

A wooden cross is the central focus, resting on a dark grey, textured surface. A crown of thorns is draped over the cross. In the foreground, several green palm fronds are visible, some in focus and some blurred. The text is overlaid on the image in a golden, stylized font.

Hosanna!

Blessed is He who comes
in the name of the Lord!

PALM SUNDAY

St. Polycarp Church
Smyrna, DE
Rev. James D. Hreha, Pastor
Deacon Frank Weber
www.saintpolycarp.org
302-653-8279

*Palm Sunday of the
Passion of the Lord
March 24, 2024*



SUNDAY SCRIPTURE - QUESTIONS TO PONDER

- ~Both the opening Gospel and the reading of the Passion refer to Jesus' kingship. What does today's celebration reveal about His kingdom?
- ~How are you being called to imitate the self-emptying love of Jesus?
- ~What part of the Passion of Jesus most speaks to you today and why?

This Sunday, Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, is the start of Holy Week, the holiest week in the Church's calendar.

Easter Triduum



On the night of *Holy Thursday*, Jesus institutes the Eucharist and the priesthood. Only a priest can offer a Mass. Please pray for an increase in vocations for priests. After the Prayer after Communion on Holy Thursday, the Most Blessed Sacrament will be transferred – i.e. the remaining hosts are removed from the tabernacle to a new location for quiet prayer and contemplation. The faithful is invited to keep Jesus company - can you keep Jesus company while He endures His agony in the garden? The tabernacle in the sanctuary will now be empty. This is the reason why there is no genuflecting to the tabernacle on Good Friday. Jesus has died so Jesus' presence is absent from the Church.

On *Good Friday*, Jesus suffers His Passion, He dies on the cross, and His body is laid in the tomb. There will be a service (no Mass) with three parts on Good Friday – the Liturgy of the Word, the Adoration of the Holy Cross, and Holy Communion. Until the Easter Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday, the Church is empty. Jesus has died and is in the tomb.

The 2024 Pascal Candle is blessed and lit at the Easter Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday. The Pascal Candle will be lit at all Masses (weekday and Sunday) throughout the Easter Season.

On *Easter Sunday*, Jesus rises from the dead – His wounds from the nails in His hands and feet are visible in His new glorified and resurrected body. The Church celebrates her Easter Joy for 50 days!

LET US PRAY

Intentions

Saturday, March 23	St. Turbius of Mogrovejo
4:00 pm Esther Elizabeth LaSana	- Neda Biggs
Linda Montuori	- The Taylor Family
Sylvia Vessels DuRoss	- Jim DuRoss
Sunday, March 24	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
10:30 am Vito Mastro	- John & Michele Fcasni
Makayla Nicole Sexton	- The Sloven Family
Ponnampalam Sabandyagam	- Erlind Sabanayagam
Monday, March 25	Monday of Holy Week
NO MASS	
Tuesday, March 26	Tuesday of Holy Week
8:30 am William Saber	- Rita Brown
Charles Loftland	- Nancy Swift
Wednesday, March 27	Wednesday of Holy Week
8:30 am Frank Dauphin	- John & Cookie Ruane
A Forgotten Soul	- Michelle Marvian
Thursday, March 28	Holy Thursday
Holy Thursday- Mass at St. Dennis 7 pm	
Friday, March 29	Good Friday
3 pm Passion of the Lord Service at St.Polycarp	
Saturday, March 30	Holy Saturday
7:30 pm Easter Vigil	
Easter Novena	
Sunday, March 31	Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of The Lord
8 am Easter Sunday	
Easter Novena	
10 am Easter Sunday	
Easter Novena	

Please Pray for Our Sick & Those in Need of Our Prayers

To have someone's name added to the Bulletin for prayers, please email submission@saintpolycarp.org or call the office and leave a message. Names will remain on the prayer list for eight weeks unless other arrangements have been requested.

J. R. Peck, Josefina Ocasio, Diana Bullins, Kenny Bullins, Bobby Bullins, Shirley Bullins, Teresa Tier, Bridget O'Connell, Maureen Robinson, Diane Kravitz, Robin Husman, Milli Burris Alvarez, Lyllie Deter, Dottie Patterson, Laverne Dykes, Janet Alexander, Bob Gallihar, Kay Gallihar, Grace Wagner, Cathy Connell, Joe Donofrio, April Doyle, Andrea Laws, Kaysie Borgman, Angel Grasso, James Dean, Violet Farkas, Greg Kujala, Holly Powell, Lily Griffiths, Patty Moon, Deirdre Moor, Linda Blow, Mariann Pierson, Ruth Staub, Jaci Stokes, and residents of Pinnacle and DHCI.

