ramas de palma para ser bendecidas. Todo parece tan surrealista. ¿Cómo es que un virus ha robado a los Cristianos la celebración del tiempo más santo y sagrado del año? Y es muy probable que sea lo mismo el domingo de Pascua. Estas varias semanas sin Misas públicas, sin liturgias de Semana Santa, sin Pascua debido al virus COVID-19 me han hecho reflexionar sobre la suerte que tenemos de celebrar semanalmente como comunidad los misterios de nuestra fe. Me hace reflexionar sobre los Católicos de todo el mundo que solo tienen un sacerdote que viene una vez al mes o incluso una vez al año para celebrar la Misa con ellos. ¿Cómo sostienen y nutren su fe sin celebrar semanalmente la Eucaristía? ¡Es tan central para quienes somos Católicos! ¡Dicen que la ausencia hace que el corazón se encariñe más! Solo puedo imaginar su hambre. Y ahora tenemos una idea de lo que experimentan algunos católicos en todo el mundo a lo largo de sus vidas. ¡En las varias semanas que no han podido recibir la comunión, rezo para que la ausencia haya hecho que sus corazones se encariñen más! Y cuando podamos celebrar Misas públicas de nuevo, ¡espero que ustedes, que vienen cada semana, y aquellos que han estado lejos por un tiempo llenen nuestra iglesia con fuertes Hosannas!

Asegúrense de revisar nuestro sitio web y la aplicación para obtener recursos para celebrar la Semana Santa en casa. No perdamos nuestro sentido de comunidad... únense a nosotros para nuestras liturgias transmitidas en vivo. Mientras tanto, sepan que el Padre Mark y yo los mantenemos en nuestros pensamientos y oraciones. ¡Los extrañamos!

¡Que tengan una bendecida Semana Santa!

*Padre Mark*

## ¡HOSANNA!

“¡Viva el Hijo de David! ¡Bendito el que viene en el nombre del Señor! ¡Hosanna en el cielo!” (Mateo 21:9). Con estas palabras la Iglesia entra en la semana más santa cuando conmemora la Pasión, Muerte y Resurrección de Cristo. Cuando el pueblo de Jerusalén gritó sus “hosannas”, estaba usando un antiguo grito de aclamación hebreo que significa “sálvanos ahora”. El rey a quien se lo gritaban los salvaría, pero de una manera que sobrepasó sus expectativas. La salvación vendría del madero de la cruz del cual colgaba Jesús para traer liberación del pecado y vida por medio de la muerte, abriendo las puertas del cielo para todos los que ponen su fe y confianza en él. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

## LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

- Lunes: Is 42:1-7; Sal 27 (26):1-3, 13-14; Jn 12:1-11
- Martes: Is 49:1-6; Sal 71 (70):1-6, 15, 17; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
- Miércoles: Is 50:4-9a; Sal 69 (68):8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34; Mt 26:14-25
- Jueves: Misa del Crisma: Is 61:1-3ab, 6a, 8b-9; Sal 89 (88):21-22, 25, 27; Apo 1:5-8; Lc 4:16-21 Cena del Señor: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14; Sal 116 (115):12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15
- Viernes: Is 52:13 — 53:12; Sal 31 (30):2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1 — 19:42
- Sábado: a) Gn 1:1 — 2:2 [1:1, 26-31a]; Sal 104 (103):1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35; o Sal 33 (32):4-7, 12-13, 20-22; b) Gn 22:1-18 [1-2, 9-13, 15-18]; Sal 16 (15): 5, 8-11; c) Ex 14:15 — 15:1; Ex 15:1-6, 17-18; d) Is 54:5-14; Sal 30 (29):2, 4-6, 11-13; e) Is 55:1-11; Is 12:2-6; f) Bar 3:9-15, 32 — 4:4; Sal 19 (18):8-11; g) Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28; Sal 42 (41):3, 5; 43:3-4 o Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 o Sal 51 (50):12-15, 18-19; h) Rom 6:3-11; i) Sal 118 (117):1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Mt 28:1-10
- Domingo: Hch 10:34a, 37-43; Sal 118 (117):1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Col 3:1-4 o 1 Cor 5:6b-8; Jn 20:1-9 o Mt 28:1-10 o (en Misas de la tarde o la noche) Lc 24:13-35

