Meditation for Palm Sunday

“...he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness...becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”
Philippians 2:6-8

Read Matthew 26:14—27:66

Deeper Gospel Living

During World War II, Maximilian Kolbe, a Franciscan priest, sheltered Polish refugees, including about two thousand Jewish people. He was arrested and incarcerated at Auschwitz, a Nazi concentration camp. In July of 1941, a prisoner escaped and, in typical Nazi fashion, the officers picked ten men to be starved to death as a means of discouraging others from fleeing. One of the chosen was Polish army sergeant Franciszek Gajowniczek. Because he had a wife and children, Maximilian volunteered to take the sergeant's place. The Nazis agreed, and Maximilian and the other condemned men were consigned to a kind of dungeon where they languished. Kolbe was canonized in 1982, forty years later.

Jesus rode into Jerusalem with the people lining the road, shouting his praises. A short time later, they were shouting for him to be crucified. Obviously their praise of Jesus as he entered Jerusalem was shallow—they possessed a casual, not a committed, faith. Maximilian Kolbe is a modern-day saint who shows us what it means to be a committed disciple of Jesus Christ. While Auschwitz, like Calvary, is a grim place that has been preserved to remind us of the worst possibilities of human behavior, it also memorializes the best possibilities by reminding us of what can happen when someone lives by the words of Jesus: “This is my commandment to you, that you love one another.”

Act: Take a step toward spiritual growth today.
I will give myself again to Christ by consciously making him the center of my life. I will follow his commands this day by sacrificing for the sake of another.

Pray: Lord, fill me with a deep desire to live by your words to love others. Amen.

From The Living Gospel
By Sr. Terry Rickard, OP
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Mission Statement
To proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ: to educate, to evangelize,
To seek and reach out, and to provide charity and service to all.

Pastor’s Corner

Dear Parishioners,

There is something about this day in the life of Christ that I have never quite been able to figure out. It is that procession from the Mount of Olives to the city of Jerusalem that we commemorate by re-enacting it each year. In my mind, I can see the route he took across the Kidron Valley as vividly as I when saw it for the first time in early June, 1990. I can easily imagine him riding on the back of a donkey with a crowd of people accompanying him and waving palms. I also immediately think of the royal processional hymn, Psalm 24, sung as a sitting King entered Jerusalem, “Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted, you ancient portals, that the king of glory may enter. Who is this king of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in war.” This was supposed to be a triumphal entry, the entry of a king.

But in reality, it wasn’t. How could anyone mistake Jesus of Nazareth for a “king of glory”, returning triumphantly to his royal city? The man who rode on that donkey was dressed in a poor man’s clothes. The people who accompanied him were not a victorious army laden with captured spoils. They were as poor and powerless as he was. I can’t help but think that some in that crowd though it was a lark. When some shouted out “Hosanna” and waved their palms, they were mocking him. Jesus must have known just how dangerous Jerusalem was for him at that moment, even if the disciples hadn’t a clue or were blinded by their own expectations. Only Thomas, who always took a hard view of reality, seemed to understand. “Let us also go to die with him,” Thomas said as the journey to Jerusalem began (John 11:16).

Still, Jesus mounted the donkey and rode. He rode knowing that what he was doing would either be misinterpreted or used as a pretext to kill him. Rather than being an act of bravado, I think it was instead a moment of courage and humility. If Jesus believed this is how God his Father wanted him to enter the holy city, then that is how he would enter. I think about how uncomfortable I am at times being the center of attention. If he could climb on the back of that donkey that day out of love and devotion for his Father in heaven, maybe you and I should be ready to do the same.

God bless you, Fr. Joe

Mass Intentions
Week of April 13, 2014

Sunday, April 13
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
8:30 a.m. +Vincent Cosgrove, Sr.
11:00 a.m. +Grace Perrone

Monday, April 14
9:00 a.m. +Glenn Gibbs

Tuesday, April 15
9:00 a.m. +Anna Sayan

Wednesday, April 16
9:00 a.m. Communion Service

Holy Thursday, April 17
7:00 p.m. Pro Populo

Good Friday, April 18
7:00 p.m. Passion Service

Holy Saturday, April 19
8:00 p.m. +Cosgrove Family

Sunday, April 20
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
8:00 a.m. Rose Bryzzese
10:00 a.m. +James David Wright (Church)
10:00 a.m. Pat Severson (Hall)
Noon-Bi-Lingual Pro Populo
Ministry Schedule
Holy Week

Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors—please see insert for schedules.

Calendar of Events
Week of April 13th, 2014

Sunday, April 13 Palm Sunday
Family Day Brunch after 8:30 a.m. Mass—Everyone is invited.

Monday, April 14
11:00 a.m. SVDP Meeting
Noon Easter Boxes Set-up

Tuesday, April 15
3:00 p.m. Brightview Asst. Living
3:00 p.m. Easter Boxes Distributed
NO Youth Group-Rel.Ed Mid.Sch.

