

Parish Staff

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Melvin Kerr Choir/Music Ministry

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Mass Schedule: 9:00 a.m. Sunday Service 9:00 a.m. Wednesday Mass 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Prayer Service

> Main Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. Mon, Wed, Thur & Fri (816) 471-3696 www.stmonicakc.org









Today, we're celebrating Palm Sunday, a special day in the story of Jesus. In the Gospel, we read about Jesus entering Jerusalem, a big city, on a little donkey. The people were very happy and shouted "Hosanna!" They put their coats and palm branches on the road for Jesus. This event fulfills an old promise from the Bible that said the King would come riding on a donkey. Jesus chose a donkey instead of a big, strong horse to show that he is a different kind of King – one of humility and peace, not someone who conquers with force.

In today's Liturgy, we face quite a contrast of experiences and emotions. We begin our celebration by listening to the story of Jesus being welcomed into Jerusalem with great joy and exultation! "Hosanna!" they cried out. "Hosanna in the Highest!" Jesus was treated as He should have been treated. People were excited to see Him and there was much excitement. When the crowd shouted "Hosanna," they were asking Jesus to save them.

But sometimes, like those people, we might expect God to fix our immediate problems, not realizing that Jesus brings a deeper and everlasting kind of help. But this excitement quickly turned to shock and horror as we enter more deeply into today's readings.

The Gospel culminates with Jesus hanging on the Cross crying out "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And with that, "Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last." At that moment the entire congregation kneels in silence as we ponder the reality of Christ's death.

How things can change in one short week. What happened to all the people who were shouting and praising Him as He entered Jerusalem? How could they allow Him to enter into this Crucifixion and death? The deepest answer to this question is one that we may not expect. The answer is that the Father willed it.

The Father willed, by His permissive will, that so many would turn on Him, abandon Him, and allow Him to be crucified. This is so very important to understand. At any time during that first Holy Week, Jesus could have exercised His divine power and refused to embrace His Cross.

But He didn't. Instead, He willingly walked through this week anticipating and embracing the suffering and rejection He received. And He didn't do so begrudgingly or even with regret. He embraced this week willingly, choosing it as His own will.

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Palm Sunday

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Why would He do such a thing? Why would He choose suffering and death? Because in the Father's perfect wisdom, this suffering and death was for a greater purpose.

God chose to confound the wisdom of the world by using His own suffering and Crucifixion as the perfect means of our holiness. In this act, He transformed the greatest evil into the greatest good. Now, as a result of our faith in this act, the crucifix hangs centrally in our churches and in our homes as a constant reminder that not even the greatest of evils can overcome the power, wisdom, and love of God.

God is more powerful than death itself and God has the final victory even when all seems lost. As we go through this week, from the joy of Palm Sunday to the sadness of Good Friday, let's think about our own hopes and what we expect from God. Let's remember that true salvation comes from Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, not just from quick solutions to our everyday challenges.

The people who cheered for Jesus on Palm Sunday turned against him later in the week. It makes us think about how our own faith can sometimes be unsure. Let's use this Holy Week to reflect on our lives, say sorry for our mistakes, and renew our commitment to follow Jesus, the humble King, who loves us without limits.

Reflect, today, upon the contrast of emotions from Palm Sunday through Good Friday. Ponder the fear, confusion, and despair that many would have had as they saw Jesus murdered. Upon this being a divine act by which the Father permitted this grave suffering so as to use it for the greatest good ever known.

The Lord gave His life freely and calls you to do the same. Reflect upon the cross in your life. Know that the Lord can use this for good, bringing forth an abundance of mercy through your free embrace as you offer it to Him as a willing sacrifice.

Blessed Holy Week! Put your eyes upon the Lord's Cross as well as your own.