## HOSANNA!

“Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest” (Matthew 21:9). With these words the Church enters the holiest of weeks, commemorating the passion, death, and resurrection of Christ. When the people of Jerusalem cried out with their “hosannas,” they were using an ancient Hebrew shout of acclamation that meant “Pray, save us.” The king to whom they were shouting eventually would save them, but in a way that would be far from what they expected. Salvation would come from the wood of the cross as Jesus hung there to bring freedom from sin and life through death, opening the gates of heaven for all who put their faith and trust in him. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

### TODAY’S READINGS

**Gospel at the Procession with Palms** — Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-11).

**First Reading** — In spite of my sufferings I am not disgraced. I am not put to shame (Isaiah 50:4-7).

**Psalm** — My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? (Psalm 22).

**Second Reading** — Christ emptied himself, and God filled this emptiness with exaltation (Philippians 2:6-11).

**Gospel** — The account of Christ’s passion according to Matthew (Matthew 26:14 — 27:66 [27:11-54]).

### HOLY WEEK AND THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM

“The days of Jesus’ life-giving death and glorious resurrection are approaching, the hour he triumphed over Satan’s pride, the time we celebrate the great event of our redemption” (Preface of the Lord’s Passion II, *Sacramentary*). Thus the Church begins the one week of the year that we formally designate as “Holy.” Simple rituals can link the domestic church to parish church and Church universal. Enthroned Sunday’s palms where you pray, behind the family crucifix, even as part of front door decorations: “Christ reigns here,” they proclaim; “all are welcome!” During the first three days of Holy Week, ready Easter clothes, prepare festal foods, clean the house, beautify the yard. Late Holy Thursday afternoon, share Lent’s final meal before the Lord’s Supper Mass. Pitcher, bowl, and towel make a fitting centerpiece; perhaps conclude the meal by washing each other’s feet. On Good Friday, observe the paschal fast from food—from TV and computer, too! Then come to Holy Saturday’s Vigil with mind clear, stomach empty, and heart full of “holy anticipation” that bursts into living flame when the new fire is kindled. Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 42:1-7; Ps 27:1-3, 13-14; Jn 12:1-11  
 Tuesday: Is 49:1-6; Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38  
 Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a; Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34; Mt 26:14-25  
 Thursday: **Chrism Mass:** Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9; Ps 89:21-22, 25, 27; Rv 1:5-8; Lk 4:16-21  
**Lord’s Supper:** Ex 12:1-8, 11-14; Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15  
 Friday: Is 52:13 — 53:12; Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-17, 25; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1 — 19:42  
 Saturday: a) Gn 1:1 — 2:2 [1:1, 26-31a]; Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35; or Ps 33:4-7, 12-13, 20-22; b) Gn 22:1-18 [1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18]; Ps 16: 5, 8-11; c) Ex 14:15 — 15:1; Ex 15:1-6, 17-18; d) Is 54:5-14; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13; e) Is 55:1-11; Is 12:2-6; f) Bar 3:9-15, 32 — 4:4; Ps 19:8-11; g) Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28; Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3-4 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 or Ps 51:12-15, 18-19; h) Rom 6:3-11; i) Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Mt 28:1-10  
 Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8; Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10 or (at an afternoon or evening Mass) Lk 24:13-35

### TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Although the procession with palms has an unforgettable grip on our imagination, the real emphasis of this day’s liturgy is contained in its name: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. Since 1955, the old custom of a blessing of palms with procession of the people has marked the entry of the Church into a time so rich that it is called “Holy Week.” The center of today’s liturgy, however, is the solemn reading of the Passion, this year taken from Mark’s Gospel. Our community is to be transformed by its celebration of Easter, and so this week everything is made new. Soon, the bishop will celebrate the “Chrism Mass” when the holy oils for the sacraments will be completely replenished and blessed, and transported from the cathedral to every parish. Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon of springtime. Be on the lookout later this week for this “paschal” moon, rising in the east at the precise moment the sun sets in the west. Imagine: a day when there is not a single moment when the earth is not bathed in light from the heavens. We are on the threshold of the three great days (Triduum): Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, beginning at sunset on Thursday when the parish gathers in response to the Lord’s command: “Do this in memory of me.” —James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (Grades K-5)

### R.E. Family Lenten Prayer

Heavenly Father,

As we enter another week of our Lenten journey, guide us to the path that leads to you.

