



PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD



So they brought the colt to Jesus and put their cloaks over it. And he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. - Mk 11:7-8

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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MASS:

Wednesday 9:00 a.m.

Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Parish Pastoral Council:

Chris Bonacci; Shawna Bonacci; Andrea Neff; Eddie Odom; Amy Pollice; Joe Vivacqua; Tony Winterburn

An Opening Day Reflection

With Opening Day for Major League Baseball nearly upon us, I glanced casually at the sports pages over breakfast to see if anyone I'd ever heard of was still playing the game. That's how I almost gagged on my Mini-Wheats when I came across an item buried in the back.

It noted that a particular pitcher had been signed for \$77 million over five years. No unusual news there. He also got a "signing bonus" of \$2 million. OK, now the stomach is a little bit upset. Is this guy the reincarnation of Sandy Koufax? Hardly. His career record is 25 wins, 38 losses. Pretty mediocre, especially when one considers that he gets this kind of money for playing only every fourth day as a pitcher.

At this point, I am still getting my Mini-Wheats down. Then I see this sentence: "He will also get a private hotel suite on the road" (that's for 81 games a year). So this star athlete gets his own special accommodations so he will not have to mingle with his teammates who are apparently unworthy of his presence?

This whole matter of demanding one's own private hotel suite (not a mere room, mind you) reminds me of how hard it has become to like, let alone revere, so many of today's pro athletes in a variety of sports. Too many seem to have huge egos and a sense of entitlement that goes far beyond their talents on the field.

The curious thing is that what bothers me most about this story is not the salaries, as absurd as they may be. While I do think money has badly tainted all of pro sports, what really disturbs me is that sense of entitlement, where these athletes make demands beyond the game and expect to be kowtowed to.

It's all part of what makes too many modern pro athletes so hard to admire. In pro football, there are simply too many thugs who get away with abusing women in their off-the-field lives; in baseball, it's the huge egos and contract extras that turn the fans off.

Big money? It's the part of pro sports that fans will have to accept, like it or not. The entitlement? Not so. The grand old game so many of us grew up loving is almost unrecognizable now, thanks to rule changes. But it's the entitlement demands of today's athletes that could kill it off once and for all.

— Lou Jacquet

New Website Reminder

The new St. Brendan website has been launched. Visit it at stbrendanyoungstown.com

Holy Week Schedule

Wednesday, March 27

9 a.m. Mass, St. Brendan's

Holy Thursday, March 28

1 p.m. Live Stations of the Cross, St. Christine
7:30 p.m. Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper; Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10:30 p.m.

Good Friday, March 29

Noon, Stations of the Cross with Procession, St. Matthias, Cornell Ave.

3 p.m. St. Brendan's, Good Friday Service with Veneration of the Cross/Holy Communion.

Noon-3 p.m.: All three churches open for prayer/meditation

Holy Saturday, March 30

Noon Blessing of Easter Food Baskets, St. Christine

2 p.m. Blessing of Easter Food Baskets, St. Matthias

8 p.m. St. Christine's, the Great Vigil of Easter

Easter Sunday, March 31

9 a.m. Mass, St. Brendan

9 and 11 a.m., Mass, St. Christine

11 a.m., Mass at St. Matthias



Sunday, March 24

9:00 a.m. Chuck Lautner

by Audrey Lautner and Children

Wednesday, March 27

9:00 a.m. Dolores Campbell by Julius Bodnar

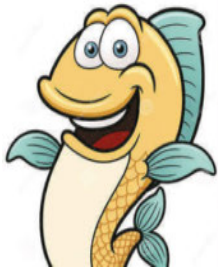
Sunday, March 31 (Easter)

9:00 a.m. For the living and deceased
of St. Brendan's

Please Pray For Our Sick

Sr. Marjorie Haidet, Frank Lightner, Michelle Smith, Ken Mains, Judy Lazar, David Deihl, Barbara Bonninsegna, Sherri Creech, Nancy D'Amico, Mary Beth Celio, Fr. Richard Brobst, Charles Slivkoff, Harold and Debra Brown, Rita Thomas, Christine Kalhoun, Blanche Ruggiero

Fish Dinners Update



A report from Patty Infante:
"We had another successful evening with our Drive-Thru Fish Dinners on Friday, March 15. We sold 580 dinners and 550 pounds of fish.

"As we go to press on March 18 with the March 24 bulletin, we anticipate another successful week with the final fish dinners of the year. Since our March 31 bulletin goes to press this Thursday (March 21), we will not have final numbers for that week until after Easter. A final wrap-up on the dinners will be available in a future bulletin in April.

"We received many wonderful compliments about the dinners this year. Once again, John Coudriet (co-chair) and I thank everyone who helped make these dinners so great."

April Ministry Schedule

Eucharistic Ministers: Jerry and Amy Kernan

Lector: Lou Jacquet

More Tidbits From Lenten Series

Father John Jerek's Wednesday evening presentations on "The Catholic Meaning of Things" held at St. Christine's follows the Church's Evening Prayer and homemade Lenten soup suppers. Among the items noted at the most recent gathering about "Work and Wealth" on March 13 were the following:

— **Pope Leo XIII** was the pope whose encyclicals on work/wages/social justice in the late 1800s first brought these issues under a modern spotlight, although they had been addressed centuries before in various Gospels and Epistles.

—"Early Christians never expected their church to be filled with the 1.2 billion Catholics worldwide we have today."

