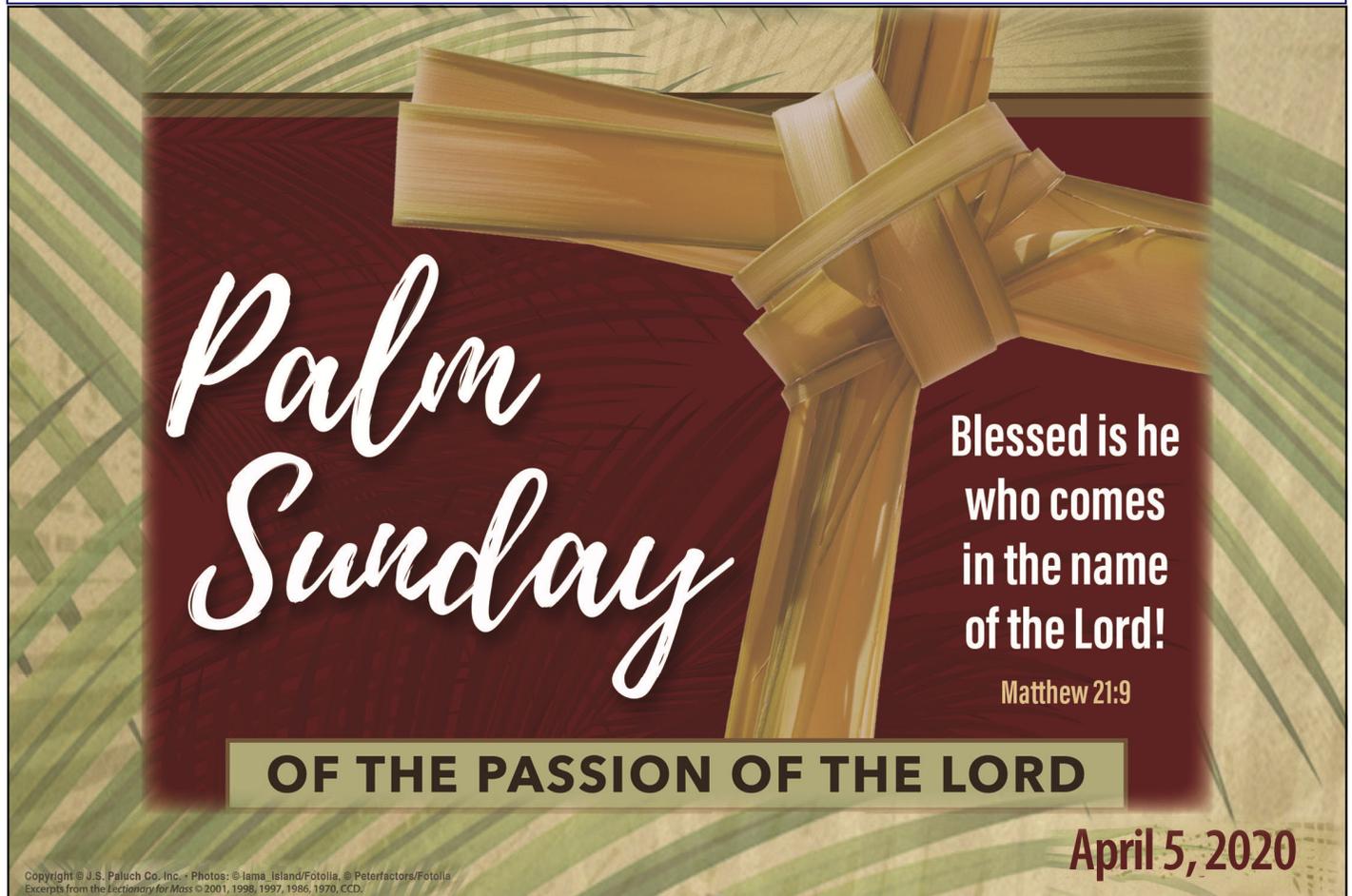


# Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church

132 Butcher Street, Bethalto, IL 62010  
Phone: (618) 377-6519, Fax: (618) 377-9550,  
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**Fr. Tom Liebler, Pastor**

