

Blessed Trinity Parish

Roman Catholic Church

Greenfield, Massachusetts

Palm Sunday - April 2, 2023



Schedule of Masses

Lord's Day Vigil— Saturday 4 pm

Lord's Day—Sunday 8 am, 9:30 am, & 11 am

Holy Week -Weekday

Mon. & Tues. 8:30 am & 12:05 pm

Wed. 12:05 pm & 6 pm

First Saturday - 8 am

Holy Day Vigil - 6 pm

Holy Day - 8:30 am, 12:05 pm, & 6 pm

*"Just as the living Father sent me
and I have life because of the Father,
so also the one who feeds on me
will have life because of me." Jn 6:57*

Our Churches & Sacred Spaces

Blessed Sacrament Church

221 Federal Street

Mass: Saturday - 4 pm | Sunday - 11 am | Lent Weekday

Holy Day Vigil: 6 pm | Holy Day: 8:30 am

Calvary Cemetery

Wisdom Way | First Burial recorded 1792

Holy Trinity Church

135 Main Street

Mass: Sunday - 8 am & 9:30 am | Lent Weekday

Holy Day: 12:05 pm & 6 pm

Perpetual Adoration Chapel

221 Federal Street | Always present 24/7

www.blessedtrinitygreenfield.org

All are Invited & Welcome to Join Us!

We are a diverse Catholic Community of Greenfield which shares a faith in Jesus Christ, is nourished at the table of the Eucharist, celebrates life-giving and healing Sacraments, tries to live the beatitudes, and reaches out in service, together.

Please join us on this journey of life and faith!

PALM SUNDAY – MONTH OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Almighty ever-living God, who as an example of humility for the human race to follow caused our Savior to take flesh and submit to the Cross, graciously grant that we may heed his lesson of patient suffering and so merit a share in his Resurrection. —*Amen*



PARISH OFFICE.

14 Beacon Street. Greenfield, MA 01301

HOURS: Monday-Friday: 9 am - 4 pm

413.773.3311 | 413.774.2884
office@blessedtrinitygreenfield.org



PASTOR: Rev. Michael M. Pierz

pastor@blessedtrinitygreenfield.org | x103

DEACONS: deacons@blessedtrinitygreenfield.org

Deacon Paul F. DeCarlo | Deacon John Leary

Deacon George Nolan | Deacon Channing L. Bete (ret.)

CAMPUS MANAGERS:

Deacon Paul DeCarlo | Deacon John Leary

OFFICE STAFF:

Monique Richardson | Jane Fay | Amanda Edson

MAINTENANCE STAFF:

Harry Demers | Curtis Plausky

CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION:

Betty Fritz, Administrator

MUSIC MINISTRY:

Paul Calcari, Choir Director | Kathleen Galluzzo, Organist

Stephen Glover, Organist/Choir Director

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

Katie Pierce, Interim Coordinator

ReligiousEd@blessedtrinitygreenfield.org

FOOD PANTRY:

Donna Leary, Coordinator

pantry@blessedtrinitygreenfield.org

BULLETIN:

Charlene Currie, Editor *pro tem*

bulletin@blessedtrinitygreenfield.org

(Deadline: **Wed.5pm -10 days prior-** for following weekend.)

FINANCE COUNCIL: (transitional)

Bill Bell (Co-Chair) | Kevin O'Neil (Co-Chair)

Pierre Belhumeur | Ann Dillon

Gary Longley | Mark Penfield

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION BOARD:

Marshall Carroll (Chair) | Virginia Christi

Phil Corrinet | Jason Edson

Mary Fleury | Michael Motisi

Lindsay O'Neil | Katie Pierce

Karen Yestramski-Provost

BUILDINGS & MAINTENANCE COMMISSION:

Pierre Belhumeur | Skip Descavich

Johan Livingstone | Gary Longley

Mark Penfield | Greg Rode

FATHER JAMES CASEY HALL (135 Main St)

PASTORAL CENTER HALL (14 Beacon St)

BL. MCGIVNEY CONFERENCE ROOM (14 Beacon St)

Arrangements for use can be made through the Parish Office.

PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL

Deacon John Leary, Coordinator

Hours available and Coverage Requested

CALVARY CEMETERY

Arrangements for burial can be made through the Parish Office.

OUR MINISTRIES.

FOOD PANTRY

Saturday 9 am– noon | Tuesday Noon-3 pm | Thursday 3 pm-6 pm | pantry@blessedtrinitygreenfield.org

COMMUNITY MEALS: 2nd, 4th & 5th Thursdays—to volunteer call Marcy Hoynoski 413.773.3311

ALTERNATIVES PREGNANCY CENTER

413.774.6010 *Pregnancy Tests, Counseling, Support, Post Abortion Support*

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING: Ed & Suzi Cottrill 413.773.3311

YOUNG & CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULT GROUP OF FRANKLIN COUNTY: Stephanie Paige 413.773.3311

POPE ST. JOHN PAUL THE GREAT YOUTH GROUP: Ed & Suzi Cottrill 413.773.3311

BLESSED TRINITY ROSARY SODALITY: Marcy Hoynoski, President. 413.773.3311

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, LT. JOHN GALVIN COUNCIL No. 133: Dan Arsenault, Grand Knight. 413.773.3311

HOSPITAL MINISTRY | JAIL MINISTRY | HOMEBOUND MINISTRY | HOMELESS MINISTRY

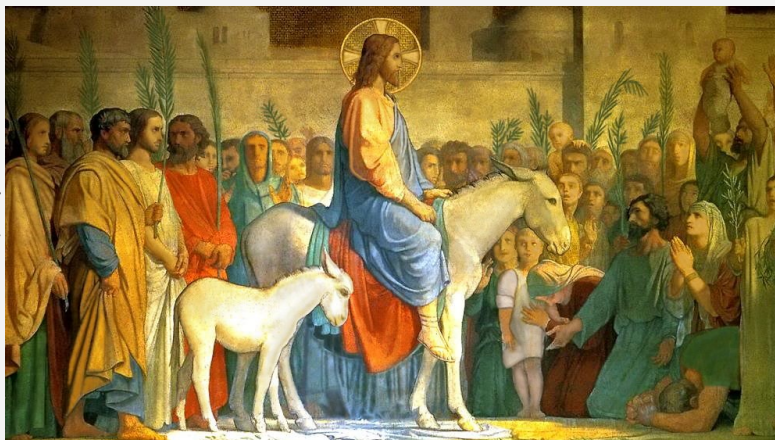
Thoughts from the Pastor's Desk ...

Dear friends of Blessed Trinity,

As you've doubtless recognized at Mass today, our liturgy brought us to a place outside the sanctuary as we began our solemn worship. Entering Holy Week this Palm Sunday, the Church recalls the entrance of Christ the Lord into Jerusalem, that city of peace, that place of sacrifice.

The Procession at Mass forms part of the liturgy itself. While practically signifying the beginning of the Sacred Liturgy and effectively leading the ministers to their place in the sanctuary, it is more fundamentally a reflection on the entrance of Christ Himself into our midst. Jesus enters our gathering.

With voices raised in song, we stand to mark the sacred action we are about to enter and engage. Today, with palms in hand, we recognize Jesus as Lord and King. Through the work of God for His people, inviting each of us humbly and reverently to participate in His salvific action, He is truly, really, and substantially present.



While the palms of adulation for earthly kings will wither and fade, it is the palms of our penances and the acts of our praise and worship that will authentically acknowledge the kingship of Christ. Entering this holiest of weeks, may we truly acclaim Christ as King of our hearts and lives. May our coming days of prayer and penance conform us ever more deeply to Him as we confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

Most Holy Trinity, I adore You!

My God, I love you in the Most Blessed Sacrament!

