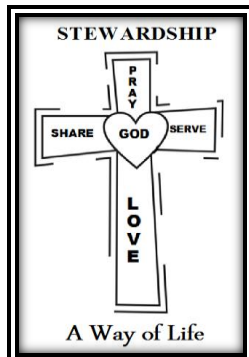


**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD
APRIL 14, 2019**

"Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel. Hosanna in the highest." (Mt. 21:9)



GOSPEL REFLECTION: Christianity is a faith of paradox: leadership through service; greatness through humility; and life through death. The greatest paradox of all is the paradox of the cross. The death of Jesus through the most humiliating form of capital punishment in history would appear to be exactly what the Jewish authorities hoped it would be: the end of the Jesus movement. The ignoble death of a group's leader through public execution is usually enough to bring about the end of any movement. However, Christians know that the death of Jesus is not the end of the story. // His resurrection, that we celebrate at Easter next weekend, is the twist in the tale that means the death of Jesus, rather than being a point of despair, in fact becomes a moment of hope. This difference of expectation is captured in the Lukan account of the crucifixion by the two criminals with whom Jesus is crucified. One joins in the mockery of Jesus, while the other recognizes the innocence of Jesus and has faith that Jesus will enter into his kingdom. This second criminal acts as an example for all people of faith. He reminds us that those with faith still have to face death and still have to face up to the consequences of their actions, and yet the way we approach death should not be with despair, but rather with hope and confidence that we will share in Christ's resurrection. // The reading of the Passion narrative leaves us up in the air. It leaves us in a better position than the disciples at the time. They were downcast by what they felt was the defeat of Jesus, but we know the end of the story! We know that out of this darkness will come light and hope!



"I tell you, Peter, before the cock crows this day, you will deny three times that you know me." (Luke 22:34) How many times have you heard someone make a disparaging comment about Jesus or our Catholic faith? How did you react? Do you remain quiet not to cause a disturbance? Or, do you remain quiet

because you believe people will think negatively about you? Pray for the courage to speak up and enter into a respectful dialogue when the opportunity arises. Last Week You contributed: Sunday: \$2,820.30; Utilities: \$458 (Attendance: 302 Parishioners). Thanks! Expenses: \$13,048.74 (Salaries, Utilities, Oil, Office Supplies, Candles, Equip. Repair); \$5000.00 (school subsidy). **Pray that all Parishioners will attend Mass regularly and receive the Sacraments weekly!**

**ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST PARISH
MINERSVILLE, PA**

www.StMatthewTheEvangelistParish.org

Rectory Office Hours: Monday to Friday 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM
Phone: (570) 544-2211 Fax: (570) 544-2317 E-Mail: ssk1905@verizon.net

SAINT MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST WELCOMES ALL

No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church; no matter what your current family or marital situation; no matter what your past or present religious affiliation; no matter what your personal history, age, background, race, ethnicity, etc.; you are Invited, Welcomed, Accepted, Loved and Respected at Saint Matthew the Evangelist Parish!

SAFE ENVIRONMENT COORDINATOR: Sr. Meg Cole (610-332-0442 x2019)

VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR: Wendy S. Krisak (Direct:1-800-791-9209)

WEEKDAY MASS AT 8:00 AM (unless indicated otherwise)

- MON – Intentions of Jim, Regina, and Steve
- TUE – Sr. Elizabeth Daley by Molly and Helene
- WED – 6:00 PM – Special intention by Anna Mae and Dan Clark
- THU – 7:00 PM – Michael and Mary Butler Family by Edward Butler
- FRI – 7:00 PM – Celebration of the Lord's Passion
- SAT – 8:00 PM – Alice Serafin by family
- SUN – **8:00 AM** – Living and Deceased of Malec and Smiszek Families
10:30 AM – Living and Deceased Parishioners

THE WEEKLY CALENDAR: Six days before the Passover, when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem, the children ran to meet him; in their hands they carried palm branches and with a loud voice cried out: Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy! O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory! Who is this king of glory? He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy!

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD, APRIL 14

HOLY WEEK: There is no better way to prepare spiritually for Easter than by making a good Confession and attending the Sacred Liturgies of Holy Week. Resolve to do both! You won't regret it!

BLESSED PALM: Place this SACRAMENTAL in a prominent place in your home as a reminder that we must always acclaim Christ as our Savior and King by word and deed. Blessed Palm will be available at the inner vestibule doors.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM.

