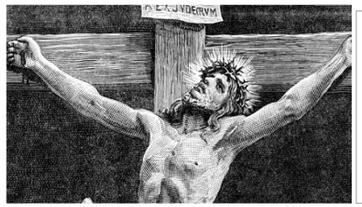

April 2, 2023 | Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Is 50:4-7 | Phil 2:6-11 | Mt 26:14—27:66

Written by THE FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

GROW: As we begin Holy Week, we hear Matthew's account of the Passion. We see Jesus' humanity as he experiences *sorrow and distress* in the hours before his death. Three times, he asks the Father to **"let this cup pass from me, yet not what I want, but what you want."** In our own human experience, I am guessing many of us have asked the Father to "let this cup pass" – for in addition to life's joys, we will all experience setbacks, struggles, and suffering. By example, Jesus shows us that we can turn to our Father, trusting in his will for us. Let this be a reminder in this holiest of weeks that we can bring our suffering and our doubts to the Father, knowing that the joy of Easter will come.

GO EVANGELIZE | PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

GO: The final words of today's Gospel [shorter version] are those of the centurion and the men keeping watch over Jesus: **"Truly this man was God's Son!"** Let us keep in mind this central proclamation of our faith while attending Triduum services this week. On Holy Thursday, we remember the Last Supper and the institution of the Eucharist and the priesthood, celebrating Christ's outpouring of love for us. On Good Friday we venerate the cross as we solemnly recall the passion and death of Jesus. And of course at the Easter Vigil and on Easter Sunday, we celebrate the story of our salvation, culminating in Jesus' resurrection. As Christians, we know that the cross will give way to the empty tomb and the promise of new life in Christ. Let our voices be strong this week as we echo the centurion's words above, and may Jesus' name be praised forever!

PRAY: Praying the Stations of the Cross allows us to walk with Jesus through his passion and death. Make that journey with Jesus this week.

Mass Intentions | April 2-8, 2023

Mon, Apr 3 - Rufino Santos (+)	Thu, Apr 6 - Jay-Ar San Juan (INT)
Tue, Apr 4 - Diego/Maria Salacup (+)	Fri, Apr 7 - GOOD FRIDAY
Wed, Apr 5 - Monette Ledesma (+)	Sat, Apr 8 - HOLY SATURDAY

Prayer ought to be short & pure, unless it is prolonged by the inspiration of divine grace.
-St Benedict

ST. MONICA PARISH

12011 Woodhead Road, Richmond, BC V6V 1G2
Tel. 604.278.0844 Fax. 604.279.0334
Website: stmonicaparish.ca Email: parish.smon@rcav.org

PASTOR: **Rev. Robert Wong, SJ**
DEACON: **Wilbur Victoria**

PARISH OFFICE HOURS
Monday – Friday
9:30 am – 1 pm / 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

MASS SCHEDULES
WEEKDAYS: **9:00 am**
SATURDAYS: **9:30 am & 5:00 pm**
SUNDAYS: **9:00 am & 11:00 am**

CONFESSION SCHEDULES
SATURDAYS: **4:30 pm—4:55 pm**
10 minutes before Daily Mass

BAPTISM, WEDDING, FUNERAL, HOUSE BLESSING, SICK CALL
Please call the Parish Office

April 2, 2023
Passion (Palm) Sunday

⁂

Liturgy of the Word
Truly, Jesus Christ is the Son of God

In the introductory reading from Matthew's Gospel, Jesus enters Jerusalem. The prophet Isaiah speaks as the suffering servant who has trusted in the Lord while submitting to persecution. In the second reading, St. Paul speaks of Jesus' total self-gift and God's subsequent exaltation of Jesus. In the Gospel, we hear of Judas' betrayal, the Passover supper Jesus shared with the disciples and, finally, Jesus' death on the cross.

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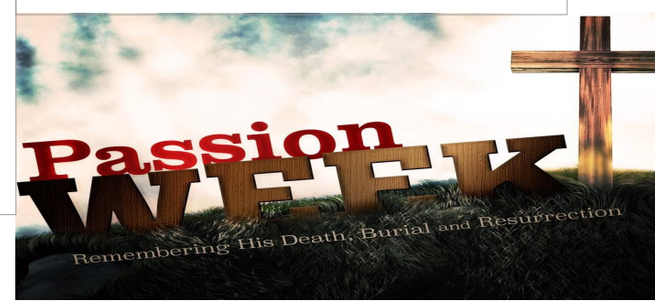
Today's Readings:
1st: **Isaiah 50.4-7**
Psalm: 22
2nd: **Philippians 2.6-11**
Gospel: **Matthew 26.14-27.66**



Shared Lent Campaign – Thank you!
Our *Shared Lent* totalled just over $2000.00 in support of the appeal from Development and Peace – *Caritas* Canada to aiding our needy brothers and sisters in Global South: Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East. May the Lord bless us all!