Fill our hearts with gratitude, patience, strength, and peace, as we, through the gift of your grace, grow to become more like you.

As we renew our choice each day to become better people, let us each hear your voice in the deepest reaches of our hearts. Give us rest in you.

Help us to accept others, showing them your great love instead of casting judgment.

Stay with us through this week and remind us that when we need comfort, solitude, wisdom, or guidance, we can always turn to you.

Help us develop discipline and generosity through fasting and almsgiving, and come closer to you through prayer this Lent.

In your name we pray,  
Amen.



## SENIOR HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS (Grades 9-12)

Our prayers are with all our teens, their families and our community during this Coronavirus health crisis. Please contact us if you need anything or have questions or concerns via email at [Davem@olmercy.com](mailto:Davem@olmercy.com) or [Jeanr@olmercy.com](mailto:Jeanr@olmercy.com). Check out our LIGHT webpage for updates and news here: <https://olmercy.com/formation/light/>

### EDGE (Grades 6-8)

#### THREE PILLARS OF LENT

PRAYER

FASTING

ALMSGIVING

#### FASTING

As we continue to encourage our teens to follow the three pillars of Lent, we now take a look at *FASTING*. Fr. Mike Schmitz is well known for his videos on all types of subjects concerning our Catholic faith. Check him out & I guarantee that once you view one video, you'll continue to look at his other videos. Fr. Mike is the chaplain at the Newman Catholic Campus Ministry for The University of Minnesota Duluth. He is smart, funny, passionate about his faith & tells it like it is... he's just awesome!! Google him or check him out at:

<http://bulldogcatholic.org/about-fr-mike>

#### CHALLENGE

Check out Fr. Mike's "What's the Point of Fasting During Lent?" See what Fr. Mike has to say about fasting. **Will you give God access to your heart?**

#### ALMSGIVING: ALL YEAR LONG?

*Yes, it is Holy Week.* Well Lent is over. So why would I still want to tell you about the last pillar of Lent? Well, 1-then you'll be aware for Lent next year & 2-almsgiving isn't just about Lent. Now you may think that I'm only talking about almsgiving being where you give money to help others (like did you turn in your rice bowl yet?) And that can be a good part of almsgiving. But I'm trying to have my teens go a bit deeper even though Lent is over.

If you think about almsgiving as *offering up of our daily sufferings*, then this idea would work all year! What is *offering up all of our sufferings* anyway? If our life suddenly takes a

## Caring for the Mind, Body and Spirit

### You Are Not Alone

As we begin our journey into Holy Week, may we focus on making it a time of prayer, reflection, and an opportunity to walk with Jesus during his suffering, death and resurrection. Our faith and scripture tells us that God is always present in our lives. As we grow closer to God this week, we may experience a transformation when Easter Sunday arrives!

Our parish has an amazing number of people who would like to reach out to others. Please let us know if you could benefit from assistance or support in the following ways: grocery pick-up and delivery to your home; would like a sunshine call (you determine how often) for a caring voice to check in on you and if you would like, to pray with you; if you need resources or support as you are concerned about your mental or emotional health (for example experiencing isolation, anxiety, stress, loneliness, fear, depression or being overwhelmed).

Please contact the parish by going on the OLM website at [olmercy.com](http://olmercy.com) and click on the box “**Let us help, post your need here**” or contact Jolene LeRoy RN Director of Pastoral Care at 331-707-5380 or [jolene@olmercy.com](mailto:jolene@olmercy.com). May your Palm Sunday and Holy Week be filled with the love and blessings of the Lord!

### Coping with the Stress of Today

Stress has been defined as the ability to cope with a real or imagined threat to our well-being. Our reaction to the coronavirus pandemic may stir in us any of the three levels of stress – mild, moderate or severe. A severe stress level may turn into chronic stress. Our body has physical, mental, emotional and spiritual reactions to stress. The body’s spiritual reaction to stress may be a lack of purpose in our life, staying focused on self (negative thoughts and worries), no connection or strained relationship with God or a “tired” spirit that needs refreshing. There are many spiritual resources on the OLM website at [olmercy.com](http://olmercy.com) and emails are being sent to stay connected to our parish family. If you are not receiving emails and would like to, please go to the website and click on **Stay Connected** for directions.

