

## **Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord April 5, 2020**

Due to our "State of Emergency" situation, all Masses have been cancelled. Many of you might be wondering about your offerings to the church. You can still give to the church through on-line giving or by sending your envelope through the mail. Please make sure to designate which collection your offering should go towards (i.e. offertory, parish center, ACA) otherwise it will be placed into offertory.

Father Jude would like to express his sincere gratitude to those of you who have been able to continue your financial support of our parish during this challenging time. We have received offertory contributions on-line, dropped at the parish office and through the mail.  
God bless you all!!!

**Even though we are not having public Masses all Mass intentions are being lifted up by our priest during their private daily Masses.**

**This Week: Sunday – April 5th**

+Elton Davis of (SWC)

**Tracy Middlebrooks & Kevin Thompson**  
(RCIA candidates)

**Monday – April 6th (ICC)**

**Patrick Mimbs**

**Tuesday – April 7th (ICC)**

**Joseph Svestka**

**Wednesday – April 8th (ICC)**

**Kevin Thompson**

**Thursday – April 9th Holy Thursday Mass**

+Sally Kirby

**Good Friday – No Mass**

**Saturday – April 11th Easter Vigil Mass**

**Holy Souls in Purgatory**

### **Parish Ministries**

Parish Council President - Garrett Cannon

Finance Council – Tony Ingrando

Bereavement Committee – Tiffany Taylor

Fellowship/Receptions – Ruella Ricaza

Knights of Columbus – Patrick Mimbs, GK

Dir. of Religious Education – Leanna Maglulio

Altar Guild Coordinator– Carole Edenfield

Lectors – Mary Louise McRae

Usher/EM of Communion – Lorraine Ackerson

Youth Ministry Chairperson – Helen Martin

Hispanic Ministry Coordinator – Alice McLendon

**Ruella Ricaza has been appointed as temporary music coordinator until a permanent one can be hired.**

### **Abuse Hotline Number**

To report sexual abuse of a minor by a Diocese of Savannah employee or volunteer, call the abuse hotline number at 888-357-5330 or the Office for the Protection of Children and Young People, 912-201-4074. To read the diocesan policy on sexual abuse of minors, go to [www.diosav.org/childyouthprotection](http://www.diosav.org/childyouthprotection).

### **The Bishop's Annual Appeal has been changed to The Annual Catholic Appeal. (ACA)**

ICC has 242 families if every family gave \$100.00 we can meet our goal.

St William has 29 families if every family gave \$168.00 we can meet our goal.

Holy Redeemer has 45 families if every family gave \$41.00 we could meet our goal.

St Mark has 39 families if every family gave \$103.00 we could meet our goal.

**Effective today (March 26, 2020), the Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) has been placed on a temporary and mindful hold. Faced with the uncertainty of when churches will reopen as well as possible financial changes for our donors, it is not the right time to continue with the active phase of the annual appeal.**

### **Financial Report**

#### **Immaculate Conception**

(242 Registered Families)

|                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Weekly Expense         | \$4,911.00  |
| Offertory              | \$3,790.00  |
| Parish Center Campaign | \$200.00    |
| ACA Goal for 2020      | \$23,380.00 |
| Total Given            | 8,451.09    |

#### **St. William Mission**

(29 Registered Families)

|                          |            |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Weekly Expense           | \$1,257.00 |
| Offertory                | \$1,050.00 |
| Catholic Relief Services | \$1,324.08 |
| ACA Goal for 2020        | \$4,872.00 |
| Total Given:             | 4,476.00   |

#### **Holy Redeemer**

(45 Registered Families)

|                     |             |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Weekly Expense      | \$720.00    |
| Offertory           | \$0.00      |
| Year to Date Total: | \$15,639.28 |
| ACA Goal for 2020   | \$4,817.00  |
| Total Given         | 120.00      |

#### **St Mark**

(39 Registered Families)

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| Weekly Expense    | \$1,094.00 |
| Offertory         | \$460.00   |
| ACA Goal for 2020 | \$4,016.00 |
| Total Given       | 50.00      |

## Religious Education

All CCD classes have been cancelled until further notice.

### RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

All classes have been cancelled until further notice.

## Baptismal Classes

Classes have been suspended until "State of Emergency" has been lifted.

All previously scheduled baptisms will need to be rescheduled due to the restrictions we are under at this time.

Happy Anniversary

### April 2020

- 03- Leslie & Julie Brooks (49)
- 05- Fredrick & Teresa Williams (23)
- 11- Tim & Margee Edge (43)

happy birthday!

