



ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK
CULTURAL DIVERSITY APOSTOLATE
Black Ministry

GOD WILL NEVER LEAVE US NOR FORSAKE US

Busy Persons' Retreat

Holy Week
April 2 - 8, 2023

WWW.OBMNY.ORG

“God will never leave us nor forsake us”

Busy Persons' Retreat

Holy Week 2023

The title of this Busy Persons' Retreat
is inspired by the word of God,

“I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

(Deuteronomy 31:6)

These words affirm God's promise to be
with us always through our journey of faith.

God is the strength of our life.

God will never leave us and
we do not have to be afraid.

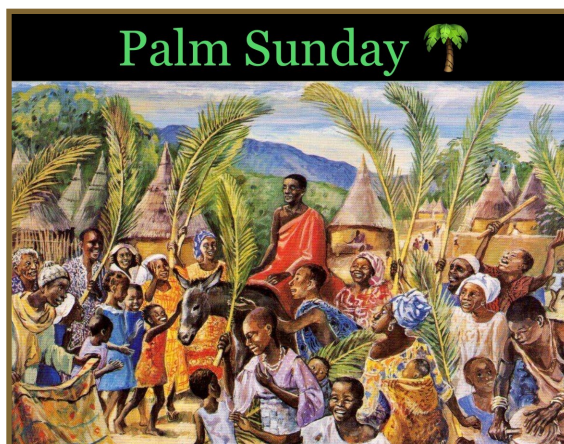


ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK
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April 2 - PALM SUNDAY

RETREAT PRAYER

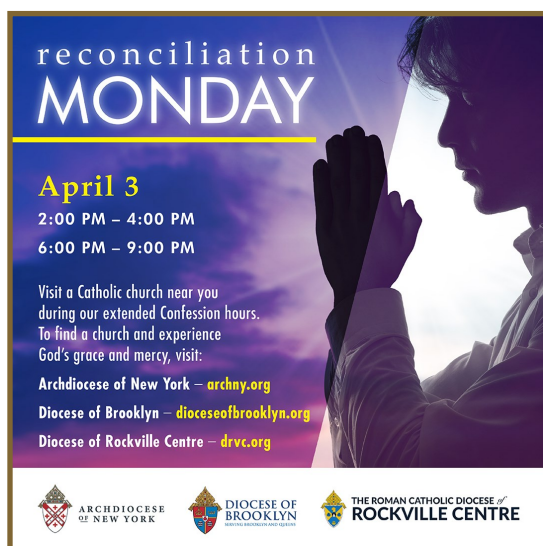
O GOD OF OUR WEARY YEARS AND
GOD OF OUR SILENT TEARS,
HEAR US YOUR PEOPLE WHO COME BEFORE YOU
IN THE ONLY WAY WE KNOW HOW,
ASKING FOR YOUR GRACE AND YOUR MERCY.
GOD, YOU ARE OUR ROCK AND OUR REDEEMER.
YOU KNOW OUR NEEDS BEFORE THEY EVER REACH OUR LIPS
AND YOU KNOW US BETTER THAN WE KNOW OURSELVES.
MAY THIS RETREAT, DURING THIS HOLIEST OF WEEKS,
OFFER US COMFORT AND PEACE AT THIS TIME
AND IN THE DAYS TO COME.
BE WITH US AND KEEP US EVER CLOSE TO YOU.
WE MAKE THIS PRAYER THROUGH THE HOLY
AND MATCHLESS NAME OF JESUS,
OUR ROCK AND OUR REDEEMER.
-AMEN.



April 2 - PALM SUNDAY

As we prepare for the start of our retreat during this Holy Week, we invite you to prepare for the following:

- ⇒ Reconciliation Monday, whereby confession will be offered in all Parishes throughout the entire Archdiocese of New York, Diocese of Brooklyn, and the Diocese of Rockville Centre on Monday, April 3, 2023, from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM in preparation for Easter. Learn more [CLICK HERE](#).
- ⇒ Recitation of the Rosary, with singing and special prayers, will take place on the Prayer Line (720-820-1469) on Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 12:15pm (EST).
- ⇒ Feel free to join the Prayer Line for Morning Prayer (720-820-1469) on Tuesday & Thursday at 7:30am (EST) - "Hosting the Holy - Parts 1 & 2" with Br. Sean Moffett, CFC.
- ⇒ Vespers / Evening Prayer, via Zoom, with reflections by Fr. Gregory Chisholm, S.J. will be held on Wednesday, April 5th at 7:30pm (EST). (Zoom meeting details will be shared with registered participants).



reconciliation
MONDAY

April 3
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Visit a Catholic church near you during our extended Confession hours. To find a church and experience God's grace and mercy, visit:

Archdiocese of New York – archny.org
Diocese of Brooklyn – dioceseofbrooklyn.org
Diocese of Rockville Centre – drvc.org

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN
THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE



Pierre Toussaint Scholarship Fund presents
"RISE UP WITH THE LORD" PRAYER LINE

Starting
Tuesday, September 10

Join us every Tuesday and Thursday morning for 10 minutes of guided prayer

720-820-1469
7:30AM

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A GUIDE TO CONFESSION

(take this with you ... it's really okay)



BEFORE YOU GO

Examine your conscience, that is, reflect on what sins you've committed. To guide you, just Google "examination of conscience" and you'll find resources to help you. It's even all right to make a list to bring with you if that helps.



