

MARCH - APRIL 2026

The Messenger

A BIMONTHLY PUBLICATION OF CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH



In Loving Memory Of Mr.
Arthur Gould Messersmith
Who went to his Heavenly Home
April 19, 1900



Dear Beloved Community of Messiah,

In the Passion according to Matthew, there is a painful moment when the crowd takes on a decisive role. Guided by the religious voices they trust most, they are persuaded to call for the release of a notorious prisoner over a man whose only offense is acting with compassion beyond accepted belief. It is a moment that asks us to pause. How easily can we be led away from what heals, especially when familiar voices tell us what to think and how to respond?

Easter invites us into a different way of living. It asks us to be clear about our values and steady in them. The call to compassion, to mercy, and to reconciliation is often quieter than the voices that stir fear or division. Yet it is the path that leads to life.

The readings of the Vigil remind us that God has always been at work bringing renewal: creation filled with goodness, a path opened through the sea, wisdom offered for life, and the promise of a new heart and spirit. Again and again, we are shown that restoration is possible.

On Easter morning, Mary Magdalene stands in the garden, grieving and uncertain. She does not recognize Jesus at first. It is when he speaks her name, “Mary,” that she understands. He calls her, and she responds.

This is the invitation of Easter. To listen for the voice that calls us back to what is true. To choose compassion. To act with clarity.

May this Easter bring you peace, renewal, and the strength to live in that truth.

Yours in Christ’s peace,

Fr. Abel E. Lopez, Rector
Church of the Messiah

Querida y amada comunidad del Mesías:

En la Pasión según San Mateo, hay un momento doloroso en el que la multitud asume un papel decisivo. Guiada por las voces religiosas en las que más confían, el pueblo es persuadido para pedir la liberación de un prisionero notorio en lugar de la de un hombre cuya única ofensa es actuar con una compasión que trasciende las creencias establecidas. Es un momento que nos invita a hacer una pausa. ¿Con qué facilidad podemos ser desviados de aquello que sana, especialmente cuando voces familiares nos dictan qué pensar y cómo reaccionar?

La Pascua nos invita a adoptar una forma de vida diferente; nos pide tener claridad respecto a nuestros valores y mantenernos firmes en ellos. El llamado a la compasión, a la misericordia y a la reconciliación suele ser más tenue que las voces que incitan al miedo o a la división. Sin embargo, es el camino que conduce a la vida.

Las lecturas de la Vigilia nos recuerdan que Dios siempre ha estado obrando para traer renovación: una creación colmada de bondad, un camino abierto a través de las aguas, sabiduría ofrecida para la vida y la promesa de un corazón y un espíritu nuevo. Una y otra vez, se nos muestra que la restauración es posible.

En la mañana de Pascua, María Magdalena permanece en el jardín, sumida en el duelo y la incertidumbre. Al principio, no reconoce a Jesús. Es cuando Él pronuncia su nombre —«¡María!»— que ella comprende. Él la llama, y ella responde.

Esta es la invitación de la Pascua: escuchar la voz que nos llama de regreso a la verdad; elegir la compasión; actuar con claridad.

Que esta Pascua les traiga paz, renovación y la fortaleza para vivir en esa verdad.

Suyos, en la paz de Cristo,

P. Abel E. Lopez, Rector
Iglesia del Mesías

AUCTION 2026

Save the Date!

May 2nd

Caribbean CARNIVALE

Messiah Family and Friends!

Our annual auction has been moved from autumn back to springtime! We will be celebrating a **Caribbean Carnivale** on **Saturday, May 2nd**. Please plan to attend this always-fun parish event to support our life and work here at Messiah. The committee is working hard to provide Caribbean vibes and good times! There'll be more than enough hototo!

Now is the time to start planning what you might like to donate to the success of the auction. Our attendees love experiences to bid on: a get-away, theater, restaurant, home parties or an outing! We also love good food and wine, things we can consume or enjoy for a time, like fresh flowers or dessert for an occasion. Services are also a great idea, if you have something you can offer, such as gardening, handyman, house cleaning, tutoring or catering a dinner! We will also be collecting wine for our Wine Wall! Cash donations and sponsorships are also very welcome, as always.