The following suggestions are offered to “stress less” not only in what we are experiencing today but to make them a part of your lifetime practices. These suggestions are from Gregory L. Jantz, PhD in his book, *Six Steps to Reduce Stress: Live Simply. Live Organized. Live Healthy. Live Present. Live Grace-Full. Live Grateful*. The book provides advice in how to stress less in each step and includes Bible passages throughout to support the advice.

As you are coping with the stress that you are dealing with, the following scripture passages are offered to comfort you and help you work through your reaction to the stress you are experiencing. The source of these passages is from *The New American Bible Saint Joseph Edition*.

Joshua 1:9	Isaiah 41:10
Psalms 23:4	Matthew 11:28-30
Psalms 34:5	Luke 12:25-26
Psalms 55:23	John 14:27
Psalms 94:18-19	Philippians 4:6-7
Proverbs 3:5-6	2 Thessalonians 3:16
Proverbs 12:25	1 Peter 5:6-7

*“Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your heart and minds in Christ Jesus.”*

(Philippians 4:6-7)

## EXPLAINING THE "EASTER DUTY"

With the bishop's recent instruction to suspend hearing confessions during our governor's "stay at home order" I know many of you are feeling anxious about not being able to go to confession before Easter. Most of you, like me, grew up knowing the term "Easter Duty". Let me clarify what that means. First of all, the term "Easter Duty" is not found anywhere in the canon law of the church, nor the catechism of the church. What is stated in the canon law of the church is this:

**1. Can. 920 §1** Once admitted to the blessed Eucharist, each of the faithful is obliged to receive holy communion at least once a year. **§2** This precept must be fulfilled during paschal time, unless for a good reason it is fulfilled at another time during the year. (Paschal time means Easter Vigil through Pentecost Sunday) This year those dates are April 11 through May 31).

**2. Can. 916** Anyone who is conscious of grave sin may not celebrate Mass or receive the Body of the Lord without previously having been to sacramental confession, unless there is a grave reason and there is no opportunity to confess; in this case the person is to remember the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, which includes the resolve to go to confession as soon as possible.

These two precepts have somehow been combined in people's minds as the "Easter Duty." So yes, if you want to receive communion on Easter Sunday and are aware of having committed a mortal sin, you need to go to confession before Easter Sunday. Since there will be no public Masses on Easter, you will not be able to receive the Eucharist on Easter Sunday. So, rest assured, when the governor's order gets lifted, we will schedule many confession opportunities before Pentecost. And you will be able to fulfill your "Easter Duty."

## EXPLICANDO EL "DEBER DE PASCUA"

Con la reciente instrucción del obispo de suspender las confesiones al oído durante la "orden de permanencia en el hogar" de nuestro gobernador, sé que muchos de ustedes están ansiosos por no poder confesarse antes de Pascua. La mayoría de ustedes, como yo, crecieron conociendo el término "Deber de Pascua". Déjenme aclarar lo que eso significa. En primer lugar, el término "Deber de Pascua" no se encuentra en ninguna parte de la ley canónica de la iglesia, ni en el catecismo de la iglesia. Lo que se declara en la ley canónica de la iglesia es esto:

**1. Canon 920 §1** Una vez admitido en la santa Eucaristía, cada uno de los fieles está obligado a recibir la sagrada comunión por lo menos una vez al año. **§2** Este precepto debe cumplirse durante el tiempo pascual, a no ser que por una buena razón se cumpla en otro tiempo durante el año. (El tiempo Pascual significa desde la Vigilia Pascual hasta el domingo de Pentecostés) Este año esas fechas son del 11 de abril al 31 de mayo).

**2. Canon 916** Cualquiera que sea consciente de un pecado grave no puede celebrar la Misa o recibir el Cuerpo del Señor sin haber estado previamente en la confesión sacramental, a menos que haya una razón grave y no haya oportunidad de confesarse; en este caso, la persona debe recordar la obligación de realizar un acto de contrición perfecto, que incluye la resolución de confesarse lo antes posible.