INTRODUCTION

When you come before the priest, begin by making the Sign of the Cross (praying the words out loud), and continue by saying, "Bless me, Father, I have sinned. It has been (how long) since my last confession. These are my sins..."



CONFESSION

List the sins you've committed that came to mind during your examination of conscience. Don't be too general ("I haven't been a good person"), but a lot of detail isn't necessary (you don't need to tell the whole story of how a sin came about). If you're not sure if something is a sin, ask the priest. This isn't counseling, so unless you ask, the priest likely won't give you advice. He'll just move on to ...



PENANCE

The priest will suggest something for you to do or pray as a response to God's mercy. You'll have to remember what this is and do it after the confession is over, so pay attention.



ACT OF CONTRITION

The priest will then ask you to pray out loud your "Act of Contrition," to demonstrate your sorrow for your sins: "My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy."



ABSOLUTION

Don't get up to leave after that prayer, because the best part is yet to come: The priest will extend his hands in your direction and he will pray the Prayer of Absolution: "God, the Father of Mercies, through the death and resurrection of his Son, has reconciled the world to himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins. Through the ministry of the Church, may God grant you pardon and peace. And I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen." You respond: "Amen."



CONCLUSION

The priest will then likely say something like, "God has freed you from your sin. Go in Peace." To which you can respond: "Thanks be to God." Don't forget to do your penance. If it is saying certain prayers, it's best to do it right away in the church before you forget.

A GUIDE TO HOLY WEEK SYMBOLS



Spring flowers, including lilies, are associated with the Easter season. *Pexels*

By George P. Matysek Jr.

No time of the liturgical calendar is more filled with religious symbolism than Holy Week. What's the meaning behind these holy signs and gestures that stretch back across generations?

Palm branches

Holy Week begins on the Sunday before Easter on "Palm Sunday," known formally as "Passion Sunday." Catholics hold blessed palm branches during liturgies this day to commemorate Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

Holy oils

During Holy Week – usually on Holy Thursday or sometimes on Monday – bishops across the world celebrate the Chrism Mass.

At the Chrism Mass, priests renew their priestly vows and show unity with their bishop.

During the liturgy, the bishop blesses the oils of catechumens, which will be used at the baptisms of those preparing for the sacrament through the Rite of Christian Initiation, and the oils of the sick, which will be used in the sacrament of the anointing of the sick.

The bishop also consecrates Holy Chrism, a mixture of olive oil and

balsam fragrance, that will be used to anoint the newly baptized, to seal candidates for confirmation and to anoint the hands of priests and the heads of bishops at their ordination.

The Holy Chrism will also be used in the rites of anointing at the dedication of churches and altars.

As part of the consecration rite, the bishop breathes over special containers filled with chrism. The act calls down the Holy Spirit.

Foot washing

During the Holy Thursday liturgy, priests pour water over the feet of up to 12 volunteers before drying them with a towel. The action is a recreation of Christ's washing of the Apostles' feet at the Last Supper.

Cross

On Good Friday, no Mass is celebrated. Instead, parishes offer a liturgy that commemorates the passion and death of Jesus. During that liturgy, worshippers are invited to venerate a cross by kissing the object or showing some other sign of veneration.

Fire

At the Easter Vigil, fire is very prominent. Massgoers gather around a fire

outside the church at the start of the liturgy. From that fire, the Easter Candle – the Paschal Candle – is lighted and then hand-held candles are lighted from the Paschal Candle – brightening darkened churches with the light of Christ, symbolizing his triumph over death.

Singing

At the Easter vigil, the deacon chants the liturgy's first proclamation of the Resurrection. The joyful chant, called the Exsultet takes its name from the Latin word in the opening line, "Rejoice, heavenly powers!"

In many African-American parishes, spirituals and other songs special to the community are often sung. These include "Were you there?" on Good Friday and "Take me to the Water" as new members of the community are baptized during the Easter Vigil.

Flowers

Churches are usually adorned with a variety of spring flowers during the Easter season. Easter lilies are especially associated with the season as a symbol of purity and new life. There are a variety of legends associated with the Easter lily, including one that says the flower sprung up on the spots of land where drops of Jesus' blood fell at the crucifixion.