

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Newsletter

# PALM SUNDAY

## April 2, 2023

My Dear Parishioners,

I would like to thank everyone who participated in our Parish Mission. I do believe that many blessings will continue to flow from the healing that occurred through the Mission. May God's Holy Angels and Saints continue to watch over Fr. Dan Leary and the Sisters of Mary and bless their good works.

On the first night of the Mission, Fr. Dan asked us to recall the most important event of our lives, and that is the event of our Baptism. As he taught, it is Baptism that washes away the mark of Original Sin and allows the Holy Spirit to then fill our souls. At the moment of Baptism, we are then truly called children of God through, with, and in, Christ Jesus. *Peter [said] to them, "Repent and be baptized,\* every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)*

This most important event in our lives then gives us a connection to the most important event in the history of the world: the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In calling the people of Rome to Holiness, St. Paul writes: *Or are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection (Romans 6: 3-5).*

As Our Baptism gives us a share in the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, Our Baptism is also the gateway to the other Sacraments, and our Baptism most importantly allows us to fully participate in the Sacred Liturgy that we will celebrate for Palm Sunday. Our Liturgy begins with a beautiful reminder that all of our Lenten practices have been in preparation for this moment: *Dear brothers and sisters, since the beginning of Lent until now we have prepared our hearts by penance and charitable works. Today we gather together to herald with the whole Church the beginning of the celebration of our Lord's paschal mystery, that is to say, of his Passion and Resurrection. For it was to accomplish this mystery that he entered his own city of Jerusalem. Therefore, with all faith and devotion, let us commemorate the Lord's entry into the city for our salvation, following in his footsteps, so that being made by his grace partakers of the Cross, we may have a share also in his resurrection and in his life.* Our Liturgy will then continue with the Proclamation of the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, recalling the most important event in the history of the world.

As we participate in the Proclamation of the Passion, we are also reminded of the powerful influence of “the crowd” which can lead to a “mob mentality.” At the beginning of Holy Week, we see the crowd welcoming Our Blessed Savior as their new King. By Friday of that very same Holy Week, we see *same crowd* demanding His death. The crowd was demanding His death because He wasn’t the King they wanted. The crowd wanted an earthly king who would make them rich and powerful. Our Blessed Savior instead was a King who was offering them a way to holiness through a share in His Holy Cross. The crowd wasn’t interested in holiness, let alone a share in the Cross, and showed just how uninterested in the hatred it showed to Our Blessed Savior.

I am certain that many otherwise good people got caught up in the crowd and the “mob mentality” that it cultivated and found themselves doing something that they afterwards deeply regretted. It is just as easy today to get caught up in the wrong crowd and a “mob mentality.” This is especially so in our world where that last socially acceptable form of bigotry is “Catholic bashing.” Which is why it is always important to make sure that we are part of the right crowd; a crowd that helps us to make the right choices: choices in accord with God and His Good Wishes. The right mob for us is the Church and the Communion of Saints and those good people in our lives who desire holiness and who want to please God and not the Godless. Otherwise, if we don’t choose the right crowd, we too might find ourselves doing something that we too will deeply regret, such as walking away from the Church and so walking away from God. Too many of our own family and friends have done just that, and have walked away, and I believe that they have done so because they have fallen under the influence of the wrong crowd.

