

# St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church

12001 69th St. East, Parrish, Fl. 34219

PALM SUNDAY

WWW.SFXCPARRISH.COM

Home@sfxcparrish.com

941.776.9097

OFFICE HOURS

M,T, Th, F 9:00am-3:00pm

Closed Wednesday

**Judas is neither a master of evil  
nor the figure of a demoniacal power of darkness  
but rather a sycophant who bows before  
the anonymous power of changing moods  
and current fashions.**

**But it is precisely this anonymous power  
that crucified Jesus, for it was anonymous voices  
that cried 'away with him! Crucify him!'**

*Pope Benedict XVI*

#thequietfriary



## SCHEDULE OF MASSES

**Daily Mass: T, W, TH, F - 8:30 AM**

**Saturday Vigil: 4:00 PM**

**Sunday: 9:00 AM & 11:15 AM**

Pastor: Fr. Joseph Gates

## PARISH STAFF

Operations Manager: Richard Lind  
Religious Education: Mary Jo Chronis  
Sacramental Coordinator: Chris Malone  
Liturgy Coordinator: Lydia Herrera  
Maintenance & IT: Ernie Nolder  
Maintenance: Roger Rodriguez  
Data Entry: Tom Moline

APRIL 2 , 2023



**TUESDAY**

8:30am

Req. By  
2nd Int,

**WEDNESDAY**

8:30am

Req. BY;  
2nd Int.  
Req. By:

**THURSDAY**

7:00am.

Req. BY:

**FRIDAY**

8:30am

**2:00pm**

**Stations of the Cross,  
Passion of the Lord, Communion  
Service & Veneration**

**SATURDAY**

8:30 pm

Req. By:

2nd Int.

Req. By

**SUNDAY**

**9:00am**

**11:15am**

Req. By:

**APRIL 4**

**+POOR SOULS**

Kay

**JACK & TERESA ZIEGLER**

**APRIL 5**

**+ANTHONY S. GULLO**

Richard & Carol Valvo

**+JAMES KINSEY**

Pat & Lynne Goneau

**APRIL 6**

**+DOROTHY GANNON**

Tony & Lucy Morell

**APRIL 7**

**NO MASS**

**APRIL 8**

**+JEAN SPITKOVSKY**

Friends from Parkwood lake

**+WALTER SOLTYS**

Eleanor

**APRIL 9**

**+RYAN HALL & +DAVID JARBO**

**+ SUSAN LOMONACO**

Husband, Morris

**TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS**

First Reading 37: Mt21:1-11, 38: Is50:4-7

Psalms: 22:8-9,17-18,19-20,23-24

Second Reading: Phil 2:6-11

Gospel Reading: Mt 26:14

**SACRAMENTS:**

**Contact the Office**

**Baptism:** For registered & active parishioners: **Baptism instruction is required for Parents.**

**Reconciliation:**

Saturdays 2:00-3:00 PM

In the main Church Or by Appointment

**Weddings:** Must be arranged with the pastor at least **6 months before the date** desired.

**Last Rites & Anointing of the Sick**

**Due to the Distance from Parrish  
Manatee Hospital:**

St. Joseph: 941-756-3732

Sacred Heart: 941-748-2221

**Lakewood Ranch Hospital:**

Our Lady of the Angels: 941-752-6770

**Doctor's Hospital Sarasota:**

Incarnation: 941-921-6631

St. Patrick's: 941-378-1703

**\*DO NOT WAIT TILL THE LAST MINUTE\***

**Funerals:** Please contact the Office for a meeting for Dates, Readings, and Music. There are certain policies in place at St. Frances Cabrini for the respectful burial of your loved ones.

**NEW EMERGENCY NUMBER**  
**To be used just for an emergency !**  
**813-629-3963**

## PALM SUNDAY

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

#### MONDAY

257: Is 42:1-7 Ps 27:1-3,13-14 Jn 12:1-11

#### TUESDAY

258: Is 49:1-6 Ps 71:1-4a,5-6ab,15,17 Jn 13:21-33,36-38

#### WEDNESDAY

259: Is 50:4-9a Ps 69:8-10,21-22,31,33-34 Mt 26:14-25

#### HOLY THURSDAY

39: Ex 12:1-8,11-14 Ps 116:12-13,15-16bc,17-18 1 Cor 11:23-26 Jn 13:1-15

#### FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

40: Is 52:13-53:12 Ps 31:2,6,12-13,15-17,25 Heb 4:14-16;5:7-9 Jn 18:1-19:42



## Supporting our Diocese

Our Goal to support the Diocesan Offices, Missions, and Charities.

