

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church

522 Main Street • P.O. Box 399 • Marydel, Maryland 21649-0399

Phone: 410-482-7687 • Fax: 410-482-7253

www.iccmarydel.org

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Fridays 9:30-Noon, Closed Wednesdays.

Because of the limited size of our staff, hours are subject to change. It's best to call first.

March 25, 2018 – Palm Sunday

Eucharist of the Lord's Day

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.
1:00 p.m. (in Spanish)

Weekday Eucharist

Thursday 7:00 p.m. (in Spanish)

Holydays of Obligation

As announced in the bulletin

Reconciliation

After the Sunday morning Masses,
Thursday evening 6:30pm

And by appointment at any reasonable time

Pastoral Care and Liturgy

Very Rev. James S. Lentini, V.F., Pastor
Rev. Idongesit A. Etim, Parochial Vicar
Rev. John T. Solomon, Parochial Vicar

Deacon James M. Tormey, Sr.
Deacon Sherman Mitchell, III

Christian Formation

Mrs. Alicia Poppiti, D.R.E.

Hispanic Ministry

Mrs. Arline Dosman

If you or someone you know is in need of financial assistance, please call

St Vincent DePaul (302) 670-6702

The Sacraments

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process in which adults and children of catechetical age join the Catholic Church. Please contact Deacon Sherman Mitchell III, our R.C.I.A. Coordinator, for details at 302-492-0753.

Parents wishing to present their children for **Infant Baptism** must participate in an orientation session. Please call the parish office at 410-482-8939 for details.

Please contact Alicia Poppiti at 410-482-8939 about the preparation of young people for **Confirmation**, or about children's first reception of the Sacraments of **Reconciliation** and the **Eucharist**.

Couples planning **Matrimony** meet with the Pastor or one of the Deacons at least one year in advance of the wedding date they are considering. Please call the parish office to arrange for this meeting.

Pastoral Care of the Sick: The **Anointing of the Sick** is appropriate for anyone faced with hospitalization or a serious challenge to health. When a hospital admission is planned, please arrange to receive the Anointing here beforehand, if at all possible. Our lay ministers to the sick bring **Holy Communion** to those unable to come to Mass for any length of time. Please call the parish office to arrange for these services.

Your Pastor, Deacons and parish staff members are always happy to speak in confidence with anyone who senses a call to **ordained ministry** or **religious life**.

Dear Parishioners,

Today we celebrate Palm Sunday, which leads us into Holy Week. Holy Week is the World Series of our faith. It is where good and evil, faithfulness and betrayal, God and man, truth and deception, and love and hate each get a bat during the events of and leading to the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ. I'm reminded of a Gospel-tinged song of another era, "Life is a Ballgame," which speak to the events of good and evil in life, many of which we see in Holy Week: "First base is temptation / the second base is sin / third base is tribulation / but if you pass you can make it in! / Ol' man Solomon's the umpire / and Satan is pitching the game / He'll do his best to strike you out / but keep playing just the same." This epic battle of good and evil is fought during this Holy Week, and we are witnesses to it in the our liturgical and faith life in the days ahead. I will use this column and provide scriptural context and use sacred tradition for a reflection

on the Holy Week that awaits us. (**Note:** Covering all of Holy Week proves a lengthy task, so this column will spill over onto an insert in this bulletin).

Monday of Holy Week. Following Palm Sunday, Jesus made his presence known in Jerusalem. His first stop: His Father's house – the Great Temple of Jerusalem. When Christ arrived there, he became righteously indignant about the state of things: there charlatan money-changers to whom people gave coins and gold in exchange for animals to be sacrificed in the Temple. The money-changers were rooking the folks. Since "60 Minutes" didn't exist at the time to expose this theft, Christ did what he needed to do to clean this rabble out of the Temple. He upended their tables, whipped them and kicked them out onto the street (Matthew 21:12-13). You can imagine the money-changers were *not* happy, and frankly the people who needed to get sacrifices done in the Temple were probably equally perturbed (i.e.,

when you are about to buy tickets from a scalper for the Phillies game, even though you know you are being overcharged, you are ticked off when the cop arrests the guy before you can close the deal). Christ did the correct thing in trying to restore holiness to the Temple which contained the Holy of Holies; it is right and just that this is one of the opening moments of Holy week. Christ's actions in the temple were foretold by the prophet Malachi who said: "Suddenly there will come to the temple the Lord ... Yes, he is coming ... and who can stand when he appears?" (Mal 3:1-3). As Jesus left the Temple, "The blind and the lame approached him in the temple area, and he cured them." (Matt 21:14)

