



CHRIST THE KING Catholic Church

An apostolate of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter
preaching the Gospel & sanctifying souls
according to the liturgical books of 1962.

Palm Sunday

April 5, 2020

Pastor: Fr. Stephane Dupre, FSSP
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Church Office Hours: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm, Monday - Friday

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NO PUBLIC MASSES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Private Masses may be viewed online at www.livemass.net:

Monday at 12 noon

Tuesday through Saturday at 9:00 am

Sunday 8:30 am & 10:30 am

Holy Thursday, (April 9), at 7:00 pm

Good Friday, (April 10), at 3:00 pm

Holy Saturday (April 11), no liturgy

Recorded Masses available for viewing at any time.

Individual confessions by appointment only. Please contact the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

Thank you to all who send your offertory by mail.

You will find an ass tied, and a colt with her; loose them, and bring them to me

(from St Alphonus Liguori's sermon for Palm Sunday; *numbers & all pronouns, correspond to the original.*)

As Jesus Christ sat on the ass only after it was untied, so he cannot dwell in a soul tied to sin. Brethren, if you are tied to bad habits, attend to the Lord's admonition: "Loose them." Loose what enslaves you to Satan before the habit of sin brings you to hell. Today, I will show you how bad habits: blind the understanding, harden the heart & diminish our strength.

A bad habit blinds the understanding: 1. St. Augustine says, "The habit of sin blinds sinners, so that they no longer see the evil which they do, nor the ruin which they bring upon themselves; hence they live in blindness, as if there was neither God, nor heaven, nor hell, nor eternity.

"Sins," he adds, "however enormous, when habitual, appear to be small, or not to be sins at all."

3. "His bones shall be filled with the vices of his youth." (Job 20:11) Every sin darkens the understanding; hence, the more sins are multiplied by a bad habit, the more they blind. As sunlight cannot enter a vessel of clay, so a heart sunk in sin, cannot admit the light of God. Bereft of light, the habitual sinner goes on from sin to sin, never thinking to repent: "The wicked walk round about." (Ps 11:9) The habitual sinner thinks & speaks only of sinning. In fine, he is a like a brute without reason, seeking only to please the senses: "Man, when he was in honor, did not understand: he is compared to senseless beasts, and is become like to them." (Ps 48:13)

A bad habit hardens the heart: 5. The habit of sin not only blinds the understanding, but also hardens the heart of the sinner: "His heart shall be as hard as a stone, and as firm as a smith's anvil." (Job 49:15) As the anvil is hardened by repeated strokes of the hammer, so, instead of being softened by divine inspirations or by instructions, the habitual sinner becomes more obdurate by sermons on the divine judgment, on the torments of hell & on the Lord's Passion.

A bad habit diminishes our strength: 10. "He has torn me with wound upon wound; he has rushed in upon me like a giant." (Job 26:15) After a first wounding, a victim will recover, but struck again & again, his strength wanes & death may follow. So with sin: after the soul's first & second wound, strength remains, but only by the grace of God. But, if she continue to indulge in vice, sin, becoming habitual, rushes upon her like a giant and leaves her powerless. St. Bernard says the habitual sinner is like a person under a large stone: "The man on whom the weight of a bad habit presses, rises only with difficulty."

12. Again, the habitual sinner sees his sin as necessary as breathing and so becomes its slave. In society there are servants, who serve for wages, and there are slaves, who serve by force, and without payment. Habitual sinners become slaves of the devil as to sometimes sin without pleasure, and sometimes even without being in the occasion of sin.

13. Listen to what happened in a city in Italy. A certain young man formed a vicious habit which neither God's calls or pleas from friends could turn him. One day, his sister died which terrified him; but, after her burial, he returned to his vomit. Two months later, he fell incurably ill and sent for a priest who confessed him. Later, however, he exclaimed: "Alas! how late have I known the rigor of divine justice! As for my body there is no hope, so for my soul; eternal death awaits; God has abandoned me; I see now the hardness of my heart." Friends & religious urged him to hope in God's mercy but without profit. The writer of these facts, being alone with the young man, said to him: "Have courage; unite yourself with God; receive the viaticum." The man replied, "Friend, you speak to a stone. My confession is null for lack of sorrow: I do not want a confessor nor viaticum; such will horrify me." That night he expired in his room with frightful howlings.

14. Behold the end of habitual sinners! Brethren, if you have formed a habit of sin, make, as soon as possible, a general confession; for your past confessions can scarcely have been valid. Flee the slavery of the devil. Why serve so cruel a master who brings you misery now & greater misery in hell? "Lazarus, come forth." Leave the pit of sin; give yourself immediately to God, who calls you, and is ready to receive you if you turn to him. Tremble! this may be your last call, to which if you do not correspond, you shall be lost.

