

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

Today we celebrate the glorious entry of Jesus into the Jerusalem, the Palm Sunday. Today we mark the beginning of the Holy Week and the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ.

On this Palm Sunday, both readings talk about the suffering and humility of Jesus. The first reading presents the suffering servant of God. In the second reading, Paul reminds us about the humility of Jesus that: "Though, he was in the form of God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." Yes, suffering and humility are the essential qualities everyone should have if we want to become a true Christian, because suffering is part of Christian life and without humility no one can accept suffering in his or her life.

The celebration of this Sunday is full of symbols. Some of the most important symbols today include the palms, the donkey, and the crowd. The Palms represent the royalty of Christ and his peaceful reign; the donkey is a symbol of the humility of Christ the king. Though He is king yet, he chose to ride on the lowliest and weakest of animals, the donkey. This is contrary to what we see today in our world, where our rulers and leaders live in the best conditions while their people live in worst condition. By this act, Christ not only demonstrates his humility, but also demonstrates his solidarity with the poor and the weak. So, it is not surprising why many people came out to honor and show solidarity to Him as he enters Jerusalem today.

Today, the Palm Sunday celebrations are for two reasons. The first is to honor Christ the king as He enters the royal city to assume His throne. This is why we sing: "Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna to the son of David, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord." The second reason is, in order to express our solidarity with Christ, as He begins His most difficult journey that will bring us salvation ultimately. So, as we sing hosanna today, we must ask God for the grace to remain faithful to him till the end. However, the sad news is that many of those who sing hosanna today might be the same people, soon to shout "crucify him, crucify him" on Good Friday. These episodes simply reflect the way we live our lives most times. They also reflect how unfaithful we can be at times in our relationship with Christ. Today we are for Christ, tomorrow we are against him. Christ is our friend when we are in difficulty, but our enemy when things are working well for us. It also shows how we relate with one another. Today we are friends and tomorrow we are arch enemies.

Brothers and sisters, we can do better if only we can learn humility and patience from Christ. We can do better if only we are ready to offer all for the good of our neighbors as Christ is about to do this week for our good. So, it is important, that we ask God for the grace to remain steadfast to him and to our brothers and sisters at all moments of our lives. As we show solidarity to Christ today, let us also extend it to others. This is because in others there is both Christ the humble king, and Christ the suffering servant of God. May the Good Lord shower His graces upon us to walk with Him and to experience His glory. **Amen.**

A Day of Serenity and Solitude

Join others online for "A Day of Serenity and Solitude" on **Friday, April 16**. Experience the gift of connection to the sacred with others who are intentionally spending a day of quiet reflection. We will begin the day together on Zoom for shared prayer, inspiration and suggestions for reflection. At the end of the day we will gather again to share our experience and a closing blessing. The event takes place from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The fee is \$25 for an online Zoom in your home. To register, call 270-229-0206 or email retreatcenter@maplemount.org or <https://ursulinesmsj.org/registration-form-for-sponsored-programs/>

Holy Week Schedule

- Holy Thursday - St. Sebastian - 6:00pm
- Good Friday - St. Sebastian - 6:00pm
- Easter Vigil - St. Sebastian - 8:00pm
- Easter Sunday - St. Sebastian - 8:30am
- St. Charles - 10:30am

Those of you who have signed up for ministries are encouraged to be present early please. Thank you.



Thanks to everyone for your generous contributions to Our Churches during this unfortunate time. God Bless & Be Safe.

Financial Report - March 21, 2021

St. Sebastian- Amount Needed: \$2,938.09 weekly

Regular Collection	\$ 2,088.00 - 850.09
Emergency Fund	\$ 385.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$ 60.00
Sick & Infirm Priests	\$ 70.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 150.00

Financial Report - March 21, 2021

St. Charles - Amount Needed: \$1,147.46 weekly

Regular Collection	\$ 1,525.00 + 377.54
Emergency Fund	\$ 10.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 10.00

Mass Schedule

March 28 - April 4

Sunday - Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian

Bill Caraway

-10:30am - Mass at St. Charles

Judith Ann Howard Phelps

Monday - Monday of Holy Week

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian

Joe Bickett

Tuesday - Tuesday of Holy Week

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian

Alvin Bickett

Wednesday - Wednesday of Holy Week

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian

Danny Edwards

-5:30pm - Mass at St. Charles

June Evans

Thursday - Holy Thursday (For Both Churches)