**We Pray for our Deceased
Cecil Ellis**

Patrick Francis Hartnett

May the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen

Prayer Chain: To request prayers or to be part of our Prayer Chain, contact Laverne at laverne427@icloud.com or call (302) 653 – 8064.

Rosary by Telephone: Tuesdays at 11 am. The dial in number is: 1-701-802-5254/PIN: 1747300#.

Eucharistic Adoration: Tuesdays, 9 am – 8 pm – Chapel, At the end of the 4 pm Vigil Mass, before the 2nd Sunday of the month.

Flame of Love Rosary: Thursdays at 6:30 pm - Chapel

Divine Mercy: Fridays at 3 pm – Chapel.



Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord – March 23/24
 Saturday, March 23rd at 4 pm &
 Sunday, March 24th at 10:30 am – St. Polycarp

Reconciliation Monday – Monday, March 25th
 Confessions from 3 pm – 5 pm & 6 pm – 8 pm
 St. Polycarp & St. Dennis

Chrism Mass -Tuesday, March 26th
 at Holy Cross Church, Dover DE – 7 pm

Holy Thursday – Thursday, March 28th
 Mass of the Lord's Supper at St. Dennis – 7 pm
 (No Mass at St. Polycarp)

Good Friday – Friday, March 29th
 Passion of the Lord at St. Polycarp – 3 pm

Holy Saturday – Saturday, March 30th
 No Confessions either Parish
 Easter Vigil at St. Polycarp – 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday – Sunday, March 31st
 St. Polycarp at 8 am and 10 am
 St. Dennis at 8 am, 9:30 am and 11 am (Spanish)

GOOD FRIDAY - FASTING & ABSTINENCE



Good Friday is an obligatory day of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. The norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

The Annunciation of the Lord (traditionally celebrated on March 25th) has been transferred to Monday, April 8th, because March 25th is the Monday of Holy Week. This solemnity celebrates the angel Gabriel appearing to Mary and sharing the message that she is to be the Mother of God's son made flesh through the power of the Holy Spirit. March 25th is 9 months before Christmas. "Let it be done to me according to your word." (Lk 1:36)



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS
 Use this QR code or visit
<https://bible.usccb.org/daily-bible-reading>

PREPARE YOUR HEART FOR EASTER RECONCILIATION MONDAY

March 25 - 3-5 & 6-8 pm

VISIT A CATHOLIC CHURCH IN DELAWARE OR MARYLAND'S EASTERN SHORE DURING OUR EXTENDED CONFESSION HOURS. VISIT CDOW.ORG TO FIND A CHURCH NEAR YOU.



Reconciliation Monday will take place this Monday, March 25th. Parishes in the diocese will be holding confessions from 3 – 8 pm. Here at St. Polycarp and at St. Dennis, confessions will be heard from 3 - 5 pm and from 6 - 8 pm. Please invite those friends and family members who have been away from the Sacraments to take advantage of this opportunity!

3 pm – 5 pm at St. Polycarp (Fr. Herring)
 6 pm – 8 pm at St. Polycarp (Fr. Jim & Fr. Hynes)
 3 pm – 5 pm at St. Dennis (Fr. Jim)
 6 pm – 8 pm at St. Dennis (Fr. Oscar – Bilingual)

St. Dennis Church
 153 N. Main Street
 Galena, MD 21635
 (410) 648 – 5145 www.stdennischurch.org

EASTER REMEMBRANCE



Easter is the greatest celebration in the Catholic Church because it is the completion of the Holy week that ends with the resurrection of Jesus. Jesus was raised from the dead, and by that He conquered sin and death. Living or deceased, the best gift you can give a loved one is the gift of the Mass. Please use the Easter Mass Remembrance envelope to enjoin your friends and family in our most holy celebration.

EASTER FLOWERS



Easter flowers, particularly the white lilies with their large white trumpet flowers, proclaim that spring is upon us and they symbolize hope and new life. Add to the beauty of our church during the upcoming Easter season by using your Easter flower envelope to help us proclaim that Jesus has risen!