Tuesday of Holy Week. This incident in the Temple, as mentioned, didn't sit well with everyone; the "authorities" certainly were upset. They were intent on bringing his activities to a halt. The next day, Tuesday of Holy Week, his detractors – realizing that he was bad for business at the Temple – asked him what seemed to be a question on taxes, but what it really was, was a question on authority. To wit, Christ is asked: "Is it lawful for us to pay tribute to Caesar or not?" (Luke 20:22). Christ answers famously that one should render unto Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and to God what belongs to God (Luke 20:25). And since we know everything we hold dear belongs to God, the meaning of his answer is obvious. Once again, the authorities are not happy – so, you have the Pharisees' leaders, the Sadducees' leaders, the Temple authorities and the Romans all looking askance and annoyed at this Messiah, this Jesus. They were taken aback by his answer and "and leaving him they went away" (Matthew 22:22). Jesus on this same day is challenged by the Sadducees on the issue of resurrection; his clear response silenced the Sadducees.

At this point, "When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together." (Matthew 22:34).

Spy Wednesday. On Wednesday, the plotting and the planning went into motion: Chief Priests knew that Jesus had many who supported and followed him. They needed to arrest him at a time and place where there would be minimal of his supporters around – thus it couldn't happen during the Passover festival celebrations (Matthew 26:4-5). Moreover, they knew they would have to infiltrate his inner circle to find where he would be at certain times as they made their case against him. They focused on Christ's apostle Judas, who was the keeper of the moneybag for Apostles. John 13:2 tells us that the Devil "induced Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot, to hand him over" So, when the chief priests "paid him thirty pieces of silver" (Matthew 26:15), Judas – to paraphrase a famous line from "The Godfather" -- took that as an offer he couldn't refuse. He told all he knew about his friend, his Lord and his God – and did so knowing that this information would be used against Jesus. Since it was on this day when Judas met with the chief priests and conspired against Jesus, the day is commonly referred to as "Spy Wednesday." Judas then waited for the right time to launch his betrayal (Matthew 26:16).

The rest of this column is continued on an insert in this bulletin!

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor

MASS INTENTIONS:

Sunday, Mar 25-Palm Sunday
8:30 Ed & Delores McGowan
11:00 For the People
 Misa en Español **1pm** For the People

Holy Thursday Mar 29 7pm For the People
Good Friday, Veneration of the Cross Mar 30 3pm
Easter Vigil Mass, Sat Mar 31 8pm For the People
Easter Sunday, April 1
8:30 For the People
10:00 For the People
 Misa en Español **12pm** For the People

*2018 Mass book is now open.
 To schedule a Mass, please contact the office*

COLLECTION TOTALS:

Regular Offertory: Snow delayed
Supplementary: Snow delayed

Second Collection Today: Easter Flowers

*Your continued support of the work of your Church
 is much needed, and appreciated.*



**Final Week
 of the Life
 of Christ**

STEWARDSHIP OF TIME & TALENT

Collection Counters

Mar 25 Marilyn Dixon & Maurilio Gabriel

Apr 1 Ann Lawson & Assistant

Apr 8 Frank & Joyce Cristiano

Church Cleaning Crew

Marzo 30, 2018 Grupo # 3

Marinda Escalante, Elías González, Alfonso, Perez, Ocas Roblero, Edgar Velásquez, Rubelina Ortiz

Abril 6, 2018 Grupo #4

Olegario Cuin, Enma Rojas, Egidio Macario, Brendi Macario, Idalinda Pérez, Bersy Pérez

Altar Servers

March 29 – Holy Thursday 7PM

Vincent Haass, 1 Server Needed

March 31 – Easter Vigil 8PM

3 Servers Needed

April 1 – Easter Sunday

8:30am Mass – Mikey Dixon, 1 Server Needed

10:00am Mass – Vincent Haass, 1 Server Needed

Spanish Misa Noon – Darly Ortega, 1 Server Needed

Lectors

March 29 – Holy Thursday 7PM

Diane Smith, 1 Lector Needed

March 30 – Good Friday 3PM

Diane Smith

March 31 – Easter Vigil 8PM

2 Lectors Needed

April 1 – Easter Sunday

8:30am Mass – Lani Small

10:00am Mass – Lector Needed

Spanish Misa Noon – Levin Ramirez, Dario Ortega

Eucharistic Ministers

March 29 – Holy Thursday 7PM

Alan Smith, 1 needed

March 31 – Easter Vigil 8PM

Alicia Poppiti

April 1 – Easter Sunday

8:30am Mass – Marilyn Dixon, Alan & Diane Smith

10:00am Mass – 3 Ministers Needed

Spanish Misa Noon – A. Velásquez, Epifanio Morales, Guadalupe Morales, Adrián Miranda, C. Miguel

SCHEDULED EVENTS

Sun, Mar 25 - 9:40am SRE Classes

Sun, Mar 25 – 2pm RICA

Mon, Mar 26 – 7pm Chrim Mass – HOLY CROSS

Mon, Mar 26 & Wed Mar 28 - 7pm ESL

Thur, Mar 29 – 7pm Mass - Feast of the Last Supper

Fri, Mar 30 – 1pm Walking Stations

Fri, Mar 30 – 3pm Veneration of the Cross

Fri, Mar 30 – 7pm Stations of the Cross

Sat, Mar 31 – 8pm Easter Vigil

Knights of Columbus



**Next meeting Tues, March 27th
in the Knights Hall @ 7pm**

All members are encouraged to attend.