Interfaith Food Bank Drive
This year's 2nd annual partnership -- we are invited to participate in the Ramadan / Easter Interfaith Food Bank Drive, from March 22 to April 20th.. A box is in the foyer for your donation of dried-goods.

From the Chancellor
Anyone who has information regarding the whereabouts of **Marie Pauline Profetana** is requested to contact Fr. Joseph Le at: jle@rcav.org.

Pontifical Collection for the Holy Land on Good Friday
The collection on Good Friday, April 7, is requested by the Holy See to help maintain the Church's holy places in the Holy Land, which is so important to the faith of Christians everywhere, and also to support the faithful who struggle to survive under political and economic oppression and persecution. Donations can be made through the parish or online at support.rcav.org

Divine Mercy Celebration
The parishes of Holy Name of Jesus and St. Anthony of Padua Vancouver invite everyone to their joint celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday on April 16, from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Holy Name of Jesus Church, 4925 Cambie Street, Vancouver. The afternoon will include a short talk on how to obtain the special grace of this day, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a sung Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Adoration with reflections, and Benediction. Three priests will be available for Confessions from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact Angie Dee at angie@holynameparish.ca.

The Alpha Marriage Course
When life gets busy, it's easy for married couples to forget about date nights. Come and set a weekly date night to reconnect with your spouse and build a more joyful family by thriving as a couple! Join The Marriage Course, a seven-week program by Alpha International designed for spouses "seeking practical support to strengthen their relationship, keep the spark alive and stay connected." Sessions will be both in-person and online. Cost is $25. Every Friday, starting April 14 until May 26, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Learn more and register at beholdvancouver.org/events

A little bit of mercy makes the world less cold & more just. –Pope Francis

A Stewardship Moment
We are at the doorsteps of Holy Week where we remember Christ's passion. Jesus humbled himself and let go of everything, emptying himself for us. During this time of Lent, how have we joined the Lord? Has our prayer, penitential practices and almsgiving moved us to humble ourselves before the Lord? Have we let go of things that keep us from being authentic stewards for Christ Jesus? How have we "emptied" ourselves so that when we do approach the table of the Lord, we can be nourished by His body and blood? As disciples of the Lord Jesus and stewards of His gift of faith, it is time to evaluate our lives under the cross.

Marriage Anniversary Mass
On Sunday, May 14, Archbishop Michael Miller, CSB will honour couples celebrating Milestone Marriage Anniversaries: 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55 and 60+ years of marriage. The Marriage Anniversary Mass will be at St. Francis Xavier Church in Vancouver at 1:30 p.m. Registrations received before Monday, April 24, will receive their certificate at the Mass, and have their names included in the Mass booklet. Learn more and register at family.rcav.org/mam

The Pope's Prayer Intention for April 2023
For a culture of peace and non-violence: We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by states and citizens.

Holy Week: The First Four Days—We enter into a week made "holy" forever by the self surrendering love of Jesus - for us all. All week, we remember how he loved us. Whatever we do, no matter how busy or "distracted" we might be, we can let the power of this week be in the background of our daily reflections. He entered into our life - with its profound joys and its punishing evils - that we might never experience those struggles alone. So no matter what we experience this week, we can let it become a "holy" week, letting it all be touched by the graces of this week. From the humble, yet triumphant, entry into Jerusalem, to our standing together at the foot of his cross, this can be a week which helps us bring all of the elements of our lives, all our experiences of sin and death, into the font of his redeeming, liberating death resurrection.
Holy Week - the first four days (creighton.edu)

HOLY WEEK OBSERVANCES

Palm Sunday, April 2, 9 AM, 11 AM
Palms will be distributed on Saturday, April 1 @ 5 pm
Holy Thursday, April 6, LORD'S SUPPER – 8 PM
Good Friday, April 7, STATIONS OF THE CROSS – 11 AM, PASSION OF THE LORD – 3 PM
Holy Saturday, April 8, EASTER VIGIL – 8:30 PM
EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 9 AM, 11 AM, 4 PM @ YVR