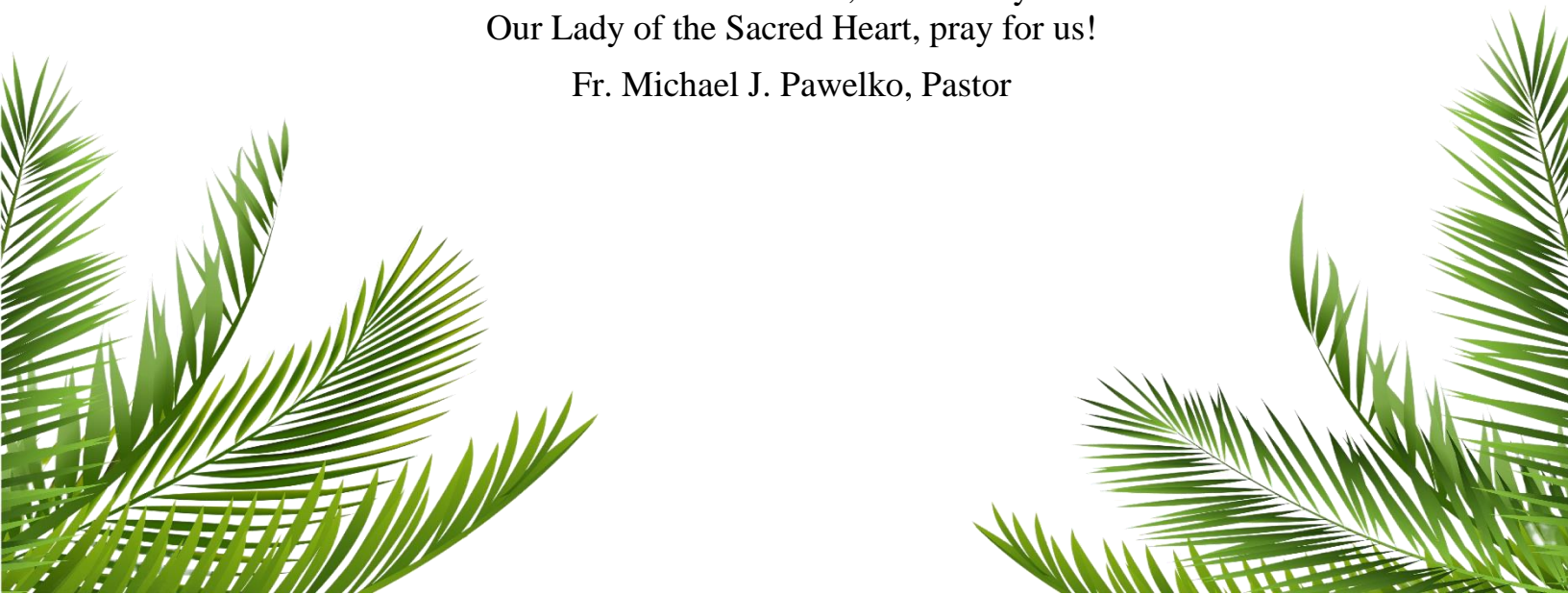
Yet, the Resurrection reminds us that even those who have walked away are always welcomed back, just as Our Blessed Savior welcomed back St. Peter and the other disciples who walked away the very first Good Friday. So, this Holy Week, in image of Our Blessed Savior, we have a beautiful opportunity to invite someone who has been away, to again become part of our “mob:” the parish family of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

In advance, I would like to thank all who will contribute their time and talents to make our Holy Week a truly blessed experience. I would also like to assure all of my prayer for this week, that this Holy Week will be a time a love and renewal for our families and our parish.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us!

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, pray for us!

Fr. Michael J. Pawelko, Pastor





# WORDS AND REFLECTION ON THE STABAT MATER

<https://www.ourcatholicprayers.com/stabat-mater.html>

Is there any grief like a mother's when she loses her child? Stabat Mater, a Latin hymn that can also be recited in prayer, immerses us in the Blessed Mother's intense sorrow at seeing her beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, dying on the cross in His Passion so that we might have Eternal Life! Its title comes from its first line in Latin "Stabat Mater dolorosa" (roughly translated "the sorrowful mother stood").

A Franciscan friar named Jacopone da Todi is said to have written the original text of the Stabat Mater in the 13th century, although some scholars have attributed it to Pope Innocent III, among others.

There are over 60 English translations of the Stabat Mater, including this one printed below. It has been so popular that numerous composers including Bach, Vivaldi, Haydn, Schubert, and Verdi have set the original Latin text to music.

The Stabat Mater was used frequently in the Liturgy for centuries before it became a sequence (a hymn spoken or sung before the Gospel) in 1727 for the feast of the Seven Sorrows [or Dolors] of the Blessed Virgin Mary on September 15th. Its use as a sequence is optional now on that feast day (now called the feast for Our Lady of Sorrows), but the hymn is often prayed with the Stations of the Cross at Lent.





At the cross her station keeping,  
Stood the mournful Mother weeping,  
Close to Jesus to the last.

Through her heart, His sorrow sharing,  
All His bitter anguish bearing,  
Now at length the sword had passed.

Oh, how sad and sore distressed  
Was that Mother highly blest,  
Of the sole begotten One!

Christ above in torment hangs.  
She beneath beholds the pangs  
Of her dying glorious Son.

Is there one who would not weep,  
Whelmed in miseries so deep,  
Christ's dear Mother to behold?

Can the human heart refrain  
From partaking in her pain,  
In that Mother's pain untold?

Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled,  
She beheld her tender Child,  
All with bloody scourges rent.

For the sins of His own nation,  
Saw Him hang in desolation  
Till His spirit forth He sent.

O thou Mother: fount of love!  
Touch my spirit from above,  
Make my heart with thine accord.



Make me feel as thou hast felt;  
Make my soul to glow and melt  
With the love of Christ my Lord.



Holy Mother, pierce me through;  
In my heart each wound renew  
Of my Savior crucified.

Let me share with thee His pain,  
Who for all my sins was slain,  
Who for me in torment died.

Let me mingle tears with thee,  
Mourning Him who mourned for me,  
All the days that I may live.

By the Cross with thee to stay;  
There with thee to weep and pray,  
Is all I ask of thee to give.

