

Church of Saint Mary, Rutherford

'The Placing of Palm Branches in the Home' Passion Sunday Service



[Adapted from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' book 'Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers.']

The blessed branches brought home on Passion [Palm] Sunday are customarily placed on or near a crucifix, cross, statue, Bible, icon or religious symbol. They remind us that Lent is the slow coming of spring to the earth, the renewal of life. They are like the great "Hosanna" with which we hail the crucified and risen Lord. All gather where the palms will be placed and make the Sign of the Cross as the leader begins.

leader: *Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*

all: *Hosanna in the highest!*

Then the leader explains:

We have come to the last days of Lent. Today, we heard the reading of the Passion; may it remain with us as we leave Lent behind on Holy Thursday and enter into the Three Days when we celebrate the mystery of Christ's passing through suffering and death to life at God's right hand.

*Another person or the leader reads the Scripture.
[2 Corinthians 4:10-11]*

Listen to the words of the Apostle Paul to the Corinthians. "[We are] always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body. For we who live are constantly being given up to death for the sake of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh." The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

After a moment of silence, the intentions [and any personal petitions] are offered, ideally each one by a different person, to which all respond: "Lord, have mercy."

1. For an evening that is perfect, holy, peaceful, and without sin; we pray:
2. For the holy Church of God, that God may give her peace and unity and protect and prosper her throughout the whole world; we pray:
3. For our family and friends, may we always be kind, just and forgiving; we pray:
4. For peace in our troubled world; for an increase in vocations to the Priesthood and all Church ministries from our Parish; we pray:
5. For the sick and all who bear the cross of suffering or pain; and may all our beloved dead rest in the peace of Christ; we pray:

The intentions are concluded with the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven...

Then the leader says:

Let us pray. Blessed are you, God of Israel, so rich in love and mercy. Let these branches ever remind us of Christ's triumph. May we who bear them rejoice in his Cross and sing your praise for ever and ever. *Amen.*

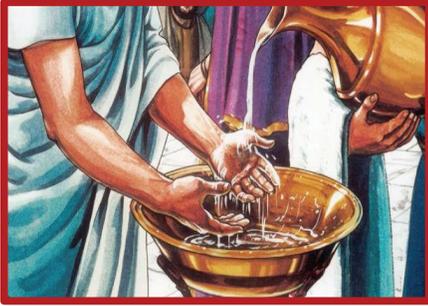
All make the Sign of the Cross as the leader says:

May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. *Amen.*

Let us bless the Lord. *And give him thanks.*

The palm branches are then placed where they will be displayed throughout the year; they may be returned next year, before Ash Wednesday, February 10, 2027, so they can be burned to provide the ashes we then bless. They may also be carefully burned at home or cut into small pieces, composted or wrapped and discarded. The Rite concludes with a hymn, like: 'Were You There.'

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Oh!
Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?



**SAINT
MATTHEW'S
PASSION
ACCOUNT**

While each *Gospel* notes *Pilate's* role in

the *Passion*, this year's account from *Matthew* [2025 was *Luke*; 2027 will be *Mark*; and *Good Friday* is always *John*], is the only *Gospel* that records *Pilate's wife's dream* in which she was warned that *Pilate* should recuse himself from *Christ's* trial. Only *Matthew* says *Pilate* washed his hands in a vain attempt to be absolved of his part in the *crucifixion*. The remorseful *Judas'* suicide is only mentioned by *Matthew*, as are the miracles at *Christ's Death*: the earth quaked, rocks split, tombs were opened, and the saints visited *Jerusalem*. Only *Matthew* says *Pilate* placed guards at the tomb to deter graverobbers.

Very Rev. Michael J. Kreder, V.F., KCHS, Pastor

Get Involved: It's Your Baptismal Duty!

Baptism washes away all sin, makes us heirs to the *Kingdom*, children of *God*, sisters and brothers of *Jesus* and each other, opens the doors to the other *Sacraments*, to a life of grace, and ultimately the gates of heaven. But all that's self-centered! *God* also expects all who receive the gift of *Baptism* to:

Attend Mass regularly and actively

Celebrate the other Sacraments, rites & rituals

Encourage others to join & support the Church

Support the Church with our time, talent & treasure

Witness to Gospel values at home, work & school

Offer our services via the Church's Ministries

Encourage Vocations to Priesthood & all ministries

Pray for and support all who serve us now

Are you fulfilling all your *Baptismal Promises*?
Contact the *Parish Office* to learn how to get involved!

FORMED

Our Parish pays for access for all parishioners to take advantage of the online resources on FORMED. It is totally FREE! To access the movies, books and other resources, register at www.stmaryrutherford.org.

