

April 5th, 2020 | Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

St. Mary Magdalen

Catholic Parish



A reflection on the Gospel of Matthew 26:14 - 27:66

PASSION SUNDAY 2020

As we hear the Passion of our Lord proclaimed I'd like to clarify something about Christ's death that has plagued the Church's theology since the Middle Ages—atonement. Recently, I read an Episcopalian priest, Jon Meacham's meditations on the seven last words of Jesus. The book is called *The Hope of Glory*. Meacham has some wonderful insights on the meaning of Christ's death for contemporary, educated Christians and I recommend it for spiritual reading. But, he steps back from resolving why God the Father would require his son's crucifixion as the means for our salvation.

To atone is to make reparation for a wrong we have done. This is a highly developed idea in Jewish theology and their most important holy day is Yom Kippur on which Jews ask God's forgiveness of their sins. Jews ask forgiveness not only for themselves individually but as a people.

In Christian practice the Sacrament of Reconciliation is our sacramental means of atonement. We believe God forgives us unconditionally but having been forgiven we still need to make up for the harm we have done, thus, we are asked to do penance. Forgiveness is already complete but we have a debt of gratitude. For example, spouses making up after a fight might give each other bouquets of flowers.

All this was straight-forward until Anselm of Canterbury applied a medieval legal principle to the passion Christ suffered for our sins. In the Middle Ages if a serf committed an offence against his or her lord they were bound to repay the offence or make restitution. Satisfaction was the parlance used for this principle.

Anselm said human sin defrauds God of the honor he is due. Human beings are incapable of restoring God's honor (satisfying the offence) but a God-man could. Thus, Jesus Christ, God-made-man, stands in for the human race as one of us and also has the power to overcome our creatureliness as God; he can satisfy the debt.

While this sounds appropriate in terms of justice, there are some major problems if we believe God is Love. How could a good and loving God demand the painful and shameful death of anyone—most especially his Son? The Father can be seen as a vengeful and unloving God—precisely what both the Old and New Testaments say he is not.

A better theology must be found; a better theology of atonement. Another way of understanding Jesus' atonement for our sins is Jesus as the Christ proclaims the love of God and forgiveness of our sins and runs afoul of the forces of evil; those who stand to lose if the political and religious order is upset, those whose creed is vengeance and power. Jesus' crucifixion isn't demanded by the Father; it's the very human consequence of upsetting the established order by proclaiming the Good News. The Father doesn't demand satisfaction.

Human beings are still incapable of climbing out of their own creatureliness. Christ Jesus still stands as a human being before the Father and pleads our case. And, as the Son of God he is capable of bringing us into communion with the Father as adopted children. God freely offers us a "hand-up"—we are saved.

Christ's atonement provides an example for us. As adopted sons and daughters we are commissioned to stand before God asking forgiveness for those who sin freely, without remorse just as Christ did, without counting the cost. In other words, we are to love others as Christ loved us.

Fr. Nick



Flowers for the Triduum

Lourdes Guzman, our decorator extraordinary, is hoping that parishioners will bring flowers from their garden for the services next week. Please bring the flowers to the church on Wednesday, April 8. Lourdes will use them for arrangements for the Triduum liturgies.

Mass Intentions

Saturday	5:30p	Lola Lazo RIP
Sunday	8:00a	Intentions of Joselito Jacob
	9:30a	Mary O'Leary RIP
	11:30a	For the People of the Parish
Monday	8:30a	Intentions of Br. David Woo, OP
	5:30p	Intentions of Tizziana Lukban
Tuesday	8:30a	Intentions of Residents of St. Francis Heights & Joseph Trapp
	5:30p	Richard Wahl RIP
Wednesday	8:30a	Muriel Burhans RIP
	5:30p	Aniela Rabinska RIP
Thursday	7:30p	For the People of the Parish
Friday	no mass	
Saturday	8:00p	For the People of the Parish

Live Streamed Holy Week Events

Sunday	April 5th	9:30 am	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
Thursday	April 9th	7:30 pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper
Friday	April 10th	1:30 pm	Stations of the Cross
Friday	April 10th	7:00 pm	Passion of the Lord and Veneration of the Cross
Sunday	April 12th	9:30 am	Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

The link for live streaming is

<https://www.facebook.com/SaintMaryMagdalenParish/>

Scripture Readings for the Week

5 th	Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion Matthew 21:1-11/Isaiah 50:4-7/ Philippians 2:6-11/Mt 26:14-27:66
6 th	Monday of Holy Week Isaiah 42:1-7/John 12:1-11
7 th	Tuesday of Holy Week Isaiah 49:1-6/John 13:21-33,36-38
8 th	Wednesday of Holy Week Isaiah 50:4-9/Matthew 26:14-25
9 th	Thursday of Holy Week Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14/1 Corinthians 11:23-26/ John 13:1-15
10 th	Friday of the Passion of the Lord Isaiah 52:13-53:12/ Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9/ John 18:1-19:42
11 th	Holy Saturday/Easter Vigil Genesis 1:1-2:2/Exodus 14:15-15:1/Isaiah 55:1-11/Romans 6:3-11/Matthew 28:1-10

Anecdote from the School:

Over the past two and a half weeks, the Madeleine teachers and administration have been working to implement our Home Learning Plan. We have created this weekly schedule to support student distance learning. Each day begins with our MAD Morning video prayer and pledge. The teachers have attended hours of virtual trainings and have implemented new learning platforms such as SeeSaw and Google Classroom. Teachers and students are communicating with one another through these platforms, as well as Zoom meetings. The Madeleine faculty has a weekly staff meeting as well as level group check in meetings (K-2, 3-5 and 6-8). Teachers are creating their own virtual content for students, through video-recorded lessons, Kahoot virtual quizzes, virtual whiteboards, and many other tools. As a staff, we have created a list of staff "experts" in each of these technologies, and we are training one another. The school administration is in the process of creating virtual Enrichment clubs for students each afternoon.

As a member of the administrative team, I have been inspired to see our teachers collaborating and creating new ways of teaching and connecting with students. The entire staff has jumped in to assist each other, and take on new responsibilities outside of their usual roles. We are all in this together. It makes me grateful to be a part of this community.

Jennifer Walwark

Happenings

This weekend the Sunday Dinner for the Hungry (new name) will continue in a new form. Instead of the usual Dinner, Fr. Nick and George Baranowski asked Angelo Dalo, owner of Agrodolce Osteria, to make sandwiches. Angelo is supplying a sandwich, fruit, and dessert. A win for all!

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RCIA PARTICIPANTS

The Elect are:

Bach, Camillo, and Morino.

The Candidates are:

Edith, Lexi, Jeremy, Rhonda, Jane, and Kristin

The RCIA continues to meet online each week. Their sacraments will take place beginning at the Easter Vigil.

Collection for March 29th, 2020

Sunday	Actual	Budget	Difference
3/29/2020	\$7,527.51	\$8,829.00	-\$1,301.49
Year-to-Date	\$105,083.61	\$114,777.00	-\$9,693.39

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back." -

Luke 6:38