-6:00pm - Mass at St. Sebastian

Lisa Young

Friday - Good Friday (For Both Churches)

-6:00pm - Mass at St. Sebastian

Wanda Green

Saturday - Holy Saturday (For Both Churches)

-9:00am - Decorating Church

-8:00pm - Easter Sunday (Vigil)

Morgan Farley

Sunday - Easter Sunday

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian

Robert Vollman

-10:30am - Mass at St. Charles

M.C. & Barbara Roberts

St. Sebastian - Happy Anniversary

Charles & Becky Cheatham - March 29

Prayer List for members of our community:

Melanie Mayes, Jason Evans, Lisa Jackson, Ethan Settle, Jimmy Clayton, Pat Calhoun, Sonny Renfrow, Kimberly Nowak, Todd Tichenor, Kimberly Stiles, Louis & Alice Weise, Callie Hayden, Mary Jewell, Tom Schutte, Evelyn Drury, Bill Abney, Debbie Dunn, and Ben Dunn

Please pray for our Military

MMN1 Andrew Logsdon, SSgt. James (J.P.) Dye, John Randall Zaremba, Major Jack Kaina, Major Bradley Summers, Lance Corporal Marine Joseph Ryan Hunter, Lt. Col. Michael Rezebek. A.B. Phillip Wilson, Specialist 4 Chaz McKay, Sgt. Adam Dickey, and Corpsman Aly Franklin

Guidelines for Resuming Parish Gatherings Outside the Liturgy

- Limit the persons in attendance to no more than 25.
- Maintain physical distance of six feet minimum from those not living within the same household.
- Wear face covering over mouth and nose. Based on CDC recommendations, everyone over the age of two must wear a mask for the duration of any event or meeting held on parish property. Those unable to wear a face mask at the event, whether it be due to age (the CDC does not recommend those under the age of two to wear a mask), health condition, or preference, are asked to stay healthy at home.
- Conduct temperature and health checks for each participant.
- Ensure proper, frequent cleaning and sanitation of the gathering space, including restrooms.
- Maintain a record of all persons attending the event/meeting and their contact information.
- Follow State of Kentucky Healthy at Work Requirements for Restaurants and Bars for any form of food service. A summary follows:
 - o No indoor food or beverage consumption.
 - o Carryout and delivery encouraged.
 - o Outside tables or booths should be placed six (6) feet apart.
 - o Only those living within the same household should sit together.
 - o Use disposable napkins, tablecloths, utensils and condiments. Condiments must be single-use, disposable packages.
 - o If non-disposable linens (such as cloth napkins, tablecloths, wiping cloths) are used, they must be laundered between uses.
- Ensure that gloves are worn by employees/volunteers who clean or handle high-touch areas of the gathering space.
- Encourage volunteers and attendees to frequently wash their hands and/or use hand sanitizer, provided by the event organizer.
- Use appropriate disinfectants to clean frequently touched surfaces and shared equipment.
- Use signage to alert attendees of required occupancy limits, six feet of physical distance and the facial covering requirements.
- Parishes should add a rider to rental contracts specifying that the renter is bound to abide by all government and diocesan restrictions that are in place at the time of the event.

Fish Fry Support Signs

If you have a fish fry yard sign please bring back to the Church for us to use next year. Thank you for supporting our Church's fish fries for 2021!

St. Sebastian - Happy Birthday

Greg Abney - March 31

Marc Searcy - April 3

Safe Environment Announcement

The safety of our children is the responsibility of every Christian. Anyone aware of the abuse of a person under the age of eighteen is required by law to report this to the proper state authorities (270) 338-2240; local law enforcement (270) 273-3276; or the Kentucky Child Abuse Hotline (toll-free: 1-877-597- 2331). To report abuse to the diocese, current or past, by anyone acting in the name of the Church (paid or volunteer), call Louanne Payne, Pastoral Assistance Coordinator (English) on the confidential phone line: 270-852-8380, or Susan Montalvo-Gesser/Miguel Quintanilla, Pastoral Assistance Coordinators (Spanish): 270-880-8360. The Diocese of Owensboro's sexual abuse policy is available on the bookshelf in back of the church, in the parish office, and the diocesan website (<https://owensborodiocese.org/safe>).