



Lent

Sts. Peter and Paul Chapel

A Ministry of the Ecumenical Catholic Church+USA

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March 2024 Parish Bulletin

Parish Web Site: www.sspp-eccusa.org

Parish Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/ssppECCUSA

National Church Web Site: www.ecc-usa.org

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CLERGY MASS SCHEDULE

All In-Person Worship Services Held at 2:00 PM unless otherwise noted.

March 3, 2024: Third Sunday of Lent	+Fr. Bob
March 10, 2024: Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)	+Fr. Carl
March 17, 2024: Fifth Sunday of Lent	+Fr. Bob
March 24, 2024: Palm Sunday of the Passion of our Lord	+Fr. Bob
March 31, 2024: Easter Sunday	+Fr. Bob

Pastoral Staff:

Pastor: +Fr. Bob Catlett, 314.800.3456, pastor@sspp-eccusa.org

Diocesan Bishop: +Fr. Carl Swaringim, 314.650.1487, BishopCarl@protonmail.com

Prayer Intentions

If you would like us to remember a special intention for you at Mass, please contact one of our priests.

If you or someone you know is in need of spiritual assistance (prayers, Sacrament of the Sick, etc.), please contact one of our priests.

Inquiries regarding the administration of Sacraments or services (Baptisms, First Communion, Marriages, and Funerals) are welcomed.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS

+Fr. Bob Catlett, M.Div., Pastor

March 3, 2024 – 3rd Sunday of Lent: The commandments are a concrete expression of what God expects of his people. Some, however, *look for signs and wonders*. St. Paul explains that God's greatest sign was his Son, Jesus Christ, but for some his death and resurrection are unconvincing. We thank you, Lord, for the gift of faith that enables us to live with you in hope of eternal life. (Exodus 20:1-17, 1 Corinthians 1:22-25, John 2:13-25)

March 10, 2024 – 4th Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday): Human history demonstrates how *infidelity has been added to infidelity*. However, "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." St. Paul presents this to us as God's plan because *he is rich in mercy*. Are we always faithful? (2 Chronicles 36:15-16, 19-23, Ephesians 2:4-10, John 3:14-21)

March 17, 2024 – 5th Sunday of Lent: God has written his law upon the human heart. The author of Hebrews states that by his own earnest prayers and obedience, Christ became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him. Lent is the time to examine our hearts to see if they reflect the obedience of Christ. Being with Christ means doing the Father's will. (Jeremiah 31:31-34, Hebrews 5:7-9, John 12:20-23)

March 24, 2024 – Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord: St. Mark shows the patience and strength of Jesus, the Suffering Servant, who came to regain the favor of God for sinful humankind yet was mocked and beaten in response. He was humbled "to the point of death, even death on a cross." He willingly "emptied himself" that we might be filled with the joy of salvation. (Isaiah 50:4-7, Philippians 2:6-11, Mark 14:1-15:47)

March 31, 2024 – Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of our Lord: Today's Gospel highlights Peter and Mary Magdalene, both of whom found new life in their relationship with Christ. They both needed a second chance, and both found blessing in the miraculous happenings of Easter. Their faith became as "the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth." May we, too, "think of what is above, not of what is on earth." (Acts 10:34a, 37-43, Colossians 3:1-4, John 20:1-9)

Palm Sunday Passion

THE FULL title of the Sunday before Easter is Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. The official title of Good Friday is Friday of the Passion of the Lord. On both these days, the liturgy includes a lengthy section from one of the Gospels detailing the suffering, death, and burial of Jesus Christ. In all four Gospels, the Passion occupies the greatest single element. Although the proclamation of the Passion lengthens the liturgy, no one seems to mind. The very length underscores the importance of Jesus' death in the life of every single person.

Prior to 1970, Matthew's account was heard every year on Palm Sunday. Mark's was proclaimed on Tuesday of Holy Week, and Luke's on Wednesday. Then, as now, the Passion according to St. John, the most sublime of them all, has been reserved for Good Friday.

After Vatican II, the lectionary blossomed into a three-year cycle, which allowed for a more generous hearing of all four Gospels throughout the liturgical year. On Palm Sunday, the Passions according to Matthew, Mark, and Luke are now heard respectively in Years A, B, and C of the cycle. The benefit of this is that over a period of years, Catholics can hear all the various accounts of the Passion. As in the past, though, they won't hear some familiar episodes each year. For example, Jesus' conversation with the good thief appears only in Luke.

One practical reason for proclaiming one of the Passions on Palm Sunday is that not everyone can return on Good Friday. However, one of the most important spiritual exercises for every Catholic is to observe the Sacred Paschal Triduum by participating in the principal services on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. Those who do will experience the full impact of the Passion of Palm Sunday.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

+Fr. Bob Catlett, M.Div.

Special blessings to our parishioners who celebrate birthdays and anniversaries this month:

Birthdays:

Dwight Jacobi: March 6

Anniversaries:

Bishop Carl: March 30: Ordination to the Priesthood (61 years!)

Masses on Facebook Live! Just a reminder...we are now able to livestream our Sunday masses on our Chapel Facebook page. If you are unable to attend in person, join us virtually...we would love to “see” you! You do **not** have to have a Facebook account to join us. Just go to our Facebook page www.facebook.com/ssppECCUSA at 2:00 PM on Sunday afternoons.

Bulletin Inserts (page 3): We continue “getting to know the church, its practices and other pressing issues” with *Bulletin Inserts for the Liturgical Life of the Parish*. The short bulletin inserts provided in this resource cover a variety of liturgy-related topics that aim to assist the parish in the liturgical formation of the assembly. The author, Fr. Paul Turner, provides short catechesis on a wide variety of topics to help the reader gain a better understanding of the “what, how, and why” of the liturgy. Each insert is designed to help the reader engage the liturgy and manifest it in their lives. Fr. Paul Turner is pastor of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Kansas City, Missouri, and director of the Office of Divine Worship for the Diocese of Kansas City–St. Joseph. He holds a doctorate in sacred theology from the Pontifical University of Sant’Anselmo in Rome. ***This month, we learn about the Palm Sunday Passion.***