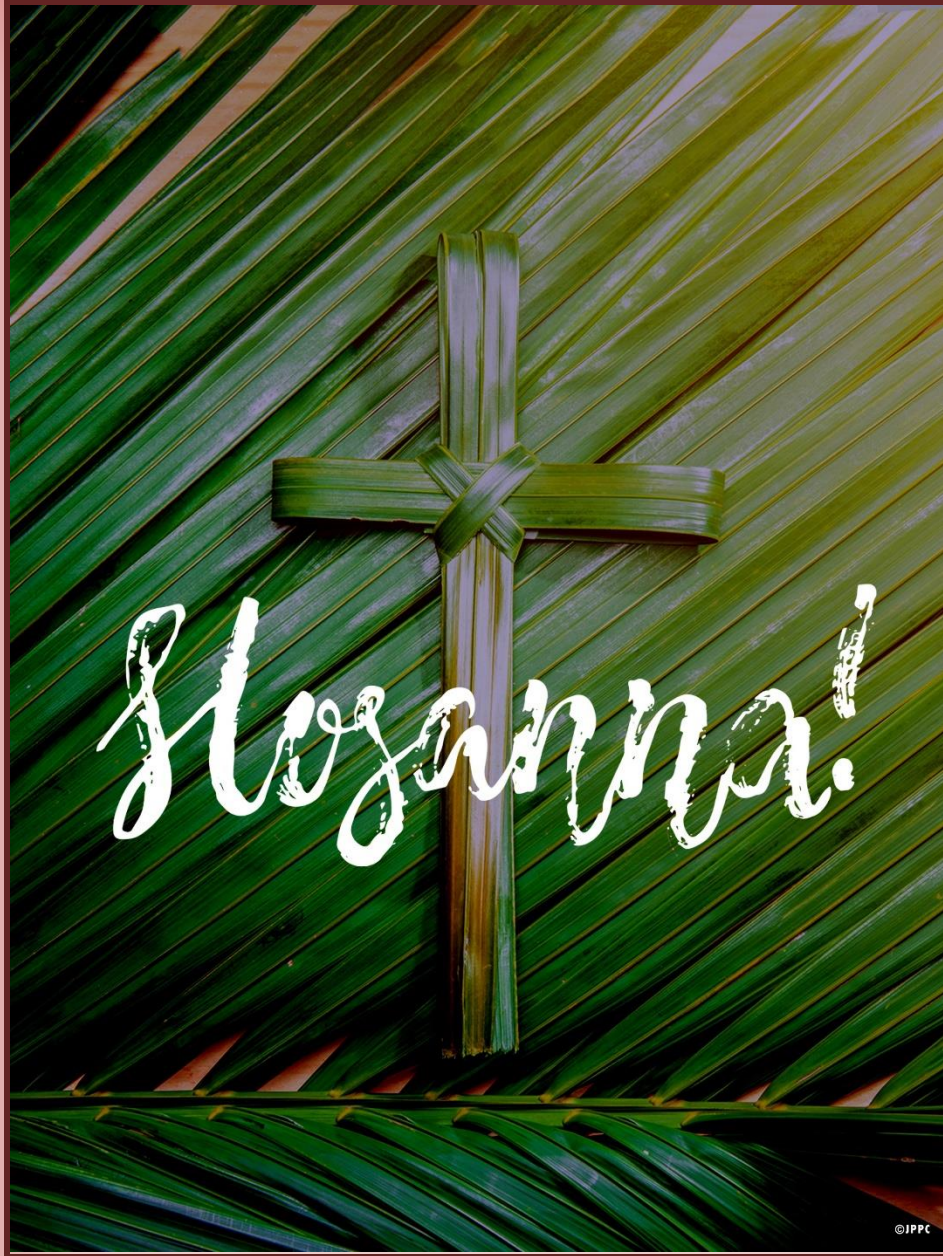


# **Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion**

## **March 24, 2024**



**Transfiguration of the Lord Parish**

**Saint Mary 14 Park Street + Sacred Heart 58 Church Street + Saint Mark 105 Stanley Street  
North Attleborough, Massachusetts**

## Transfiguration of the Lord Parish

Rev. David A. Costa, Pastor  
Rev. Deacon Joseph E. Regali, Parish Deacon  
Sister Kathleen A. Corrigan, S.U.S.C., Pastoral Associate  
Rev. Kenneth R. Sicard, O.P. & Rev. R. Gabriel Pivarnik, O.P., Weekend Assistants  
Mrs. Martha O'Neill, Administrative Assistant  
Mrs. Jean Howard, Business Manager  
Mrs. Elaine Corvese, Director of Religious Education  
Mrs. Lisa Serak, Principal, Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School  
Mr. Adam Turcotte, Director of Music  
Mr. Miguel Peixoto, Buildings Supervisor  
Mr. James Kitsock, Building Maintenance

### Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School

Mrs. Lisa Serak, Principal  
57 Richards Avenue,  
North Attleborough, Massachusetts 02760  
(508) 695-3072 FAX (508) 695-9074  
[smsh@smsh.dfrcs.org](mailto:smsh@smsh.dfrcs.org) [www.smshschool.com](http://www.smshschool.com)

### Saint Mary Cemetery

Mr. Jarrod Ward, Superintendent  
Towne Street  
North Attleborough, Massachusetts 02760  
(508) 695-1173 or email [ripco@comcast.net](mailto:ripco@comcast.net)

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saint Mary Church • Saturday 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm

### Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated on designated Sunday afternoons at 12:30 pm, with a limit of four families at each baptism. Please contact the office at [stmaryna@noozi.com](mailto:stmaryna@noozi.com) for more information and available dates/locations.

### Sacrament of Marriage

Marriage is usually celebrated on Saturday morning and afternoon. Please contact the Parish Office at least nine months in advance to begin preparation.

### Sacrament of the Sick

Pastoral care to those in need of the sacrament of the sick is arranged through the parish office. Please call to arrange a visit.

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is offered on the first Friday of each month in **Saint Mark Church** beginning at 9:00 am and ending at 6:00 pm with Benediction.

### Parish Offering

If you are attending in person, you may drop your contribution in the collection basket. You are welcome to mail your budget envelope to the parish office, at 14 Park Street, North Attleborough, MA 02760. You may also leave your envelope in the drop box located outside the parish office door, to the right on the landing. Thank you for your ongoing support!

### Weekend Masses

Saturday 4:00 pm **Saint Mary Church**  
Sunday 8:00 am **Saint Mark Church**  
Sunday 9:30 am **Saint Mary Church**  
Sunday 11:00 am **Sacred Heart Church**

### Weekday Masses

Monday 8:00 am **Saint Mark Church**  
Tuesday 4:30 pm **Saint Mark Church**  
Wednesday 6:30 pm **Saint Mark Church (Lent)**  
Thursday 8:00 am Communion Service  
**Saint Mark Church**

**Links to:** Transfiguration of the Lord Facebook page  
<https://www.facebook.com/Transfiguration-of-the-Lord-Parish-North-Attleborough-106529317647894/>

YouTube at <https://tinyurl.com/ysfaxaty>

### Parish Office

14 Park Street, North Attleborough,  
Massachusetts 02760

Parish e-mail • [stmaryna@noozi.com](mailto:stmaryna@noozi.com)  
Parish website • [www.saintmaryna.com](http://www.saintmaryna.com)  
Phone 508-695-6161 Fax 508-695-5248  
Faith Formation • [TransfigurationRelEd@gmail.com](mailto:TransfigurationRelEd@gmail.com)  
Faith Formation • 508-695-3823  
Music Ministry • [transfiguration.na.music@gmail.com](mailto:transfiguration.na.music@gmail.com)



## March 23/24 – Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

### **Saturday**

4:00 pm

### **March 23 – Vigil (St. Mary)**

Tony Giglio

George E. Landry

### **Sunday**

8:00 am

### **March 24 (St. Mark)**

Paul J. Briggs, Sr.

### **Sunday**

9:30 am

### **March 24 (St. Mary)**

William, Richard, & Raymond Vandette, Jr.

### **Sunday**

11:00 am

### **March 24 (Sacred Heart)**

Maura O'Heir Chapman

Jose & Maria Jose Botelho

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### **Monday**

8:00 am

### **March 25 (St. Mark)**

Marybeth Christiansen

### **Tuesday**

4:30 pm

### **March 26 (St. Mark)**

People of the Parish

### **Wednesday**

6:30 pm

### **March 27 (St. Mark)**

Rev. Richard W. Beaulieu

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## March 28/29/30 – The Sacred Triduum

### **Thursday**

7:00 pm

### **March 28 (St. Mary)**

Mass of the Lord's Supper

### **Friday**

7:00 pm

### **March 29 (St. Mary)**

Service of the Lord's Passion

### **Saturday**

7:00 pm

### **March 30 (St. Mary)**

Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

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## March 31 – Easter Sunday

### **Sunday**

8:00 am

### **March 31 (St. Mark)**

Easter Flower Memorials

### **Sunday**

9:30 am

### **March 31 (St. Mary)**

Easter Flower Memorials

### **Sunday**

11:00 am

### **March 31 (Sacred Heart)**

Easter Flower Memorials

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## Parish Contributions

Collection for March 16/17: \$13,523.40

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## Stations of the Cross



Join us this **Friday afternoon, March 29**, beginning at **3:00 p.m.** in Saint Mary Church, for the Stations of the Cross. This week, Father David and Sister Kathee will lead the prayer. All are most welcome to join us for this traditional Lenten devotion!