—**The U.S. Bishops' 1987 Pastoral Letter** addressed the question of "What does the economy do to and for people?"

—**The Catholic principle on wealth and money:** "Wealth is a gift from God and must be used to serve the common good."

—"The ability to work to acquire wealth is itself a gift"

Continued on Page 4

Sunday's Scriptures: 'The Master Has Need of It'

Today's readings are from Mark 11:1-10; Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Mark 14: 1-15.

Palm Sunday is the only day of the Church year where we are given two gospels to experience and meditate upon. Before our Mass begins, we face the rear of the Church to participate in this triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem several days before His crucifixion.

We read from Mark that Jesus sends two disciples into a village to procure a very young colt donkey that no one has sat upon (in symbol, a virgin). The instruction He gives is specific and the language is rich: "If anyone should ask you 'why are you doing this?' reply, 'the Master has need of it and will send it back here at once.'" (Mk 11:1-10)

Notice the specificity of the words "the Master". Without these instructions, the Apostles might have said "our Master has need of it."

This distinction is carefully shown in a scene from the newest season of "The Chosen," a series that depicts the life of Christ and His chosen followers. When Matthew and Simon the Zealot find the donkey and water him, a servant asks them, "Why are you taking this animal? It belongs to my master." They answer, "The Master has need of it." The servant recognizes the enormous difference between his master and The Master.

The donkey is given and the servant runs to spread the news that Jesus, the Master, the Messiah is coming. We sing a song at this time whose lyrics also beautifully illustrate this same facet of our theology: "I your Lord and Master, now become your servant; I who made the moon and stars now kneel to wash your feet."

Throughout history the roles of master and servant has been a common thing. But today and throughout this most holy of weeks we kneel in awe at the actions of Jesus, the Master of the universe, who will ride into Jerusalem on a young donkey instead of on a white stallion; kneel to wash the feet of His disciples; obediently and without a word hand Himself over to the temple guards; allow Himself to be scourged, crowned with thorns, carry His cross, take upon Himself all of our sins, and be crucified as a criminal.

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." They put to death the Master, the one who made the moon and stars. They did not know what they did. We do the same when we reject Him and go ahead and sin. "Father, forgive us, for we do not know what we do." Teach us how to love the Master over all other things. Amen."

— Geri Jacquet

Sunday, Daily Masses Available

Once again parishioners are reminded that our Mass Intentions Book remains open and available throughout 2024.

Sunday Masses are still available as early as April or May, for example, and 9 a.m. Wednesday Masses are mostly available for the rest of 2024.

The traditional stipend for Masses in the U.S. is \$10. Contact Jackie Niznik, parish secretary, at 330-792-3875 Monday through Thursday to schedule a Memorial Mass for your loved ones. The parish office is closed on Fridays.

Parish Collaborations Continue

Bishop David Bonnar and the Diocese of Youngstown have announced new parish collaborations, this time for some larger parishes (across the six-county diocese) that many diocesan Catholics may have thought would never be involved in collaborations. These parishes will remain distinct but will collaborate in various ways, including resources and staff.

Christ Our Savior Parish in Struthers and Holy Rosary Parish in Lowellville will become a collaborative unit on July 1.

Holy Family Parish in Poland and St. Paul Parish in New Middletown will begin collaboration on May 1.

St. Angela Merici Parish in Youngstown (the former Sacred Heart), St. Patrick Parish Oak Hill, and Christ the Good Shepherd Parish in Campbell will begin a collaboration on May 1.

A full list of diocesan parish mergers and collaborations can be found at the diocesan website, www.doy.org

More Tidbits From Series

Continued From Page 3

—"**Luke 12:13-21** (the rich fool who builds bigger barns but whose life is demanded of him this day) deals with the question of a Christian perspective on possessions." The text reminds believers to "take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions."

—"**Genesis 3:17** brings up the theology of work as punishment for sin."

—"**Work** can be an expression of love."

Bulletin Printing Date

Because of the Easter holiday schedule at the printing plant, the Easter Sunday March 31 bulletin already went to press on Thursday March 21 before you will have received the March 24 Palm Sunday Bulletin today. Our regular schedule resumes in April.



RECTORY

2800 Oakwood Avenue
Youngstown, OH 44509-2002
Phone: 330-792-3875 Fax: 330-792-9080

MISSION STATEMENT

*We are called to be
disciples, faithful to Jesus
and empowered by the Spirit.
We are committed to building the kingdom of
God by living the Gospel,
celebrating the sacraments
and loving our neighbor as ourselves.*

PARISH STAFF

Pastor

Father John Jerek

Parochial Vicar

Father Robert England

Deacons

Ron Layko

Mark Kiraly

Parish Office Manager

Jackie Niznik

Ext. 10

Email: office@stbrendanyo.org

Music Director

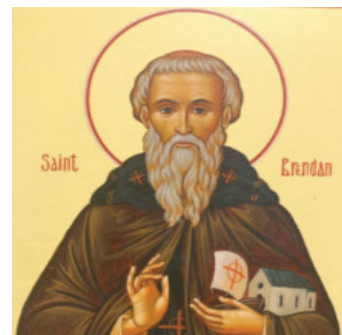
Geri Jacquet

Assistant Music Director

Allyson Reed

MASS Sunday 9:00am

Wednesday 9:00am





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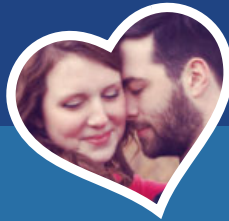
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