Membership is open to men 18 years of age or older who are practicing Catholics. For more info, contact Grand

Knight, Bruce Kelley (302) 502-6040 or

kelly29@comcast.net. Follow us on Facebook @ Knights of Columbus Council 12509



**ENCOUNTER
OUR
NEIGHBORS**

We encounter Jesus this week in Jerusalem, a community he knows well. We prayerfully enter our own communities too, encountering those who are hungry and thirsty, those who need our help. How does our Lenten journey motivate us to serve those we meet in our daily lives? Visit www.crsricebowl.org for more.

Baskets and a Rice Bowl Box will be at the entrances to the church and in the parish hall on DRE desk.

Marriage & Family Life Corner

Marriage Moment –

Palm Sunday is such a baffling feast. Everybody is rejoicing in the glory of Jesus' arrival. But, we know the end of the story. We know that a lot of pain quickly follows. Presumably your wedding was joyous. Presumably some dark days have followed. Contemplate the ups and downs of your relationship and remember that Good Friday is not the end.

Parenting Pointer –

Anyone who has been a parent knows that times of sorrow mix with times of joy. As you enter into Christ's passion, join with the pain Mary felt in watching her son die. Keep this in mind during your times of sorrow.

FROM THE DRE'S DESK

School of Religious Education
September 24, 2017-May 6, 2018
9:40am-10:50am

❖ No Classes on Easter Sunday



Registration is open for next year Religious Education. Get your seat now! For next year RE! Please get your registrations today and save a spot for your children next year. Spaces go fast, so do not miss out! Don't wait until September!



NEEDED: TEACHERS! APPLY HERE FOR NEXT YEAR! Share your gifts and get the rewards in heaven.

We will need 2 or more teachers for religious education on Sunday mornings from September to May. Please take the time during Lent this year in prayer and discernment on serving the young people and families of our Parish. Please contact Alicia Poppiti with any questions, 410-482-8939 at parish office.



Catechetical Day ("Call to Missionary Discipleship") with Bishop W. Francis Malooly will be held on Saturday, April 14, 2018 at St. Thomas More Academy.

Bishop Malooly will individually recognize DREs and Catechists celebrating significant anniversary years. **Please pray for our catechists and thank them.**

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Theme: Jesus dies for us.

Question for Children: Name one thing that you will do each day this week to remind you that Jesus died and rose to new life for you.

Question for Youth: We hear the story of Jesus' death each year. What did you hear differently this year? How has your faith changed in the past year?

Question for Adults: Identify and share one way that you personally "die in Christ."

Domingo de Pasión/Domingo de Ramos

Tema: Jesús muere por nosotros.

Pregunta para los niños: Menciona una cosa que harás todos los días de esta semana para recordar que Jesús murió y resucitó a una nueva vida para ti.

Pregunta para los jóvenes: Escuchamos el relato de la muerte de Jesús todos los años. ¿Qué escuchaste de diferente este año? ¿Cómo ha cambiado tu fe en el último año?

Pregunta para los adultos: Identifique y comparta una manera en que personalmente "muere en Cristo".



Walk His Way. Bishop Malooly invited youth and young adults from all parishes and schools to join him as we came together for the ninth annual Pilgrimage on Saturday, March 24, 2018. 50 of our young people and families with others from across the diocese carried the diocesan pilgrimage cross through the streets of Wilmington with the Bishop as a representation of Jesus' entry to Jerusalem and His journey on Good Friday to Calvary. **As always, an incredible experience was had by all, thank you for your continued prayers as we carry our prayers and intentions through Holy Week.**

Are you being called to the Priesthood?

Come socialize, talk, and hang-out with priests, and men like yourself, who think the Lord may be calling them to be a priest. Find out about the *amazing* life of the Priesthood.



CAS – North will meet on April 19, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Mary of the Assumption in Hockessin, Delaware. **For more information, contact Father Chris Coffey at FrCoffey@sjbde.org or call 302-999-0211.**

CAS – South will meet at 6:30 p.m. at Saint John the Apostle Church, 506 Seabury Drive, Milford, DE on April 30, 2018. **Contact Father John Solomon at fatherjohnsolomon@gmail.com or 302-674-5787.**

COLUMNA DEL PÁRROCO PADRE JAMES LENTINI 25 DE MARZO, 2018.