## The Sacred Triduum



The most sacred days of our entire Church year, the Sacred Triduum will soon be upon us. Plan now to join us for these inspiring and beautiful liturgies. The Sacred Triduum will be celebrated on March 28, 29, and 30/31. Thursday, Friday and Saturday liturgies will be held at Saint Mary Church. Easter Sunday Masses will follow our usual Sunday schedule of times and places.

### **Holy Thursday, March 28:**

Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 p.m.

Prayer before the Repository, St. Mary Church Hall

Night Prayer will be prayed at 11:00 p.m., St. Mary Church Hall.

### **Good Friday, March 29:**

Stations of the Cross at 3:00 p.m.

Service of the Lord's Passion at 7:00 p.m.

### **Holy Saturday, March 30:**

Easter Vigil at 7:00 p.m.

*NOTE: there is no 4:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, March 30*

### **Easter Sunday, March 31:**

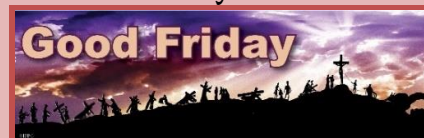
Masses at 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

## Please Note: Easter Collection

Next Sunday, Easter Sunday, there will be two collections taken during the Preparation Rite at Mass. As is the custom in the Diocese of Fall River, the second collection taken on Easter Sunday helps support the retired priests of the Diocese. The first collection that is taken will be for the continued support of Transfiguration of the Lord Parish.

You, our faithful parishioners, are so supportive and generous. As we look forward to the celebration of the Lord's Resurrection, please know my sincere gratitude for your continued generosity!

## Good Friday Procession



The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a walk of the of the Cross from Sacred Heart Church to St. Mary Church through the streets of North Attleboro just prior to the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. We will meet at the stairs of Sacred Heart Church at 2pm and begin the procession with song and prayer at 2:15pm. We will arrive at St. Mary Church at 2:45pm for the Stations of the Cross at 3:00pm. Please join us. All are welcome.

## Lenten Charity:

### **Holy Union Sisters in Tanzania, Africa**

As announced at the beginning of Lent, our common, parish charity for Lent will be the ministries of the Holy Union Sisters in Tanzania, Africa. The people of North Attleborough have had a connection with the Holy Union since the Sisters first arrived 100 years ago to staff the new Sacred Heart School. That relationship continues in the person of Sister Kathee, our pastoral associate. Kathee also serves on the two-person Leadership Team for the United States area of Holy Union and has met the Sisters who serve in Tanzania and can attest to both the great need for financial support and assistance and the exciting potential for growth and development in this African nation.

The Tanzanian area of the Holy Union congregation was founded in 1973, when two Sisters from the Anglo-Hibernian Province arrived to do education work. The number of Sisters and the works they are conducting have increased significantly over these fifty years. Our financial sacrifices/gifts will be used specifically for three projects the Sisters have designated during this their Jubilee year: an Autism Unit at the Matumaini Center the Sisters conduct for children with physical disabilities; a Novitiate House for the growing number of young women who are seeking to become Holy Union Sisters. At present there are 16 native Tanzanians in formation; and a Health Centre in the village of Churwi, adjacent to a primary school (2,000 pupils) the Sisters conduct.

With today's bulletin you will find a large white envelope marked: "Lenten Collection 2024." You are invited to use this envelope when making your Lenten sacrifice donation for the good works of the Sisters in Tanzania. Envelopes may be dropped in the collection basket at weekend Mass, dropped at the parish office, or sent through the mail. **If you are writing a check, please make the check out to Transfiguration of the Lord Parish.** When all of the funds are collected, the parish will write one single check to the Holy Union Sisters.

Many, many thanks for your consideration and participation in this parish Lenten project. By supporting the ministries and formation of the Sisters in Tanzania, we are remembering that we belong to a global Church. In this international Faith community, we support each other with our prayer and our resources. We are so blessed here in North Attleborough. Let us share our blessings – generously – with this growing, enthusiastic, and energetic region of our Church!