You can email your offer to **Janet Hryniewicki** at j.hryni@gmail.com. Think of a value to be set for the donation, and include details like when you would like the event or offering to take place. If your item is tangible, like event tickets and wine, deliver it to Janet at church, or midweek to Anne, during office hours Monday-Thursday before 1:00.

We have just 2 months until **Caribbean Carnivale!** The donation deadline is **Sunday, April 19th**, and we will be most appreciative of knowing what you want to offer sooner than later.

Look for your invitation in April and QR code/link **register online to attend!** Bring your Tropical State of Mind and we will Sea You in the Caribbean!

Janet Hryniewicki and the Auction Committee

Familia de Messiah,

Nuestra subasta anual se a trasladado de otoño a primavera! Celebraremos un **carnaval Caribeño** el **sábado 2 de mayo**. Por favor, asistan a este divertido evento parroquial para apoyar nuestra vida y trabajo en Messiah. El comité está trabajando para crear un ambiente Caribeño y buenos momentos. Habrá "hototo" de sobra!

Ahora es el momento de empezar a planificar qué less gustaría donar para el éxito de la subasta. A nuestros asistentes les encantan las experiencias por las que pujar: Una escapada, fiestas en casa, o una salida! También nos encanta buena comida y buen vino, cosas que podemos consumir o disfrutar durante un rato, como flores, dulces o postres para una ocasión especial. Los servicios son un gran idea, si tienen algo de ofrecer: jardinería, mantenimiento, comida de tu herencia. También las donaciones en efectivo y los patrocinios son bienvenidos, como siempre.

Puede enviar su oferta por correo electrónico a **Janet Hryniewicki** a j.hryni@gmail.com. Piense en un valor para la donación e incluya detalles como la fecha en que desea que se realice el evento o la ofrendo. Si su oferta es tangible, como boletos o una botella de ron, entrégueselo a Janet o Eduardo Oquendo en la iglesia o a Anne entre semana, en horario de oficina, de lunes a jueves, antes de la 1:00pm.

!Solo faltan dos meses para "**Caribbean Carnivale!**" La fecha límite para donaciones es **domingo 19 de abril**. Agradeceríamos mucho saber lo que desea ofrecer lo mas antes posible. Gracias!

Espera su invitación en abril, y **regístrese en línea** con el código QR/enlace para asistir. !Traiga su espíritu tropical y lo llevaremos al Caribe!

Janet Hryniewicki y El Comité de La Subasta

PREACHING SCHEDULE

MARCH 1

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

8:00AM	HOLY EUCHARIST	THE REV. ABEL LOPEZ
10:00AM	HOLY EUCHARIST	THE REV. ABEL LOPEZ
12:00PM	SANTA EUCARISTÍA	EL REVDO. ABEL LOPEZ
5:30PM	EVENSONG	THE REV. JIM LEE

MARCH 8

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

8:00AM	HOLY EUCHARIST	THE REV. JIM LEE
10:00AM	HOLY EUCHARIST	THE REV. JIM LEE
12:00PM	SANTA EUCARISTÍA	EL REVDO. ABEL LOPEZ

MARCH 15

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

8:00AM	HOLY EUCHARIST	THE REV. ABEL LOPEZ
10:00AM	HOLY EUCHARIST	THE REV. ABEL LOPEZ
12:00PM	SANTA EUCARISTÍA	EL REVDO. ABEL LOPEZ

MARCH 22

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

8:00AM	HOLY EUCHARIST	THE REV. ABEL LOPEZ
10:00AM	HOLY EUCHARIST	THE REV. ABEL LOPEZ
12:00PM	SANTA EUCARISTÍA	EL REVDO. ABEL LOPEZ

MARCH 29

THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION
PALM SUNDAY

8:00AM	HOLY EUCHARIST	THE REV. JIM LEE
10:00AM	HOLY EUCHARIST	THE REV. JIM LEE
12:00PM	SANTA EUCARISTÍA	EL REVDO. ABEL LOPEZ

APRIL 2

MAUNDY THURSDAY (BILINGUAL)

6:30PM	HOLY EUCHARIST	THE REV. ABEL LOPEZ
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APRIL 3

GOOD FRIDAY

12:15PM	MEDITATION SERVICE	THE REV. ABEL LOPEZ
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APRIL 3

VIA CRUCIS (BILINGUAL)