Catholic Prayer for the Week

Lord, when I am tempted to despair, give me hope. Help me to see your presence in all things, even in those things that are most troubling to me. May this Holy Week transform my darkest moments and weakness as I surrender all to You, my God. Jesus, I trust in You. **Amen.**

Today's Readings

Procession With Palms — "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" (Mark 11:1-10 or John 12:12-16)

First Reading — "The Lord GOD is my help, therefore I am not disgraced" (Isaiah 50:4-7)

Psalm — "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me" (Psalms 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24)

Second Reading — "He humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross" (Philippians 2:6-11)

Verse Before The Gospel – "Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross" (Philippians 2:8-9)

Gospel — "They clothed him in purple and, weaving a crown of thorns, placed it on him" (Mark 14:1-15:47 or 15:1-39)



Saints & Special Observances

Sunday: Palm Sunday

Monday: International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery & the Transatlantic Slave Trade

Thursday: Holy Thursday

Friday: Good Friday

Saturday: Holy Saturday; Servant of God Thea Bowman; 1870 15th Amendment granted Black men the right to vote

Readings for the Week

Monday: Isaiah 142:1-7; Psalms 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14; John 12:1-11

Tuesday: Isaiah 49:1-6; Psalms 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17; John 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalms 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34; Matthew 26:14-25

Thursday: Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14; Psalms 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-15

Friday: Isaiah 52:13—53:12; Psalms 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25; Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1—19:42

Saturday: Genesis 1:1—2:2 or 1:1, 26–31a; Psalms 104:1–2, 5–6, 10, 12, 13–14, 24, 35 or 33:4–5, 6–7, 12–13, 20 and 22; Genesis 22:1–18 or 22:1–2, 9a, 10–13, 15–18; Psalms 16:5, 8, 9–10, 11; Exodus 14:15—15:1; Exodus 15:1–2, 3–4, 5–6, 17–18; Isaiah 54:5–14; Psalms 30:2, 4, 5–6, 11–12, 13; Isaiah 55:1–11; Isaiah 12:2–3, 4, 5–6; Baruch 3:9–15, 32, 4:4; Psalms 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Ezekiel 36:16–17a, 18–28; Psalms 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 or Isaiah 12:2–3, 4bcd, 5–6; Psalms 51:12–13, 14–15, 18–19; Romans 6:3–11; Psalms 118:1–2, 16–17, 22–23; Mark 16:1–7

Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Psalms 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8; Victimae Paschali Laudes; John 20:1-9

Offering Reports

Sunday, March 17, 2024

Regular Offering: \$5,242.00

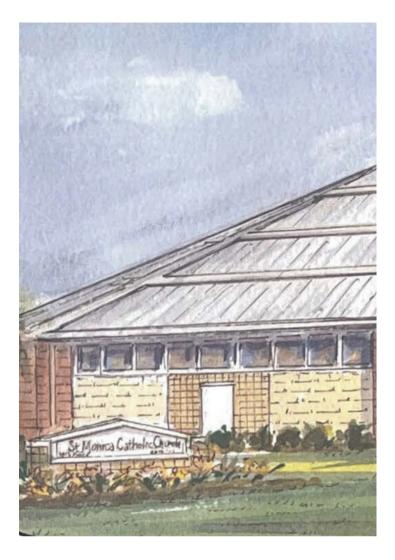
Food Pantry: \$155.00

Debt Reduction: \$155.00

Miscellaneous: \$4,158.02

Total \$9,710.02

SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024



THE DIOCESE OF KANSAS CITY- ST. JOSEPH - is committed to combatting sexual abuse in the Church. If you are a victim of sexual abuse or suspect sexual abuse,

- 1. Call the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline, at 1-800-392-3728 (if the victim is currently under the age of 18)
- 2. Contact your local Law Enforcement Agency, or call 911,
- 3. After reporting to these civil and law enforcement authorities, report suspected sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult to the Ombudsman, Joe Crayon, crayon@ombudsmankc.org, if the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City- St. Joseph.
- 4. The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing healing and resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families.