On behalf of the Sisters and those they serve throughout Tanzania:

*Mungu awabariki sana!  
(May God bless you abundantly!)*



## **New Website & New Online Giving Platform**



Please note that we are in the process of redesigning our parish website and plan to roll out our new online presence within a few weeks. As part of this process (and it is a lengthy process, for sure!), our online giving platform will also change.

At present, our parish uses two distinct online giving companies. These were both used before the merging of the parishes into the new Transfiguration Parish. The new website company has an online component which ties directly into our parish census allowing for more streamlined financial recording and tracking. There are many threads that need to be woven together before this process is up and running.

When all of these moving parts are in place and ready to work for us, we will be doing a full roll-out of the new website and the new online giving platform. Your patience is GREATLY appreciated!

### **Tuesday Communal Rosary Schedule**



#### **Tuesday, March 26, 2024: Rosary for Life (4PM)**

Tuesday, April 2, 2024: Rosary for Life (4PM)

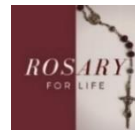
Tuesday, April 9, 2024: Rosary for Life (4PM)

Tuesday, April 16, 2024: Prayer & Pizza (5PM)

Tuesday, April 23, 2024: Rosary for Life (4PM)

### **Rosary for Life**

The Respect Life Committee of Transfiguration of the Lord Parish is pleased to announce that we will lead a Rosary for Life at 4:00 pm, prior to the 4:30 pm daily Mass in **Saint Mark Church** on the *first, second, fourth, and fifth Tuesday* of each month. The communal Rosary is also livestreamed for any participants who wish to join us remotely.



### **Please Remember our Deceased Parishioners:**

*William H. "Red" McCormick, Sr.*

*Marie C. Nameth*

*H. William "Bill" Donnelly*

*Mary L. (Tally) Curran*



*Eternal rest grant unto our beloved dead, O Lord.  
Let perpetual light shine upon them.*

## Support Janet's Mafia in the Pan Mass Challenge!

Help support the Pan Mass Challenge team of Janet's Mafia and get a chance to win a MacBook Air 13" with M2 Chip. Raffle tickets will be sold after all Masses on the weekend of **April 6/7**. Tickets are **\$10** each, with 100% of sales supporting funding for research to change breast cancer protocols to include brain MRI's as part of the initial screening diagnosis. Janet's Mafia team thanks you for your support. John, Matt and Ed Kent, Michael, Maura, Maddy and James Thursby and Kelsey Rode.



## Transfiguration of the Lord Parish Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Inspired by Gospel values, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a Catholic lay organization, leads women and men to join to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to those who are in need or are suffering, in the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, and patron, St. Vincent de Paul. The Society meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month in the parish hall in Saint Mary Church. Please join us!

### Call for Assistance:

If you need assistance, please call the help line for our parish Saint Vincent de Paul Society. They can offer information about the types of assistance available. Please call 508-212-4755 for help or more information.

## Friends of SSMH Outing

As announced in our parish bulletin a few weeks back, the Friends of SSMH is offering various one day and multi-day outings. Join us on Wednesday, April 24 for *The Beach Boys Ultimate Tribute* show, at Lake Pearl in Wrentham, MA. Price per person is \$89.00 and includes luncheon, tax and gratuity, and show ticket. Information flyers are available at the doors of the church or you may contact Nancy Chapman or May Courbron at 508-243-2904 or by email: [friendsofsmsh@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofsmsh@gmail.com) for more information.

## Transfiguration of the Lord Respect Life Group

### Abundant Hope Baby Bottle Drive: Thank You!

Thank you for your generous donations totaling **\$5,309.60** received from the Baby Bottle Drive in January. The kindness and generosity of parishioners is very much appreciated. Your contributions will benefit many women, men, and babies in our local community.

### Monthly Meeting:

The next meeting of the Respect Life Group will take place on Thursday, **April 4, 2024 at 6:30 pm in Sacred Heart Church's Library**. We hope to see you there!

## Knights of Columbus Council #330

### Monthly Meeting:

Council #330 of the Knights of Columbus has been serving the Catholic Community of North Attleborough for 125 years. The Knights meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7pm, in the St. Mary Church Hall. Please drop by on meeting nights if you'd like to learn more about the Knights. Council #330 is committed to assisting local charities that align with the values of our Faith such as the Parish, the Parish school, and Abundant Hope. Please contact Jim Schromm via email with any questions: [jim.schromm@verizon.net](mailto:jim.schromm@verizon.net).