**Rectory:** 618-377-6519; **Cell:** 618-409-7444; **Email:** [tliebler@aol.com](mailto:tliebler@aol.com)



## **PARISH OFFICE**

Hours: Mon.-Fri., 8:30 am—4:30 pm  
(Closed 12-1 for lunch)

Email: [church@olqpbethalto.org](mailto:church@olqpbethalto.org)

Website: [www.church@olqpbethalto.org](http://www.church@olqpbethalto.org)

Office Manager: Terri Zykan

Secretary & SCRIP Coordinator: Bea Albarado

## **PARISH SCHOOL**

Mrs. Eve Remiszewski, Principal

618-377-6401, Fax: 618-377-6146

Email: [eremis@olqpbethalto.org](mailto:eremis@olqpbethalto.org)

Elaine Withers, School Secretary

E-mail: [ewithers@olqpbethalto.org](mailto:ewithers@olqpbethalto.org)

Website: [www.olqpbethalto.org](http://www.olqpbethalto.org)

## **SACRAMENT OF PENANCE**

Father Tom is available for Confession  
by appointment.

## **COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND**

Currently suspended.

## **HOSPITAL VISITS/ SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING**

Call parish office to request a hospital visit or  
the Sacrament of Anointing by Fr. Tom.

## **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Call the parish office to request a meeting with Fr. Tom.

## **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

Bethalto Council #4688, 4th Degree #203, Grand Knight:

Troy Lively; Email: [bethaltoknight@gmail.com](mailto:bethaltoknight@gmail.com)

Website: [www.bethaltoknights.org](http://www.bethaltoknights.org)

## Palm Sunday

### Mass Intentions

Sat., April 4	<b>Saturday in Lent</b> For the Parishioners
Sun., April 5	<b>Palm Sunday</b> Lester & Lillian Long
Mon., April 6	<b>Monday of Holy Week</b> Dorothy Stutz
Tues., April 7	<b>Tuesday of Holy Week</b> Paul Gehrs
Wed., April 8	<b>Wednesday of Holy Week</b> Ray Matthews
Thur., April 9	<b>Holy Thursday</b> Paul Kelly
Fri., April 10	<b>Good Friday</b>
Sat., April 11	<b>Holy Saturday</b> For the Parishioners
Sun., April 12	<b>Easter Sunday</b> Bob Zakrzewski Baby Long

### Prayer Requests

**The sick:** Conor Vogel, Jim Friedrich, Keita Salantai, Mary Wagner, Bob Schley, Charlie Mattingly, Noah Rogers, Becky Gray, Marguerite Hufker, Nelson Gregory, Dan McRae, Mary Overton, Don Laird, Maxine Calhoun, Gloria Matthews, Dianne Morin, Mary Friedel, Vi Perkhiser, Derek Trent, Jane Rood, Bev Randolph, Linda Leverich, Bernice Watek, Richard Swift, Virginia Forehand, Lee Bernt, Alex Kallal, John Richter, Tim Zacha. **Send requests to Marie at [rejoy128@gmail.com](mailto:rejoy128@gmail.com)**



### Please Note

**Parish Office:** We will be open on Tuesday and Thursday of this coming week.

**Church Hours:** Our church is unlocked every day by 8:00 am and locked by 7:00 pm. Anyone is welcome to go in the church for private prayer, just keeping your social distancing, if others are there also.

**Sacrament of Confession:** Father Tom is available by appointment for Confession. Call 377-6519 or his cell phone, 409-7444.

### PARISH OFFERINGS

**We thank everyone** who continues to send in your parish contributions. They are greatly needed to keep our parish and school running! **There is a mail slot** on the outside of the office door for anyone who would like to drop their donation off. We are in the parish office on Tuesday and Thursday. Also, you can **make donations on-line** by setting up an account at [www.givecentral.org](http://www.givecentral.org) Click on 'Find Your Charity' and enter 62010. Once you set an account up, you have complete control of every donation you make. You can start and stop at any time.