Estimado feligreses,

Hoy celebramos el Domingo de Ramos, que nos lleva a la Semana Santa. La Semana Santa es la Serie Mundial de nuestra fe. Es donde el bien y el mal, la fidelidad y la traición, Dios y el hombre, la verdad y el engaño, y el amor y el odio reciben cada uno un batazo durante los acontecimientos de la Pasión de nuestro Señor Jesucristo. Me recuerda una canción teñida por el Evangelio de otra época, "La vida es un juego de pelota", que habla de los acontecimientos del bien y el mal en la vida, muchos de los cuales vemos en Semana Santa: "La primera base, es la tentación / la segunda la base es pecado / tercera base es tribulación / pero si pasas puedes hacerlo! / El viejo Salomón es el árbitro / y Satanás está lanzando el juego / Él hará todo lo posible para poncharte / pero sigue jugando igual. "Esta batalla épica del bien y el mal se pelea durante esta Semana Santa, y son testigos de ello en nuestra vida litúrgica y de fe en los días venideros. Utilizaré esta columna y proporcionaré contexto bíblico y usaré la tradición sagrada para reflexionar sobre la Semana Santa que nos espera. (Nota: Cubrir toda la Semana Santa demuestra una tarea larga, por lo que esta columna se extenderá a un inserto en este boletín).

Lunes de Semana Santa. Después del Domingo de Ramos, Jesús hizo conocer su presencia en Jerusalén. Su primera parada: la casa de su Padre: el gran templo de Jerusalén. Cuando Cristo llegó allí, sinceramente, se indignó por el estado de las cosas: había charlatanes que cambiaban monedas a quienes las personas daban monedas y oro a cambio de sacrificar animales en el Templo. Jesús entró en el Templo y echó fuera a todos los que vendían y compraban en el Templo. Derribó las mesas de los que cambiaban monedas y los puestos de los vendedores de palomas. Les dijo: Está escrito: Mi casa será llamada Casa de Oración. Pero ustedes la han convertido en una cueva de ladrones. Dado que "60 Minutos" no existía en el momento de exponer este robo, Cristo hizo lo que tenía que hacer para limpiar a esta chusma del Templo. Volcó sus mesas, los azotó y los echó a patadas a la calle (Mateo 21: 12-13). Se puede imaginar que los cambistas no estaban contentos, y francamente las personas que necesitaban hacer los sacrificios en el Templo probablemente estaban igual de perturbadas (al igual que, cuando están a punto de comprar boletos de un revendedor para el juego de los Filis, aunque lo sepan le están cobrando de más, se molestan cuando el policía arresta al hombre antes de que pueda cerrar el trato). Cristo hizo lo correcto al tratar de restaurar la santidad al Templo que contenía lo más sagrado de lo Sagrado, es justo y necesario que este es uno de los momentos iniciales de la Semana Santa. Las acciones de Cristo en el templo fueron predichas por el profeta Malaquías quien dijo: "De repente vendrá al templo el Señor ... Sí, él viene ... ¿y quién puede pararse cuando él aparezca?" (Mal 3: 1-3). Cuando Jesús salió del Templo, "el ciego y el cojo se acercaron a él en el área del templo, y él los curó" (Mateo 21:14).

Martes de Semana Santa. Este incidente en el Templo, como se mencionó, no le gustó mucho; las "autoridades" ciertamente estaban molestas. Estaban decididos a detener las actividades de Jesús. Al día siguiente, martes de Semana Santa, sus detractores, al darse cuenta de que era malo para los negocios en el Templo, le preguntaron lo que parecía ser una pregunta sobre impuestos, pero lo que realmente era, era una pregunta sobre autoridad. A saber, le preguntaron a Cristo: "¿Es lícito que paguemos tributo al César o no?" (Lucas 20:22). Cristo responde de manera célebre que uno debe rendirle a César lo que le pertenece a César, y a Dios lo que le pertenece a Dios (Lucas 20:25). Y dado que sabemos que todo lo que apreciamos le pertenece a Dios, el significado de su respuesta es obvio. Una vez más, las autoridades no están contentas, entonces, ustedes tienen a los líderes de los fariseos, a los líderes de los saduceos, a las autoridades del Templo y a los romanos mirando de reojo y enojados con este Mesías, este Jesús. Estaban sorprendidos por su respuesta y "dejándolo se fueron" (Mateo 22:22). Jesús en este mismo día es desafiado por los saduceos en el tema de la resurrección; su clara respuesta silenció a los saduceos. En este punto, "Cuando los fariseos oyeron que había silenciado a los saduceos, se juntaron" (Mateo 22:34).

