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Palm Sunday

**"Hosanna!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!"**

We're so glad you're here!

52 Church Street • Parry Sound, ON • P2A 1Y7 • spta.church • 705-746-5181

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PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION ✝ MARCH 24, 2024

Welcome to St. Peter the Apostle!

If this is your first time at church, or your first time in a long time, we're so glad you're here! We exist to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ; make disciples of all nations. If we can be of any assistance to you, please don't hesitate to call on us.

TODAYS READINGS

1st Gospel: Mark 11:1-10
 1st Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7
 2nd Reading: Philippians 2:6-11
 Gospel: Mark 14:1-15.47

WELCOME TO HOLY WEEK

HOLY WEEK @ SPTA

Wednesday, March 27
 6:00PM Penitential Service (Lenten Confessions)

Holy Thursday, March 28
 8:00PM Missa Pro Populo (For the People)
 "Night Watch" (Altar of Repose) until midnight

Good Friday, March 29 * Universal Day of Fasting and Abstinence *
 3:00PM Solemn Good Friday Liturgy
 7:00PM Solemn Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday, March 30
 12:00PM Blessing of Easter Food
 8:00PM Missa Pro Populo (For the People)

Easter Sunday, March 31
 9:00AM Missa Pro Populo (For the People)
 11:00AM Missa Pro Populo (For the People)

Good Friday is a universal day of fasting and abstinence.

That means we don't eat meat, and only one full meal is eaten and two lesser meals.

Office Closure

The Parish Office will close on Thursday, March 28 at 12Noon in observance of the Triduum and Easter.

We will re-open on Wednesday, April 10th at 12Noon.

WHY ARE MASSES SO DIFFERENT DURING HOLY WEEK?

The liturgies during Holy Week are unique and rich in symbolism. The Mass for Palm Sunday follows the pattern of the day 2,000 years ago when Jesus entered Jerusalem. It includes a Gospel reading outside the church building and the entrance of the priest into the sanctuary while the congregation waves palms. The Holy Thursday Mass also follows the rhythm of the ancient Last Supper. The presider washes the feet of members of the congregation, like Jesus washed the feet of the disciples. After Mass, all remaining hosts are taken to an altar of repose, where adoration of the Blessed Sacrament occurs late into the night. Parishioners can remain like the disciples in Gethsemane, asked to "watch and pray."

On Good Friday, we celebrate another special liturgical service. Following the Liturgy of the Word, there is a communal reverencing of the cross. The intercessions are solemn and include prayers for many different groups of people, reminding us that Jesus' passion is for the whole world. There is no Liturgy of the Eucharist. Hosts consecrated on Holy Thursday are distributed, after which the tabernacle is empty.

The tabernacle remains empty through Holy Saturday, just as Jesus departed from this earthly world in death. The only Mass on Holy Saturday is the Easter Vigil Mass which begins after sunset. This is a long but very beautiful Mass during which we recall salvation history.

Then, we rejoice on Easter Sunday!

Is there someone you want to invite to join you for our Easter Mass?

This is a beautiful time to reach out and invite family and friends to St. Peter the Apostle. For help and resources to invite people visit: spta.church/easterinvite

SERVE THIS EASTER!

We have an incredible opportunity to create an irresistible environment, as parishioners and guests join us for Mass this Easter - and you have a role to play! **Visit: spta.church/serve to signup today!**

NEW TO OUR PARISH?

If you are new to our community or just visiting, welcome to St. Peter the Apostle. We encourage all new parishioners to register with the parish - you can do that by stopping by the Welcome Desk after Mass or through our Parish Office. We're thrilled to have you join our parish family!

BLESSING OF EASTER FOOD

In many Eastern European countries, it's a tradition to have a basket of food blessed on Holy Saturday. This Catholic ritual has been cherished for centuries among many families. It has now been adopted by people of all ethnic backgrounds who enjoy this richly symbolic custom.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

For Catholics, the Sacrament of Baptism is the first step in a lifelong journey of commitment and discipleship. Whether we are baptized as infants or adults, Baptism is the Church's way of celebrating and enacting the embrace of God. For information on receiving Baptism at St. Peter the Apostle, please stop by the Welcome Desk or contact the Parish Office.

CHURCH CLEANING AND DECORATING

On Thursday, March 28th, at 10AM we will have our pre-Easter Church Cleanup. Sign-up at the Welcome Desk after all Masses this weekend. Many hands make light work!

DON'T FORGET THE BOW

The Catholic bishops of Canada ask us to show our respect for the Eucharist by making a simple bow of the head before receiving Jesus in Holy Communion. All glory and honour to Him!

GIVE THANKS TO OUR ADVERTISERS

Please take time to look at the back of our Parish bulletin. These advertisers, some of whom are parishioners, pay for the printing/publishing of our bulletin. Let's do everything we can to patronize them, and when we do so, please let them know that you saw their AD on the back of the bulletin.

WORSHIP OFFERING

Your financial stewardship for March 17th

Offertory Envelopes	1,345.00
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Information on what to expect during Holy Week and Easter can be found here: spta.church/easter

Bless me Father...

We read in sacred scripture: "Where sin abounds, grace abounds even more." Sacramental Confession is one of the best ways to prepare for Easter. Bring your personal sins and weaknesses and lay them at the feet of Jesus. Several priests will be assisting on Wednesday, March 27th at 6PM. Come and experience the Father's Mercy!

EASTER DECOR

Envelopes can be found at the church doors for donations to help make the sanctuary beautiful for Easter. They can be made in memory of loved ones who's names will be published during the Easter season. Please write your name as well as names of loved ones you would like remembered.