

"It was the month of Nisan. The Book of Exodus ordered that in this month the Paschal Lamb was to be selected, and four days later was to be taken to the place where it was to be sacrificed. On Palm Sunday, the Lamb was chosen by popular acclaim in Jerusalem; on Good Friday He was sacrificed."

Venerable Fulton J. Sheen, Life of Christ

My dear St. Joseph Parish Family,

This weekend brings us to Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion and enters us into Holy Week. These days are the most sacred days of the entire liturgical year. Even amidst this worldwide pandemic, we are called to do what we can to keep these days sacred, to truly make it a "holy" week. How we will do so will look different for each and every one of us. This is the time for the domestic church, our homes, to grow in new ways by being open to God's grace.

I encourage you to spend this time reflecting on our readings, spending time in personal and family prayer, praying the Rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and the Stations of the Cross. Be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and be creative. As we continue to act prudently with one another in regards to social distancing, remember that God is with us and continues to work in every moment of our lives.

While we can not yet receive Jesus in the Most Holy Eucharist, may this time apart from His Sacrifice of the Mass deepen our desire to receive Him. The Most Holy Eucharist is the greatest of gifts, a treasure which cannot be measured, as it is Christ Himself. May we never take for granted He whom we receive. May our hearts

St. Joseph Catholic Church ~ 1300 N. Main, Bluffton 46714 ~ (260) 824-1380 Email: stjosephchurch@adamswell.com ~ Website: stjosephchurchbluffton.org

Pastor: Fr. David Violi ~ Fr. David's email: frdavidvioli@gmail.com

* Sacramental Emergency Number: 260-296-0511 *

truly be burning within us as we await that blessed day when we can approach the Eucharistic Sacrifice again.

HOLY WEEK RESOURCES AND LITURGIES

As we enter into Holy Week, we will make a variety of resources available on our Parish Website (www.StJosephChurchBluffton.org) for use in our homes. These will include creative suggestions and ideas to turn our homes into sacred spaces for prayer throughout Holy Week, the Sacred Triduum, Easter Sunday, and beyond.

In addition to these resources, we will also continue to live-stream many of our liturgies and devotions on our Parish Website (www.StJosephChurchBlufton.org) and our Parish Facebook Page (@StJosephChurchBlufton). Please see the schedule of times included in this mailing for when the liturgies will be streamed.

While most of our Holy Week liturgies will be live-streamed from our parish, several of the Triduum liturgies will be live-streamed from the Cathedral with Bishop Rhoades. These will be the Chrism Mass (10 AM) and the Mass of the Lord's Supper (7 PM) on Holy Thursday, the Service of our Lord's Passion (1 PM) on Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil (9 PM) on Holy Saturday Night. These liturgies with Bishop Rhoades will be shared on both our website and Facebook page. We will be joining with Bishop Rhoades for these liturgies throughout the Triduum so that we might hear from our bishop himself during such dificult times and these sacred days.

As a reminder, Confession is available at all times by appointment. Simply call the Parish Office (824-1380) or email me directly (frdavidvioli@gmail.com) to schedule a time for Confession. This allows us to ensure that the Sacrament is readily available and can be offered in such a way as to be mindful of proper social distancing.

Faithfully in Christ, Fr. David

This Easter season, we welcome Deacon Stephen Felicichia to St. Joseph. A son of St. Therese in Waynedale, Dcn. Felicichia is one of 27 seminarians studying for the priesthood in our diocese. Over the next two months, Dcn. Felicichia will be completing his last semester at the seminary online, preparing for priestly ordination, and, having taken up residence in the rectory, assisting at our parish.

Den. Felicichia has been hearing about the many good things happening at our parish and, when we are able to gather together again, is looking forward to meeting each of you in person. I greatly appreciate his help and am greatly enjoying having company in the rectory. Please keep Den. Felicichia and all of our seminarians in your prayers as they continue their formation towards the priesthood for our diocese.

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Live-Streamed at St. Joseph

Viewable at our Website (www.StJosephChurchBluffton.org/live-stream) and our Facebook Page (@StJosephChurchBluffton)

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Holy Monday (April 6th)	Mass - 11:30 AM; Rosary - 4 PM; Vespers - 6 PM
Holy Tuesday (April 7th)	Mass - 11:30 AM ; Rosary - 4 PM ; Vespers - 6 PM
Spy Wednesday (April 8th)	Mass - 11:30 AM; Rosary - 4 PM; Vespers - 6 PM
Holy Thursday (April 9th)	Lauds (<i>Morning Prayer</i>) - 9 AM Chrism Mass with Bp. Rhoades - 10 AM Rosary - 4 PM; Vespers - 6 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper with Bp. Rhoades - 7 PM
Good Friday (April 10th)	Lauds (Morning Prayer) - 9 AM The Lord's Passion with Bp. Rhoades - 1 PM Rosary - 4 PM; Vespers - 6 PM Stations of the Cross - 7:30 PM Tenebrae Service - 8:30 PM
Holy Saturday (April 11th)	Lauds (<i>Morning Prayer</i>) - 9 AM Rosary - 4 PM ; Vespers - 6 PM Easter Vigil with Bp. Rhoades - 9 PM
Easter Sunday (April 12th)	Easter Mass - 11 AM

Confessions available by Appointment Call (260) 824-1380 or Email frdavidvioli@gmail.com