**MEMORIALIZING THE SANCTUARY LAMP,
BREAD OR WINE OR SANCTUARY FLOWERS**

To memorialize the candle that burns continually before the *Blessed Sacrament*, the *bread* and *wine* offered at *holy Mass*, or *Sanctuary* flowers, return this completed form to the *Parish Office* via the collection basket or mail. Circle what you wish memorialized, the intention name[s] and purpose, preferred date, your name and phone numbers. **PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!** The intention and requestor's name are printed in the bulletin the week of that intention. Circle either:

Blessed Sacrament Lamp/Candle [\$25]

Bread [\$50] Wine [\$50]

Sanctuary Flowers [\$50]

Intention name: _____

Date for intention: _____

Note: the week begins the previous Saturday's date

Intention [*circle one*] Birth Baptism
Graduation _____th Wedding Anniversary
Military Service Special Intention
Health Deceased

Other: _____

Requestor's name: _____

Phone: _____

**Votive Candles at the Sacred Heart, Marian,
St. Anthony, St. Francis, St. Joseph, St. Jude,
St. Patrick, St. Peregrine or St. Teresa Shrine**

To light a *5-day* candle at any shrine, place **\$2.00** in the *hopper* near the *Shrine* to activate the system; then push a *blue*, *green* or *red* candle, which remains lit for 5 days. The *white* candles, lit for *one year*, ***include the name[s] of the intention and requestor***, may be intended for the living or dead, newborns, newlyweds, the sick or dying, those in the military, or any valid reason. A donation of **\$250.00** is requested; contact the *Parish Office* to memorialize an annual candle. The annual candle intentions are mentioned by name in the *Universal Prayer* at a *holy Mass* near the *Feast of the Presentation of the Lord* or *Candlemas, February 2*, 40 days after the *Nativity of the Lord* or *Christmas*.

The OCIA [formerly RCIA]: Order of Christian Initiation of Adults



Adults who wish to become **Catholic** or need **First Eucharist** or **Confirmation**, contact the **Parish Office**, x 1111. The **OCIA** team plans to attend the 10 am **Sunday Mass** and then have presentations on the **Catholic Faith**. Every **Catholic** is obligated to be alert to those who wish to join us and encourage all who have yet to complete their

initiation into the **Church** [receive **First Eucharist** and **Confirmation**] - or need to deepen their knowledge and practice of the **Faith** - to do so!

Is God remembered in your will?

While concern for our own needs and the needs of others may keep us from tithing a full 10% now, most should be able to reach this goal in their will. Will **God** and your **Parish** be remembered in your will?

Homebound Parishioners

Contact the **Parish Office** to have the **Most Holy Eucharist** [Holy Communion] brought to the sick or homebound, or to have a loved one, neighbor or friend visited by a **Parish Minister**.

Marriage Preparation

Marriage plans should be made at least one year before the wedding; NO other plans should be made until the couple meets with a **Priest** or **Deacon**. Contact the **Parish Office** for a **Marriage Policy Handbook** and all requirements.

Pastoral Care of the Sick and Dying

Contact the **Catholic** chaplain via the hospital's **Pastoral Care Office** upon admission; chaplains are forbidden by law from viewing hospital rosters, so you must contact them. **Parish ministers** try to visit area hospitals; if you or a loved one is hospitalized, call the **Parish Office** and give the patient's name, hospital, room number and other pertinent information.

The Weekly Bulletin Lesson

Do you read each week's bulletin article on the various aspects of our **Catholic Faith** as your '**Lectio Divina**' or weekly 'holy study?' Topics have included the **Saints**, all revised orations, and most recently, revised **Orders** and **Blessings**. Check our **Parish** website for past articles.

CLOW: Children's Liturgy of the Word

Help our **Children's Liturgy of the Word** [CLOW] ministry grow stronger so our children, pre-K through Grade 4, can better understand the **Mass**. After the **Collect** [Opening Prayer], they go to the **Parish Hall** to hear that weekend's readings and a reflection, and to **Profess their Faith** and offer the **Universal Prayer** - on their own reading level. Parents are welcome to attend **CLOW** to observe or accompany nervous newcomers. We always need leaders and aides. At **least two adults** are required in each room with our children, so help is needed to **lead** - or simply **oversee** **CLOW**; to find out more, contact the **Religious Formation** [RF] Office.

BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL MEMORIAL WALL FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

One of our many beautiful customs is to enshrine the photographs of the most recent 24 for whom the **Order of Christian Funerals** took place at our **Parish** on the **Memorial Wall** near the **Tabernacle**. Since a **Spiritual Work of Mercy** is to pray for the living and the dead, make it a habit to stop at the **Memorial Wall** to pray for - and light a candle for - our most recently departed parishioners and their loved ones who mourn their loss. To have the dead or the living remembered at **holy Mass**, contact the **Parish Office** for details about securing a **Mass** intention, which includes a **Mass** card. These are the intentions and optional requestor names seen each week in the bulletin. To have recently deceased immediate family members added to our '**Recently Deceased**' bulletin's column, contact the **Parish Office**.

Are your children and grandchildren
registered for Religious Formation Classes?
If not, call the RF Office at
201-438-2200 x 1140 asap!

Monday of Holy Week - March 30

Mass at 8:30 am

Note: special time for Monday's Mass in Holy Week!

Chrism Mass - 8:00 PM in Newark's Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart or watch it 'live' online: www.rcan.org.

At the **Chrism Mass**, **Priests** renew their **Ordination** promises and our **Cardinal Archbishop** blesses and consecrates the **Holy Oils**: the **Oil of Catechumens** used at **Baptism**, the **Oil of the Sick** used in the **Anointing of the Sick**, and the **Sacred Chrism**, used at **Baptism**, **Confirmation**, **Holy Orders**, and the blessing of **new churches & altars**. Pray for our **Priests**: present, past and future.