Fr. Pierz

PALM SUNDAY IS THE FINAL SUNDAY OF LENT. Today marks the beginning of Holy Week with the triumphant arrival of Christ in Jerusalem, days before he was crucified. Palm Sunday is known as such because the faithful will receive palm fronds which they use to participate in the reenactment of Christ's arrival in Jerusalem. In the Gospels, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding a young donkey, and to the lavish praise of the townspeople who threw clothes, or possibly palms or small branches, in front of him as a sign of homage. This was a customary practice for people of great respect.

- Palm branches are a widely recognized symbol of peace and victory.
- Riding a donkey instead of a horse represents the humble arrival of someone in peace, rather than arriving on a steed in war.



- During Palm Sunday Mass, palms are distributed to parishioners who carry them in a ritual procession into church. The palms are blessed and many people will fashion them into small crosses or other items of personal devotion. These may be returned to the church, or kept for the year.

- Because the palms are blessed, they may not be discarded as trash. Instead, they are appropriately gathered at the church and incinerated to create the ashes that will be used in the following year's Ash Wednesday observance.

- The colors of the Mass on Palm Sunday are red and white, symbolizing the redemption in blood that Christ paid for the world.

www.catholic.org

OUR FAITH.

OUR SACRAMENTS.

EUCHARIST:

LORD'S DAY MASS

Saturday 4:00 pm (BSC) | Sunday 8:00 am (HTC), 9:30 am (HTC), 11:00 am (BSC)

WEEKDAY MASS - HOLY WEEK

MT 8:30 am (BSC) | MTW 12:05 pm (HTC) | Wed. 6 pm (PAC)

ADORATION

Always present, 24/7 in our Perpetual Adoration Chapel (PAC)

CONFESSION:

Saturday, 2:30-3:30 pm | 30 min. before Sunday Masses* | Wednesday, 5-5:45pm | or by appointment. * Every effort is made to arrive 30 min. before the 11 am Mass for Confession, however priest availability can be limited.

BAPTISM:

Please contact the Parish Office to schedule baptism preparation classes, review sponsor eligibility, and plan celebration of the sacrament. Typically celebrated within 8 weeks of birth. Ceremony may be private or during our Sunday Masses.

MARRIAGE:

Please contact the Parish Office at least 9 months in advance to enroll in marriage preparation classes and plan liturgy arrangements.

CONFIRMATION:

Typically takes place through our Religious Education program. If you are an adult and have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation, please contact the Parish Office.

HOLY ORDERS:

Have you ever been inspired of a vocation to the priesthood or religious life? Please speak with Fr. Pierz or call the Parish Office.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Available during pastoral visit, Sacrament of Confession, or by appointment.

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS: Seeking to receive all your sacraments and enter full communion with the Catholic Church? You are invited and welcome to join us! Please contact the Parish Office to learn how to become Catholic and receive the sacraments of initiation.



HOLY WEEK STATIONS OF THE CROSS.

Monday 6:30 PM BSC | Friday 11:30 AM HTC

The Stations of the Cross are representations of the path Jesus bore on his way to the crucifixion. They involve Jesus enduring suffering, insults, moments of support, and the intense sacrifice that Christians believe Jesus undertook for human salvation. The object of the Stations is to help the faithful make a pilgrimage (in spirit) to the chief scenes of Christ's sufferings and death. Most simply, they are usually performed during Lent, especially on Good Friday, and are about remembering Christ's suffering for our sake.

We invite you to join us for this long-held and meaningful Lenten practice.



"And the crowds that went before him and that followed him shouted, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!'"

And when he entered Jerusalem, all the city was stirred saying,

'Who is this?'

And the crowds said,

'This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth of Galilee.' "

Matthew 21:9-10

OUR FAITH.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE.

