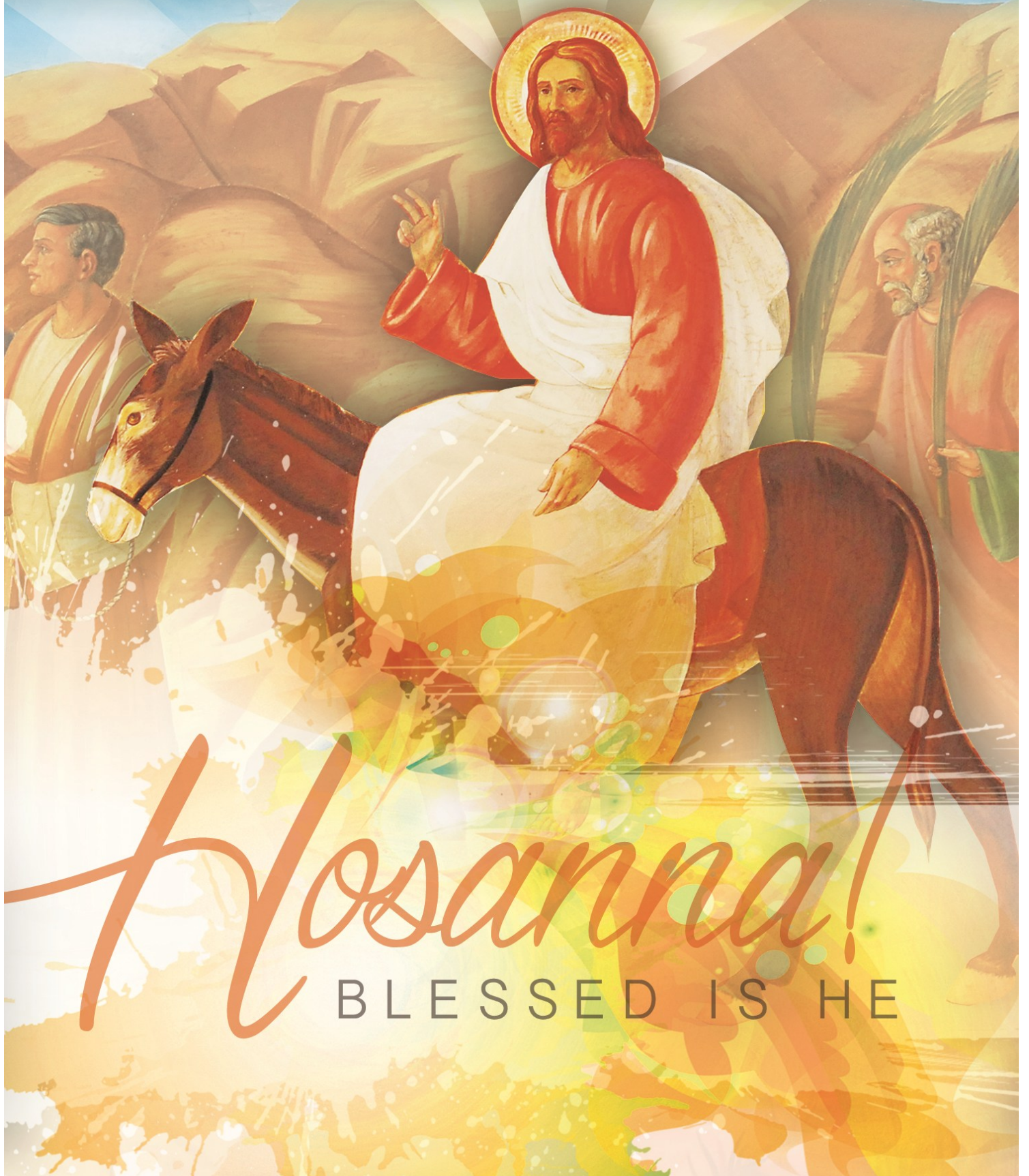


P A L M S U N D A Y



Hosanna!
BLESSED IS HE

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

April 13, 2025



Sunday April 13

10:30 AM Frances E. Braden– Husband, Bruce
And Family

Tuesday April 15

8:00 AM Arthur J. Long– Avery Sawyer & Declan
Rivera
5:30 PM St. Anthony Padua Novena

Thursday April 17 Mass of the Lord's Supper

7:00 PM Deceased Priests of the Parish

Friday April 18

1:00 PM Good Friday Service

Saturday April 19 Easter Vigil

8:00 PM Living and Deceased Parishioners

Sunday April 20 Easter Sunday

9:00 AM Benefactors of our Parish
11:15 AM Children of our Parish

Sanctuary Votives– All Troops Serving our Nation

<u>Sunday Collection</u>	\$3,521.00
<u>Loose</u>	\$267.00
<u>Education of Priest/Clergy</u>	\$486.00
<u>Charity</u>	\$419.00
<u>Dues</u>	\$993.00

Holy Thursday– Following the celebration of the Mass there will be the Eucharistic procession. The Blessed Sacrament will be in the Chapel repository until 9:00 PM. Spend a little time in prayer before the Lord, after hours.

Good Friday– An offering is requested on this day to support the Holy Land Shrines. In these precarious times, they need a lot of protection. We treasure these sacred places. A basket will be placed alongside the Cross of Veneration.