Tuesday of Holy Week - March 31

Mass at 8:30 am

Wednesday of Holy Week - April 1

Mass at 8:30 am

Holy Thursday Morning - April 2

Morning Prayer at 8:30 am

[no morning Mass or any other Mass permitted]
refreshments & fellowship afterwards

The Sacred Triduum & Paschal Fast

Lent ends as we begin **Holy Thursday's Mass of the Lord's Supper**; we enter the **shortest** but most **central** liturgical time: the three-day **Easter Triduum**. Enter more fully into **Christ's Death** and **Resurrection** by joining in all **Triduum** events and the **Paschal Fast**, which is even more intense than the **Lenten Fast**: all should fast from **Good Friday** until the **Easter Vigil** "as a way of coming to the joys of the **Sunday of the Resurrection** with uplifted and welcoming hearts." *[Ceremonial of Bishops #295]*

Holy Thursday - April 2

We solemnly celebrate **Jesus'** parting gifts of love: His abiding Presence in the **Eucharist**; His care and concern for us in the **Ordained Priesthood**; and our

call to continue His work in **Christian Service**. For as **Jesus** said after washing the **Apostles'** feet: "If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do." *[John 13:14-15]*. In the **Mass of the Lord's Supper**, we serve by washing feet, giving alms through **Catholic Relief Services' Rice Bowl' [CRSRB]** and our **2nd Collection Social Concerns & Charity Fund**, and 'watching one hour' with the **Lord** at the **Place of Repose** until **11:00 pm Night Prayer**. **Simple Adoration** resumes with **Good Friday's 8:30 am Morning Prayer** until the **3:00 pm Service**.

Holy Thursday Services

Morning Prayer/Breakfast	8:30 am
Mass of the Lord's Supper	7:30 pm
Night Prayer	11:00 pm

Good Friday - April 3

We meditate on **Christ's Passion** and **Death** with ancient rituals and in profound silence. The church is open all day for private prayer and for public services: **Morning Prayer**, **Children's Stations of the Cross**, **Main Celebration of the Passion of the Lord** and 26th annual '**Walking the Stations**' composed and delivered by parishioners who share how they found hope by embracing their own cross. **All** should visit the church this solemn day to thank **God** for His redeeming love!

Good Friday Services

Morning Prayer	8:30 am
Children's Stations of the Cross	12:00 noon
The Passion of the Lord	3:00 pm
Stations of the Cross	7:30 pm

Holy Saturday - April 4

Ancient tradition prohibits **holy Mass** on this day; we keep watch at the tomb in solemn prayer. Pray for those who will be baptized and welcomed into the **Catholic Church** during this day of prayerful reflection.

Holy Saturday Services

Morning Prayer	8:30 am
Midday Prayer with Easter Food Blessing	12:00 noon
Easter Vigil Mass	7:30 pm

Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

April 4 - 7:30 pm

Church law strictly requires that the ONLY Masses permissible on Holy Saturday begin AFTER nightfall, in darkness, so there can be **no 5:00 pm Vigil Mass** on Holy Saturday. The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night Mass, the climax of the liturgical year, which begins at **7:30 pm**, is a four-part ritual with roots in antiquity. The four parts are:

SERVICE OF LIGHT. The Paschal Candle, symbol of the Risen Christ, lit from the blessed fire, is brought into the darkened church. As all light their candle from the Christ-Light, the darkness of the tomb erupts into the warm glow of the Risen Lord's presence!

LITURGY OF THE WORD. We tell our scriptural story of God's marvelous, saving deeds throughout history.

LITURGY OF BAPTISM & CONFIRMATION. With blessed Easter Water we renew our Baptismal Promises. Although we have no Elect or Candidates who will complete their initiation into the Catholic Church through our Parish this year, we join our prayers with those who, throughout the world, will do so on this most holy night. May God bless those who will celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation, making God's saving deeds and the Risen Lord truly alive in us, His Church!

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST. In the highpoint of the Great Three Days and the entire year, the Church's newest members share Eucharist with us for the first time. We renew our pledge to become Eucharist by being Christ's Risen presence in our world.

NOTE: NO 5:00 pm Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday; the **ONLY MASS** is at 7:30pm!

Easter Sunday - April 5

Easter Masses

Saturday Easter Vigil: 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday:

8:00 am - 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Easter Masses will be livestreamed into the Parish Center's Pieta Hall if needed.

Easter joy continues as we celebrate *First Communion* for 42 of our children on the 4th and 5th Sundays of Easter, the *Confirmation* of 7 adults on *Pentecost, May 24*, and of 61 of our young people on *Sunday, June 21, 2026*. Please pray for them and for their loved ones.

THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK

2026 ANNUAL APPEAL: AA

Cardinal Tobin and Father Mike express their heartfelt thanks to all who supported this year's Annual Appeal. They also invite those who have yet to do so to take part in this charitable endeavor.

2026 Parish Goal

\$91,037.56

Below is how Saint Mary Church did in the 2025 Annual Appeal

Donor Pledged	\$154,594.79
Donor Received	\$152,708.09
Balance of Pledges	\$1,886.70
Average Gift	\$452.03
Rebate 2024	\$33,608.52
Number of Donors	342

If we reach our goal in paid pledges before June 30, 2026, we will receive a **2% Assessment** rate reduction.

If we are truly transformed by the Gift of *Jesus Himself* in the *Eucharist* - that transformation must become visible in our concern for, and outreach to, others. The *Archdiocesan* website: www.rcan.org heralds all that the AA provides. You may also make a pledge or donation to the AA online: go to www.rcan.org/sharing and remember to select *St. Mary Rutherford*.

