“Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.”

Communion Antiphon for Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
From the Pastor...

Palm Sunday, also known as Passion Sunday, marks our entrance into the most sacred time of the year, Holy Week, when we recall the suffering and death of the God-Man, Jesus Christ, as well as His glorious resurrection to new life. In order to appreciate these events better, I suggest that we keep two points in mind. First, that God the Father did not sadistically “push” his Son out of heaven and onto a cross to die, as if saying to Him, “You go do it!”. No, all three persons of the Blessed Trinity—who always act in concert with One Another, were present in all the events of this week. Second, Jesus’ death was most definitely not suicide but rather the outcome of His steadfast refusal to deviate one iota in His obedience and love of the Father and humanity. He did not refuse to compromise His words and actions for the sake of His own survival. He never said or did anything to advance His own agenda; His only concern was doing the will of the Father. His relationship with the Father was his total identity. By today’s standards, we would say that He was absolutely opposed to “political correctness” in the sense of doing or saying things that would advance His own agenda as opposed to doing the truly right thing. Jesus repudiated this way of thinking, so common among our politicians and secular leaders. The donation of His entire life to the will of the Father was accepted and validated by the miraculous Resurrection three days after His torture and death. It’s important to note that Jesus raised Himself from the dead, an absolutely unique event. Others had been raised from the dead (think of Lazarus, whom Jesus brought back to life) but no one had ever raised himself from the dead. He left us the ultimate example of how to be truly and authentically human.

Ruth Burrows, the pen name of a cloistered Carmelite nun in England, puts the events surrounding Christ’s death in perspective: “There is no heavenly visitant to support Jesus; his disciples sleep; his life is bartered for a murderer’s and the murder’s reckoned of greater value. No loving heart comes forward to help him bear his cross, a stranger is forced to do it. His garments are disposed of before death; he is naked. There is not a thing his own, not a person true to him. He is surrounded only by enemies. And then the mockery, the taunting and wagging of heads by the religious leaders who are his companions in torment.”

It is disgraceful that we, creatures made by God, kill the Son “through whom all things were made”. Humanity killed God. Think about it. Who said that Christianity is “boring”? I urge everyone to attend our Easter triduum services: Holy Thursday Mass at 7pm, Good Friday service at 3pm (with confessions afterwards), and the Easter Vigil Mass beginning at 8am on Saturday. Easter morning Masses are at 7:30am, 9am, and 11am. Please remember that Good Friday is a day of fast which, minimally, means reducing your intake of food to the equivalent of one full meal and abstinence from meat.

May we all have a fruitful and holy observance of Holy Week.

Fr. Tom McDermott, OP
Join Us for An Excursion to the

Sanfilippo Foundation in Barrington Hills

on Tuesday, May 7th

The Sanfilippo "Place de la Musique" in Barrington Hills, IL, is known worldwide for its magnificent collections of beautifully restored antique music machines, phonographs, arcade and gambling machines, chandeliers, art glass, the world's largest restored theatre pipe organ, the most spectacular European salon carousel in existence, street and tower clocks, steam engines and other functional mechanical antiques, displayed within a breathtaking French Second Empire setting.

Bus leaves the east parking lot of St. Vincent Ferrer Church, 1530 Jackson Avenue, River Forest, at 8:15am and returns between 2pm and 2:30pm. Cost: $50 per adult which includes transportation and ticket. (Not included is a quick lunch at McDonald's on the return trip). Bring cash or check to the Parish Office at St. Vincent Ferrer or mail your check, with your phone number and email address, to Sanfilippo Excursion, St. Vincent Ferrer Church, 1530 Jackson Avenue, River Forest, IL 60305. Regarding parish office hours, etc., please phone the Parish Office at (708) 366-7090 x100. The deadline is April 28 for purchasing your ticket. Checks should be made out to St. Vincent Ferrer Church.
MASS READINGS AND INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, April 15th
Is 42:1-7 / Ps 27 / Jn 12:1-11
7:00AM +Sam Trapani
12:00PM +Joseph and Adeline Dugo

Tuesday, April 16th
Is 49:1-6 / Ps 71 / Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
7:00AM +William Connell
12:00PM +William and Ann Milano

Wednesday, April 17th
Is 50:4-9a / Ps 69 / Mt 26:14-25
7:00AM +Erin Connell
12:00PM +George A. Milano