LITURGICAL MEMORANDUM: In light of the decreasing number of cases of influenza/pneumonia being reported in our diocese's five-county area, His Excellency, Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert, directs that the Exchange of the Sign of Peace and the Reception of Holy Communion under both forms be reinstated beginning with the Vigil and Sunday Masses on the weekend of April 13-14, 2019.

FAMILY PRAYER CHALICE FOR VOCATIONS (FPC): Jesus told us to ask the Harvest Master to send laborers into his harvest. May the prayers of our participating families bear fruit. VINCE AND DARLA FABIANI will host the FPC for vocations this week. Please sign up in the Church vestibule.

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE: Today Jesus tells us "I am among you as one who serves." In accepting the palm branch today you publicly confirm your baptismal promise to follow Jesus as "one who serves." Selfless service defines a family as Christian.

PRO-LIFE REFLECTION: Would you be "Pro-Choice" if choice meant someone had a right to choose to kill you? It's actually pretty easy to be "pro-choice" as long as you're not the one being chosen to die. Babies have no choice and have no voice in this matter. We must be their voice-speak out in defense of life.

LENTEN CHARITIES: 1) ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY: Donations of PASTA AND SAUCE will help the SVDP Society to feed the needy of our area. Volunteer for our SVDP Society Outreach and God's Bountiful Table. Call Edward Butler (570-544-2739). 2) **CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES RICE BOWL: ENCOUNTER OUR NEIGHBORS –** We encounter Jesus this week in Jerusalem, a community he knew well. We prayerfully enter into our own communities too, encountering those who are hungry and thirsty, and others who need our help. How does our Lenten journey motivate us to serve those we meet in our daily lives? Our Parish's CRSRB contribution: Fifth Sunday of Lent: \$615.50. 3) **MARY'S SHELTER BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN:** Sponsored by our Confirmation Class. RETURNS ARE DUE BY APRIL 28, DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY. Proceeds help pregnant, homeless young women and their children at Mary's Shelter, Reading and Bethlehem. THANK YOU FOR CARING ABOUT MOTHERS IN NEED! 4) **SISTERS' LENTEN GIVING TREE-All gifts are due today!** 5) **YOUR LENTEN SELF-DENIAL OFFERING FOR OUR PARISH-Will be collected Holy Thursday and Good Friday.** There is a special LENTEN ENVELOPE in your boxes.

LENTEN VOTIVES: (1) SANCTUARY: IMO Mary and Stiney Skavinsky by Family. (Sanctuary Vigil open dates: June 30, July 7, 28, August 4, 11, 18, 25, September 1, 8, 15, 29, October 6, November 24, December 8) (2) ALTARS: BLESSED VIRGIN MARY: Special Intention by Stan and Sally Gober; IMO Donald and Aldona Butler by Edward; IMO John Sokola by Mary Ann, Brian, and Neil; IMO Fr. Craig Brugger by Fr. Leo. DIVINE MERCY: IMO Fr. Joseph Campion, IMO Fr. Terrence Clarke, IMO Fr. Lawrence DiPaul, IMO Fr. Stephen Dougherty by Fr. Leo. ALTAR OF SACRIFICE: IMO Fr. Michael Lawrence, IMO Fr. Dennis McCann by Fr. Leo. (3) BEFORE: ST. JOSEPH: Special Intention. ST. FRANCIS: Special Intention IMO Fr. Robert McLaughlin by Fr. Leo. ST. ANTHONY: IMO Fr. Thomas Troy by Fr. Leo. HOLY OILS: IMO Fr. John Wendrychowicz, IMO Msgr. Dennis Hartgen by Fr. Leo. ST. ANNE: IMO Thomas and Leona Donlen by Family. ST. BARBARA: IMO Fr. John Freeman, IMO Msgr. Thomas Herron by Fr. Leo. REREDOS NICHE: IMO Fr. Louis Steingraber by Fr. Leo. RELIC OF THE TRUE CROSS: IMO Fr. James McVeigh, IMO Fr. Steven Safko by Fr. Leo. Call 570-544-2211 to memorialize votives.

ST. MATTHEW'S TRAVELERS' CAPE COD BUS TRIP MEETING: 1:30 PM in our Church.

MONDAY, APRIL 15 – SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: 7:30 AM AND 6:00 PM. **Make a good Confession before Easter!**

MOHEGAN SUN CASINO: Cost \$25; Rebate \$30. Leaves Minersville Quandel's 8:30 AM; Giant in Cressona 8:00 AM. Call Julie (570-544-5231) or Millie (570-628-5413) ASAP for more information.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16 – SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: 7:30 AM AND 6:00 PM. **Prepare spiritually for Easter with Confession!**

ST. MATTHEW RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM: 1) 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM, Good Shepherd Building 2) Parents, remember to bring your children to Mass; take them to Confession! 3) Mass attendance cards are in the Church Vestibule. 4) Our Coordinator of Religious Education is Miss Novack (570-544-2211).