Liturgical Calendar for the Upcoming Week

DATE	FEAST	CLASS/COLOR	COMMEMORATION
Sun 04-05	Palm Sunday	1/R&V	
Mon 04-06	Monday of Holy Week	1/V	
Tues 04-07	Tuesday of Holy Week	1/V	
Wed 04-08	Wednesday of Holy Week	1/V	
Thu 04-09	Holy Thursday	1/W&V	
Fri 04-10	Good Friday	1/B&V	
Sat 04-11	Holy Saturday	3/V&W	
Sun 04-12	Easter Sunday	1/W	



Mass Intentions for the Upcoming Week in Sarasota

Sun 04-05	(8:30 am) <i>Pro-populo</i> (10:30 am) Fr Fausto	rb M Jaquith
Mon 04-06	(12 noon) Blessed Virgin Mary	rb a friend
Tues 04-07	(7 am) Reners girls (9 am) Marie-France de Saizieu	rb A Reners rb L de Saizieu
Wed 04-08	(7 am) Rita Wallace+ (9 am) Fr Dupre	rb M/M P Zando rb M Meza
Thu 04-09	HOLY THURSDAY (7:00 pm) Francis Xavier Biasi+ GOOD FRIDAY (No Service)	rb E Biasi
Fri 04-10	HOLY SATURDAY (No Mass)	
Sat 04-11	EASTER (8:30 am) Mass <i>Pro-populo</i>	
Sun 04-12	(10:30 am) Those suffering from coronavirus	rb M/M K Moore

Public Masses & activities in the Diocese of Venice continue to be suspended until sometime after Easter.

Fr Dupre & Fr Hathaway thank the many cyberspace pew-sitters who have emailed appreciations for Christ the King's televised Masses.

Holy Week ceremonies will be televised from OLG Seminary. See <http://stcorona.livemass.net/>

In your charity, please pray for Maureen & Bob McNamara (3/8) and Barbara & Bill Wis (3/8). (Prayer requests posted for a month; renewable.)

Counting teams will not be needed this week.

Offertory by mail over a two-week period: \$ 5,064.00

The next Adult Catechism class notes, (13 of 16), will be emailed on Tuesday to the students who showed interest last time; let Fr know if you would like these. (This puts ahead of the class schedule but seems best due the virus.)

This Holy Week, Monday, Mass at 12 noon; Tuesday, Mass at 9 am; Wednesday, Mass at 9 am, Holy Thursday, Mass at 7 pm; there will be no Good Friday nor Holy Saturday at CtK this year, previously televised ceremonies will be offered on line.

The procession with palms is meant to be the main event in today's ceremony. This year, due to the virus & lockdown, this procession will be very simple at CtK. Nonetheless, you are invited to join in the procession in spirit in order to obtain, as much as possible, the benefits of the blessed palm which will be given you after things calm down. At CtK, this ceremony will only be had at the 10:30 am Mass. To know the benefits of the blessed palm, we review the prayers said over them and make some comments:

The Blessing of Palms before processing:

Bless, + we beseech Thee, O Lord, these branches of palm: and grant that what Thy people today bodily perform for Thy honor, they may perfect spiritually with the utmost devotion, by gaining the victory over the enemy, and ardently loving every work of mercy. Through our Lord.

While, today, you will not process in body with your palm, it will suffice to do so in spirit to obtain both "victory over the enemy" and love for "every work of mercy."

Blessing of Palms after processing:

O Lord Jesus Christ, our King and Redeemer, in Whose honor we have borne these palms and gone on praising Thee with song and solemnity: mercifully grant that whithersoever these palms are taken, there the grace of Thy blessing may descend, and may every wickedness and trickery of the demons be frustrated; and may Thy right hand protect those it hath redeemed. Who lives and reigns in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Again, while you will not have actually borne a palm in honor of our King and Redeemer, your desire will suffice for this permissible neglect. Note further that the blessing: "whithersoever these palms are taken, there the grace of Thy blessing may descend." Blessed palms may be put behind a crucifix in one's room or made into ornate crosses for the same purpose. But the phrase, "whithersoever these palms are taken" suggests traveling with them. And, "taking them whithersoever" what do we ask of God? We ask, "there the grace of Thy blessing may descend." For what purpose?: that "every wickedness and trickery of the demons be frustrated" and that the right hand of God "protect those it hath redeemed." In virtue of these observations, may I suggest you make a small crucifix from your blessed palm and, using the wider-sized clear tape, attach this on the underside of your front windshield, off to the driver's side to avoid blocking your view. And, sandwich another palm crucifix between two pieces of clear tape and put this in your wallet or purse. In this way, "whithersoever" you go, by car, foot or kayak, you will have this wonderful blessing & protection with you. And who doesn't want that! And the little girl said, "The devil!" Yes, that's right; and we don't want to be like him, do we?