Thursday, April 18th Holy Thursday
Ex 12:1-8, 11-14 / Ps 116 / 1Cor 11:23-26 / Jn 13:1-15
7:00PM Mass of the Lord’s Supper

Friday, April 19th Good Friday
3:00PM Commemoration of the Lord’s Passion

Saturday, April 20th Holy Saturday
8:00PM Easter Vigil - People of the Parish

Sunday, April 21st Easter Sunday
7:30AM +Theresa Giglio
9:00AM +Theresa Dion and Mary K. Galgano
11:00AM People of the Parish

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK:

May our prayers bring them strength, healing and peace.

PLEASE CALL OUR PARISH OFFICE to add a loved one’s name to our parish prayer list. Names are removed after four weeks unless the office is contacted.

BAPTISM:

WEDDING BANNS:
I Enza Tenerelli and John Cosgroff

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY AND POLICE:
Senior Airman Armando Chavez (Air Force)
1st Lieutenant Daniel Armstrong (USMC)
Officer Robert Reeves and Staff Sergeant Stephen Sandoval
Captain Kevin Zander

HOLY FATHER’S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR APRIL:
For doctors and their humanitarian collaborators in war zones, who risk their lives to save the lives of others.

COLLECTION
Needed: $15,385
April 7, 2019 — Actual: $13,732

Thank You

Online donations can be made to St. Vincent Ferrer Parish at www.givecentral.org

April 14, 2019
Reflection on Sunday’s Readings

April 14th, 2019
Palm Sunday

Gospel for Procession (Lk 19:28-40). Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem as messianic king is a sign that the peace and salvation decreed by God are at hand.

First Reading (Is 50:4-7). The prophet suffers in carrying out his mission, but is confident that God will vindicate him.

Second Reading (Phil 2:6-11). Because Jesus took on himself our human condition and accepted death on a cross, the Father has made him Lord of heaven and earth.


Luke’s Passion narrative resembles that of Mark but has its own emphasis. The devil who departed from Jesus after the temptations returns now, entering Judas and demanding to sift Peter. Throughout his Gospel Luke portrays Jesus as the merciful and forgiving Savior of humankind; in death he forgives his executioners, and on the cross he brings salvation to a criminal.

Typical of Luke is his special attention to women in a society where they were downgraded. His story is that of a disciple who relives the drama of his Master. Personal attachment to Jesus is expressed by the repeated affirmations of his innocence. He develops the personal relationships between Jesus and the various characters in the tragedy, especially Judas and Peter.

To understand the Passion message we have to keep in mind the other half of Luke’s two-volume work, the Acts of the Apostles. The Jesus who is accused by the chief priests before the Roman governor prepares the way for Paul being brought before the same cast of adversaries. The innocent Jesus who dies asking forgiveness for his enemies and commending his soul to God the Father prepares the way for the first Christian martyr, Stephen, who will die voicing similar sentiments.

Holy Week Events

Holy Thursday (April 18)
7:00 PM Mass of the Lord’s Supper with Adoration until Midnight

Good Friday (April 19)
3:00 PM Commemoration of the Lord’s Passion
4:15 Confessions

Holy Saturday (April 20)
11:00 AM Easter Egg Hunt in the SVF School Yard (or Gym)
2:00 PM Blessing of Easter Food in the Church
8:00 PM Easter Vigil Mass

Easter (April 21)
Masses at 7:30AM, 9:00AM and 11:00AM

Easter Monday (April 22)
Campus and Adoration Chapel Closed
9:00 AM Mass only
Carrying Our Cross

By Fr. Ronald Rolheiser, OMI

Among Jesus’ many teachings we find this, rather harsh-sounding, invitation: Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

I suspect that each of us has a gut-sense of what this means and what it will cost us; but, I suspect too that many of us misunderstand that Jesus is asking here and struggle unhealthily with this invitation. What, concretely, does Jesus mean by this?

To answer that, I would like to lean on some insights offered by James Martin in his book, Jesus, A Pilgrimage. He suggests that taking up our cross daily and giving up life in order to find deeper life means six interpenetrating things:

First, it means accepting that suffering is a part of our lives. Accepting our cross and giving up our lives means that, at some point, we have to make peace with an unalterable fact that frustration, disappointment, pain, misfortune, illness, unfairness, sadness, and death are a part of our lives and they must ultimately be accepted without bitterness. As long as we nurse the notion that pain in our lives is something we need not accept, we will habitually find ourselves bitter – bitter for not having accepted the cross.