CHURCH OF SAINT MARY

91 HOME AVENUE ✦ RUTHERFORD, NEW JERSEY 07070



"Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" (which means) ~ "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

We are called to form the Christian Community of **Saint Mary Roman Catholic Church**; we are protected by our Blessed Mother in whose patronage our parish has been placed under her title "**Our Lady of the Rosary**."

Very Rev. Michael J. Kreder, V.F., KCHS ----- Pastor

James J. Guida & Raymond L. Schembri----- *Deacons*

Frank Viteritti----- *St. Mary High School Principal*

Adrian Salazar----- *Parish Catechetical Leader*

Local Safe Environment Coordinator

Donna Shoemaker *Administrative Assistant*

Lisa Considine----- *First Eucharist Coordinator*

Larry Boland----- *Confirmation Coordinator*

Gerard DeMan----- *Director of Sacred Music*

Linda Verdino & Kevin McLean----- *Trustees*

David Valente----- *Finance Committee Chairperson*

Marisa Ackermann----- *Children's Liturgy of the Word*

Stacey Santolli----- *Children's Liturgy of the Word*

----- *Youth Group*

Deborah Moran----- *Administrative Secretary*

< PARISH DIRECTORY >

Parish Office---- 201-438-2200 **Fax**----- 201-438-1098

Web ----- www.stmaryrutherford.org

E-mail ----- parishoffice@stmaryrutherford.org

Facebook-- www.facebook.com/91HomeAvenueRutherford/

St. Mary High School----- 201-933-5220

Religious Formation----- 201-438-2476

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Newark

<http://www.ccannj.com/contact-up.php>

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

March 29, 2026

< OUR SACRAMENTAL LIFE >

EUCCHARIST (*Obligation Masses*)

Saturday----- 5:00 pm (*Sunday obligation*)

Sunday----- 8:00, 10:00, & 12:00 noon

Weekday Schedule

Monday----- 5:00 pm

Tuesday - Thursday ----- 8:30 am

Friday----- 12 noon Prayer Service with Eucharist

Holy Days ----- As listed in the bulletin

RECONCILIATION (*Confession*)

Confessions will be heard at 4:15 pm Saturday evenings.

Baptism: Parents are required to attend the parish Baptism Class and provide the godparent's sponsorship letters **BEFORE** the baptism date can be set. Call the Parish Office at 201-438-2200 for class dates and godparent handbook.

Marriage: According to the N.J. Common Policy couples must register at least **ONE YEAR** in advance.

Anointing of the Sick: Please contact the Parish Office.

Holy Orders: Contact the Vocation Office at 973-497-4365.



*From the Pastor
March 29, 2026
Palm Sunday of the
Passion of the Lord - A*

***RITE FOR THE
BLESSING OF A
CHILD IN THE
WOMB [RBCW].***

To end my 3-part series on the revised **RBCW**, I reflect on its **Blessing Prayer**. Last **Wednesday, March 25**, was the **Annunciation of the Lord**, when **Jesus** was conceived in His **Virgin Mother's** womb. It may be 8 days until **Easter**, but it is also 9 months until **Christmas!** That's why I chose these weeks for the revised **RBCW**; for past bulletin articles, visit our parish website: stmaryrutherford.org.

Here is the **Prayer of Blessing** with its two optional additions; please pray it for those who may need your prayerful intercession.

Blessing of the Mother & Child

***O God, author of all life, bless we pray,
this unborn child; give constant
protection and grant a healthy birth
that is the sign of our rebirth one day
into the eternal rejoicing of heaven.***

***Lord, who have brought to this woman
the wondrous joy of motherhood,
grant her comfort in all anxiety
and make her determined to lead
her child along the ways of salvation.***

**** [Optional Prayer for the father ... see other column]***

***** [Optional Prayer for the family ... see other column]***

***Lord, you have put into the hearts of all
men and women of good will a great awe and
wonder at the gift of new life; fill this (parish)
community with faithfulness to the teachings of
the Gospel and new resolve to share in the
spiritual formation of this child
in Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns
for ever and ever. Amen.***

IT DOES TAKE A VILLAGE OR A PARISH! In **God's** plan, everyone would work together for the salvation of all people, starting with the basic core of society: the **family**. While we are born or

adopted into a **particular** family, by **Baptism** we are born or adopted into **God's family**, the **Church**. Every **Christian** has the divine right to expect from their two families all the help and guidance they need for their proper human and spiritual development. The 'stars' that should shine above all others in forming children should be their biological or adopted mother, **holy Mother Church**, and our **Blessed Mother**.

The roles of best supporting character ideally go to the child's father and the rest of the family, whatever that family is determined to be. Aware of the many situations in family life these days, the revised **Blessing** makes the **Blessing of the Father** and/or the **Family optional**. Again, the sensitivity and acceptance of the human reality by **God** and His **Church** is evident in these orations. Here are the two optional **Blessings**:

**** [Optional Prayer for the father:]***

***Lord of the ages, who have singled out this man
to know the grace and pride of fatherhood,
grant him courage in this new responsibility,
and make him an example
of justice and truth for this child.***

***** [Optional Prayer for the family:]***

***Lord, endow this family with sincere and
enduring love as they prepare to welcome
this child into their midst.***

As we enter **Holy Week**, which celebrates our **Lord's Passion, Death** and **Resurrection**, we also recall the first major step in **God's** plan for our salvation: the **Incarnation**, by which **God** became man. After spending 9 months in His **Mother's** womb, 33 years on the face of the earth, and 3 days in the tomb, He redeemed every person conceived in every time and place. May those who receive the **RBCW** come to know and enjoy the ultimate **Blessing**: the eternal joys of **God's Kingdom**, promise to those reborn in **Baptism** or who, through **God's** mysterious plan, are saved. May **God** grant us all a grace-filled **Holy Week**.