Virgin of all virgins best,  
Listen to my fond request:  
Let me share thy grief divine.

Let me to my latest breath,  
In my body bear the death  
Of that dying Son of thine.

Wounded with His every wound,  
Steep my soul till it hath swooned  
In His very blood away.

Be to me, O Virgin, nigh,  
Lest in flames I burn and die,  
In His awful Judgment day.

Christ, when Thou shalt call me hence,  
Be Thy Mother my defense,  
Be Thy Cross my victory.

While my body here decays,  
May my soul Thy goodness praise,  
Safe in Paradise with Thee. Amen.



The *Stabat Mater* brings to mind front and center just how fully our Blessed Mother suffered along with Jesus, like Him on our behalf! St. Alphonsus Liguori once wrote, that “two hung upon one cross.”

While she wasn’t crucified, of course, her heartbreak was just as intense! After all, as we read in the seventh stanza of the twenty that comprise the *Stabat Mater* she saw her beloved Son “bruised, derided, cursed, defiled...all with bloody scourges rent.”

From what tradition tells us, the Blessed Mother had a strong sense of what was coming way before Christ’s Passion. When she presented her little baby Jesus in the Temple, fulfilling Mosaic law, a “just and devout” (Lk 2:25) man named Simeon, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, foretold both our Lord’s greatness, saying he would be “a light of revelation to the Gentiles and a glory for thy people, Israel,” and His Passion, calling Him “a sign that shall be contradicted” (Lk 2:32 and 34).

He told Mary that she would suffer along with her Son as well, saying that “thy own soul a sword shall pierce” (Lk 2:35). Her wounds would be figurative but just as painful! St. Bernard once noted that “Love inflicted on the heart of Mary the tortures caused by nails in the body of Jesus.”

Keep in mind, though that the Blessed Mother is more than ready to help us follow her Son with the graces we need *throughout our lives*, not just at our judgment. Praying to Mary and asking for her assistance has never been meant to put her ahead of her Son or to partake in some sort of idol worship when we look at her image in a statue, as some might fear. We pray *to* Mary and *through* Mary to Jesus!

Remember, in sharing with Mary her Son’s anguish, as mentioned earlier, we might then be able to share in His triumph over sin and death as well! As we read in the *Stabat Mater*’s 20th Stanza “while my body here decays, may my soul thy goodness praise, Safe in paradise with Thee. Amen.” Amen, indeed!

Anyway as you read the text of the *Stabat Mater*, whether in this version or others, you can’t help being moved. May it stir in your heart a greater love and devotion both for our Lord and His Blessed Mother!



# 2023 Holy Week Schedule

## PALM Sunday

April 2nd

Palms will be blessed & distributed at All Masses

## Holy Thursday

April 6th

NO Morning Mass

Mass of the Lord's Supper ~ 7:00 PM

Followed by Outdoor Procession  
(weather permitting)

Night Prayer ~ 9:00 PM in Church

## Good Friday

April 7th

NO Morning Mass

9:00 AM ~ Morning Prayer in Church

Celebration of the Lord's Passion ~ 3:00 PM

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross with  
Reading of the Passion in Church

## Holy Saturday

April 8th

NO Morning Mass

9:00 AM ~ Morning Prayer in Church

Blessing of Food ~ 11:00 AM in Church

NO 4:00 PM Mass

7:30 PM ~ Easter Vigil Mass

## Easter Sunday

April 9th

Masses:

8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, & 11:00 AM

in Church





Our Fellow Parishioners,

We, the members of the Finance and Facilities Committee, would like to address you and make you aware of needed repairs and improvements to our campus.

We have written before that our parish's infrastructure is aging. The roof of our beautiful church is quickly nearing the end of its life. Also, the lighting system in our church is nearing the end of its life, and more seriously, it is also becoming a fire hazard. Along with these needed repairs, we have identified other repairs needed to keep our church and campus safe and beautiful. High on that list is the need to replace our campus's Water Purification System (as now required by the State of Pennsylvania).

So, we are writing as fellow parishioners, to report that the Committee is working on a five-year plan. The Five-Year Plan will include two phases. The First Phase will focus on repairs and improvements that will need to be done over the next 1-2 years. The Second Phase will focus on repairs and improvements that will be done over the following 3-5 years.