Wednesday, April 16
10:00 a.m. Food Pantry

Holy Thursday, April 17
9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
11:00 a.m. So. River Rehab Prayer Service
7:00 p.m. Mass of Lord’s Supper
8:30 p.m. Adoration in Chapel
9:45 p.m. Night Prayer

Good Friday, April 18
Office & SVDP Closed
9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
1:00 p.m. Confession
3:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross
7:00 p.m. Passion Service

Holy Saturday, April 19
9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
8:00 p.m. Vigil Mass

Sunday, April 20
Easter Sunday
8:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
10:00 a.m. Mass (Church)
10:00 a.m. Mass (Hall)
Noon—Bi-lingual (Church)

From the Desk of Sr. Kass

Going to Mass and receiving the Eucharist should make a difference in the way Catholics live, Pope Francis said; they should be more accepting of others and more aware of their sinfulness. "If we don't feel in need of God's mercy and don't think we are sinners, it is better not to go to Mass," Pope Francis said. The Eucharist is a celebration of Christ's gift of himself for the salvation of sinners, which is why the Mass begins with people confessing they are sinners and begging for the Lord's mercy.

Do you go to Mass because it's a habit or a time to see your friends? the pope asked. "Or is it something more? When we go to Mass, we find ourselves with all sorts of people," the pope said. "Does the Eucharist we celebrate lead me to consider all of them as brothers and sisters? Does it increase my ability to rejoice when they do and to weep with those who weep?"

Pope Francis said it is not enough to say one loves Jesus; it must be shown in love for those he loved. Ask yourself, he said, if going to Mass helps you reach out to the suffering or "am I indifferent, or am I gossiping, 'Did you see how that one's dressed?' Sometimes people do that after Mass. But this shouldn't happen." Attendance at Mass also should lead to "the grace of feeling forgiven and able to forgive others," he said.

"We go to Mass because we know we are sinners and want Jesus' forgiveness," the pope said. "When, at the beginning of Mass, we say, 'I confess,' it's not something pro forma. It's a real act of penance."

DAILY MASS READINGS

13 Sunday—Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
Ez 37: 12-14/Ps 130: 1-8/Rom 8: 8-11/Jn 11: 1-49 or Jn 11: 3-7, 12, 20, 27, 33b-45

14 Monday of Holy Week

15 Tuesday of Holy Week
Is 49: 1-6/Ps 71: 1-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15, 17/Jn 13: 21-33, 36-38

16 Wednesday of Holy Week
Is 50: 4-9a/Ps 69: 8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34/Mt 26: 14-25

17 Thursday of the Lord's Supper (Holy Thursday)
Ex 12: 1-8, 11-14/Ps 116: 12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18/1 Cor 11: 23-26/Jn 13: 1-15

19 Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)

19 Easter Vigil of the Holy Night (Holy Saturday)
Gn 1: 1-2; 2: 2/Ps 104: 1-2, 5-6, 10, 12-14, 24,35/Ps 16: 5, 8-11/Bar 3: 9-15, 32—4:4/Mt 28: 1010

20 Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
Matthew: The King and His Kingdom
Session 15 on Monday, April 28
Tuesday, April 29


In two weeks Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II will be made saints of our Church in the process called “canonization”. Both men brought incredible gifts and talents to their service to God’s people. This week I would like to share with you the words of Blessed John XXIII as we enter Holy Week. This is what he said as he was receiving his last anointing before he died.

The secret of my ministry is in the crucifix you see opposite my bed. It is there so I can see it in my first waking moment and before going to sleep. It is there so I can talk to it during long night hours. Look at it and see it as I see it. Those open arms have been the program of my pontificate; they say that Christ died for all, for all. No one is excluded from his love, from his forgiveness.

Would you like to become a saint? You might start by putting a crucifix in your bedroom. Next week, I will quote some thoughts on Easter written by Blessed John Paul II.

Fr. Joe

New Parish Picture Directory

Every 5 years our parish produces a new picture directory. Many have said they missed the last one and are definitely going to get in this one. A big benefit is that you will receive a free directory by participating!!! That is the ONLY way to get a directory.

Pictures will be taken Tuesday, May 27—2:00—9:00 pm
Wednesday, May 28: 2:00—9:00 pm
Thursday, May 29: 2:00—9:00 pm
Friday, May 30: 2:00-9:00 pm
Saturday, May 31: 9:00 am—4:00 pm
Tuesday, June 3: 2:00—9:00 pm
Wednesdays, June 4 and 11: 2:00—9:00 pm

Go to: www.olph.net and click on the Lifetouch link to sign up for a time. Watch for sign-up opportunities after Mass and at parish events.
PARISH & SOCIAL CONCERNS

SVDP – Our food pantry assisted 21 clients and 46 family members this week. Food pantry needs cereal (hot/cold), raviolis, soup (all kinds), canned meats/tuna, mac & cheese, jelly, peanut butter. There have been more hungry people coming to the pantry. Thank you for your prayers and continued support for this ministry.