April 6—Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper—7 PM (BSC)

April 7—Good Friday (no Masses)*

3 PM Stations of the Cross (HTC) followed by Chaplet of Divine Mercy

7 PM Celebration of the Passion of the Lord (BSC)

April 8—Holy Saturday Easter Vigil - 8 PM (HTC) *

April 9—Easter Sunday—Regular Mass Times

8 AM (HTC) | 9:30 AM (HTC) | 11 AM (BSC)



DAILY MASS:

HOLY WEEK:

Monday 8:30 12:05 —

Tuesday 8:30 12:05 —

Wednesday — 12:05 6:00 PM

Holy Thursday (see above schedule*)

Good Friday (see above schedule*)

8:30 AM Mass in Blessed Sacrament Church

12:05 PM Mass in Holy Trinity Church

6:00 PM Mass in Perpetual Adoration Chapel

REGULAR DAILY MASS SCHEDULE STARTING MONDAY, APRIL 10

Monday 8:30 (BSC)

Tuesday 8:30 (BSC)

Wednesday 12:05 (HTC)
6:00 PM (PAC)

Thursday 8:30 (HTC)

Friday 8:30 (HTC)



CONFESSION SCHEDULE:

HOLY WEEK:

Wednesday 5:00-5:45 PM (PAC)

Before Sunday Mass* (HTC/BSC)

By appointment. 773.3311

* Every effort is made to arrive 30 min. before the 11 AM Mass for Confession, however priest availability can be limited.

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### REGULAR CONFESSION SCHEDULE:

Saturday 2:30-3:30 PM (BSC)

Wednesday 5:00-5:45 PM (PAC)

Before weekend Mass\* (HTC/BSC)

By appointment. 773.3311

\* Every effort is made to arrive 30 min. before the 11 AM Mass for Confession, however priest availability can be limited.

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DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD LENTEN REGULATIONS 2023



1. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of abstinence from meat as well as days of fast, when only one full meal is allowed. On days of fast, two other meatless meals may be taken according to one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal.

2. The other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat.

3. The obligation to abstain from meat begins at age fourteen (14) and does not cease.

4. The obligation to fast begins at age eighteen (18) and ceases at age fifty-nine (59).

Please note: Although the faithful may excuse themselves from fast and abstinence, for a just cause, there is an obligation to substitute another penance in its place. No Catholic should lightly excuse him/herself from these Lenten obligations.



OUR PARISH.



Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, April 1—BISHOP McDONNELL
4:00 BSC WILLIAM AND CATHERINE MORRIS —
MaryAnn and Rich

SUNDAY, April 2— FATHER ROACH
PALM SUNDAY

8:00 HTC BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS FOR SANDRA
FLEURY — Mary Fleury

9:30 HTC RICK DUFRINE — Betty Fritz

11:00 BSC MARGARET FOLEY — the Family

MONDAY, April 3 — DEACON RABBITT

8:30 BSC MATTHEW KOSTANSKI —Britney, George,
and children

12:05 HTC HENRY AND MARIE GIRARD — Pierre and
Lucille

TUESDAY, April 4—DEACON LEARY

8:30 BSC GRACE AND BLESSINGS FOR MATTHEW
HIMES — Maureen Filiault

12:05 HTC KINDER FAMILY LIVING AND DECEASED —
Barbara Clapp

WEDNESDAY, April 5 —DEACON BUCCI

12:05 HTC WHELLEHAN FAMILY LIVING AND
DECEASED —Barbara Clapp

6:00 PAC GRACE AND BLESSINGS FOR DAN LARVEY —
Maureen Filiault

THURSDAY, April 6 —FATHER CAMPOLI

7:00 BSC LITURGY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

FRIDAY, April 7 — CLERGY IN PURGATORY

NO MASSES TODAY
3:00 HTC STATIONS OF THE CROSS
3:00 PAC DAY 1 - DIVINE MERCY NOVENA
7:00 BSC COMMUNION SERVICE

SATURDAY, April 8—FATHER DIMASCOLA
EASTER VIGIL

3:00 PAC DAY 1 - DIVINE MERCY NOVENA
8:00 HTC PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

**SUNDAY, April 9 — VOCATIONS, SEMINARIANS, AND
DEACON CANDIDATES**

EASTER SUNDAY
DAY 2 - DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

8:00 HTC PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

9:30 HTC PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

11:00 BSC PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

PALM SUNDAY.