6:30PM	STATIONS OF THE CROSS STREET PROCESSION	THE REV. ABEL LOPEZ
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APRIL 4

EASTER VIGIL

7:30PM	HOLY EUCHARIST	THE REV. ABEL LOPEZ
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APRIL 5

EASTER SUNDAY

8:00AM	HOLY EUCHARIST	THE REV. ABEL LOPEZ
10:00AM	HOLY EUCHARIST	THE REV. ABEL LOPEZ
12:00PM	SANTA EUCARISTÍA	EL REVDO. ABEL LOPEZ

APRIL 12

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

8:00AM	HOLY EUCHARIST	THE REV. JIM LEE
LEE 10:00AM	HOLY EUCHARIST	THE REV. JIM LEE
12:00PM	SANTA EUCARISTÍA	EL REVDO. ABEL LOPEZ

APRIL 19

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

8:00AM	HOLY EUCHARIST	THE REV. ABEL LOPEZ
10:00AM	HOLY EUCHARIST	THE REV. ABEL LOPEZ
12:00PM	SANTA EUCARISTÍA	EL REVDO. ABEL LOPEZ

APRIL 26

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

8:00AM	HOLY EUCHARIST	THE REV. JIM LEE
10:00AM	HOLY EUCHARIST	THE REV. JIM LEE
12:00PM	SANTA EUCARISTÍA	EL REVDO. ABEL LOPEZ

REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTIONS - A GREAT WAY TO SUPPORT OUR CHURCH.

By Dee Tucker



Several years ago, I learned that I could donate all or some of my Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) to a 501(C)3 and it would lower my tax liability. I've been doing that ever since. Here are the 'rules'.

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) allows individuals aged 70½ or older to transfer up to \$105,000 in 2025 (\$108,000 indexed for inflation, per Innovative CPA Group and CDC Foundation) directly from a traditional or inherited IRA to a qualified 501(c)(3) charity, excluding the amount from taxable income while satisfying RMD requirements. The funds must go directly from the IRA custodian to the charity.

Key Details on RMDs to 501(c)(3) Charities

Tax Benefits: The QCD is not included in your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI), which can help keep you in a lower tax bracket and minimize the impact on Social Security or Medicare premiums.

Eligibility: You must be at least 70½ years old at the time of the distribution.

Qualified Accounts: Traditional IRA, inherited IRA, SEP, and SIMPLE IRAs (if inactive) are eligible. 401(k) or 403(b) plans are not directly eligible, but funds can be rolled over to an IRA first.

Direct Transfer Requirement: The check must be made payable directly to the charity, not to you personally, to qualify for tax-free treatment. Please request to include your name in the check so that the church can credit the correct donor.

Eligible Charities: The donation must go to a 501(c)(3) public charity; Donor-Advised Funds (DAFs) and private foundations are not eligible.

Deadline: The transfer must be completed by December 31st of the tax year.

One more thing - I learned that your name on your donation would be best for the church to understand who to credit it to.



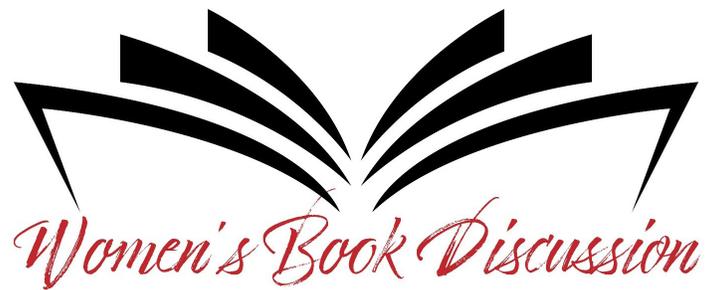
Raul Roque	03/01
Dana Hollenbeck	03/01
Virgil Nolde	03/02
Kevin Zacapala Lopez	03/03
Therese Galvan	03/03
Jean Hollingshead	03/04
Stacie Herrera	03/09
Jordy Pina	03/10
Carolyn Estrada	03/13
Ignacio De La Puente	03/16
David Montes	03/16
Genny Lopez	03/17
Patricia Bulseco	03/17
David Reza	03/18
Marilyn Wright	03/19
Rebekah Remkiewicz	03/19
Maria Guzman	03/19
Joshua Villegas	03/20
Galilea Perez	03/21
Maria Tovias	03/21
Jorge Garrido	03/23
Riley Murphy	03/23
Sergio Lovell	03/23
Sara Martinez	03/24
Michele Minery	03/24
Adam Reddel	03/27
Harriett Kelly	03/27
Marsha Hively	03/29
Murray Schrantz	03/29
Irene Bautista	03/30
Gary Ball	03/31
Nancy Sear	04/02
Ciara Alvarado	04/03
David Smith	04/04
Nellie Gillogly	04/04
Bob Butcher	04/05
Adam Hryniewicki	04/06
Sally Salisbury	04/06
Dennis Pina	04/07
Jim Sear	04/09
Joyce Dery	04/09
Caye Riley	04/10
Sam Murphy	04/12
Jurgen van Engelen	04/15
Kathryn Karelius	04/16