With God's love and my prayers,

Father Mike

Very Rev. Michael J. Kreder, VF, KCHS

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion



March 29, 2026

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026

5:00 pm Michael F. and Mary O'Keefe

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026

8:00 am Teresa Napolitano

10:00 am Aida Nieves

12 noon Frank D'Auria

MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2026

5:00 pm Joseph Fuentes

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2026

8:30 am Anna Berbary

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026

8:30 am Eve Saviello

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026

8:30 am Morning Prayer

7:30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Vincent & Mildred Kreder

Vincent Kreder

Daniel M. Moran

Mildred Marra

Mary Ellen Campbell

James and Rita Campbell

Joseph and Helen Fuentes

11:00 pm Night Prayer

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2026

8:30 am Morning Prayer

12:00 noon Children's Stations of the Cross

3:00 pm The Passion of the Lord

7:30 pm Living Stations of the Cross

SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2026

8:30 am Morning Prayer

7:30 pm Irene R. Laborim

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026

8:00 am Agostino and Rachelle Pollio

10:00 am William Teresavage

12 noon Frank D'Auria

Margaret Moran Vosburgh – 4th Anniv.

Next Sunday's Scripture Readings:

The Resurrection of the Lord



Acts 10:34a, 37-43

Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

Colossians 3:1-4 or

1 Corinthians 5:6b-8

John 20:1-9

SANCTUARY OFFERINGS

The **SANCTUARY LAMP** which burns near the Tabernacle in Church, the reminder of the Lord's Presence in the Most Holy Eucharist, will burn in memory of **LAURA YANITELLI**.

Requested by Rita Sorbera.

The **ALTAR BREADS** which will become the Body of our Lord Jesus Christ at the Masses celebrated in Church during the week will be offered in memory of **JOHN MCNULTY – 6TH ANNIVERSARY**.

Requested by his wife Rosalie.

Please keep Laura, John and their families in your prayers.

PRAY FOR OUR SICK



Grant our brothers and sisters, **comfort** in their suffering. When they are afraid, give them **courage**. When **afflicted**, give them **patience**. When **dejected**, afford them **hope**. And when **alone**, assure them of the **support** of your holy people.

Salvatore Anselmi, Frank Cornacchiulo,
Jean Marie VanDyk, Weston Greenwood,
Leslie Maculso, James Murray, Santo Perez,
Manuel Reiriz, Allison Russell,
Gina Sbrocco, Frank Seibert, Heather Shaw,
and Jeannie Steinel.

CAN YOU HELP?

We are looking for a volunteer to help prepare the ashes for next year's Ash Wednesday by sifting the palms burned after Mardi Gras. We are deeply grateful to **FRANK BOWEN**, who has faithfully taken on this task for many years. If you feel called to help continue this tradition, please contact the parish office by phone or email.

PALM SUNDAY

This week, we celebrate Palm Sunday; all children through Grade 4 will be asked to come to the Sanctuary Space in Church before Mass begins to process as part of our parade. They will then be brought downstairs (at the 5PM – 10AM & 12NOON Masses), where the Easter Story video will be shown. This animated re-creation of “The Easter Story” brings to life all the wonder and glory of what many have called “the greatest story ever told.”

MASS OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Holy Thursday, April 2 – 7:30 PM

If you would like to have your feet washed at this Mass, kindly email the parish office. We are looking for approximately 95 – 100 people!



GOOD FRIDAY HOLY LAND COLLECTION

Our help is needed now, as in the days of Saint Francis, to protect the Holy Places of the Holy Land. Even more important, our help is needed to protect the Holy Name of Our Lord in this troubled land, which he chose for His birth, sacrificial death and victorious resurrection. We protect more than the stones of ancient shrines from the ravages of time or armies or tourists. In an unbelieving world we express and protect the very idea of what it means to follow Christ. Your gift will give life to some and hope to others, lighting candles of faith in darkened shrines and lives. The Annual Collection for the Shrines and people of the Holy Land will be taken up on **Good Friday, April 3** during the Celebration of Christ’s Passion and Death and during the Stations of the Cross. Thank you

OPERATION RICE BOWL

Stop by the Narthex and take home a Rice Bowl. Your financial sacrifice helps many who are less fortunate than us. Operation Rice Bowl donations should be returned by Holy Thursday, April 2nd.

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

There is **NO 5pm Mass**

Easter Vigil begins at 7:30pm

EASTER COLLECTION

The **FIRST** collection on **Easter Sunday** will be for your Easter Gift to the Church and the **SECOND** collection for your regular weekly offering. Though some disdain this financial talk the reality is: the Church needs your regular support, and it needs your active, physical presence, for without you and your support, we could not ‘be Church’ or make ends meet. As you consider your Easter gift to your parish, I ask you to check if your place of employment or retirement has a “matching gift” policy; this is a wonderful way to increase your sacrificial offering to your church! As always, I am grateful for your generosity, your concern and your interest.

HOLY WEEK

PRACTICE SCHEDULE FOR ALTAR SERVERS

I am excited to see so many of you returning to help us with Holy Week this year! Here are the official schedules for practice:

Wednesday, April 1 @ 6:30 PM

Holy Thursday Practice

Friday, April 3 @ 9:30 AM

Good Friday Practice

Saturday, April 4 @ 9:30 AM

Easter Vigil Practice

Additionally, altar servers should arrive at the following times for each Mass:

For Holy Thursday Mass at 7:30 PM

please arrive no later than 7:05 PM.