APRIL 2, 2023

Give eternal life, O Lord, to all our beloved dead.
May they rest in peace! We remember in our prayers:

HELEN LOPATKA | FRANCIS BRISSETTE

MARCH 26—APRIL 8



BSC SANCTUARY CANDLE is burning
this week in memory/honor:

For a **Special Intention** from Anonymous
HTC 7-DAY CANDLE: (Available by
calling 773.3311).

ADORATION CHAPEL CANDLES will burn in
memory/honor of:

1. **Robert Thibodo**—from Joyce Thibodo
2. **Tony Caloon**—from Greg, June, Tabie and Talia
3. **Alyce Miller**— from June and Samantha Slater
4. **Patricia Duffey Earley**— from Robert Earley

If you would like to burn a candle
or donate flowers for a special
occasion, in memory of a loved one
or other intention, call the parish
office at 773.3311



VAN DRIVERS NEEDED.

We are looking for volunteer van drivers to bring the kids to
St. Michael School in Brattleboro from Greenfield.

*** Morning and afternoon shifts available * Flexible days
and hours * No special license required**

If you have a valid driver's license, extra time and are looking to
help, please join our team!

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

The Divine Mercy Novena starts Good Friday, April 7th and runs
Saturday, April 15th. The Chaplet will be read daily at 3pm in the
Adoration Chapel. Please find booklets at the church entrances.

CALVARY CEMETERY SPRING CLEAN UP.



In case you missed the deadline, a reminder
that beginning **April 1st** is the time set each
year for the removal of pots and plants from
the graves at Calvary Cemetery because of
the spring cleanup. **Thank you!**

CANTORS.

Saturday Apr. 1 4:00 pm— Betsy Grybko

Sunday Apr. 2 11:00 am — Brenda Hill

Good Friday Apr. 7 7:00 pm— Jane Winchester

Sunday Apr. 9 11:00 am — Sandra Pavoni

OUR PARISH.

Happy 90th Birthday!

On April 2nd **Fr. John Roach**, pastor emeritus of the former Holy Trinity Parish, is celebrating his 90th Birthday!



If you would like to acknowledge this milestone and send best wishes, his mailing address is:

Rev. John Roach
c/o Marian Center
1365 Northampton Street
Holyoke, MA 01040

He would love to hear from you!

BLESSED TRINITY ROSARY SOCIETY MEETING.

The next meeting will be on

Monday, April 3 at 6:30 pm at Father Casey Hall.

Meetings are held the first Monday of the month March– June and September through December.

Newcomers welcome!

Questions- contact Marcy at 773.3311.

2023 LENTEN SPEAKER:

FR. VALENTINE NWORAH

*The Family as the Domestic Church:
My Nigerian Experience.*



Wed. April 5 at 6:30pm

Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Church
127 Holyoke Road | Westfield, MA

WEEKEND OF MARCH 26, 2023

*"Pray, brethren, that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father"*

Weekly Parish Collection:	\$ 4571
Fuel/Energy Collection:	\$ 100
Maintenance Collection:	\$ 98

*"May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and
glory of His name, for our good and the good of His Holy Church."*

Thank you for your generosity!

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!



This Week at Blessed Trinity Parish

Monday April 3

8:30 am Mass (BSC)
11:30 am Most Holy Rosary (HTC)
12:05 am Mass (HTC)
6:00 pm Roses for Mary Prayer Group (PAC each Mon.)
6:30 pm Stations of the Cross (BSC)
6:30 pm Blessed Trinity Rosary Society meeting
Ftr. Casey Hall-HTC

Tuesday April 4

8:30 am Mass (BSC)
11:30 am Most Holy Rosary (HTC)
12:05 am Mass (HTC)
6:45-8:15 pm Boys Scouts Pastoral Ctr. (each Tues.)

Wednesday April 5

11:30 am Most Holy Rosary (HTC)
12:05 am Mass (HTC)
5-5:45 pm Confession (PAC)
6 pm Mass (PAC)
7 pm Holy Hour for the Sick & Dying—(PAC ea. Wed.)