Kelly Martin	04/16
Tiburcio Flores	04/20
Andrew Bush	04/22
Sophia Walker	04/24
Citlali Vazquez	04/24
Roman Nanca	04/28
Veronica Garrido	04/28
Donna McCune	04/30



Tom & Janet Hryniewicki	03/15	40
John & Ann Liu	03/21	56
Andres Hernandez & Eduardo Lopez	04/02	13
Isabel & Mario Mata	04/21	31
Peggy Connery & Louis Pescevic	04/28	14

DID WE MISS YOUR SPECIAL DAY?
 IF SO, PLEASE CONTACT ANNE WOHLCKE AT
714. 543.9389
office@messiah-santaana.org



Baptism Dates

APRIL 5 - EASTER SUNDAY

MAY 24 - PENTECOST SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 20

NOVEMBER 22

Contact Anne Wohlcke to register:
office@messiah-santaana.org
 714. 543. 9389






FOLLOW MESSIAH ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Holy Week

Church of the Messiah



SUNDAY OF THE PASSION: PALM SUNDAY

March 29 - 8:00am, 10:00am & 12:00pm

*The Rev. Jim Lee preaches at the 8:00am and 10:00am services.
The Rector Abel E. Lopez preaches at the 12:00pm service.*

This service commemorates Jesus' dramatic descent into death before the great miracle and mystery of Easter. The service features the reading of the Passion, during which the crowd's cheers at Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday turn to jeers and demands for his blood on Good Friday. Palm Sunday crosses will be blessed and distributed. Note: Incense will be used at this service.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Foot Washing Service

Thursday, April 2 - 6:30pm

The Rector Abel E. Lopez preaches.

This bilingual (Spanish/English) service recalls the last supper Jesus shared with his disciples. The congregation is invited to participate in the ceremony of foot washing; symbolic of the servant ministry that Jesus instituted with his disciples. The service begins in the Parish Hall at 6:30pm with an Agape potluck meal of soups, breads, and cheeses. The Church remains open one hour after the service for a Silent Vigil. Prayer and readings for meditation are provided.

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, April 3 - 12:15pm

The Rector Abel E. Lopez preaches.

This service commemorating the Passion and death of Jesus is a major moment in Holy Week. The Rector offers the meditation on the meaning of the crucifixion in our own time. Worship is reflective, and meditation is woven into the service with hymns, scripture readings, prayers

and silence. This service lasts approximately one hour.

VIA CRUCIS

Friday, April 3 - 6:30pm

The congregation gathers in the sanctuary for reflection and then processes into the streets carrying a large cross. Our procession stops at 14 stations, which symbolize the suffering and struggle in our inner city and its impact on our lives. We return to the patio at the church for concluding prayers. *(Bilingual.)*

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

Saturday, APRIL 4 - 7:30pm

The Rector Abel E. Lopez preaches.

The Great Vigil of Easter is the first official celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus. The congregation gathers in darkness in the patio where fire is kindled to light the Paschal candle. We process into the church bearing candles. During this festive service we hear about the promise of redemption, renew our baptismal vows and welcome into the body of Christ those who wish to be baptized. Please bring bells to share your joy during the Easter acclamation. Guest musicians accompany our great music selections and a champagne reception follows in the Parish Hall. *Note: Incense will be used at this service. A Security Officer will be on campus to escort parishioners to the parking lot.*

SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 5

Festive Eucharist at 8:00am, 10:00am and 12:00pm

The Rector Abel E. Lopez preaches at all services

The church gathers on Easter Sunday to celebrate with great shouts of "Alleluia!" Glorious music and inspiring preaching announce the resurrection of Jesus and the infinite ways we have access to and participate in the power of love that casts out fears and promises that death is overcome by life eternal.