Second, taking up our cross and giving up our lives, means that we may not, in our suffering, pass on any bitterness to those around us. We have a strong inclination, almost as part of our natural instincts, to make others suffer when we are suffering: If I’m unhappy, I will make sure that others around me are unhappy too! This does not mean, as Martin points out, that we cannot share our pain with others. But there’s a healthy way of doing this, where our sharing leaves others free, as opposed to an unhealthy kind of sharing which subtly tries to make others unhappy because we are unhappy. There’s a difference between healthily groaning under the weight of our pain and unhealthily whining in self-pity and bitterness under that weight. The cross gives us permission to do the former, but not the latter. Jesus groaned under the weight of his cross, but no self-pity, whining, or bitterness issued forth from his lips or his beaten body.

Third, walking in the footsteps of Jesus as he carries his cross means that we must accept some other deaths before our physical death, that we are invited to let some parts of ourselves die. When Jesus invites us to die in order to find life, he is not, first of all, talking about physical death. If we live in adulthood, there are a myriad of other deaths that we must undergo before we die physically. Maturity and Christian discipleship are about perennially naming our deaths, claiming our births, mourning our losses, letting go of what’s died, and receiving new spirit for the new life that we are now living. These are the stages of the paschal mystery, and the stages of growing up. There are daily deaths.

Fourth, it means that we must wait for the resurrection, that here in this life all symphonies must remain unfinished. The book of Proverbs tells us that sometimes in the midst of pain the best we can do is put our mouths to the dust and wait. Any real understanding of the cross agrees. So much of life and discipleship is about waiting, waiting in frustration, inside injustice, inside pain, in longing, battling bitterness, as we wait for something or someone to come and change our situation. We spend about 98% of our lives waiting for fulfillment, in small and big ways. Jesus’ invitation to us to follow him implies waiting, accepting to live inside an unfinished symphony.

Fifth, carrying our cross daily means accepting that God’s gift to us is often not what we expect. God always answers our prayers but, often times, by giving us what we really need rather than what we think we need. The Resurrection, says James Martin, does not come when we expect it and rarely fits our notion of how a resurrection should happen. To carry your cross is to be open to surprise.

Finally, taking up your cross and being willing to give up your life means living in a faith that believes that nothing is impossible for God. As James Martin puts it, this means accepting that God is greater than the human imagination. Indeed, whenever we succumb to the notion that God cannot offer us a way out of our pain into some kind of newness, it’s precisely because we have reduced God down to the size of our own limited imagination. It’s only possible to accept our cross, to live in trust, and to not grow bitter inside pain if we believe in possibilities beyond what we can imagine, namely, if we believe in the Resurrection.

We can take up our cross when we begin to believe in the Resurrection.
St. Vincent Ferrer and St. Pius V Mass and Dinner Dance at St. Pius V Church

Saturday, April 27th

Bus leaves St. Vincent Ferrer east parking lot (facing Fresh Thyme) at 4:15 pm and returns at 9:40 pm.

Please bring a dessert

No reservations necessary! Come and have a great time! Everything is free!

Sponsored by the SVF Human Concerns Committee
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
April 28, 2019

You are invited to observe Divine Mercy Sunday with us Sunday, April 28th at 3pm in the church. We will have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a time for silent prayer and meditation, and recitation the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

Come and Join Us as We Observe the 600th Anniversary of the Passing of St. Vincent Ferrer (1350 – 1419)
“Angel of the Apocalypse” Patron Saint of our Parish

Sunday, May 5th
11:00am Mass

Blessing of the flag of old Valencia for installation at the altar of St. Vincent Ferrer.

Blessing of St. Vincent Ferrer Oil and distribution after Mass.

Complimentary St. Vincent Ferrer plastic images and key fobs.

Lecture on St. Vincent Ferrer by Fr. Albert Judy, OP, at 12:15 in Kyte Hall.