Holy Thursday April 6

11:30 am Most Holy Rosary (HTC)
7 pm Mass (BSC) Celebration of the Passion of the Lord

Good Friday April 7

3 pm Stations of the Cross (HTC) followed by
Chaplet of Divine Mercy recited
7 pm Celebration of the Passion of the Lord (BSC)

Holy Saturday April 8

8 pm Easter Vigil (HTC)

Sunday April 9 Easter Sunday

8 am Mass (HTC) Confession: 30-minutes beforehand
9:30 am Mass (HTC) Confession: 30-minutes beforehand
9:45 am–10:45 am NO CLASS– Easter Sunday Gr. 1-8
Religious Education
11 am Mass (BSC) Confession: 30 minutes beforehand
(Note: Priest availability can be limited with 9:30 am Mass at HTC)
12n (Immediately following Mass) Easter Egg Hunt on lawn next to the Pastoral Center
6-7 pm NO CLASS– Easter Sunday Gr. 9-10 Religious Ed.

PRAYER CHAINS.

Our Parish Prayer Chains are available to anyone. Please contact us with your petition: Andrea Lapointe / Parish Office at 773.3311 or Marie Boynton at 413.775.3633 / memeboynton@comcast.net.



OUR YOUTH.



BLESSED TRINITY PARISH IS HIRING!

We are seeking a **Director of Religious Education (DRE)** to start in the Spring/Summer of 2023



The Position:

The DRE is a leadership role responsible for the development, organization, and administration of the Religious Education program for the school-aged children of Blessed Trinity Parish.

This part-time position (24-28 hours per week; year round) will report to the Pastor and collaborate with the Religious Education Board.

Candidates should submit a resume and cover letter that speaks to their interest and qualifications relative to the job description.

Review the job description here: <https://bit.ly/DREjobposting>

- Prayerfully consider if God is calling you personally?
- Do you know someone who would be a great candidate? Please talk with them.
- Visit our parish Facebook page to like and share the job posting to your personal page or Catholic FB groups... let's spread the word! Be brave! Don't be afraid to speak up if you meet someone while out and about who seems qualified... That could be the Holy Spirit at work.

CONTACT US: apply@blessedtrinitygreenfield.org

EASTER EGG HUNT.



Join us for an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, April 9

The hunt starts immediately after the 11:00 am Easter Mass.



The Easter Egg Hunt will take place on the lawn next to our Pastoral Center.



Join in the fun and say hi to the Easter Bunny!

All ages are welcome!

ST. JOHN PAUL II YOUTH GROUP EVENT.

Annual Votive Fundraising Event

March 25-26 & April 1-2



For a small donation, a candle with your petitions will be placed in the Perpetual Adoration Chapel for one week and the teens will have a Holy Hour on Palm Sunday to pray for all of the intentions.

This is a powerful spiritual work of mercy led by our youth in prayer!

Blessed Trinity CRYPTOQUIP


Answer to Last Week's Puzzle:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY!

MERCIFUL AND MIGHTY


GOD IN THREE PERSONS

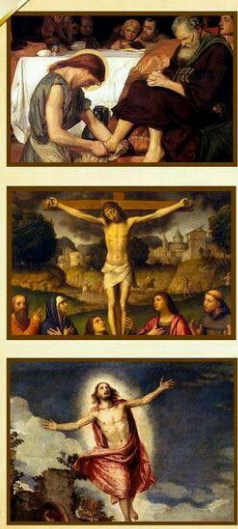
BLESSED TRINITY



PASCHAL TRIDUUM

The Easter Triduum—which begins with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday, reaching its high point in the Easter Vigil, and closes with Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday, is the summit of the Liturgical Year. It commemorates **Christ's Paschal Mystery**, i.e., the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

 facebook.com/catholicsknowtheanswerofficialpage



OUR YOUTH.