Miércoles del Espía. El miércoles, la conspiración y la planificación se pusieron en marcha: los presbíteros sabían que Jesús tenía muchos que lo apoyaban y lo seguían. Necesitaban arrestarlo en un momento y lugar en el que habría un mínimo de sus partidarios, por lo que no podía suceder durante las celebraciones de la fiesta de la Pascua (Mateo 26: 4-5). Por otra parte, sabían que tendrían que infiltrarse en su círculo más cercano para encontrar dónde estaría en determinado momento mientras presentaban su caso en su contra. Se enfocaron en el apóstol de Cristo Judas, quien era el guardián de la bolsa de dinero para los Apóstoles. Juan 13: 2 Nos dice "que el diablo ya había depositado en el corazón de Judas Iscariote, hijo de Simón, el propósito de entregarle el Diablo " Así que, cuando los Jefes de los sacerdotes "le pagaron treinta monedas de plata" (Mateo 26:15), Judas - parafraseando a un línea famosa de "El Padrino" - tomó eso como una oferta que no pudo rechazar. Él contó todo lo que sabía sobre su amigo, su Señor y su Dios, y lo hizo sabiendo que esta información se usaría contra Jesús. Como fue en este día cuando Judas se reunió con los sumos sacerdotes y conspiró contra Jesús, el día se conoce comúnmente como "Miércoles del Espía". Judas entonces esperó el momento adecuado para iniciar su traición (Mateo 26:16).

¡El resto de esta columna continuará a en un inserto en este boletín!

Tuyo en Cristo, P. James Lentini, Pastor

Holy Week and Easter Schedule 2018

Monday, March 26

7:00p.m. Chrism Mass at Holy Cross

Holy Thursday, March 29

7:00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper
(Bilingual)

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
until 11:00 p.m.

11:00 p.m. Night Prayer

Good Friday, March 30

No Mass or Confessions

12:30 Walking Stations of the Cross
(Spanish)

3:00 p.m. Celebration of the Lord's
Passion-Veneration

7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross

9:00 p.m. Dramatization of the Passion
of Christ- at Holy Cross

Holy Saturday, March 31

8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil

Mass begins outside with "Blessing of
the Fire"

followed by procession into church

VIGIL following Mass

Easter Sunday, April 1

8:30 a.m. Mass in Church

10:00 a.m. Mass in Church **
(different time)

12:00 p.m. Mass in Church (Spanish)

**

NOTE:

There will be no 7:00 p.m. Mass

Semana Santa y Pascua de Resurrección 2018

Lunes, 26 de marzo

7:00 p.m. Misa Crismal- en la Santa
Cruz

Jueves Santo, 29 de marzo

7:00 p.m. Misa de la Cena del Señor
Bilingüe

Adoración del Santísimo Sacramento
hasta las 11:00 p.m.

11:00 p.m. Oración de la noche

Viernes Santo, 30 de marzo

No Hay Misa o confesiones

12:30 Estaciones de la Cruz

3:00 p.m. Celebración de la Pasión del
Señor

7:00 p.m. Estaciones de la Cruz

**9:00 pm Estaciones de la Cruz en
Vivo – Español- Santa Cruz**

Sábado Santo, 31 de marzo

8:00 p.m. Vigilia Pascual

La liturgia comenzará afuera con
"Bendición del fuego"

seguido por procesión a la iglesia

Domingo de Pascua, 1 de abril

8:30 am Misa en la iglesia

10:00 am Misa en la iglesia

12:00 p.m. Misa en español en la
iglesia

NO habrá Misa a las 7:00 pm

PASTOR'S COLUMN ON HOLY WEEK **continued:**

(We read about the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week; now, onto the Sacred Triduum: Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday).

HOLY THURSDAY. On Holy Thursday, Jesus gathered with his Apostles for a Passover meal that we commonly refer to as the Last Supper. While at supper Jesus makes clear to anyone paying attention that Judas would betray him. In Matthew 26, we hear Jesus say, "Amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me." No one says a word, except the guilty party, Judas, who insists, "Surely it is not I, Rabbi?" And then Jesus looks at him and replies, "You have said so." Judas realizing that folks are on to him slips out of the Last Supper.

Institution of the Eucharist and Holy Orders.

As that gathering continues, Jesus Christ institutes the Sacrament of the Eucharist. As we recount at Mass every day, Christ said, "Take this all of you, and eat of it, for this is my body which will be given up for you... Take this all of you and drink from it, for this is the Chalice of my blood, the blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sin." With these words Christ instituted the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Following the Apostles reception of what might be reckoned a "holy communion" for them, Christ also commanded these Apostles, to "*Do this in remembrance of me.*" (I Corinthians 11:25). With these words Christ instituted the Priesthood, and the Sacrament of Holy Orders. On that same night Christ, as relayed in John's Gospel, washes the feet of his Apostles (John 13:5-8) – the ultimate sign of service to the people of God. He tells his Apostles to do likewise: "What I have done for you, you should also do." (John 13:15).