### Knights of Columbus Fundraiser:

Knights of Columbus Assembly 398 will earn **20%** of all qualifying sales from orders placed on **Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 PM – 9:00 PM** at the local **Papa Gino's/D'Angelo** locations specified below:

**Papa Gino's:** Attleboro, South Attleboro, Foxboro (2), Franklin, Raynham, Taunton (2), & Plainville

**D'Angelo:** Raynham, Taunton, & Plainville

This offer is valid for all Dine-In, Carry Out, Online, & Delivery orders! For **walk-in or phone orders**, mention this fundraiser when you place your order for the organization to get credit for your order. For **online orders**, enter **code 19** at the payment screen and then click redeem. Please note that fundraiser orders are only valid with regular priced menu items and cannot be paired with coupons or deals. Fundraisers not valid on 3<sup>rd</sup> party orders.

### Knights of Columbus Diaper Drive:

The Knights of Columbus are organizing a Diaper Drive, to benefit Abundant Hope Pregnancy Resource Center. We are requesting donations of diapers in all sizes, but especially larger sizes. We are also requesting donations of diaper wipes. We will have containers at each of the three North Attleborough churches, **starting the weekend of April 14, and continuing into the month of May**. Thank you very much for your support of Abundant Hope and the Knights of Columbus!



Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta once said:

*"Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration with exposition needs a great push. People ask me: 'What will convert America and save the world?' My answer is prayer. What we need is for every parish to come before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament in holy hours of prayer."*

Please join us at **Saint Mark church** on Friday, **April 5<sup>th</sup>**, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 6:00 p.m. with Benediction. Remember, as we share in the work of Redemption, so will we be rewarded with our own redemption. For more information call Joanne Regali (508-643-3821) or Arlene Hall (508-801-2243). Please leave a message if the call is not answered immediately.

## Faith Formation Program 2023-2024

Director of Religious Education ~ Mrs. Elaine Corvese  
508-695-3823; [transfigurationreled@gmail.com](mailto:transfigurationreled@gmail.com)

### Faith Formation Office hours:

**Monday – Thursday: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

### Class Schedule:

March 25<sup>th</sup>: Grade 8, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Please see website: [saintmaryna.com](http://saintmaryna.com) for the 2023-2024 calendar for all grades. Faith Formation classes are held at Saint Mark Church hall in Attleboro Falls.

### Date of Confirmation:



CONFIRMATION

**April 7, 2024: 1:00 p.m. Saint Mary Church**

### Dates of First Communion:



HOLY EUCHARIST

**May 4, 2024: 10:00 a.m. Saint Mary Church**

**May 4, 2024: 1:00 p.m. Saint Mary Church**

**May 11, 2024: 10:00 a.m. Saint Mary Church**

**Cancellation of classes:** In the event of cancellation of classes due to inclement weather, the Faith Formation Office will notify parents/guardians by email and the cancellation notice will also be on the answering machine of the Faith Formation office at 508-695-3823. Please note: if the North Attleboro School Department cancels school, Faith Formation classes are automatically canceled.

## Flourish with FAITH, Family and Fundamentals!



**Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School: Celebrating 100 Years of Catholic Education in North Attleboro**



SMSH provides a caring, Catholic learning environment – one that promotes cognitive, social, emotional, and spiritual development of all children. We invite you to learn more about our school's strong curriculum by visiting our website [www.smshschool.com](http://www.smshschool.com). If you want your student to attend a school that balances faith with education, consider joining the Saints community of learners.

# SAINTS

## SAINT MARY-SACRED HEART

**Experience a Day as a SMSH SAINT:  
Shadowing Opportunity for Middle School Students**



Prospective middle school students are invited to join our vibrant SMSH community as they shadow and embody the spirit of being a SMSH Saint for a Day!

During this special day, your student will immerse themselves in the SMSH community by making new friends among our SMSH Saints, attending classes, sharing lunch and engaging with our amazing faculty and staff. Your student will have the opportunity to ask questions of all kinds, or simply observe and absorb the unique atmosphere of SMSH.

Participating in this program provides a firsthand experience of community life at SMSH and a chance to see what it's like to be a part of our Saints community.

Middle Schoolers interested in taking part in the SMSH Saint for a Day shadow experience can easily sign up by contacting Mrs. O'Heir in the main office at 508-695-3072. Schedule your day now!