Catholic Youth Revival
Diocese of Springfield, MA

YOUTH MINISTRY MASTER CLASS SERIES

Strategy and support for
professionals and volunteers
working with youth

Spring Edition



Monthly Tuesdays on Zoom



5.00 PM TO 6.00 PM

**100%
ONLINE**

Cost: Free

Registration
Required

Register now at :



www.CatholicYouthRevival.org

THE SPEAKER LINEUP



JANUARY 10

Rebuilding Youth Ministry in a post COVID reality

Michael Marchand
Director & Co-founder
Project YM
Chattanooga, TN



FEBRUARY 7

Reaching the Modern Teen

Tim Habeeb
Northeast Regional Director
Life Teen
Boston, MA



MARCH 7

Mission Field Prayer Life

Fr. Stephen Rooney
Associate Pastor
Notre Dame Parish
New Hyde Park, NY



APRIL 4

Assisting Teens with Mental Health, Anxiety and Stress

Dan Hegarty
Licensed Social Worker
East Longmeadow, MA



MAY 9

AMA (Ask me Anything)

Jim Flanagan
Director of Youth Ministry
Holy Name Parish
West Roxbury, MA

OUR FAITH.

WHY DO CATHOLICS COVER CRUCIFIXES AND STATUES DURING LENT?



It seems strange that during the most sacred time of year **Catholics cover everything that is beautiful in their churches, even the crucifix.** Shouldn't we be looking at the painful scene at Calvary while we listen to the Passion narrative on Palm Sunday?

While it may appear counterintuitive to veil statues and images during the final weeks of Lent, the Catholic Church recommends this practice to **heighten our senses** and build

within us a longing for Easter Sunday. It is a tradition that should not only be carried out in our local parish, but can also be a fruitful activity for the “domestic church” to practice.

The rubrics can guide us. In the *Roman Missal* we find the instruction, “**In the Dioceses of the United States, the practice of covering crosses and images throughout the church from [the fifth] Sunday [of Lent] may be observed. Crosses remain covered until the end of the Celebration of the Lord’s Passion on Good Friday, but images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil.**” This is the current practice of the Church, but veiling from the **Fifth Sunday of Lent** onward is minuscule compared to what was once practiced. For example, **in Germany there was a tradition to veil the altar from view throughout all of Lent.**

Families are also encouraged to imitate this practice and **veil prominent religious images in their homes.** It helps us to participate in the liturgical season, especially if we are prevented from going to Mass during the week. Otherwise we only see the veiled images in church once or twice before Easter and it has a minor effect on us. It is also a beautiful tradition to pass down to our children, who will be intrigued by it and it will make this time of year truly special for them. We go through great lengths to decorate our homes for Easter, so why not prepare for the great feast by using veils?

But why go through such lengths to cover up images that are designed to raise our hearts and minds toward heaven?

- ♦ **We use veils to alert us of the special time that we are in.** When we walk into church and notice everything is covered, we immediately know that something is different. These last two weeks of Lent are meant to be a time of immediate preparation for the Sacred Triduum and these veils are a forceful reminder to get ready.
- ♦ **The veils focus our attention on the words being said at Mass.** When we listen to the Passion narrative, our senses are allowed to focus on the striking words from the Gospel and truly enter into the scene.
- ♦ **The Church uses veils to produce a heightened sense of anticipation for Easter Sunday.** This is further actualized when you attend daily Mass and see the veils each day. You don't want them to be there because they are hiding some very beautiful images.