After the Supper. After the Last Supper, Christ goes off to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane, to ponder what lay ahead of him; he commends his friends, his apostles, to wait outside of the garden. Christ enters the garden alone. He prays, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me; still, not my will but yours be done" (Matthew 26:39). Scripture relays that Christ's consideration of what lay ahead of him was so intense that his "sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground"

(Luke 22:44). In his "agony in the garden" angels came to Christ to comfort him in his time of need (Luke 22:43), but Christ left that garden ready to begin his Passion.

Beyond the Garden. While he was at prayer, his disciples fell asleep. He chastises their weakness of spirit, "Could you not keep watch for one hour?" (Mark 14:37). While his apostles slept, Judas and the plotters against Christ drew near. Judas drew close to Christ and gave him a kiss on his cheek – a sign in those times of fraternal care. In doing this Judas identifies his prey and Christ chastises him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?" (Luke 22:48). The question was, of course, rhetorical. Christ was betrayed by one of those closest to him. Some of Christ followers are riled up to the point that they start to fight against the authorities; Christ tells them, "Stop, no more of this!" (Luke 22:51). Christ is captured by the authorities and is tormented and tortured by his captors. He taken before Annas, a High Priest. Annas cannot get a confession out of Jesus, so "Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest." (John 18:24). Christ is taken before the Sanhedrin and the High Priest Caiaphas; during his questioning Caiaphas asks Christ if he is the Messiah, to which Christ responds, "You have said so." He is charged with Blasphemy and the Sanhedrin declares the Jesus is worthy of death (Matthew 26:57-66). Caiaphas send Christ onto Pilate, the Roman Governor, whom has the authority to order a death sentence (John 18:31). Furthering Christ's suffering, Peter, the leader of his Apostles, denies Christ as he is questioned about being connected to this now in-custody controversial figure. Peter weeps when he realizes that Christ predictions that Peter would betray him has in fact come to pass (Luke 22:54-62).

GOOD FRIDAY. On Good Friday, in the morning, Judas – recognizing the weight of deeds – hangs himself. Jesus is brought before Pilate, who finds him guilty of no crime. Pilate sends him to Herod who also had jurisdiction in this matter (Luke 23:6), who likewise finds no guilt in Jesus (Luke 23:15). He sent back to Pilate who ultimately finds Jesus innocent three different times (Luke 23:22). Amidst these trials, Jesus is scourged, spat upon, crowned with thorns and mocked by the people he came to save. Due to a custom, Pilate

was able to allow the people in the crowd to release a prisoner from custody. Pilate gives the people the choice between releasing a man named Barabbas, a murderer (Luke 23:18) or Jesus. The people release Barabbas, and Pilate folds (Luke 23:23). He allows for Christ's execution – namely, death on a Cross.

The Time of Morning. As per tradition, at approximately nine 'o'clock in the morning, Christ took of his cross and made his long journey from the Palace of Pilate to the place of his crucifixion. We recount these steps during the first ten Stations of the Cross. At noon, Christ, after making the agonizing journey carrying his cross, reached the place of his death at the hill of Calvary. There he was nailed to the Cross; atop the cross Pilate had an inscription that read: "Jesus the Nazorean, the King of the Jews." (John 19:19). Alongside Christ were two criminals, also being crucified. These two are named by tradition as St. Dismas and Gestas. St. Dismas suffering alongside Christ, confesses his guilt and asks Christ, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answers his prayer saying: "Today you will be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:39-43). St. Dismas -- as a result of his faith in Christ – has become known as "The Good Thief." Never veering from his Messianic and salvific works, as he was dying on the Cross amidst the crowd that was gathered, Christ called upon his Father saying "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34).

The Time of Mourning. From noon until three 'o'clock darkness fell over the land (Luke 23:44-45). As the hour of three 'o'clock arrived. Christ announces, "It is finished" (John 19:30) and "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit" (Luke 23:46). Then "Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last" (Mark 15:37) gives up his spirit. To make sure he was dead, a Roman soldier pierces Christ's side with a lance, and from that wound flowed blood and water. (John 19:34); the centurion responds, "Truly this man was the Son of God!" (Mark 15:39). Upon the death of Christ, the earth quaked (Matthew 27:51), rending a breach in the veil of the Temple (Mark 15:38); this reflects well the breach that seems to be between God and man at this dark moment. His body is taken from the cross and laid into a stone-sealed tomb (Matthew 27:60), the women who abided with Christ, like

Mary Magdalene, "prepared spices and perfumed oils" for his proper burial. (Luke 23:56). Pilate ordered guards posted around the tomb of Jesus to make sure Christ's followers don't try to steal his body "and say to the people, 'He has been raised from the dead.'" So, the soldiers sealed the stone in front of the tomb so that it couldn't be opened. (Matthew 27:66).