ALZHEIMER'S CARE GIVER SUPPORT GROUP: 6:00 PM, Providence Place, Pottsville. Program is free. Light refreshments served. Contact Ashley Vigoda (570-628-6950), Program Director, for more information.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 – LENTEN DEVOTIONS: EUCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR (begins 4:00 PM), **CONFESSIONS** (4:00 PM to 6:00 PM), **AND MASS** (6:00 PM): **N.B. THESE ARE THE LAST SCHEDULED CONFESSIONS BEFORE EASTER!**

HOMEMADE EASTER KIELBASA SALE: \$8.00 per 2 pound frozen link. Call the Rectory (570-544-2211) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE to order. PICK-UP IS 4:00 PM TO 6:00 PM TODAY IN THE PARISH CENTER!

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 18 – THE SOLEMN EASTER TRIDUUM: Begins with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper tonight and includes Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and concludes with Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday. **EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER:** 7:00 PM. **ADORATION AT THE REPOSITORY:** Until Night Prayer at 9:30 PM. **PROCESSION: All Parish grade school children, especially First Communicants, all Altar Servers, all Confirmands who will participate in the Foot Washing Ceremony assemble in the Vestibule before 6:40 PM.** **FIRST COLLECTION:** LENTEN OFFERING (Your Lenten sacrifice for the Parish) and **HOLY THURSDAY** (Your offering for extraordinary Parochial needs). **SECOND COLLECTION: OPERATION RICE BOWL** (Your sacrificial gift to help feed the world's poor). **Celebrate Christ's gift of the Eucharist by attending!**

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 19 – STATIONS OF THE CROSS: 12:00 Noon, includes Veneration of the Relic of the True Cross. **DIVINE MERCY NOVENA:** Begins at 3:00 PM. **THE CELEBRATION OF OUR LORD'S PASSION:** Only at this 7:00 PM Service will Holy Communion be distributed. **PRAYER AND REFLECTION:** The Church will remain open (so that you can pray before the Shrine of our Lord's Tomb) until 9:30 PM Night Prayer. **FIRST COLLECTION: GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE SHRINES OF OUR FAITH AND TO HELP THE NEEDY PEOPLE IN THE HOLY LAND** (Pope Francis has asked our parish to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land. Your support helps the church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools and offer religious education. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines. The wars, unrest and instability have been especially hard on Christians. In these times of crisis, the Pontifical Good Friday Collection provides humanitarian aid to refugees. When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you become an instrument of peace and join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land.) Visit www.myfranciscan.org. Please be generous. And, **LENTEN OFFERING** (Your Lenten Sacrifice for our Parish). **SECOND COLLECTION: CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES RICE BOWL** (Your Sacrificial gift to Help feed the world's poor). **FYI: The Rectory Office is closed today.**

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 20 – CHURCH DECORATION: Please help at 8:00 AM to decorate our Church for Easter. **EASTER FOOD BLESSING: 12:00 NOON.** Bring your children with their "Easter Baskets" to start a new Easter tradition! **DIVINE MERCY NOVENA: 3:00 PM. SOLEMN EASTER VIGIL: 8:00 PM.** Sincerely renew your Baptismal Vows. (The Vigil is lengthy and really not for young children!) **EASTER WATER** for home use will be available after mass. **Start a NEW tradition—bless your children before bedtime!**

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 21 – RESURRECTION CELEBRATION: 8:00 AM Mass includes the Traditional Resurrection Procession at the end of Mass. **PROCESSION: All Parish Grade School Children, especially First Communicants and Confirmands, Altar Servers assemble at 7:40 AM in the Vestibule.** **EASTER MASSES: 8:00 AM AND 10:30 AM.** **DIVINE MERCY NOVENA: 3:00 PM. EASTER WATER** will be available after Masses. **FIRST COLLECTION: SUNDAY** (we need 52 Sunday Collections to meet Parish needs), **EASTER** (we humbly ask each wage earner for \$50 or more to help us catch up with Winter's Bills), **GENERAL REPAIR** (Your contribution will help defray the cost of general maintenance.) (Please check for any collection envelopes you might have missed and catch up as soon as you can. Your Church needs your consistent and generous support to meet all of its financial obligations and to serve you.) **SECOND COLLECTION: CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES' RICE BOWL (your FINAL Lenten Sacrificial Gift for the world's poor). CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED, HE IS RISEN! HAPPY EASTER, EVERYONE!**
THE FAMILY PRAYER CHALICE FOR VOCATIONS (FPC): MARY JANE APPLEBY (8:00 PM) will host the FPC this week.
Call 570-399-5056 or sign-up in the Church Vestibule.