Church of the Messiah

Semana Santa

Iglesia de El Mesías



DOMINGO DE LA PASION: DOMINGO DE RAMOS

Domingo, 29 de Marzo - 8:00am, 10:00am & 12:00pm

El Revdo. Jim Lee predica en las misa de 8:00am y 10:00am.

El Rector Abel Lopez predica en la misa de las 12:00pm.

Este servicio conmemora el descenso dramático de Jesús hacia la muerte antes del gran milagro y misterio de la Resurrección. En este servicio se hace la lectura de la Pasión, en la que los gritos triunfantes de la multitud que recibe a Jesús en su entrada a Jerusalén en el Domingo de Ramos se tornan en burlas y demandas por su sangre en Viernes Santo. Bendeciremos las cruces del Domingo de Ramos y las mismas serán distribuidas.

Nota: Usaremos incienso en este servicio.

JUEVES SANTO

Servicio de Lavado de Pies
Jueves, 2 de Abril - 6:30pm

El Rector Abel Lopez predica.

Este servicio bilingüe (Español/Inglés) conmemora la última cena que Jesús compartió con sus discípulos. Se invita a la congregación a participar en la ceremonia del lavado de pies; el cual simboliza el ministerio de servicio que Jesús instituyó con sus discípulos. El Servicio inicia en el Salón Parroquial a las 6:30pm con una cena al estilo potluck en la que todos traemos para compartir sopa, pan, y quesos. La Iglesia permanece abierta después de la Misa por una hora para una Vigilia en silencio. Se proporcionarán oraciones y lecturas para su meditación.

VIERNES SANTO

Viernes, 3 de Abril - 12:15pm
(Servicio en Inglés)

El Rector Abel Lopez predica.

Este servicio, en el que se conmemora la pasión y la muerte de Jesús, marca un gran momento en la Semana Santa. El Rector ofrecerá la meditación sobre el significado de la crucifixión en nuestro tiempo actual. La meditación es parte de la adoración y reflexión que incluyen himnos, la

Santa Escritura, oraciones y silencio. El servicio dura alrededor de una hora.

VIA CRUCIS

Viernes, 3 de Abril - 6:30pm

La congregación se reúne en el santuario para un momento de reflexión y sale en procesión cargando una cruz grande hacia 14 estaciones que simbolizan el sufrimiento y la lucha de nuestra propia ciudad y cómo la misma impacta nuestras vidas. Concluimos el Vía Crucis en el patio de la iglesia donde hacemos una oración final. *(Bilingue)*

LA GRAN VIGILIA PASCUAL

Sábado, 4 de Abril - 7:30pm

(Misa en Inglés)

El Rector Abel Lopez predica.

La Gran Vigilia Pascual es la primera celebración oficial de la Resurrección de Jesús. La congregación se reúne en la obscuridad del patio donde encenderemos un fuego para encender el Cirio Pascual. Entramos en procesión a la Iglesia con velas. Durante esta Misa festiva, escuchamos la promesa de la redención, renovamos nuestros votos bautismales y le damos la bienvenida al cuerpo de Cristo a aquellos que desean ser bautizados. Favor de traer campanas para demostrar nuestro gozo durante la proclamación de Resurrección. Contaremos con músicos invitados que acompañarán nuestra selección musical. Al finalizar la misa tendremos una recepción con champagne en el Salón Parroquial. *Usaremos incienso en este servicio. Oficial de seguridad disponible para acompañar a los miembros al parqueo.*

DOMINGO DE RESURRECCION

Domingo, 5 de Abril

Eucaristías Festivas a las 8:00am, 10:00am y 12:00pm

El Rector Abel Lopez predica en todas las misas.

La iglesia se congrega el Domingo de Resurrección para celebrar con gritos de "Aleluya!", música gloriosa y predicación inspiradora acerca de la resurrección de Jesús y las maneras infinitas en las que tenemos acceso a participar del poder del amor, que expulsa todo temor y la promesa de que la vida eterna triunfa ante la muerte.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