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**The Verdict is in-Grades 5 & 6 are SMaSHing Saints!**



Last week a special guest, Michael Ryan, from the Office of The Jury Commission in Boston, visited our 5th & 6th grade Saints. Mr. Ryan enthusiastically shared his message about why it is important to go to jury duty when you are summoned. In addition to his slideshow about the history and significance of the jury, Mr. Ryan led a mock trial using a script with roles including potential jurors, a judge, a court officer, a defendant, the defendant's lawyer, a prosecution, a clerk and witnesses. After such a powerful presentation, we are confident that these students will commit to jury duty when they are summoned now that they have further insight on this important citizen responsibility!

## Saint of the Week: Saint Oscar Romero

The night before he was murdered while celebrating Mass, Archbishop Oscar Romero of San Salvador said on the radio: "I would like to appeal in a special way to the men of the army, and in particular to the troops of the National Guard, the police, and the garrisons. Brothers, you belong to our own people. You kill your own brother peasants; and in the face of an order to kill that is given by a man, the law of God that says 'Do not kill!' should prevail. 'No soldier is obliged to obey an order counter to the law of God. No one has to comply with an immoral law. It is the time now that you recover your conscience and obey its dictates rather than the command of sin. . . . Therefore, in the name of God, and in the name of this long-suffering people, whose laments rise to heaven every day more tumultuous, I beseech you, I beg you, I command you! In the name of God: 'Cease the repression!'"

Simultaneously, Romero had eloquently upheld the gospel and effectively signed his own death warrant. The next morning, as he held the chalice aloft during the Eucharistic Prayer at Mass, Archbishop Romero was shot dead.

When he was appointed archbishop of San Salvador in 1977, Bishop Romero was considered a very "safe" choice. He had served as auxiliary bishop there for four years before his three years as bishop of Santiago de Maria. Oscar's father wanted him to be a carpenter—a trade for which he demonstrated some talent. Seminary classes in El Salvador preceded his studies at Rome's Gregorian University and his ordination in 1942. After earning a doctorate in ascetical theology, he returned home and became a parish priest and later rector of an inter-diocesan seminary.

Three weeks after his appointment as archbishop, Romero was shaken by the murder of his good friend, Jesuit Father Rutilio Grande, a vigorous defender of the rights of the poor. Five more priests were assassinated in the Archdiocese of San Salvador during Romero's years as its shepherd.

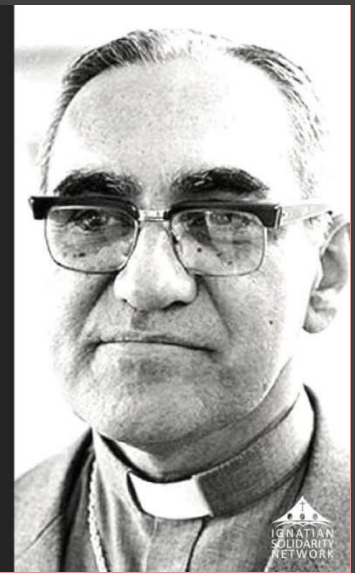
When a military junta seized control of the national government in 1979, Archbishop Romero publicly criticized the US government for backing the junta. His weekly radio sermons, broadcast throughout the country, were regarded by many as the most trustworthy source of news available.

Romero's funeral was celebrated in the plaza outside the cathedral and drew an estimated 250,000 mourners. His tomb in the cathedral crypt soon drew thousands of visitors each year. On February 3, 2015, Pope Francis authorized a decree recognizing Oscar Romero as a martyr for the faith. His beatification took place in San Salvador on May 23, 2015, and he was canonized on October 14, 2018.

## The Feast Day of St. Oscar Romero: March 24<sup>th</sup>

LET US  
NOT TIRE OF  
PREACHING  
**LOVE**  
IT IS THE  
FORCE  
THAT WILL  
OVERCOME  
THE WORLD.

BLESSED OSCAR ROMERO



### 2024 Mass Intention Book

The 2024 Mass Intention Book is open. The current Mass schedule provides for fewer opportunities for parishioners to remember their beloved dead at weekend Masses. For this reason, we will schedule, when necessary, multiple intentions for weekend Masses. There is no limit on the number of daily Mass intentions. Please contact the office via email, phone, or in writing with your requests.



### Reminder: Reserved Parking Spots for the Year



**NOTE:** Both reserved parking places at St. Mary Church were auctioned off in our silent auction at this year's Christmas Fair. Please remember to keep both of these spaces free for our winners at all times (and most especially when attending Mass) at St. Mary Church. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding!