Prom Dress Attire—Your help will enable a young lady to attend her prom. Items needed: prom dresses, shoes, hand bags. If you can donate, call Claire (202-669-1190) or drop items at St. John’s Church, Route 2, Lothian. See Mary Carico (410-867-1258) if you have questions.

Lost & Found Department—We have a North Bay red and black winter jacket, size 8 (Boys), and a grey OMG hoodie in the religious education office. These articles will be kept until the end of the month; if no one claims them, they will go to the Goodwill.

Haiti Car Raffle—We joined St. Mary’s Church, Landover Hills in a Car Raffle and will receive half of the price of each ticket sold to help support our sister parish. Three 2014 Lincolns and one 2015 Lincoln are to be raffled off on May 17th. Tickets are $5/each. If you can sell tickets, please email Judy Blair at jblair999@verizon.net. If you sell the winning ticket, you receive $1,000. It is a “win-win” situation for all who participate.

SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation—4:00-4:30 p.m. Saturday or by appointment.

Baptism Class—If you want your child baptized, please call Ms. Pat at 443-203-1002 x12 or x14. No baptism classes during the Lenten Season. Next baptism class will be during month of May, date to be decided. Parents must pre-register for class and if no one registers, there will be NO class.

Matrimony: Couples must call the parish office for information on preparation at least six months prior to marriage.

GIFT LIST

New copier for parish office: $10,000
New refrigerator for rectory: $1200
Mirror for ladies’ room: $300
Wine for the month of July: $70

TWEET

Tonight during family prayer, we asked our 3-yr-old where wine comes from. She replied, “Water.” Speechless...I’ve never been more proud.
MINISTRY SCHEDULE

APRIL 17TH – HOLY THURSDAY

7:00 P.M.
Servers: Jim & Christie Whipple, Jooanne Chisholm, Mike Goff,
Eucharistic Ministers:
   Arlene Morgan, Francine Jablonski, Bob Beasley, Betty Fox,
   Margaret Wood, Sue Clayton
Lectors: Bill Kraus, Carla Duls

APRIL 18TH – GOOD FRIDAY

3:00 P.M. – Stations of the Cross
Servers: Joanne Chisholm, Mike Goff, plus 1

7:00 P.M.
Servers: Joanne Chisholm, Sophia Pessagno, Jamie Wood,
   Pam Prewitt
Eucharistic Ministers:
   Eugenia Pessagno, Betty Fox, Carla Duls
Lectors: Francine Jablonski, Kelly Passero

APRIL 19TH – EASTER VIGIL

8:00 P.M.
Servers: Joanne Chisholm, Lisa & Norman Drevo, Pam Prewitt,
   Mike Goff
Eucharist Ministers:
   Arlene Morgan, Bob Beasley, Kelly Passero, Ken Hayden,
Lectors: Bill Kraus, plus 1
APRIL 20TH – EASTER SUNDAY

8:00 a.m. – Church
Servers: Sophia Pessagno, plus 3
Eucharistic Ministers:
   BJ Lewis, Eugenia Pessagno, Ken Hayden, plus 3
Lectors: Dick & Anne Maio

10:00 a.m. – Church
Servers: Jamie Wood, Tim Connelly, plus 2
Eucharistic Ministers:
   Kathy Marohl, Richard & Liz Howard, Regina Umberger,
      DeDe Connelly, Sue Clayton
Lectors: Margaret Wood, Kelly Passero

10:00 a.m. – Marian Hall
Servers: Kristin Ross, plus 3
Eucharistic Ministers:
   Pat & Bob Shutta, Lee & Jackie Heath, Mary Bennett,
      Marjorie Fox
Lectors: Jim Whipple, Mike Ross

Noon – Bi-lingual – Church
Servers: Need 4
Eucharistic Ministers:
   Carla Duls, plus 5
Lectors: Need 1 English; need 1 Spanish
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church

Holy Week Schedule

Holy Thursday
Mass of the Lord’s Supper at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday
Stations of the Cross at 3:00 p.m.
Passion Service at 7:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday
Easter Vigil begins at 8:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday
Mass at 8:00 a.m.,
10:00 a.m. (church and hall)
Noon (Bi-lingual)
Knights of Columbus
Good Friday Fish Fry

Friday, April 18th
4:00 - 8:00 PM
2590 Solomons Island Road, Edgewater, MD 21037

Cost: $10, includes ample portion of Fish, French Fries, and one other side (Cole Slaw, Potato Salad, or Bean Salad), plus Fountain Soda with free refills.

Kids under 10: $5 for fish, 1 side and soda

Eat in or take-out available