Thank you!

### Parish Italy Trip Update

Ciao Roma will be our travel agency for this trip. Check-out [cioromatravel.com](http://cioromatravel.com) for more info. PJ Anderson (our tour guide) will update information on the site about our trip. Contact Amy Frisch 618-444-7715 to sign up. Exact date hasn't been selected yet, but will be Sep-Oct 2021 timeframe. Costs approx \$4200 that includes everything.

### Dear Parishioners,

Today we begin the sacred journey of Holy Week that will conclude with the Easter Triduum...the three holy days of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil and naturally Easter itself. The beginning of this week is Passion Sunday/Palm Sunday. Usually we gather in church to have the blessing of the palms that reflect the "carpet" that was placed before our Lord, Jesus as he entered into Jerusalem. Given the current situation we can not be together for this moment. However, we can still receive our palms. On Palm Sunday, from 11am until noon, I will be outside in the parking lot between the Church and the rectory for a "drive through pick up your palm". After that the palms will be on a table in the front lobby of the church to be picked up. May I suggest that you enter the parking lot from the St. Mary street entrance.

Palm Sunday is also the time we usually have the reading of the Passion of our Lord. This year it seems that we are living a certain "passion" ourselves. Not only our we living it, but many of our brothers and sisters throughout the world and in our own country are even carry the cross of suffering. Each in our own way are uniting ourselves with the passion and suffering of our Lord, Jesus Christ, some more than others. Whatever our "passion" may be this year, let us remember to continue praying for each other, and for our families and our parish family. Let us also remember the words of Jesus to His mother and to John as He hung upon the cross..."Woman, behold your son." and to His disciple "behold your mother". As Jesus gave the care and protection of His mother to John and John to His mother, let us see this as Jesus giving the care and protection of His mother to the Church and the Church to His mother. Let us implore the help and intercession of our Blessed Mother and the patroness of our parish upon all of us during the Holy Week and during this time of world wide suffering.

May the Good Lord bless you and keep you safe.

*Father Tom*

### Catholic Resources Online

Listed below are links to Catholic websites that offer Masses daily, devotions, articles, prayers and more:

[dio.org](http://www.dio.org)

<https://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass/>

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en.html>

[www.beginningCatholic.com](http://www.beginningCatholic.com)

[EWTN.com](http://EWTN.com)

<https://stmarysalton.com/>

<https://www.archstl.org/>

### Attention School Parents Using FACTS

If you are in a position of financial hardship where you need to request an adjustment to your April payment date, FACTS has implemented a plan to offer you several options. You may reach us in the parish office on Tuesday and Thursday. If you are unable to do so, you may contact FACTS directly at 866-412-4637.

**April 5, 2020**

## **A Meditation on the Seven Last Words of Christ**

### **1. *Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.* (Luke 23:34)**

Christ's first words from the Cross, in the earliest throes of His agony, are to ask God to forgive the very people who placed Him there. How many of us are lonely because of estrangement from someone once close to us whom we have refused to forgive or who has been unforgiving of us? Can we make a gesture to reach out to that person while our arms remain free to move? Even if we should be rebuffed, can we do as Christ did and pray that God will forgive that person — and us, too?

### **2. *Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.* (Luke 23:43)**

The completely innocent Christ was given two criminals as His companions as He hung from the Cross. One of them railed at Him, demanding that He save them all if He truly was the Christ. The other rebuked the first for not fearing God present in Christ, who suffered the same punishment as theirs even though He was innocent. When that "good thief" asked Jesus to remember him when He came into His kingly power, Jesus uttered His second word from the Cross: "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." These words certainly brought that thief incredible solace and joy. If we are or should become victims of severe emotional or social isolation, how might we treat those in the same boat, bearing a similar cross? Will we recognize Christ in them and treat them accordingly? Our ultimate reward will be great one day should we, too, share Paradise with Christ.