### 2023 Donation Statements Are Now Available

The 2023 year-end tax reports will be available, **PER YOUR REQUEST**, for those parishioners using the budget envelope system. **Loose checks mailed or placed in the collection are not recorded by the budget company.** Please contact Martha in the office at [stmaryna@noozi.com](mailto:stmaryna@noozi.com) or call 508-695-6161 and leave a message with your name and address if you would like your statement. Contribution letters will be mailed. Thank you for your support of our parish community.



# *Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion - March 24, 2024*

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK



Excerpts from the *Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America*, second typical edition © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. Used with permission. All rights reserved. No portion of this text may be reproduced by any means without permission in writing from the copyright owner.

## *Gospel at the Procession*

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

When Jesus and his disciples drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately on entering it, you will find a colt tethered on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone should say to you, 'Why are you doing this?' reply, 'The Master has need of it and will send it back here at once.'" So they went off and found a colt tethered at a gate outside on the street, and they untied it. Some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They answered them just as Jesus had told them to, and they permitted them to do it. So they brought the colt to Jesus and put their cloaks over it. And he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. Those preceding him as well as those following kept crying out: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come! Hosanna in the highest!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***



## *First Reading*

**A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah**

The Lord GOD has given me a well-trained tongue, that I might know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them. Morning after morning he opens my ear that I may hear; and I have not rebelled, have not turned back. I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; my face I did not shield from buffets and spitting.

The Lord GOD is my help, therefore I am not disgraced; I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame.

The word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

## *Responsorial Psalm*

**R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?**

All who see me scoff at me;  
they mock me with parted lips, they wag their  
heads: "He relied on the LORD; let him deliver  
him, let him rescue him, if he loves him."

**R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?**

Indeed, many dogs surround me,  
a pack of evildoers closes in upon me;  
They have pierced my hands and my feet;  
I can count all my bones.

**R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?**

They divide my garments among them,  
and for my vesture they cast lots.  
But you, O LORD, be not far from me;  
O my help, hasten to aid me.

**R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?**

I will proclaim your name to my brethren;  
in the midst of the assembly I will praise you:  
"You who fear the LORD, praise him;  
all you descendants of Jacob, give glory to  
him; revere him, all you descendants of Israel!"

**R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?**

## Second Reading

### A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with 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.  
Because of this, God greatly exalted him  
and bestowed on him the name  
which is above every name,  
that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue confess that  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

## Gospel Acclamation

**R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!**

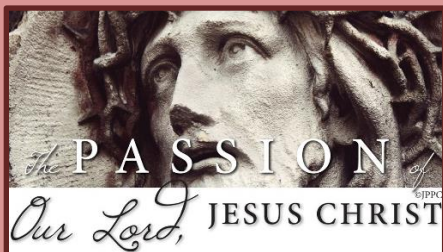
*Christ became obedient to the point of death,  
even death on a cross.*

*Because of this, God greatly exalted him  
and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.*

**R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!**

## The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

Please follow along using the booklets provided at each entrance of the church. The congregation will read the part of the **CROWD**, marked “C,” and printed in **bold** font in your booklets. Thank you.



## PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

### The Passion of Jesus Christ:

The Passion of Christ is not simply a record of Jesus' suffering and death. It is a process through which all of us must go, indeed, are privileged to go. The reason we undertake the annual lenten pilgrimage is to get somewhere. Easter is that somewhere, but there is no Easter without Jesus' passion. Neither is there an Easter in our lives without our sharing in that Passion. But to what sort of passion are we summoned? Are we to be betrayed, abandoned by friends, condemned, and put to physical death? For some of us, the answer may be yes. But for all of us, the passion we are called to share mirrors Jesus' passion in a way that, while not so concrete, is nonetheless very real. We are called to share the passion of letting go of selfish desires, of grasping, of being pretentious, of wearing masks. The Passion of Christ calls us to become vulnerable as Jesus was vulnerable, to wear our hearts on our sleeves, to forgive rather than to seek revenge, to call out resolutely for wholeness and not for division, and to give ourselves over completely to life.

### Comment:

In the first reading, Isaiah speaks of the fulfillment of God's covenant in terms of the actions of God's humiliated Servant, who will ultimately be exalted. The meaning of this passage from humiliation to glorification—from death to life—is made clear in the great hymn to Christ that makes up the reading from Philippians. Like the Suffering Servant, Jesus is obedient, even to accepting a humiliating death. However, because of Jesus' obedience, God glorifies him and bestows upon him his true identity: Messiah and Lord.

The Gospel takes the symbolism of the first reading and the poetry of the second and gives them flesh and blood. The Servant of God, taking on our flesh, suffers and dies that God's new covenant might take root in our hearts and lead us through death to life, safe and at home with God.