And now, for us, the wait begins as we the Christian faithful look from the darkness of Good Friday, to wait, patiently and prayerfully the glory of events of Easter.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor

COLUMNA DEL PASTOR PARA LA SEMANA SANTA continúa:

(Leímos acerca del lunes, el martes y el miércoles de Semana Santa, ahora, en el Triduo Sagrado: Jueves Santo, Viernes Santo y Sábado Santo).

JUEVES SANTO. El Jueves Santo, Jesús se reunió con sus Apóstoles para la Cena de Pascua a la que comúnmente nos referimos como la Última Cena. Mientras cenaban, Jesús hace claro a cualquiera que estaba prestando atención que Judas lo traicionará. En Mateo 26, escuchamos a Jesús decir: «En verdad les digo: uno de ustedes me va a traicionar.» Se sintieron profundamente afligidos, y uno a uno comenzaron a preguntarle: «¿Seré yo, Señor?» Nadie dice una palabra, excepto el culpable, Judas, quien insiste: "¿No soy yo, Rabí? "Y luego, Jesús lo mira y responde: "Tú lo has dicho". Judas al darse cuenta de que la gente le está mirando rápidamente se escabulle de la Última Cena.

Institución de la Eucaristía y las

Ordenes Sagradas. A medida que continúa la reunión, Jesucristo instituye el Sacramento de la Eucaristía. Mientras relatamos en la misa todos los días, Cristo dijo: «Tomen y coman; esto es mi cuerpo. Después tomó una copa, dio gracias y se la pasó diciendo: «Beban todos de ella: esto es mi sangre, la sangre de la Alianza, que es derramada por muchos, para el perdón de sus pecados. Con estas palabras Cristo instituyó el Sacramento de la Eucaristía. Después de la recepción de los Apóstoles de lo que podría ser una "comunión sagrada" para ellos, Cristo también ordenó a estos Apóstoles que *"hagan esto en memoria mía"* (1 Corintios 11:25). Con estas palabras, Cristo instituyó el Sacerdocio y el Sacramento del Orden Sagrado. En esa misma noche, Cristo, como es relatado en el Evangelio de Juan, lava los pies de sus apóstoles (Juan 13: 5-8), el signo supremo del servicio al pueblo de Dios. Él les dice a sus Apóstoles que hagan lo mismo: "Lo que he hecho por ustedes, ustedes también deben hacerlo" (Juan 13:15).

Después de la Cena. Después de la Última Cena, Cristo va a rezar en el Jardín de Getsemaní, para reflexionar sobre lo que le espera; dice a sus amigos, sus apóstoles, a que esperen afuera del jardín. Cristo entra solo en el jardín. Él ora, "Padre, si es posible, que esta copa se aleje de mí. Pero no se haga lo que yo quiero, sino lo que quieres tú." (Mateo 26:39). La escritura relata que la consideración de Cristo de lo que le esperaba fue tan intensa que su "sudor se volvió como gotas de sangre que caían en el suelo" (Lucas 22:44). En su "agonía en el jardín", ángeles acudieron a Cristo para consolarlo en su momento de necesidad (Lucas 22:43), pero Cristo dejó ese jardín listo para comenzar su Pasión.

Más Allá del Jardín. Mientras estaba en oración, sus discípulos se durmieron. Él les reclama su debilidad de espíritu, "¿De modo que no pudiste permanecer despierto una hora? " (Marcos 14:37). Mientras sus apóstoles dormían, Judas y los conspiradores contra Cristo se acercaban. Judas se acercó a Cristo y le dio un beso en la mejilla, una señal en esos momentos de cuidado fraterno. Al hacer esto, Judas identifica a su presa y Cristo le dice: "Judas, ¿estás traicionando al Hijo del Hombre con un beso?" (Lucas 22:48). La pregunta era, por supuesto, retórica. Cristo fue traicionado por uno de los más cercanos a él. Algunos de los seguidores de Cristo están irritados hasta el punto de que comienzan a luchar contra las autoridades; Cristo les dice: "¡No sigan con esto!" (Lucas 22:51). Cristo es capturado por las autoridades y es atormentado y torturado por sus captores. Lo llevaron ante Anás, un Sumo Sacerdote. Anás no puede obtener una confesión de Jesús, por lo que "Anás lo envió obligado a Caifás, el Sumo Sacerdote" (Juan 18:24). Cristo es llevado ante el Sanedrín y el Sumo Sacerdote Caifás; durante su interrogatorio Caifás le pregunta a Cristo si él es el Mesías, a lo que Cristo responde: "Tú lo has dicho". Está acusado de blasfemia y el Sanedrín declara que Jesús es digno de muerte (Mateo 26: 57-66). Caifás envía a Cristo a Pilato, el gobernador romano, quien tiene autoridad para ordenar la pena de muerte (Juan 18:31). Fomentando el sufrimiento de Cristo, Pedro, el líder de sus apóstoles, niega a Cristo mientras es interrogado acerca de su conexión con esta figura controvertida que ahora está bajo custodia. Pedro llora cuando se da cuenta de que las predicciones de Cristo de que Pedro lo traicionaría había sucedido (Lucas 22: 54-62).