### **3. *Woman, behold, your son. . . Behold, your mother.* (John 19:26–27)**

Now imagine Christ's loneliness as He looks down at His totally loving, devoted, and sinless mother, beside John, His "beloved disciple." He knows how they share His tortures and will soon have to cope with His loss in their earthly existence, but He is anything but paralyzed by His distress. He wants those whom He loves to continue to love and care for each other in the most intimate of ways, as that between a mother and her child, a child and his mother. Of course, Jesus grants Mary as Queen of Heaven to be mother not only to John but to every man and woman on earth. She is as willing to fly to our aid today as she was to John's on the day of Christ's Crucifixion. Centuries after that day, St. Thérèse of Lisieux would ponder the strength of the Blessed Mother in enduring so many sorrows, noting that, unlike all of us, Mary herself did not have a Blessed Mother to pray to (although, of course, she had her Son)! So, is there a lonely person in your life, perhaps someone bereaved of a parent, or a child, for whom you might step forward and offer love and support, as John and the Blessed Mother offered each other love and support?

### **4. *My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?* (Matt. 27:46; Mark 15:34)**

Christ here echoes Psalm 22:1, which expresses the desolation He felt in His human nature. Here is Christ suffering. Here is another example of how we can join our suffering with Christ's. In our loneliest hours, do we feel that we are forsaken not only by man, but by God? If so, can we still call out to God in prayer, expecting that He will hear us?

### **5. *I thirst.* (John 19:28)**

Here is another reminder that Christ joined us in our humanity. The eternal Word who was in the beginning, who was with God, and who was God (see John 1:1) has agreed to take on the weakness, the cravings, and the gnawing of the human flesh of His creatures, for our own sake, and yet we let Him suffer. Do we take much time to think of the lonely people in our lives for whom Christ died and of how they might thirst for attention? And we needn't get too metaphorical, for sometimes the lonely are isolated and may experience physical thirst and hunger that we might help relieve. The Church has always recognized that we are not disembodied souls, but ensouled bodies and both elements of our unity are good and deserving of care. This is why she has long encouraged both spiritual and corporal (fleshly, bodily) works of mercy. In fact, sometimes we spend so much time in the virtual, elec-tronic world that we forget that we all have bodies with needs we can help each other fulfill. When a text or an e-mail replaces a phone call, we have cut ourselves off from the recipient's voice. When a call replaces face-to-face contact, we have cut ourselves off not only from that person's face, but from his or her body language, all those subtle ways that God has given us to communicate with one another by virtue of having bodies. When we connect only over distant airwaves, we can certainly suggest that a thirsty friend get a drink, but we are in no position to hand him one.

### **6. *It is finished.* (John 19:30)**

What a relief Christ must have felt when His task, the most gruesome yet important task ever assigned on earth, was complete! He expressed it in these simple words: "It is finished." Our own life task is clearly not finished. What, then, will we do to establish new emotional and social connections and strengthen the ones we already have in our time left on earth before, God willing, we pass through the gates of heaven Christ opened for us by completing His mission on the wood of the Cross?

### **7. *Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit!* (Luke 23:46)**

These are the very last words Jesus breathed on earth before His spirit returned to His Father. Will our focus be on God in our last moment? It is, after all, "in Him that we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:28). Are we willing to commit our spirits to God *now*? Such commitment to God, who is no mere abstract power or force, let alone an uncaring ruler, but is our Father, who has given His Son for our salvation, and who gives us His Holy Spirit to dwell in the temples of our bodies, cannot help but provide relief to our deepest feelings of loneliness, and motivation to reach out with His love to the lonely around us.

Let's ask ourselves how we might unite our sufferings with Christ's and, despite what may befall us, resolve to trust in Him and commit our spirits to the Father's loving hands. God has given us to communicate with one another by virtue of having bodies. When we connect only over distant airwaves, we can certainly suggest that a thirsty friend get a drink, but we are in no position to hand him one. **Source: <https://catholicexchange.com/christs-seven-last-words>**



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