Many of the estimates included in this report are very preliminary. We are working hard to define the scope of the work and obtain firmer estimates. Here is the basic plan with very general estimates:

### **Phase I: Items of High Priority ~ over the next 1-2 years:**

#### **Church Roof and Related Items:**

- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| ● Replacement of Roof, Insulation, and Conduit | \$260,000.00 |
| ● Replacement of Damaged Ceiling Tiles         | \$2,500.00   |
| ● Repair of Porch Roof                         | \$30,000.00  |

#### **Campus Water Purification System:**

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| ● Demolition of Old System and Storage Tank | \$60,000.00 |
| ● Filter System Installation                | \$30,000.00 |

#### **Church Lighting System:**

- |                                      |              |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| ● Replace Fixtures with LED Fixtures | \$100,000.00 |
| ● Replace Control System             |              |

#### **Parking Lot Repairs:**

#### **Parish Life Center Windows Replacement ~ Energy Efficiency (School):**

#### **Church Auxiliary Air Conditioning Units:**

#### **Parish Life Center Boilers (School):**

#### **Concrete Walkways and Patio in front of Church:**

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| ● Repairs to Uneven Areas                            | \$12,000.00 |
| ● Demolition and Replacement of Cracked Areas        |             |
| ● Replacement of Electrical Conduit beneath concrete |             |

#### **Church Windows: Replacement of Low-Glare Film:**

## Phase II: Over the next 3-5 years:

### Parish Life Center (School):

- Renovation and Air Conditioning of Cafeteria
- Renovation of Meeting Rooms
- Renovation of Original Boy's and Girl's Bathrooms
- Painting of All Corridors and Classrooms
- Upgraded Technology (where applicable)
- Upgraded Lighting with LED's (where necessary)
- Replacement of Aging Equipment and Upgrading of Cafeteria Kitchen

### Church ~ Interior Renovations:

- New Carpeting
- New Paint
- Sanctuary: Centering of Tabernacle
- Pews ~ Repairs and Refinishing

### Landscaping and Landscaping Lighting:

- Replace aging and diseased trees with new ones.
- Replace aging/overgrown plantings around the campus with new plantings.
- Replace and improve landscaping lighting and walkway lighting.

We do believe that this five-year plan to repair and improve our infrastructure is necessary to keep our campus both safe and beautiful. We also firmly believe that these targets are achievable. Yes, as fellow parishioners, we do believe that this can be done! Thankfully, we already have a good start with the Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Sustainability Fund. Presently, the Fund has over \$270,000. Of course, we will be asking for additional support as part of a capital campaign. We are also committed to make sure that the monies raised are spent wisely.

We wish to thank you, our fellow parishioners, for your generosity. Together, we are certain that we will have a safe and beautiful home here in Hilltown for our children, our grandchildren, and generations to come.

If you have any questions or concerns for our Finance & Facilities Committee, please contact us at [financeandfacilitiescommittee@olsh-hilltown.com](mailto:financeandfacilitiescommittee@olsh-hilltown.com).

Yours Truly,

*Fr. Michael J. Pawelko, Pastor*

*Deacons: Vincent Ceneviva, Gregg Hoyer, Gary Schoenenberger,*

*Finance & Facilities Members: Mary Brislin, Patrick Conway, Mark Fazio, Michael Goodwin, Mark Guinther, Charles Krempa, Raymond Lagomarsino, Thomas Martin, Patricia McEnergy, Alphonso Meo, John Moser, Katrina Moser, Christopher Rosica, William Trefz*





Our Lady of the Sacred Heart

JOIN US FOR

# MEN'S GROUP

SESSIONS: TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

April: 4 & 6 and 18 & 20

**7:00 – 8:00 PM**

St. Theresa Room 120 (School Building)



Parish Office  
will be

**CLOSED**

Friday, April 7 through Monday, April 10

Reopen on Tuesday, April 11



**DOORS  
OPEN  
6 PM**

**Sponsored by:  
Knights of Columbus #9736**

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**FRIDAY, APRIL 14**

**BINGO  
STARTS  
7 PM**

Packet of 9 Regular Cards \$6.00

Packet of 3 Special Cards ~ \$4.00

**FOOD AND BEVERAGES AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE**

**Father McBride Hall (Gymnasium)**

**100 Broad Street, Hilltown PA 18927**



# Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Community

## YARD SALE

### *times*

SETUP: 7:00 AM  
STARTS: 8:00 AM  
ENDS: 2:00 PM  
CLEANUP: 3:00 PM

### *Rain Date*

**JUNE 17, 2023**

### *where*

GROUNDS OF THE CHURCH  
100 BROAD STREET  
HILLTOWN, PA 18927

All Communications  
will be sent Electronically

Confirmation  
will be sent Electronically

**SAT.**  
**JUNE**  
**10<sup>TH</sup>**

### *Signups*

ONLINE: SPACE(S) and/or TABLES

PAYMENT: ONLINE or CHECK

Deadline: **JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup>**

**BONUS  
ATTRACTIONS  
FOOD TRUCK  
ICE CREAM TENT  
MUSIC**

**SIGNUP  
EARLY BIRD  
DISCOUNT UNTIL  
MAY 1, 2023**

<https://forms.parishgiving.org/form-6402740/>