Mark's account of Jesus Christ's passion records the events leading to his death with tragic and horrid realism. Like the rapid fire of a machine gun, Mark quickly relates Jesus' cruel betrayal, denial, condemnation, and humiliation. Tersely, he describes Jesus' suffering and crucifixion. Hanging against the darkening sky, Jesus is taunted for his trust and obedience: "Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe." As if anything, save death, could melt such hardness of heart.

Jesus does not do anything so simple as descend from the cross. He performs no conjurer's trick. He dies. And by his death he gives life to fledgling faith—"Truly this man was the Son of God!"—and new hearts to all the world.

### Reflection:

Of the Passion accounts, Mark's is the most concrete, the most blunt. It is unadorned tragedy. Thus, it is all too easy for us to become overwhelmed or blinded by it, to be unable to look beyond the events it relates with the eyes of faith. The Passion is a tragedy, but it is also a story of glory. That is why we read the Passion today, the first day of the week we call "holy."

The Passion of Jesus Christ sets the tone for all that takes place this week: the reconciliation of sinners, the commemoration of the Passover and the first Eucharist, the veneration of the cross, the expectant vigiling, the welcoming and initiation of the elect, the bright light and overwhelming joy of Easter. The Passion of Jesus Christ leads us to all these. The Passion of Jesus Christ enables us to recognize God present in the humiliations and failings of life. The Passion of Jesus Christ makes any passion we may undergo "holy."

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# Reflections for the Week beginning Sunday, March 24, 2024



Invest time each week to  
expand your vocabulary and  
deepen your faith.

24 March 2024

## WORD OF THE WEEK

### Prostration \pră-'strā-shən\

Lying face down in a ritual expressing humility, reverence, and submission. Used in the liturgy of ordination, it is also the posture assumed during the entrance ritual on Good Friday when priests and ministers proceed in silence and then reverence the altar before all assembled with a full **prostration**.

Pronunciation: <https://tinyurl.com/Take5-prostration>

### CONTEXT

**Prostration** can carry the symbolism of death—the death to self that comes before the candidate's rebirth into priestly service. —*Beafriar.org website*

[The Magi] saw the child with Mary his mother. They **prostrated** themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts.  
—*Matthew 2:11*

In Hebrew the root of the word for "dismayed" can also mean "**prostrate**." That's what dismay and fear do. They take the legs from under us.  
—*Saint Mary's College of Oscott Seminary*

### WHY IT MATTERS

Postures are powerful. We say much without saying a word. Genuflection and kneeling demonstrate respect. The Asian kowtow—kneeling while touching forehead to the ground—is a deeper display of reverence. The rare full **prostration** symbolizes total submission to God alone. The ultimate **prostration** of Jesus on the cross brings about our salvation.

From the *Circular Letter Concerning the Preparation and Celebration of the Easter Feasts*: This act of **prostration** [on Good Friday], signifies both the abasement of "earthly man" and also the grief and sorrow of the Church.

### RELATED WORDS

Reverence | Humility | Kneel | Bow | Genuflect

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

### What is humility?

Humility is just about the exact opposite of everything you see in the world nowadays! To discover the essentials of humility, you have to experiment with self-emptying. Humility recognizes that everything comes from God and belongs to God. Therefore, to God alone go all praise, honor, and glory. When you begin with God and not with yourself, your perspective on reality does a dramatic shift. God's will comes first. "Not my will, but yours be done," as Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane.

When you choose the perspective of a humble heart, you become aware that your proper orientation as creatures should be one of obedience—that is, attentive listening—to God's call. It's precisely the attitude of obedience that led to the salvation of the world, as Saint Paul tells us: "[Jesus] humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross." Paul explains that humility means putting other people ahead of yourself, thinking of their needs rather than yours. That is so countercultural, jaws will drop whenever you attempt it.

—*Alice Camille, from Questions Catholics Ask* <http://tinyurl.com/QCA-humility>

## REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

FRIDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION (GOOD FRIDAY) (MARCH 29)

### The path of redemption

It is easy to look around and conclude that one of the things human beings do best is inflict suffering on one another. In ways big and small, people look to their own interests at the expense of others. Yet Christ, in obedient love, gathers up all suffering in his Passion and death, and offers us redemption through his ultimate sacrifice and Resurrection.

READINGS: Isaiah 52:13–53:12; Hebrews 4:14–16, 5:7–9; John 18:1–19:42 (40 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/032924.cfm>). "*Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*"

### FAITH IN ACTION

You can participate in Christ's redeeming sacrifice by abandoning yourself to God.



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