Goal: \$198,000.00

Raised So Far: \$33,680.00



## Parish Focused Giving

Helping to relieve our Parish of St. Frances Cabrini Debt!  
Debt Free by 2023

Goal: \$526,460.00

Raised So Far: \$222,670.00

## 2023 Catholic Faith Appeal

Every year, the Diocese of Venice places a goal for each parish to provide a certain amount towards an overall needs of the Diocese. For 2022, **our Parish responsibility is \$198,000**. Our hope is to fulfill our obligation early and ensure our support for these essential programs for the Southwest Florida community. We ask if you have any additional resources you wish to support Catholic organizations with, that you donate to the Catholic Faith Appeal. Your support, which is fully tax deductible, will provide assistance to thousands in our area.

## Debt Free by 2023

We'd like to thank everyone for their continued help in lowering our Parish Debt. As of December 31'st 2021 we were at \$485,402.00. As of March of this Month we are at \$262,732.00. Thanks to your generosity we were able to **pay off \$222,670** which is a breath taking amount! Let's us continue to glorify the Lord in this progress and hopefully be Debt Free by the end of 2023!





## PALM SUNDAY



### **YOUTH STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

**Wednesday, April 5th  
6:30 PM—8:00 PM**

**MEET OUTSIDE THE  
CARBINI CENTER**

The YOUTH GROUP is hosting outdoor Station of the Cross. ALL SFXC Faith Formation Students are invited to participate. Grades K-5 MUST be accompanied by a parent.

Food, fun, and fellowship immediately following the station!



**Divine Mercy Sunday**

April 16, 2023

**Eucharistic Adoration**

12:15-3:00 PM

**Chaplet of  
Divine Mercy**

3:00 PM

All are invited to join this special event to answer our Lord's call to receive His Divine Mercy. The event will begin after the 11:15AM Mass (12:15PM)

A reception will be held in the Mother Cabrini Center immediately following the closing of the Divine Mercy Celebration. If you plan to attend the reception please contact Diane Creel at 942-981-5136 or email her at [dicreel@aol.com](mailto:dicreel@aol.com).

**APRIL 2, 2023**



**Palm Sunday**

April 1st (Sat.) 4:00 PM Vigil

April 2nd (Sun.) 9:00 AM\*  
11:15 AM\*

**Holy Thursday**

No Morning Mass

April 6th — 7:00pm

**Good Friday**

April 7th — 2:00PM

Stations of the Cross followed by “The Passion of the Lord”  
Communion Service w/ Adoration of the Cross.

**Holy Saturday & Easter Vigil**

12:00 am Blessing of Easter Baskets

8:30 PM — Easter Vigil

**Easter Sunday**

April 9th (Sun.) 9:00 AM\*

11:15 AM\*

**\* Overflow in the Cabrini Center**

No Faith Formation April 9th and 12th.



# PALM SUNDAY

**Looking for Jesus to Appear (11:55-57):** "When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, many went up from the country to Jerusalem for their ceremonial cleansing before the Passover." (11:55)

Prior to Passover, people would come to Jerusalem to purify themselves from an uncleanness. Any kind of ceremonial defilement would make a person ineligible from keeping Passover. Such defilement could be incurred by touching something unclean, such as a dead body, an unclean animal, a grave, etc. (Leviticus 7:20-21; Numbers 9:6-7; 2 Chronicles 30:17). Sepulchers and graves were whitewashed (Matthew 23:27) to identify them so that people wouldn't accidentally touch them at festival time and become ceremonially unclean. Particularly those that lived in the countryside, in contact with Gentiles (and unmarked Gentile graves) would come early for purification. These purification rituals might take several days (Numbers 19:11-12), so many people would arrive at Jerusalem as much as a week ahead of the festival to wash in a *mikveh* or ritual bath in Jerusalem -- such as the Pool of Bethesda or the Pool of Siloam.

During this time prior to Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread that followed it, speculation was rampant about Jesus and the Jewish leaders' plan to arrest him. "<sup>56</sup> They kept looking for Jesus, and as they stood in the temple area they asked one another, 'What do you think? Isn't he coming to the Feast at all?' <sup>57</sup> But the chief priests and Pharisees had given orders that if anyone found out where Jesus was, he should report it so that they might arrest him." (11:56-57) In the face of such a threat, many wondered, would Jesus even come to Jerusalem?

**Dinner in Bethany (12:1-2):** Nevertheless, Jesus arrives for a rather public meal in his honor at a home in Bethany, just two miles outside of Jerusalem.

"<sup>1</sup> Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him." (12:1-2)

From John's Gospel we would assume that the meal was held in Lazarus's home. But by comparison with an similar account in Mark 14:3-11 and Matthew 26:6-16, it appears that the home belonged to a man named Simon the Leper. It wouldn't be uncommon (or out of character) for Martha to be enlisted by another household to help serve the meal for Jesus and his disciples -- and you'd expect Jesus' prominent friend Lazarus to be a guest at the dinner.