Liturgical Assignments

Sunday, March 31, 2024

Lectors: Angela Curry and Everett Curry

Servers: All Servers

Welcome: Peter Callan

Ushers: Team B

Eucharistic Ministers: Stephanie Broils and

Gerald Buckman

Counters: Team 4



Prayer List

Jeanette Hamilton, Vera Brown, Kevin Brown, Beverly Dyer, Bernadette Cook, Vauncille Bartlett, Mary Ann Grayson, Donald and Mable Parson, Sergio Mendoza, Elaine Lomax, Donna Dupree, Cheryl Warren, Chaunceyetta Mize, Rhea Holloman, Clara Mays, Melva McClellan, Velma Jennings, Brenda A. Martin, Margaret Sams, Debra Johnson, Deacon Ken Greene, Marcella Vaughn, Paris Harrington, Maxine Harvey, Michael Lucas, Lola Jacobs, Evalena Davidson (mother of Dan Davidson), Javan Hardy, Frankie Kemp, Carmelita Newman, Conrad McDonald, Greta Nash, Thurman Hall, Opal C. Blankinship, Patrice Williams (daughter of Pat and Don Williams), Louie Jones

Please notify Father Leonard when you or a family member have become homebound or admitted to the hospital. Please call the parish office at (816) 471–3696 or email **frleonard@stmonicakc.org**.

Friends

Key Word: Ointment

Key Verse: But Jesus said, "Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me." Mark 14:6

Nancy noticed that the new girl in her class had small holes in the tops of her socks and that she had scuffed up shoes. Nancy noticed that at lunchtime the new girl had only half a sandwich and a few carrots in her lunchbag. Nancy noticed that the new girl's hair looked like it needed brushed and taken care of on many days. But Nancy did not talk about these things to any of her friends. Nancy also saw that the new girl was very smart, and that she had a beautiful smile. She tried hard to make the new girl her friend.

Daniel, Nancy's brother, was on the student council. He suggested that the school have a fundraiser to give money to the local food pantry. That would help feed many people. Everyone agreed with Daniel that this was a good idea. Each class worked with their teacher to find a way to raise money. The goal was to turn the money in to the food pantry before Easter break at school.

Nancy's class was bringing in change to fill a large jar. Nancy had brought in a few cents, but she was waiting until the last week to bring in all of the change she had saved up.

Walking home from school that afternoon she saw the new girl across the street. Nancy crossed over to walk with her, and they began to talk. Nancy found out that this girl's dad had lost his job and they were all living with her grandparents.

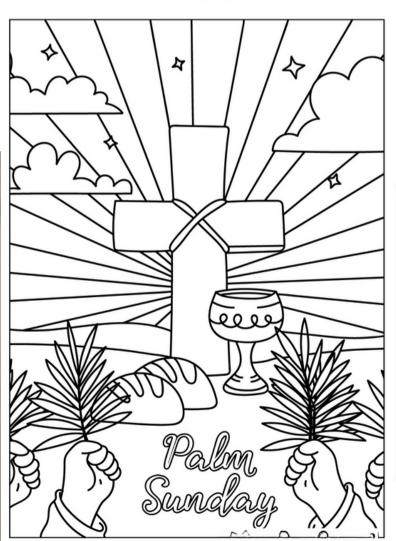
That night Nancy counted out her change. She had \$21.50! She ran into her parents' room to talk to them. She explained that putting all her money into the jar at school would help her class win the contest and it would help feed many people. But she also knew that she could buy her new friend some gifts that would really cheer her up. It was a hard decision. Her dad said he knew a part of the Bible that would help her decide. He read to her from Mark 14 where Jesus' friend was trying to make him feel better.

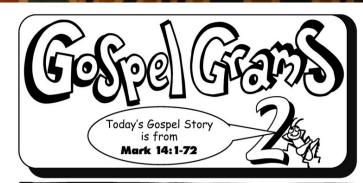
Nancy asked her mom to take her shopping. They found new socks, shoelaces and polish, a hairbrush with little clips and small shampoo and conditioner bottles, new pencils, and applesauce packs for her lunch. It cost \$21.24 and Nancy put the rest of her change in the jar at school. Nancy made her new friend very happy.

Questions

What were Nancy's choices for spending her money?

How did Jesus' friend serve him?







Word Jumble Puzzle

Unscramble each word from today's Gospel story. Then place the numbered letters in the spaces at the right to reveal the special message from the lesson.