Estos dos preceptos se han combinado de alguna manera en la mente de las personas como el "Deber de Pascua". Entonces, si Uds. desean recibir la comunión el domingo de Pascua y están conscientes de haber cometido un pecado mortal, deben confesarse antes del domingo de Pascua. Como no habrá Misas públicas en la Pascua, no podrán recibir la Eucaristía el Domingo de Pascua. Por lo tanto, tengan la seguridad de que cuando se levante la orden del gobernador, programaremos muchas oportunidades de confesión antes de Pentecostés. Y podrán cumplir con su "Deber de Pascua".

## Parish Sacrificial Giving

I have been so very grateful for your generous support of our parish. During this time of the Coronavirus Pandemic, I understand that some of you may have financial hardships and are not able to contribute at this time.

As you can imagine, with the cancelling of Sunday Masses and not being able to take a collection, our parish finances will be affected. Our average Sunday collection is \$30,00 - \$32,000. The good news is that we receive approximately 10% of our Sunday collection through online donors, so we do receive some monies.

I encourage those who are not currently donating online to consider enrolling. To enroll for online donating go to our parish website [www.olmercy.com](http://www.olmercy.com) and click on "Give" Then click on tab "Online Giving" and set up your account.

As always, thanks for your support of OLM!



~Fr. Don



We are pleased that so many parishioners have already pledged a gift to the 2020 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA). Your support will allow us to *Be Kind and Merciful* as, together, we do God's work here on earth.

Every gift brings us closer to our parish's 2020 CMAA goal of \$146,700. If we raise more than our goal, 70 percent of the amount over goal will be returned to us for our needs. This is an amazing opportunity for our parish.

Please prayerfully reflect on your pledge to this year's CMAA and make your gift today. Pledge envelopes are available in the church. You can also return the pledge card you received in the mail from the diocese, make a gift online at [jolietdioceseappeal.org](http://jolietdioceseappeal.org) or text "Donate" to (815) 205-1949 from your mobile phone.

## Mass Streamed Live

Pray with us at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on Sunday at 9:00 am and daily Mass at 8:00 am. While it is streamed live on Facebook, you can also view it on the Our Lady of Mercy website at [www.olmercy.com](http://www.olmercy.com)

## Spiritual Communion

It has long been a Catholic understanding that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion which is a source of grace. Spiritual Communion means uniting one's self in prayer with Christ's sacrifice and worshipping him in his Body and Blood. The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend Mass. Acts of Spiritual Communion increase our desire to receive sacramental Communion and help us avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive Holy Communion worthily.

### Spiritual Communion Prayer

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present  
in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive  
You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there  
and unite myself wholly to You.

### **INDULGENCES GRANTED DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

“The gift of special Indulgences is granted to the faithful suffering from COVID-19 disease, commonly known as Coronavirus, as well as to health care workers, family members and all those who in any capacity, including through prayer, care for them.”

- This is a time of suffering, especially for those who have contracted COVID-19. As such, it may be a time for us to “rediscover ‘the same redemptive suffering of Christ’ (Salvifici doloris, 30).” Trusting in Christ
- A Plenary indulgence is “granted to the faithful suffering from Coronavirus, who are subject to quarantine by order of the health authority in hospitals or in their own homes if, with a spirit detached from any sin, they unite spiritually through the media to the celebration of Holy Mass, the recitation of the Holy Rosary, to the pious practice of the Way of the Cross or other forms of devotion, or if at least they will recite the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and a pious invocation to the Blessed Virgin Mary, offering this trial in a spirit of faith in God and charity towards their brothers and sisters, with the will to fulfil the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer according to the Holy Father's intentions), as soon as possible.”
- “Health care workers, family members and all those who, following the example of the Good Samaritan, exposing themselves to the risk of contagion, care for the sick of Coronavirus according to the words of the divine Redeemer: ‘Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends’ (Jn 15: 13), will obtain the same gift of the Plenary Indulgence under the same conditions.”

An indulgence is “the expression of the Church's full confidence of being heard by the Father when - in view of Christ's merits and, by his gift, those of Our Lady and the saints - she asks him to mitigate or cancel the painful aspect of punishment by fostering its medicinal aspect through other channels of grace” (John Paul II, General Audience, September 29, 1999).