Children's Mass-Easter Sunday– The Mass will be Celebrated at 11:15 AM. Following mass, every child will receive bubbles to take home.

Nota Bene– According to Church policy and in solemn observance of Our Lord's Passion and Death on Good Friday– Please do not light any votive candles. Candles may be lit on Holy Thursday but must be extinguished by Good Friday. Do not place any candles by the Cross of Veneration on Good Friday.

Rice Bowl– If you exercise this Lenten Practice, bring them in by next weekend. Your sacrifice will be given to help feed the hungry in poverty regions of the world. God bless you.

Blessing of Easter Baskets– Baskets will be blessed on Holy Saturday in the Church at a special Service at 2:00 PM.

Easter Gift/Easter Flowers– We as a parish have been very generous. Especially at Easter. Help beautify the sanctuary with a donation for Easter flowers. In gratitude to the Lord for the gift of faith and eternal life, our Easter offering is an expression of love. Bless the Church this Easter!

Lenten Outreach - This Lent we ask you to make a special sacrifice in purchasing hygienic items for 11, 12 and 13 year old children. They are very poor and suffer greatly due to a lack of the basic necessities. The request is for Boys and Girls deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, hair brushes, hair ties, hair gel, tampons, maxi-pads, Boys and Girls soap. Please Note: Baskets for your donations are by the altar railings. Please place them in the baskets.

St. Joseph's Table– During this month, the St. Vincent de Paul Kitchen is in need of **Peanut Butter**. Many of you have been so kind and generous. Jesus said, "Feed the Hungry."

No Office Hours on Holy Thursday, Good Friday or Easter Monday. Please conduct all office issues earlier this week. Thank you.

Christian Women– The Christian Women of Our Lady of Hope Parish will meet on Wednesday, April 23 at 6:30 PM in the rectory. All women of the parish are invited to attend. Plans are being made for a Mother's Day Dinner to be held on Wednesday May 28, at 5:30 PM at the Holiday Inn, Wilkes-Barre, PA. All women of the parish are invited to the dinner. To make a reservation, please contact Sue Cosgrove at the rectory.

Reflection on Sunday's Reading

"They began to be distressed and to say to Him, one by one, surely it is not I!"

During this dramatic scene at the Last Supper, we can picture Judas Iscariot, the betrayer, trying to play up his innocence as long as possible. He knew he had already betrayed Jesus, and if he joined in the: "Who, me?" ritual, he was just putting on appearances. But what about the others? The rest of the Twelve were deeply disturbed by the idea that they might betray Jesus. As we know,

however, when push came to shove, Peter's fear of betraying Jesus was trumped by fear for his own life. "I do not know this man about whom you are talking:" he said in order to protect himself. But notice Peter's reaction when he realized what he'd done. "He broke down and wept." How different was humble Peter's response from that of prideful Judas, who acted as if he hadn't done anything wrong: "Who, me?" Both men were unfaithful to the Lord but only Peter immediately felt real sorrow, what we traditionally call contrition, for his sin. The betrayers in today's Gospel readings are not just these two men. We also follow the crowd who hailed Jesus one day with "Hosannas!" and a week later nailed Him with their angry "Crucify Him!" How quickly our faith can turn fickle. For some of us, it may be easy to condemn the crowd and Judas and Peter, thinking that we would never do such a thing: "Who, me?" But today, let us resolve not to be so proud as to think we are perfect disciples. Let us have the humility of Peter who wept over his imperfections and ultimately, repented of his sins. Only when we acknowledge that we need God's help will we be able to hail Him and praise Him as He truly deserves.

RSVP to Father Terry's 50th Anniversary Celebration Extended

Due to numerous requests, we have extended the deadline to respond to Father's celebration dinner at Mohegan PA. All reservations are now due by April 22nd.

*Wilkes-Barre Twp has offered their bus for transportation to and from the church to the reception for anyone without their own transport.

(Thanks Mayor Kuren!) Please call the rectory to reserve a seat. Seats are limited, first come first serve.

Mark Your Calendars! Our Lady of Hope's Annual Night at the Races will be held on Saturday, May 17, 2025. Horses are now for sale, \$10/horse. You can reach out to Sue at the rectory to purchase and if you can help out and sell horses.

Sponsors are also needed! \$25/Sponsor.



FROM THE PASTOR

Holy Week has finally arrived. Churches everywhere are preparing for large crowds more than any other time in this year. Some Churches prepare for Passion plays. Moms try to convince their sons to wear the new suit they bought them. (Boy did I hate those starched shirts) Stores are stocking the shelves with chocolate eggs, bunnies and those weird marshmallowy things called peeps. Some people are counting down the hours until they can take a big bite of kielbasa, devour some chocolates or check their Facebook again. These are certainly reason to be excited that the week is finally here. For me, the baseball season begins. But in this season of Lent and this Holy Week, let's be careful not to let little things outshine the big things. This is what Easter is about: Jesus defeating sin and death on the Cross and through His Resurrection there is hope for all of us to share in His eternal life. Easter cannot come early enough because we cannot hear this Good News often enough. Jesus rescues us. I hope you enjoy this week for many reasons. Have fun watching hours of baseball, eating chocolate and kielbasa, getting together with family and friends and enjoying some time off from work or school. But I hope you also take some time to remember why this week is called Holy Week. "He is Risen. He is Risen indeed."

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your

Kingdom. May your grace transform us in to tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise forever.

Amen