LBSEAARTA	_	_	_	_	_	_	_		_							
TTMNINOE	7	10	_	_		_	_	16	3	_		_		_		_
RPRPEEA	_	25			_	19		_		1	2	3		4	5	6
YBAERT		23								7	- 8	9	10	-11	12	
NONEVTCA			17			11										
DAPRYE		21	15			10					13	14	15	16		
ROTUREFOC	20			28												
ERWSO	1	22		28	_	_	6	_	_		17	18	19			
RRYMH	12	24	_													
OINENCRUT		4			18						20	21	22	23		
HETORM	_	_		26	30		_		_		24	25	26	27		
SVREASPO	_	29		13	_	_						20	2.0			
EWRODC	_	14	_	_	2	_	_	_			28	29	30			
	_	_	6	9	_	_										
HRITD	_	27	_	_	_											

Pray For an End to Gun Violence



Join us at St. Francis Xavier Parish, located at 1001 E 52nd Street, Kansas City, 64110, as we come together to pray for an end to gun violence. Every Wednesday and Friday morning at 8:00

am, we gather at the corner of 52nd and Troost to pray the Rosary for the victims of gun violence. In case of inclement weather, the Rosary will be prayed in the chapel of St. Francis Xavier following the 7:30am Mass. Your presence and prayers are deeply appreciated as we stand in solidarity against the scourge of gun violence.

Nurturing Spiritual Growth



Join us for an enlightening evening at Our Lady's Montessori (OLMS) School's upcoming Parent Education Night on April MONTESSORI 10, from 7-8pm. Discover the transformative power

of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) as we delve into how it nurtures the spiritual development of children aged 3-12. While OLMS proudly offers CGS as part of its curriculum, this event is open to all parents and students interested in exploring this enriching educational approach. Experience firsthand the profound connection between God and the child, fostering a deep yearning to understand and draw closer to the Divine; cultivating a personal and meaningful relationship with spirituality. To secure your spot at this event call (816) 543-5909. We look forward to welcoming you!

15th Annual School Bell **Breakfast**



Mark your calendars for a remarkable event! Attend the 15th Annual School Bell Breakfast on April 11 where we'll celebrate with Super Bowl LVIII Champions, KC Chiefs General

Manager Brett Veach, and the 'voice of the Chiefs' Mitch Holthus. Let's continue our tradition of 'Making Dreams Come True' for our schools by supporting the Bright Futures Fund through this highly anticipated event. The program will take place in Arrowhead Stadium's North Club. For tickets and sponsorship information, contact Kendra Kemp McGee or visit brightfuturesfund.org.

Thursday, March 28, 2024 6:00 PM

Holy Thursday

Friday, March 29, 2024

Stations of the Cross 5:15 PM

Good Friday Liturgy 6:00 PM

Saturday, March 30, 2024 8:00 PM

Holy Saturday

Sunday, March 31, 2024 9:00 AM Easter Sunday

Altar & Rosary Society **Membership**



Join the Altar & Rosary Society today and become an active participant in our parish community. We are excited to welcome new members who are eager to serve and connect with

fellow parishioners. The deadline to enroll is March 31 so don't miss out on this opportunity. Red membership envelopes are conveniently located on the table behind the pews, making it easy for you to join. By becoming a member, you'll not only enrich your own spiritual journey but also contribute to the mission of our church. For more information or assistance, contact the Parish Office at (816) 471-3696.

Quilt Raffle Fundraiser



THANK YOU for supporting the parish's Ouilt Raffle Fundraiser.Immediately following Mass, in Ferguson Hall, Deacon Ken Greene will draw two names from the raffle bucket to determine the winners of

the two quilts. Winner does not have to be present to win.



culture, family, love

Worship With Us

Sunday Eucharist Celebration 9:00 a.m. Mass

Wednesday

9:00 a.m. Mass 6:00 p.m. Prayer Service

First Friday Adoration 9:00 a.m.

Join Us Online!





Social Service/Food Pantry

Wednesday & Thursday 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Call for appointment (816) 842-1877

Sacramental Preparation

Baptism

Anointing the Sick

Marriage: (9 Months Preparation)

Reconciliation/Confirmation

Religious Education

RCIA

First Communion Reconciliation

Men's Bible Study

Sunday School

Junior Youth Group

Senior Youth Group

Women's Bible Study

For more information or to schedule an appointment call (816) 471-3696