A plenary indulgence removes all the temporal punishment due to sin (CCC, 1471).

### **INDULGENCIAS CONCEDIDAS DURANTE LA PANDEMIA DEL COVID-19**

"El don de Indulgencias especiales se concede a los fieles que padecen la enfermedad del COVID-19, comúnmente conocida como Coronavirus, así como a los trabajadores de la salud, a los miembros de la familia y a todos aquellos que, en cualquier capacidad, incluso con la oración, cuidan de ellos".

- Este es un tiempo de sufrimiento, especialmente para aquellos que han contraído el COVID-19. Como tal, puede ser un tiempo para que "redescubramos ‘el mismo sufrimiento redentor de Cristo’ (Salvifici doloris, 30)". Confiando en Cristo.
- Una indulgencia Plenaria es “concedida a los fieles que padecen de Coronavirus, que están sujetos a cuarentena por orden de la autoridad de salud en hospitales o en sus propios hogares si, con un espíritu separado de cualquier pecado, se unen espiritualmente a través de los medios de comunicación a la celebración de la Santa Misa, la recitación del Santo Rosario, a la práctica piadosa del Vía Crucis u otras formas de devoción, o si al menos recitaran el Credo, el Padre Nuestro y una invocación piadosa a la Santísima Virgen María , ofreciendo esta prueba en un espíritu de fe en Dios y caridad hacia sus hermanos y hermanas, con la voluntad de cumplir las condiciones habituales (confesión sacramental, comunión Eucarística y oración según las intenciones del Santo Padre), lo antes posible ”.
- “Los trabajadores de la salud, familiares y todos aquellos que, siguiendo el ejemplo del Buen Samaritano, exponiéndose al riesgo de contagio, cuidan a los enfermos de Coronavirus de acuerdo con las palabras del divino Redentor: 'Nadie tiene mayor amor que esto: dar su vida por sus amigos' (Juan 15: 13), obtendrán el mismo don de la Indulgencia Plenaria bajo las mismas condiciones ”.

Una indulgencia es "la expresión de la plena confianza de la Iglesia de ser escuchada por el Padre cuando - en vista de los méritos de Cristo y, por su don, los de Nuestra Señora y los santos - ella le pide que mitigue o cancele el aspecto doloroso del castigo fomentando su aspecto medicinal a través de otros canales de gracia” (Juan Pablo II, Audiencia General, 29 de septiembre de 1999).

Una indulgencia plenaria elimina todo el castigo temporal debido al pecado (CCC, 1471).



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Thank you for supporting our parish!!

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:**

Saturday 3:00-3:45pm; Reconciliation services held seasonally.

**SICK AND HOMEBOUND**

Contact the Parish Office so we may help you in any way possible.

**HOSPITALIZATION:** If you anticipate a hospitalization or are admitted to an area hospital and would like a visit from a priest or Eucharistic Minister, please notify the parish office.

**BAPTISMS:** Registered parishioners wishing their child baptized must attend a parent meeting held the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Baptisms are held at 12 noon the first Saturday of the month and at 2:00 p.m. the second Sundays of the month. Baptisms are not celebrated during Lent.

**WEDDINGS:** The bride, groom or either set of parents must be registered members of the parish for at least six months prior to scheduling a wedding. Weddings may be scheduled no less than six months out in order to fulfill the diocesan marriage preparation requirements. Contact Diane Reiter, ext. 221.

**NEW PARISHIONERS:** We welcome you! Please register by attending our "New Parishioner Registration/Welcoming" meeting the last Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m. For more info call: 851-3444, ext. 221.

**HOSPITALITY:** "Hospitality" weekend is held in the Parish Life Center Multi Purpose Room after all Saturday/Sunday Masses on the last full weekend of each month (excluding December).

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY, Voicemail-ext. 400**

CHURCH NAME AND NUMBER—

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Microsoft Publisher 2002

PRINTER—

Acrobat 6.0

TRANSMISSION—

Via Email  
Day: Tuesday

NUMBER OF PAGES SENT—

1 through 11

SUNDAY DATE OF BULLETIN—

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS—

Please print and ship 100 copies of the bulletin.

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