MINISTERS AT MASS FOR EASTER SUNDAY

	<u>OFF. PROC.</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>	<u>EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS</u>	<u>SERVERS</u>
SAT 8:00 PM	Serafin Family	Nicole Forney, Brandon Aucker	Deacon Henniger	Eric Andruchek, Nathan Tropp
SUN 8:00 AM	Volunteers	John Andruchek	Al Boris	Scott and Connor Schwalm Brady Eisenhart, Logan Perzel
10:30 AM	Parishioners	Marge Walasavage	Theresa Kroznuski	Kaitlyn Koury, Nolan Plesnarski

COMING EVENTS: PLEASE BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

APRIL 24 – GOD'S BOUNTIFUL TABLE: Every other Wednesday, the Parish St. Vincent De Paul Society prepares and serves a walk-in meal from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM at the Fr. Anthony J. Ricapito Annex for those who are in need. **Delivered meals are also available for people with disabilities.** For additional information call Edward Butler (570-544-2739) or the Annex (570-544-6484) every other Wednesday.

APRIL 25 – CONFIRMATION: Bishop Alfred A. Schlert will administer Confirmation to the Candidates of the Parishes of Most Blessed Trinity, Tremont, St. Matthew the Evangelist and St. Michael the Archangel, Minersville at 4:30 PM in our Church.

APRIL 28 – ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST PARISH DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS: 3:00 PM. Devotions will consist of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a Scripture Service, the Sung Chaplet of the Divine Mercy and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Devotions will be preceded by Confessions beginning at 2:00 PM. Msgr. William Handges, Pastor Emeritus, St. Peter Church, Coplay, will be the Guest Homilist and Presider. A First Class Relic of St. Faustina Kowalska, the Apostle of Divine Mercy, will be offered for Veneration at the conclusion of services. For more information, call the Rectory (570-544-2211). Acknowledge God's Mercy by attending!

APRIL 30 – EASTER MAGIC SHOW: 6:30 PM, Good Shepherd Cafeteria. All Parish grade school children and grandchildren of parish volunteers are invited and welcome! Pizza and refreshments too! See you there!

MAY 9 – MONTHLY ROSARY: 6:15 PM in our Church. Rosary is second Thursday of each month. Please join us!

ST. MATTHEW'S TRAVELERS' ADVENTURES! YOUR PAYMENT IS YOUR RESERVATION! JULIE(570-544-5231), MILLIE(570-628-5413).

MAY 6, JUNE 17, JULY 15, AUGUST 19, SEPTEMBER 16, OCTOBER 21, NOVEMBER 18, DECEMBER 9 – MOHEGAN SUN CASINO: Cost \$25; Rebate \$30. Leaves Minersville Quandel's 8:30 AM; Giant in Cressona 8:00 AM.

MAY 13-17 – CAPE COD AND BOSTON: 5 days, 4 nights, \$659 per person, double occupancy includes: 4 Nights lodging, 4 breakfasts, 3 dinners, National Shrine of Divine Mercy, evening of entertainment, Tours of Provincetown, Chatham, Boston and Quincy Market, Plymouth and Plymouth Rock, Historic Sandwich, Hyannis area, including Kennedy Memorial and Main Street, Hyannis Harbor Cruise with view of Kennedy Compound, Cape Cod Canal visitor's center, Foxwoods Casino, Souvenir Gift, Luggage Handling, All taxes and meal gratuities, motorcoach transportation.

JUNE 10 – ATLANTIC CITY RESORTS CASINO BUS TRIP: Cost \$35; Rebate \$25. Departs Quandel's Lot 8:00 AM; Giant in Cressona 8:15 AM; Departs Atlantic City 6:00 PM. *(By the sea, by the sea, by the beautiful sea, you and me, how happy we can be!)*

EASTER FLOWERS AND VIGILS: It is still not too late to help decorate our Church and its Altars with FLOWERS (\$10 donation would be helpful; please indicate your intention.) and VIGILS (\$5 offering per candle) for Holy Week and Easter. Arrangements can be made by calling the Rectory (570-544-2211) Monday through Thursday this week.

CENSUS UPDATE: You were sent a form to help us UPDATE OUR RECORDS. The information sought only pertains to those residing in your household! Do not include children who have moved away and no longer live with you!