For Good Friday Service at 3:00 PM

please arrive no later than 2:40 PM.

For Easter Vigil Mass at 7:30 PM

please arrive no later than 7:05 PM.

Joe Ziaya

STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR CHILDREN

We invite you to join us for **our Children's Stations of the Cross** on **Good Friday, April 3 at 12 noon**. This 40-minute service includes a child-friendly PowerPoint to help young people see and understand each station as we walk with Jesus to Calvary. All are encouraged to bring their children and spend time in prayer on this solemn and meaningful day.

SECOND COLLECTION

A **SECOND COLLECTION** will be taken **THIS WEEKEND** – may our donations to our **Social Concerns** and **Charity Fund** plant the seeds of hope for those in need. Food may also be donated and placed by the elevator the entrance door.

FLOWER MEMORIALS

If you wish to **REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES** by memorializing them in our Easter Flower Donations, please use the envelope included with your monthly packet or pick one up at the door of the Church. The names of the person and the person requesting the remembrance will be included on **ONE** line to be published in the bulletin after Easter. Please **PRINT** and be *legible!*

THE ORDER OF

CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS:

Are you thinking about becoming a member of the Catholic Faith Family?

Have you experienced Jesus calling you into a closer relationship with Him?

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is intended for:

- + Unbaptized adults
- + Adults who have been baptized into a non-Catholic denomination
- + Adults who have been baptized Catholic but never received First Eucharist or Confirmation

NOW IS THE TIME TO FIND OUT MORE!

Come to an Inquiry Session – on Sundays from 11 to 12:15 pm in Madonna Hall. A commitment is not required to attend these sessions. Contact Adrian at religiousformation@stmaryrutherford.org



EASTER DECORATING WE NEED YOU!!!!

We will decorate our Church on **Holy Saturday**
April 4th at 9 AM

The Risen Christ needs to be moved from Pieta to the Sanctuary and the placement of flowers throughout the church takes time. Can you put some time aside for this? Confirmation Candidates **MUST** email Adrian – religiousformation@stmaryrutherford.org to register to help. We need **TWO** groups – some to assist at 9am and some to assist at 1pm. Your help will make a big difference.



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COUNCIL # 1688

Progressive 50/50 - Tickets: \$5.00 – each

Drawing on May 20

ONE winner will receive 50% of the money raised. The Knights will be on the Church Plaza at all Masses on:

March 28/29; April 18/19 and May 2/3

or complete the form below and send a check to:

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

c/o Saint Mary Church - 91 Home Avenue

Rutherford, NJ 07070 - Attention: K of C

or complete the forms below:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Telephone #: _____

of Tickets: _____ Amt Encl.: _____

License: #3186

ID# 439-5-7179

Email dgolebieski@gmail.com if you have questions.

TEEN MINISTRY

Calling ALL Saint Mary teens! Join us for our next **Teen Ministry** gathering this Sunday at **6 PM** in the Parish Center. Bring a friend, bring your joy, and come be part of our community. Parents and teens can stay connected by texting RUTHERFORD to 84576 to join our text chain.

ANNUAL ²⁰²⁶ APPEAL

If you haven't yet had the opportunity to contribute to the Annual Appeal, we humbly ask you to prayerfully consider doing so. Your support, no matter the amount, plays a crucial role in advancing the mission of our Church. Every gift, given with a spirit of love and generosity, helps strengthen our parish and allows us to continue serving those in need! Envelopes can be found in all pews. Our goal is **\$91,037.56**. Can you help us to meet this goal? Please keep **Cardinal Tobin**, all the **Clergy, Religious** and **Laity** of the **Archdiocese of Newark** in your prayers. And be assured of **Cardinal Tobin's** and my prayers for you.

ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY



Saint Mary Rosary Society will be meeting on **Tuesday, April 7 at 6:30 PM** in Madonna Hall. We will start by reciting the rosary, then refreshments and the meeting. We need to discuss

upcoming events for the spring. Please make every effort to attend our Rosary Meeting. Hope to see all of you at this meeting.

PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY



Continue to pray for all the brave men and women defending our country. Keep them safe from all attacks and warn them of danger. Give them wisdom

and strength in battle, and help them to stay focused, sharp, and alert. Strengthen our troops spiritually, physically, mentally, and emotionally and bring them safely home to their Families.

Brendan Scott Ahearn, Corporal, USMC

Nicole Conti, SPC Nazar Fedorko,

Paul Fedorisin, SSGT, Kyle McAuley,

Kevin Mustac, Drew Napoli,

Brendan J. Nestor, US Navy

CPT Patrick O'Grady, US Army, Michael Rogers,

2LT Jake Shoemaker, Sgt. Angelo Mangione USMC,

Ch (Cpt) Fr. Peter Koziolkiewicz



SAINT MARY CYO – CHAMPIONS!

The Saint Mary 8th Grade Boys CYO Team captured the **Tournament of Champions** title for the **ENTIRE Archdiocese** last week — the highest honor you can earn in CYO basketball.

This incredible accomplishment reflects:

- A talented and hardworking team
- A remarkable season of dedication
- Outstanding coaching
- Supportive and committed parents

Congratulations to our players, coaches, and families on an unforgettable season and a truly exceptional achievement!