HOLY COMMUNION TO THE SICK & HOMEBOUND

Do you know someone who is sick or homebound and not able to make it to Mass? We would love to give them the opportunity to receive Holy Communion in their homes. Please contact April Corrales at (302) 220 – 9616 or Lori Ostrowski at (302) 540 – 6522.

**THE GRACES OF DIVINE MERCY
VIGIL SATURDAY, APRIL 6TH & SUNDAY, APRIL 7TH**



Our Lord Jesus told St Faustina “My daughter, tell the whole world about my inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and a shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy.

The soul that will go to Confession* and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day are opened all the divine floodgates through which graces flow. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet.”
Diary 699

On Divine Mercy Sunday, April 7th and the vigil on Saturday, April 6th, please stay for about 10 minutes after Mass to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Literature will be provided so that you can follow along.

* (You can go to Confession up to 20 days before.)

MARCH 2024 LITURGY COMMITTEE NEWS



Here are several items that were discussed at our March meeting:

- Palm Sunday through Easter: Mass times and the environment for the week.
- The Mass setting for Easter is the Mass of Christ Our Savior and the Acclamation is “Save us, Savior”.
- There are no Blessings for the month of April.
- The new Ministry Scheduler is John Barton.
- The Budget for FY24-FY25: The purchase of new Altar Linens.
- Proposal for both Parish Liturgy Committees - Corpus Christi Procession.
- Liturgy will be hosting the April Agape with an emphasis on Eucharistic Adoration.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

ADULT FAITH FORMATION - CONNECTED IN CHRIST

is inviting any parishioners of both St. Polycarp Parish and St. Dennis Parish to join us in the library after the 8:30 am Mass any Tuesday. We begin with prayer, then watch a video, usually from **FORMED**, and follow up with a discussion. We close with prayer by 11 am. Come and share your faith with us. If you have any questions, call Cookie Ruane at (302) 540 – 6429

THIS WEEKEND



This Weekend

CALLING ALL CHOCOLATE LOVERS!
March 23rd & 24th are your lucky days!

We have a “Limited Supply” of bars we will be selling after both Masses this weekend. Look for us at all the doors. Bars are \$1 each. Don’t miss out!!! Once they are gone...they are GONE. All proceeds benefit PSR.

**EASTER EGG HUNT & AGAPE
PALM SUNDAY, March 24th (TODAY).**

Brother Vincent Knights of Columbus will be hosting an **Easter Egg Hunt for our youngsters and the March Agape**, on Sunday, March 24th, following the 10:30 am Mass. All children are invited to participate in the egg hunt. There will be prizes!



Children are asked to bring their own baskets!

SODALITY’S RAFFLE AT PALM SUNDAY’S AGAPE

Sodality is having a raffle on Palm Sunday, March 24th, at **TODAY’S AGAPE** after the 10:30 am Mass.



Enhance your Easter Season celebration with a beautifully sculpted piece of art depicting the time from Palm Sunday thru the Ascension of Jesus (the 40th day after the Resurrection). The statue can be viewed on the table in the hallway near the Sacristy. Tickets are 3 for \$5.00 and will be sold only on Palm Sunday, March

24th, at the Agape in Mother Drexel Hall. Please take a chance on this very special religious work of art.

HAPPENING AROUND THE DIOCESE & ELSEWHERE

**DELAWARE STATE COLUMBIETTES’ LADIES RETREAT
AT ST. JUDE PARISH IN LEWIS, DE**

The Delaware State Columbiettes invites all ladies to a retreat at St. Jude Parish on Saturday, April 13th. The featured speaker Kathy Ebner, Spiritual Director, MA will lead us through Mary’s journey with Jesus. The retreat begins at 8:15 am and costs \$15 per person. Please call Marie Mattson at (302) 313 – 5547 for more information and to reserve a spot. The registration deadline is Monday, April 8th.

Don't forget to check out our Bulletin Overflow for things that just didn't fit in this weekend's bulletin!
www.saintpolycarp.org/overflow

SPECIAL COLLECTION on Good Friday, March 29th, for the Holy Land. This collection provides the Church with assistance for the preservation of the Holy Land Shrines.