VIERNES SANTO. El Viernes Santo, en la mañana, Judas, reconociendo el peso de las acciones, se ahorca. Jesús es llevado ante Pilato, quien lo encuentra culpable de ningún delito. Pilato lo envía a Herodes, que también tenía jurisdicción en este asunto (Lucas 23: 6), que tampoco encuentra culpa en Jesús (Lucas 23:15). Él envió de regreso a Pilato, quien finalmente encuentra a Jesús inocente en tres ocasiones diferentes (Lucas 23:22). En medio de estas pruebas, Jesús es azotado, escupido, coronado con espinas y burlado por la gente a la que vino a salvar. Debido a una costumbre, Pilato pudo permitir que la gente de la multitud liberara a un prisionero en custodia. Pilato le da a la gente la opción de liberar a un hombre llamado Barrabás, un asesino (Lucas 23:18) o a Jesús. La gente suelta a Barrabás, y Pilato se repliega (Lucas 23:23). Él permite la ejecución de Cristo, es decir, la muerte en una cruz.

La Hora de la Mañana. Según la tradición, aproximadamente a las nueve en punto de la mañana, Cristo tomó su cruz e hizo su largo viaje desde el Palacio de Pilato hasta el lugar de su crucifixión. Recordamos estos pasos durante las primeras diez Estaciones de la Cruz. Al mediodía, Cristo, después de hacer el agonizante viaje llevando su cruz, llegó al lugar de su muerte en la cima del Calvario. Allí fue clavado en la Cruz; Encima de la cruz, Pilato tenía una inscripción que decía: "Jesús el Nazareno, el Rey de los judíos" (Juan 19:19). Junto a Cristo había dos

criminales, también crucificados. Estos dos son nombrados por la tradición como St. Dimas y Gestas. San Dimas que sufre junto a Cristo, confiesa su culpabilidad y le pide a Cristo: "Jesús, acuérdate de mí cuando entres a tu reino". Jesús contesta su oración diciendo: "Hoy estarás conmigo en el paraíso" (Lucas 23:39). 43). San Dimas, como resultado de su fe en Cristo, se ha dado a conocer como "El ladrón bueno". Nunca se apartó de sus obras mesiánicas y salvíficas, ya que estaba muriendo en la Cruz en medio de la multitud que se había congregado, Cristo invocó su Padre dijo: "Padre, perdónalos, porque no saben lo que hacen" (Lucas 23:34).

Tiempo de Luto. Desde el mediodía se ocultó el sol y todo el país quedó en tinieblas hasta las tres de la tarde. . Cristo anuncia, " Todo está Consumado " (Juan 19:30), y Jesús gritó muy fuerte: «Padre, en tus manos encomiendo mi espíritu». (Lucas 23: 46)Y dichas estas palabras, expiró. (Marcos 15:37) abandona su espíritu. Para asegurarse de que estaba muerto, un soldado romano perfora el costado de Cristo con una lanza, y de esa herida fluyó sangre y agua. (Juan 19:34); el centurión responde, "¡Verdaderamente este hombre era el Hijo de Dios!" (Marcos 15:39). Después de la muerte de Cristo. En ese momento la cortina del Templo se rasgó por la mitad oscuridad cayó sobre la tierra la tierra se estremeció (Mateo 27:51), esto refleja bien la brecha que parece ser entre Dios y el hombre n este momento oscuro (Marcos 15:38). Su cuerpo es sacado de la cruz y depositado en una tumba sellada de piedra (Mateo 27:60), las mujeres que permanecieron con Cristo, como María Magdalena, "prepararon especias y aceites perfumados" para su propio entierro. (Lucas 23:56). Pilato ordenó a los guardias alrededor de la tumba de Jesús para asegurarse de que los seguidores de Cristo no intenten robar su cuerpo "y decirle a la gente: 'Ha resucitado de entre los muertos'". Entonces, los soldados sellaron la piedra en frente de la tumba para que no se pudiera abrir. (Mateo 27:66).

Y ahora, para nosotros, la espera comienza cuando los fieles cristianos miramos desde la oscuridad del Viernes Santo, para esperar, pacientemente y en oración, la gloria de los eventos de la Pascua.

Tuyo en Cristo,
P. James Lentini
Párroco