BIBLE STUDY

WHEN: Wednesdays

TIME: 6:00–6:45 PM

Where: Parish Center

Young adults ages 18–25 are invited to join us each Wednesday evening as we dive into the Gospel of Matthew. For more information, please contact:

Gabe Mendez – 201-249-3337

Adrian Salazar – 201-814-4316

asalazar@stmaryrutherford.org

RELIGIOUS FORMATION

Registration for **RF 2026-27** has **begun**. Families **SHOULD** register for Summer **OR** Fall-Spring RF in the parish office. Please note that the **early registration fee for the Fall** goes on **UNTIL June 1st**.

Summer dates are:

June 24, 25, 26, 29, 30; July 1, 2, 3.

Registration remains open **until May 31st**!

We are looking for catechists to help teach the Summer RF Program.

Catechists are needed for grades 3, 6, 7, & 8

Please reach out to Adrian or Donna if interested at religiousformation@stmaryrutherford.org

All 2nd grade and 7th grade registrants must submit a \$50.00 sacramental fee for First Communion or Confirmation. Incoming 1st graders must submit a copy of their baptismal certificate upon registration. Registration forms can be submitted at the parish office with the attention of the religious formation office. Forms are on our parish website – stmaryrutherford.org under religious formation OR can be picked up in the office.

**MEMORIALIZING THE SANCTUARY LAMP,
BREAD OR WINE OR SANCTUARY FLOWERS**

To memorialize the candle that burns continuously before the *Blessed Sacrament*, the *bread* and *wine* offered at *holy Mass*, or *Sanctuary* flowers, return this completed form to the *Parish Office* via the collection basket or mail. Circle what you wish memorialized, the intention name[s] and purpose, preferred date, your name and phone numbers. **PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!** The intention and requestor's name are printed in the bulletin the week of that intention. Circle either:

- Blessed Sacrament Lamp/Candle [\$25]**
Bread [\$50] Wine [\$50]
Sanctuary Flowers [\$50]

Intention name: _____

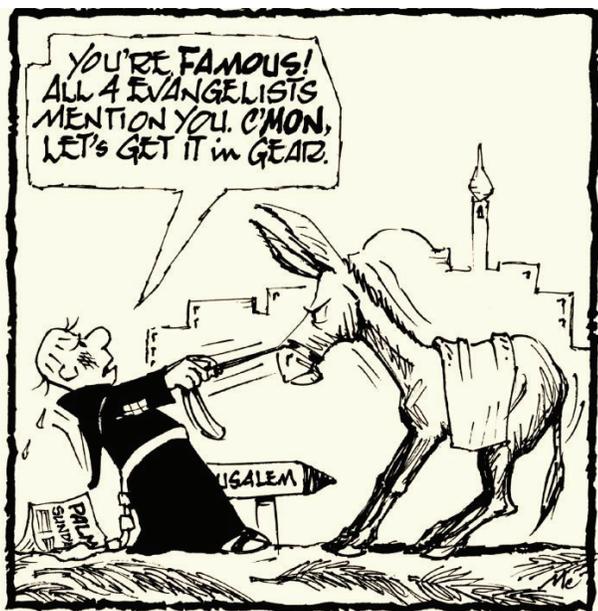
Date for intention: _____

**Note: the week begins the previous Saturday's
date**

- Intention [circle one] Birth Baptism
 Graduation _____th Wedding Anniversary
 Military Service Special Intention
 Health Deceased
 Other: _____

Requestor's name: _____

Phone: _____



PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

In a tone of quiet sadness, Isaiah describes the buffets and insults given to the Suffering Servant. The passage ends on a note of hope.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

In exultant tones, Paul tells the Philippians to rejoice because Christ became man, died on the cross, rose from the dead, and sits triumphantly at the right hand of the Father.

Gospel: Matthew 26:14—27:66

This is the solemn narrative of the passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. Matthew recounts the treachery and betrayal of Judas and then describes the events of the Last Supper, culminating in the institution of the Eucharist. Jesus endures the Agony in the Garden; he is then brought before Caiaphas and Pilate and condemned to death. After His resurrection, the centurions shouted, "Clearly this was the Son of God!"

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**Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
Sunday**

Mt 21:1-11; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14—27:66
or 27:11-54

Monday

Is 42:1-7; Jn 12:1-11

Tuesday

Is 49:1-6; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday

Is 50:4-9a; Mt 26:14-25

Thursday

Chrism Mass:

Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9; Rv 1:5-8; Lk 4:16-21

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper:

Ex 12:1-8, 11-14;

1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15

First Friday

Is 52:13—53:12; Heb 4:14-16, 5:7-9; Jn 18:1—19:42

First Saturday

Easter Vigil:

Gn 1:1—2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a; Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ex 14:15—15:1; Is 54:5-14; Is 55:1-11; Bar 3:9-15, 32-4:4; Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28; Rom 6:3-11; Mt 28:1-10

KID'S KORNER

Gospel Today Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord | Matthew 26:14-27:66

The Gospel of Matthew gives us a detailed account of the events of Holy Week. From the Lord's Supper, the Agony in the Garden, Jesus' Betrayal and Arrest to His Trial and the Way of the Cross.