While in modern Western cultures, it's common to sit in chairs around a table, in Jesus' time we see a characteristically Eastern style of dining, with guests arranged around a very low table, reclining on their left arm and supported by divans or cushions, leaving their right hand free to feed themselves. Their feet, sandals removed, would be splayed out behind them, with some space between their feet and the walls so those who are serving the meal can bring the various dishes to the table. This is also the likely arrangement at the Lord's Supper when Jesus washes the feet of the disciples reclining around the table (13:5).

**Mary Anoints Jesus' Feet (12:3):** While the men are reclining at the meal, Mary -- the one who at another time had "sat at Jesus feet" listening to him teach (Luke 10:39) -- anoints Jesus' feet in an extravagant act of devotion.

"Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume." (12:3)

Nard (sometimes called "spikenard") comes from the spikenard plant (*Nardostachys jatamansi*), native to India's eastern Himalayas, growing from 10,000 to 16,000 feet elevation (3,000 to 5,000 meters). The rhizomes or roots are crushed and distilled into an intensely aromatic, amber-colored essential oil that was a favorite perfume in antiquity. The best spikenard was imported from India in sealed alabaster containers. It was very expensive because of the tedious extraction process as well as the cost of importing it along extensive caravan routes leading west to the Mediterranean. In verse 5, Judas calculates its value as 300 denarii, which, at the wage of about a denarius per day, was nearly one year's wages -- a very expensive perfume indeed! This perfume might be worth \$30,000 to \$50,000 USD in today's currency!



## APRIL 2 , 2023

John includes a distinctive detail -- also mentioned in 11:2 -- that marked this event as quite intimate, indeed, shocking. Respectable women didn't go out in public with their hair down -- that was the mark of a loose woman. But Mary had let down her hair and was drying excess perfume from Jesus' feet with her hair!

**The House Is Filled with Fragrance (12:3b):** "The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume." (12:3)

You can imagine the sudden, overpowering fragrance of the perfume filling the room, as Mary broke the seal on the alabaster flask and poured it over Jesus' feet. The whole room was charged with the beautiful aroma. Paul uses this image to elucidate the power of a Christian presence:

"Thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the **fragrance** of the knowledge of him. For we are to God the **aroma** of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing." (2 Corinthians 2:14-15)

Mary had performed a beautiful, startling, and extravagant act of worship that was destined to be remembered long after her time (Mark 14:9). The Wise Men believed in extravagant worship, as well:

"They bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh." (Matthew 2:11)

David was a strong believer in worship that was not cheap. Araunah the Jebusite was willing to give for free his threshing floor to David for a place to offer a sacrifice (later the site of the temple), but David refused.

"I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the LORD my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing." (2 Samuel 24:24a)

Giving greatly in worship helps destroy greed's hold over us.

Judas Iscariot's heart isn't pure. John, who knew Judas well, tells us two facts that help us understand him: (1) He is the treasurer for Jesus' mission -- he kept the money box. And (2) he makes it a practice to steal from the common fund. We would call that "embezzlement." It reveals a serious character flaw -- greed, avarice -- which gives us a motive that helps explain why he might betray Jesus to the chief priests for 30 pieces of silver (Matthew 26:15; Luke 22:5).

**We are bothered by Mary's \$50,000 extravagance for perhaps several reasons:**

**Value.** If we aren't wealthy, \$50,000 seems like a great deal in our own scale of value. But to a rich person with \$10 million, \$50,000 isn't so valuable. Money is only worth the value you attach to it!

**Love.** We don't love Jesus with the intensity that Mary did. Our love is more abstract, theoretical, detached.

**Worship.** We don't value worship much, and the worship we do participate in is often formal, unemotional, and sometimes seemingly sterile. Perhaps we value money more than heart worship.

Mary's worship tells us a lot about her -- and ourselves! So does Judas' heart.

### **Jesus Defends Mary's Gracious Act (12:7-8)**

Jesus comes to Mary's defense.

"<sup>7</sup> 'Leave her alone,' Jesus replied. '[It was intended] that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. [<sup>8</sup> You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me.'" (12:7-8)

It's difficult to know exactly how to render verse 7b. It probably means that instead of selling it to help the poor, Mary has kept it for just such a purpose, as the NIV and NRSV translations suggest. Mark's Gospel gives the same idea:

"She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial." (Mark 14:8)

Jesus is not opposed to alms for the poor -- and says that there will always be poor they can give alms to in times to come. But this is a special occasion. If Mary doesn't do this now, the opportunity will be lost forever. Jesus approves!

Just as the fragrance of her act immediately filled the room, so it will eventually fill the world. In Mark's Gospel we read: "I tell you the truth, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."







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