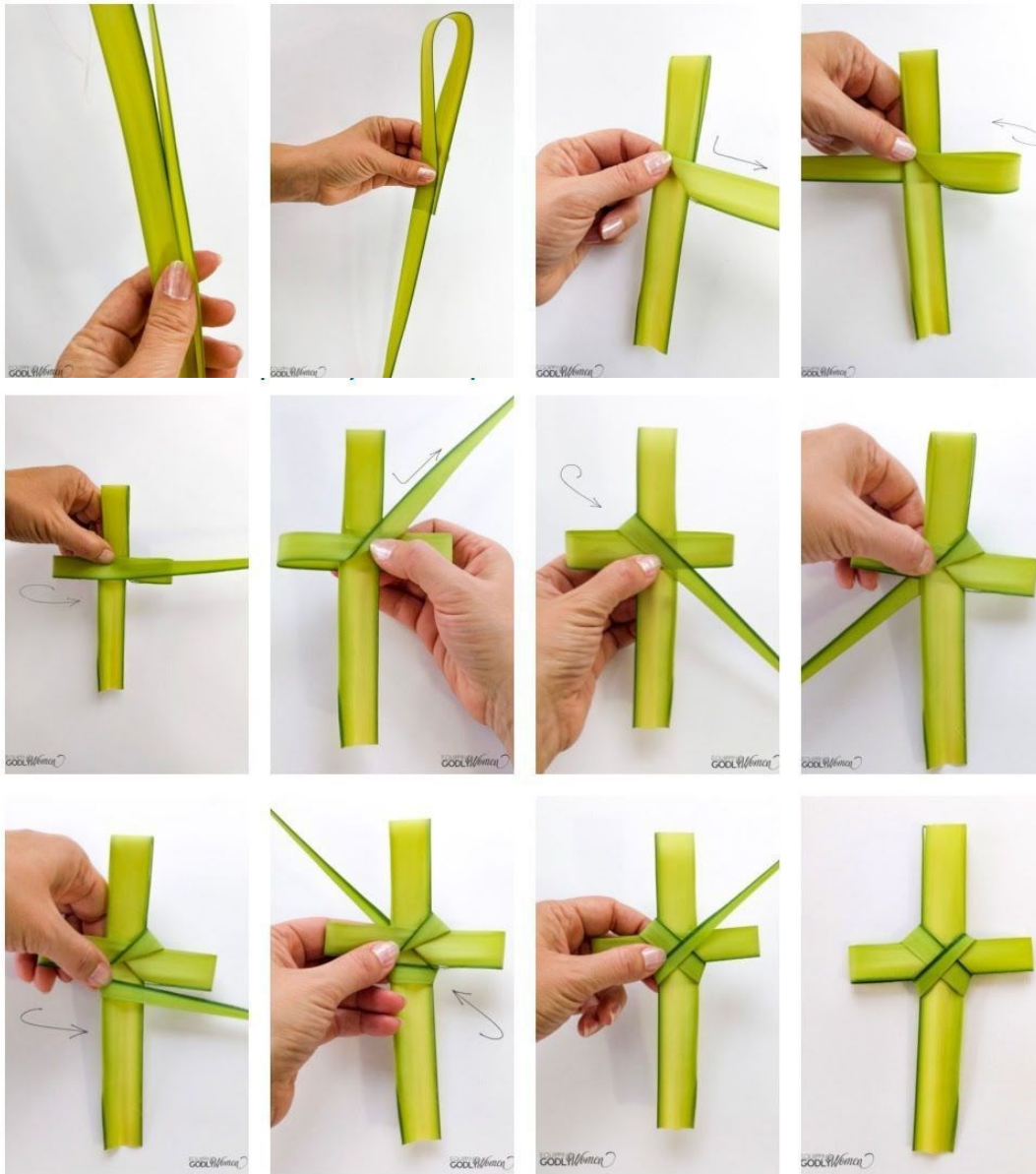
And therein lies the whole point: **the veils are not meant to be there forever.** The images need to be unveiled; it is unnatural for them to be covered.

The unveiling before the Easter Vigil is a great reminder of our own life on earth. We live in a “veiled” world, in exile from our true home. It is only through our own death that the veil is lifted and we are finally able to see the beauty of everything in our lives.

AND MORE.

HOW TO MAKE A Palm Cross

Have you mastered the art of making palm crosses from Palm Sunday palms yet? If not -- no worries! Here is a DIY tutorial with step-by-step instructions that anyone can follow.



EquippingGodlyWomen.com

How to Dispose of Palms. While folding palms into crosses is a lot of fun, you may not want to hang on to your palm leaf crosses forever. **Eventually, you'll probably want to know how to dispose of palms.** Yet, it's important to note that if you attend a Catholic church that blesses its palms for Palm Sunday mass, **you cannot dispose of palms in the trash once they've been blessed.** Here's how to dispose of palms:

- Bury them
- Burning them and spreading the ashes
- Returning your old palms to church to be turned into ashes for Ash Wednesday next year