### April 2020

- 01- Josh Halcombe, Roland Manahan
- 02- Jane Dominy, Mia Ingrando, Juan Navarro
- 03- Nancy Mimbs, Elias Cuevas
- 04- Delan Manahan
- 06- Danny Hoffa, Marie Hooks
- 08- Mireya Rodriguez, Taylor Veal
- 10- Helen Martin, Kevin Thompson

## Upcoming Events

Safe Haven Sunday will be rescheduled.

A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land – 10 Days  
September 7<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> 2020

Spiritual Director: Fr. Jude Shayo, AJ  
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church  
\$3199 per person

Round Trip from Atlanta, Georgia

Check out the brochure on the bulletin Board in the Narthex.

No Ladies Fellowship Gatherings until after "State of Emergency" has been lifted.

**Happenings Page is updated monthly.** This page shows future events and schedule changes. We will do our best to keep this current. **This website has also been expanded to include our mission churches. Please contact the office if you would like to add additional events to our website.**

## Lenten Observance

Weekdays of Lent: volunteer acts of love and self-denial are recommended.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence from meat.

On meals: Fasting on these days means we can have only one full, meatless meal. Some food can be taken at the other regular meal times if necessary, *but combined they should be less than a full meal.* Liquids are allowed at any time, but no solid food should be consumed between meals. This applies to all people between 18 and 59 inclusive.

Days of Abstinence includes all Fridays of Lent.

All who have reached their 14<sup>th</sup> year are bound to abstain totally from meat.



Dear Parishioners,

Please make sure to connect with your parish through our website, Facebook in our missions for the information and updates as we go through this challenging time. Emails have been sent by our secretary, Ms. Julie Brooks and Ms. Patti Deep from Holy Redeemer in McRae. Hope that you are receiving them. If your email is not registered with us, please let Julie know. As soon as you receive any information from us please share it with others who may not have computer access.

Also, please be aware that we do have an online bulletin available on our website. Please share the information with others.

### **Check out this website**

Massonline.org

This site will show you Masses every half hour from all over the country.

## Prayer from the American Conference of Catholic Bishops



### Holy Virgin of Guadalupe

Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas.  
We fly to you today as your beloved children.  
We ask you to intercede for us with your Son,  
as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother,  
and gain for our nation and world,  
and for all our families and loved ones,  
the protection of your holy angels,  
that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted,  
we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance.  
Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful,  
wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing,  
teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be  
patient and kind.

Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to  
our hearts.

We come to you with confidence,  
knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother,  
health of the sick and cause of our joy.

Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,  
keep us in the embrace of your arms,  
help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus.

Amen.



## In response to the coronavirus outbreak.

Dear Parishioners,

With the spread of the coronavirus, Bishop Hartmayer has given instructions for the good and health of our parishioners. The Parish and its Missions are implementing

these preventative measures recommended by the local health officials and Pastoral Center in Savannah. Let us also use our common sense in providing the recommended social distance space for everyone.

In these challenging days, there are no public Masses celebrated in the parish church or missions in this Diocese. We are recommended and encouraged to follow, watch and listen a live streamed Mass from the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Savannah on Sunday at 10:00AM. Television and online Masses may be viewed on EWTN. Basically, this is like having an online presence for Sunday Mass instead of meeting in person as a community of believers in the church building.

Since we cannot receive Holy Communion as it were for Holy Mass, let us use the prayer of St. Alphonsus Liguori in making an act of spiritual communion.

*“My Jesus,  
I believe that You  
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment  
receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if  
You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.  
Never permit me to be separated from You.  
Amen.”*

Although we may have cancelled our on-site Church Mass, our Church’s ongoing ministry and mission continue. Parish members’ weekly contribution makes possible the continued fulfillment of the ongoing mission operation. Therefore, in order for the Church to fulfill this and be able to pay the bills, maintenance and related issues, and support our employed staff, your Church is still in need of your Sunday contributions. Here are some ways to contribute:

1. *Send your Sunday Offering through the U.S. Postal Service:* If you choose this method, you need to take precautions and make sure that when you send a letter that it doesn’t have symptoms that might lead to the spread of a virus via a letter.

2. *Drop the Offering off* - at the church office where it will be kept in the secure lock box.

3. *Use on-line giving at: [osvonlinegiving.com](http://osvonlinegiving.com) or visit our Home page and left click on Online Giving.*

A faithful parishioner finds a way to remain a faithful contributor. In these challenging times each parishioner needs to find a way to remain faithful in his/her contribution to ensure the continued operation of the parish and care for the church facilities in order that the church’s apostolate would thrive and not suffer. As the obligation to attend Sunday Mass is suspended until further notice, we request that you participate from home by tuning into live streamed Mass or a televised Liturgy and make an act of spiritual communion. Stay home and remember not to put others at risk is an act of charity.

While monitoring the evolving situation and seeking to provide more information and means for our parishioners, please know that all of you are in my thoughts and prayers, during this challenging time.