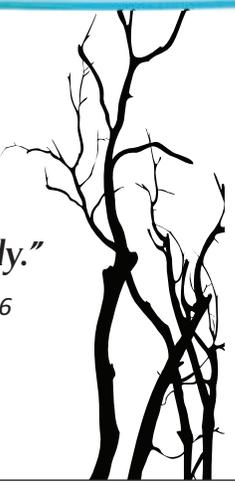
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While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying,

"Take and eat; this is my body."

Matthew 26:26



BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find all the words... left, right, up, down or diagonally.



- Holy Week
- Jesus
- Last Supper
- Twelve Disciples
- Thanks
- Eat Bread
- Body
- Cup
- Drink Blood
- Forgiveness
- Sins
- Fathers
- Kingdom
- Night
- Gethsemane
- Sleeping
- Resting
- Praying
- Judas
- Betray
- Arrested
- Pilate
- Crown
- Thorns
- Cross
- Son
- God
- Messiah

M	K	N	I	R	D	F	Y	P	R	A	T	E	G	T	B
E	U	O	E	T	H	O	L	P	P	S	S	O	R	C	G
S	T	K	S	L	S	R	O	I	A	U	A	F	E	D	N
E	F	S	A	L	U	G	H	L	R	P	C	A	S	O	I
R	M	O	D	G	N	I	K	A	B	P	K	T	H	I	P
T	H	N	U	C	K	V	O	T	P	E	L	H	D	V	E
H	S	E	J	O	E	E	H	E	E	R	B	E	E	F	E
O	I	C	R	O	W	N	T	W	D	A	E	R	B	O	L
E	N	Y	A	R	T	E	B	E	V	U	W	S	I	N	S
V	D	R	E	A	T	S	T	I	E	L	M	S	E	L	R
L	O	G	E	T	H	S	E	M	A	N	E	U	E	E	E
E	H	J	T	S	E	P	T	N	J	E	S	U	S	W	G
W	B	E	K	R	J	T	H	O	L	N	S	T	S	I	O
T	H	O	R	N	S	I	S	E	L	P	I	C	S	I	D
S	A	A	D	H	F	O	R	E	P	N	A	G	H	G	R
T	P	R	A	Y	I	N	G	U	G	C	H	D	H	V	P
W	E	E	N	O	C	E	P	R	S	K	N	A	H	T	O



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR DEPARTED
BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHO
RECENTLY DIED



LOURDES MARTINES

Mother to Fe Martinez

THOMAS M. BLOOMER

Husband to Louise

MATTHEW H. MORAN

Brother to Kevin, Kate & Missy

MARY FAHEY

Mother to Gerard, Joseph, MaryAnn, Seamus,
Brendan, Bernadette & Eileen

RAUL WONG, SR.

Father to Raul and Ileana

SOFIA WONG

Mother to Raul and Ileana

JAN HAKANSSON

Husband to Mary Rose

HARRY BENEDIKT

Husband to Lee Kim Song Benedikt

DAVID A. LAMBIE

Father to Scott

GIANNA SETTE

Mother to Ray

CHRISTOPHER LAWLOR

Husband to Irene

NICHOLAS GIOVINE

Father to David

"Amen, I say to you,

Today you will be with me in Paradise." Luke 23:33, 39-43

BRING BELLS TO RING DURING GLORIA

Psalm 81:1 tells us to *"Ring out your joy to God our strength."* All are invited to bring bells to Easter Sunday and Sundays in Easter Masses. An ancient custom call for bells to be rung during the Gloria, the church's great hymn of praise on both those nights to mark out entrance into the Sacred Triduum on Holy Thursday night and to end the readings from the Old Testament during the Easter Vigil's liturgy of the old and prepare us to hear the Good News of the New Covenant sealed with the blood of the Risen Christ! The ringing of bells has been so well received throughout the years that this year we are asking you to bring them to all the Easter Masses again! *So, bring bells to ring during the Gloria!*

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Saturday, April 18th

2:00 pm to 6 pm

**Each Candidate must be accompanied by
an adult**

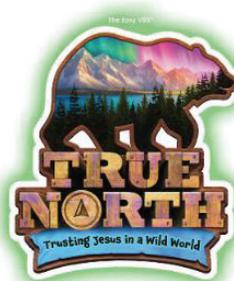
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL DATE

AUGUST 17 TO AUGUST 21ST

9:00 am TO 1:00 pm

\$75.00 per child

WE NEED A TEAM TO CONDUCT VBS – we have a



LEADER! For years we have offered a one-week VBS program to the joy of so many young children ... and their parents who get a break from them for a few hours! But we have an urgent need for a TEAM to

help! Volunteers are needed. Activities will include an adventure station, scripture lessons, imagination station and game time. You can volunteer for the entire program or specific days. Please contact us before April 30th if you want to join us

Phone: (201) 438-2200 – ext. 1140 or email

Religiousformation@stmaryrutherford.org

ONE HIT WONDERS – 1950's

The music industry coined the expression "one hit wonders" to label a musical act who had ONLY ONE hit song. Do you recall this era of music? If so, are you surprised that some of these melodies made the list?

'Earth Angel	The Penguins
'Get a Job'	The Silhouettes
'Purple People Easter'	Sheb Wooley
'Love is Strange'	Mickey & Sylvia
'Short Shorts'	The Royal Teems
'Chantilly Lace'	The Big Bopper
'In the Still of the Night'	The Five Satins
'Come Go With Me'	The Del-Vikings
'Sh-Boom'	The Chords
'Sleep Walk'	Santo & Johnny
'Tequila'	The Champs
'Teen Angel'	Mark Dinning

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