PASTORAL COUNCIL

PASTORAL COUNCIL MARCH 2024 UPDATES

- The Pastoral Council is seeking new people to volunteer for our Pastoral Council. If you are interested in joining our current members in helping to discern, evaluate, and implement a set of goals for our parish, along with our Pastor, Father Jim, please contact Kathy Curlett at kathleencurlett19@gmail.com.
- The Pastoral Council discussed our Two-Year Vision for St. Polycarp, which includes a parking lot update for the back lot and a kitchen remodel. Stay tuned for updates in future bulletins regarding these items.
- The National Eucharistic Congress will be held in Ocean City, MD on November 9th. More information will be posted in the bulletin in the coming months.

ATTENTION PARISHIONERS:

In accordance with State law, the Town of Smyrna is required to conduct a Comprehensive Rezoning of 921 parcels to comply with the Future Land Use Map of the adopted 2020 Comprehensive Plan.

The Town of Smyrna encourages residents to participate in the Comprehensive Rezoning process to ask questions and learn what this rezoning (as required by State law) will mean for their property or home.

<https://smyrna.delaware.gov/428/Comprehensive-Rezoning>

The next 2 public hearings are at the Council Chambers at Smyrna Town Hall, 27 S. Market Street Plaza, Smyrna, DE, on Wednesday, March 27th, at 6 pm and Monday, April 15th, at 6:30 pm.


COLLECTIONS

OFFERTORY			
Date	Offertory	Children's Offertory	Total Offertory
March 17	\$3232	\$42	\$3274

SECOND COLLECTIONS				
Parish Maintenance	Parish Utilities	Rice Bowl	PSR	SVDP Poor Box
\$697	\$35	\$78	\$5	\$113
Holy Land Shrines	Easter Flowers	Easter Novena	Easter	Mother's Day
\$20	\$170	\$80	\$135	\$20
St. Joseph - \$5000				

SECOND COLLECTION this weekend, March 23rd and 24th, is for our Parish School of Religion (PSR). Please be as generous as your means allow to help our parish with the education and passing on of our Catholic faith to our children.

Please consider signing up for eGiving.
 Visit faith.direct/DE831 or you can use Text-to-Give.
 Text "Enroll" to (302) 202-2251 or you can use this QR code for easy giving.



Thank you for your generosity.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH
 For the most up-to-date information
 Visit <https://saintpolycarp.org/calendar/>
 Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9 am to 3 pm

Saturday, March 23
 All Day Confirmation Class attends Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage
 7:30 am OCIA Retreat (Hall/Kitchen)
 2:30 pm Confession
4 pm MASS
 Following MASS - PSR Chocolate Bar Sale (Doors)

Sunday, March 24
 9 am PSR Grades P/K-4, (Rooms 1-6, 8)
 9 am Faith with Friends (Library)
10:30 am MASS
 Following MASS - Confessions (Church)
 K of C Agape & Easter Egg Hunt (Hall/Kitchen/Grounds)
 PSR Chocolate Sale (Doors)
 Sodality Statue Raffle during Agape

Monday, March 25
 3 pm - 5 pm Reconciliation Monday (Church)
 6 pm - 8 pm Reconciliation Monday (Church)

Tuesday, March 26
8:30 am MASS
 9 am - 8 pm Eucharistic Adoration (Chapel)
 9 am Adult Faith Formation - Connected in Christ (Library)
 11 am Columbiettes Rosary (Telephone)
 6:30 pm Social Concerns (Library)
 7 pm Chrism Mass at Holy Cross
 7 pm PSR Grades 5-8, (Rooms 3-6, 8, Hall)

Wednesday, March 27
8:30 am MASS
 6:30 pm Squires (Library)

Thursday, March 28 **HOLY THURSDAY - OFFICE CLOSED**
 6 pm Girl Scouts Meeting (Hall)
7 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper at St. Dennis, Galena MD

Friday, March 29 **GOOD FRIDAY - OFFICE CLOSED**
3 pm Passion of the Lord Service at St. Polycarp

Saturday, March 30
 7:30 pm Easter Vigil Mass

OFFICE CLOSED
 The Office will be closed on Holy Thursday, March 28th, through Monday, April 1st for the Parish staff to participate in the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday) and prepare for the celebration of our Easter Joy on Easter Sunday.
 The Office will reopen on Tuesday, April 2nd.

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 2400 Lancaster Avenue
 302-656-3323

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