Peace,

*Fr. Jude Shayo, AJ (Pastor)*

## **A PRAYER FOR PROTECTION IN TIME OF PANDEMIC**

O Mary, you always brighten our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the Cross, took part in Jesus' pain while remaining steadfast in faith. O loving Mother, you know what we need, and we are confident you will provide for us as at Cana in Galilee. Intercede for us with your Son Jesus, the Divine Physician, for those who have fallen ill, for those who are vulnerable, and for those who have died. Intercede also for those charged with protecting the health and safety of others and for those who are tending to the sick and seeking a cure. Help us, O Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who took upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows, so as to lead us, through the Cross, to the glory of the Resurrection. Amen. Under thy protection we seek refuge, O Holy Mother of God. In our needs, despise not our petitions, but deliver us always from all dangers, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

### **The Palm Sunday**

Today is Palm Sunday, also called Passion Sunday, a day we remember Jesus triumphant entry into Jerusalem riding on a donkey. It's a unique day in the Church's liturgical calendar, because we read two gospels each with a different tone, sentiments and message. We call it Palm Sunday because the liturgy begins with the presentation of an enthusiastic people of Jerusalem who joyfully welcomed Jesus into their city by spreading their cloaks along the road

and waving palm branches as they sang songs of praise to the Lord. They cried out "Hosanna" which means "God save us" in Hebrew.

As the liturgy progresses, suddenly, the tone, mood and the message changes as the Gospel announces the king degraded to a mere criminal. The enthusiastic crowd who joyfully welcomed Jesus in Jerusalem and called him son of David, are now the ones calling him a blasphemer, a criminal, and now calling for his death. The parade that rode him joyfully to Jerusalem is the crowd that has now turned to be a march to His execution. The symbols used in today's liturgy have a lot of meaning in them: In the Bible, the green palms

symbolize peace and royalty. This is what Prophet Isaiah says about the expected messiah: "*He shall be a prince of peace*" (Is 9:6). Meanwhile the crowd is a symbol of both praise and denial. The same crowd that enthusiastically and joyfully sang "hosanna" is the same crowd that will shout, "crucify him!" A donkey is an animal that is considered a beast of burden in many cultures. In this passage it is a symbol of Christ's humility predicted by prophet Zachariah: "*He is humble king. He rides on a donkey*" (Zac 9: 9).

Today's celebration reminds us of our own temptations and sins. That in our journey of faith, we only follow Jesus in the easy part of the journey, but when the cross becomes tough, we run away. So, we need to deeply examine our own loyalty to Christ in the world, where Christ and His gospel is mocked and degraded. Palm Sunday calls on us not to be like the easily swayed and inconsistent, crowd that followed the cheap popularity of their leaders. But that we must focus our eyes on to Jesus, learn a bit of his perseverance, unwavering and total dedication to do the will of His father. We must be ready to stand up for truth and justice even at the cost of our own blood.

Fr. John Stephen Ariko, AJ.

### **Church without Church: Coronavirus is an intrusion in faith.**

With the outbreak of Coronavirus, the order was given for the closure of Churches, the suspension of public Masses and celebration of other sacraments.

This is something very hard to comprehend. It is a new reality, a new difficult journey to live.

We are all suffering now because we cannot gather as a big family as we are used to on Sunday where we have an interaction. As believers, we cannot imagine to have faith: without church, without sacraments celebrated, without a congregation or without ministers who are the priests.

In spite of all these challenges, each of us is given an opportunity to grow in our faith and learn more to depend and trust in God.

## **From the Office of the Bishop**

As you may know, Governor Kemp has issued a "Shelter at Home" or "Shelter in Place" order for the entire state. Taking his decree into account, for the parishes and missions of the Diocese of Savannah the Holy Week Liturgical Directives are still in force and that the suspension of public masses will continue until further notice. Also, church events of more than 10 people should be canceled.

Necessarily, there are a few things that should be done at once at all of our parishes so that we as Catholics in the Southern part of Georgia do our part in contributing to slowing the spread of the virus in our parishes and our communities.

**1) The Parish Office will be closed with only check-ins to check email, phone messages and correspondence. We will be working from home.**

**2) The Church should be closed and locked.**

We do not want to be the reason that our faithful will be tempted to violate the Shelter at Home order of our duly elected officials.

**3) Regularly scheduled parish confession times should be canceled,** and individual confessions may be heard at the discretion of the priest according to pastoral need. The faithful can be referred to paragraphs 1451-1452 of the Catechism concerning contrition and the forgiveness of sins.



If you have a service and/or talent that you would like to share with our parish, we would love to hear from you.

Please call the Church office @ 478-272-0266.

Brendan Brown repairs rosaries. You can reach him at 478-278-8280