Complimentary dinner hosted by the Filipino community preceded by Mass at 7pm on Saturday, May 4th.
ALTAR SERVERS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, April 20, (EASTER VIGIL) 8:00PM

Sunday, April 21st, (EASTER) 7:30AM
Servers: Eddie Romano, Nicholas Pedersen

Sunday, April 21st, 9:00 AM
Servers: Olivia Magyla, Anthony Blackwell, Gabriella Salud

Sunday, April 21st, 11:00 AM
Servers: Ollin Arceo, Alex Benitez, Anna and Thomas Rinaldi

As the Church sets out on the path of Holy Week that leads us to Easter, “we will take this path of Jesus’ own humiliation. Only in this way will this week be holy for us too!”

— Pope Francis —
April 14 (Palm Sunday):
Masses at 7:30am, 9am, 11am and 5:30pm; 1:30 Italian Catholic Federation in Cabrini Room; 5pm Vespers with the Dominican friars in the church; 7pm Men’s Basketball in the Gym.

April 15 (Monday):
Masses at 7am and 12noon.

April 16 (Tuesday):
7am and 12noon Masses; 6:30pm Al-Anon (Spanish) and Alateen in the Siena and Sinsinawa Rooms on the 2nd floor of the Parish Center

April 17 (Wednesday):
7am and 12noon Masses; 6:30pm SPRED in SVF School rm 19; 7pm choir practice in the Church (new members welcome); 8pm School of Community in the Cabrini Room.

April 18 (Holy Thursday):
NO 7am and 12noon Masses; 7pm Mass of the Lord’s Supper followed by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in Kyte Hall until midnight.

April 19 (Good Friday; Day of Fast and Abstinence): NO 7am and 12noon Masses; 8am Liturgy of the Hours with the Dominican friars in the church; 3pm Commemoration of the Lord’s Supper followed by Confessions.

April 20 (Holy Saturday):
8am Liturgy of the Hours with the Dominican friars in the church. 11am Easter Egg hunt on the school yard; 2pm blessing of Easter baskets in the church; 8pm Easter Vigil Mass (no other Masses today)

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

BAPTISMS:
Infant baptisms are celebrated on Sundays immediately after the 11:00 AM Mass. Attendance at a baptismal preparation class is required. For more information go to: www.svfparish.org—Sacraments—Baptism.

FUNERALS:
Call the parish office at (708) 366-7090 x 0. Also, look at www.svfparish.org→Sacraments→Funeral Resources. (If applicable, read Cremation Guidelines).

WEDDINGS:
Marriage preparation with a priest should be started at least one year in advance of the proposed wedding date. For more information go to www.svfparish.org→Sacraments→Matrimony.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK:
Contact the parish office before major surgery or in case of serious illness. Tel: (708) 366-7090 x 0.

R.C.I.A.
(Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults). Contact the parish office at (708) 366-7090 x 0.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:
Contact Maureen Weldon, Director of Religious Education, at (708) 366-7090 x145

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:
Usually done in the 2nd grade. Contact Maureen Weldon, Director of Religious Education, at (708) 366-7090 x145 or mweldon@svfparish.org

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:
Usually conferred on our youth in the 8th grade after 2 years in the parish's Religious Education program. For more information, contact Maureen Weldon, Director of Religious Education, at (708) 366-7090 x145 or mweldon@svfparish.org

SPRED:
Faith formation for adults and children with developmental disabilities. For more information, go to www.svfparish.org→Education→SPRED or contact Sylvia Zamora at zamorasyl@msn.com

HOMEBOUND PARISHONERS:
Any homebound parishioner who would like to receive Holy Communion should contact Sr. Immaculata at inneji@svfparish.org

EUCARISTICADORATION CHAPEL:
Mondays and Tuesdays 12:30pm - 8:30pm Adoration Chapel in Kyte Hall

FAMILY MASS:
The 9:00 AM Mass on Sundays is the Family Mass. There is a separate Liturgy of the Word for children during the homily.

ROSARY:
Daily before the 12:00 noon Mass.
Get this weekly bulletin delivered by email - for FREE!

Sign up here:

Learn More About Advertising In Your Parish Bulletin
Call us at 1-800-621-5197 Email: sales@jspaluch.com

Why Advertise in Your Local Church Bulletin?

Learn More About Advertising In Your Parish Bulletin
Call us at 1-800-621-5197 Email: sales@jspaluch.com