

# Saint John Neumann Church

601 East Delp Road \* Lancaster, PA 17601  
phone: (717) 569-8531 \* [www.sjnlancaster.org](http://www.sjnlancaster.org)

**PALM SUNDAY**  
*My soul is  
sorrowful even  
unto death*

**MATTHEW 26:38**

**Parish Office Hours**

Mon. ~ Thurs. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Closed Fridays

**Sunday Masses**  
Sat. Vigil ~ 4 p.m.

Sun. ~ 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 5 p.m.

**Weekday Masses**

Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri. ~ 9 a.m.  
Thurs. ~ 9 a.m., 6 p.m.

**Live Streamed Masses**  
Daily ~ 9 a.m.

Sat. ~ 4 p.m., Sun. ~ 9 a.m., 11 a.m.

**Reconciliation**

Thurs. ~ 4:30-5:45 p.m., Sat. ~ 2:00-3:30 p.m.  
Or by appointment

**Adoration**

Wed. ~ 12-4 p.m. with Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:45 p.m.  
Thurs. ~ 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**Pastor**

Very Rev. Daniel F.X. Powell, V.F.  
[frdan@sjnlancaster.org](mailto:frdan@sjnlancaster.org)

**Parochial Vicar**

Rev. Clark Stiteler  
[frstiteler@sjnlancaster.org](mailto:frstiteler@sjnlancaster.org)

**Permanent Deacon**

Deacon Michael Oles  
[moles5@comcast.net](mailto:moles5@comcast.net)

**Permanent Deacon**

Deacon Peter Jupin  
[pjupin@sjnlancaster.org](mailto:pjupin@sjnlancaster.org)

**Parish Manager**

Tom Conner  
[tconner@sjnlancaster.org](mailto:tconner@sjnlancaster.org)

**Director of Religious Education (DRE)**

Nate Gulya  
[ngulya@sjnlancaster.org](mailto:ngulya@sjnlancaster.org)

**Parish Secretary**

Kim Mikulski  
[kmikulski@sjnlancaster.org](mailto:kmikulski@sjnlancaster.org)

**Parish Health Ministry**

Tonianne Bertel  
[tbertel@sjnlancaster.org](mailto:tbertel@sjnlancaster.org)

**Assistant to the DRE**

Erin Houser  
[ehouser@sjnlancaster.org](mailto:ehouser@sjnlancaster.org)

**Youth Protection / Administrative Staff**

Linda Gowarty  
[lgowarty@sjnlancaster.org](mailto:lgowarty@sjnlancaster.org)

**Music Coordinator**

Kurt Kehler  
[kmk@pa.net](mailto:kmk@pa.net)

**Youth Ministry**

Udoka Ugoagwu  
[YouthMinistry@sjnlancaster.org](mailto:YouthMinistry@sjnlancaster.org)

**St. John Neumann Catholic School**

(717) 844-6100  
Principal ~ Karen Henry  
[henryka@sjnschoollancaster.org](mailto:henryka@sjnschoollancaster.org)

**Lancaster Catholic High School**

(717) 509-0315  
President ~ Kyla (Morrison) Hockley '96  
[khockley@lchsyehs.org](mailto:khockley@lchsyehs.org)  
Principal ~ Sean Van Eman  
[svaneman@lchsyehs.org](mailto:svaneman@lchsyehs.org)

### Sacrament of Baptism

Parishioners who would like to have their child baptized at SJN are asked to go to the "How Do I" tab on our website to personally schedule a date.

Baptisms are held on Sundays at 1:00 pm and Saturdays by request. At least one sponsor must be a practicing Catholic, age 16 or older, Confirmed, and must present a sponsor certificate if from another parish. A Baptism class is required if you have not completed one already. More information available on the website.

### Counseling Services Available

Counseling services are now available at St. John Neumann by Kathy Birmingham, L.C.S.W. for a free-will offering. If you are interested in hearing more about this opportunity or would like to schedule a time, please call Kathy at (717) 397-8647.

Are you planning a trip? Check out FindAMass.org and masstimes.org. With these tools, you can easily locate the most up-to-date Mass and sacrament times, as well as Catholic Church locations across the United States.

### Mass Intentions

#### Sat., March 28

- 4 p.m. - People of the Parish

#### Sun., March 29 ~ **Palm Sunday**

- 7:30 a.m. - Catherine Overmeyer
- 9 a.m. - Dermot O'Sullivan
- 11 a.m. - John Ignar
- 5 p.m. - Harvey Snyder

#### Mon., March 30

- 9 a.m. - Henry Roberts

#### Tues., March 31

- 9 a.m. - Bonnie Joyce

#### Wed., April 1

- 9 a.m. - Special Intention for Justin Melvin
- Brethren Village - Cindy Hurst

#### Thurs., April 2 ~ **Holy Thursday**

- 9 a.m. - NO MASS
- 7 p.m. - Theodor Jackubowski

#### Fri., April 3 ~ **Good Friday**

- 9 a.m. - NO MASS

#### Sat., April 4 ~ **Holy Saturday**

- 4 p.m. - NO MASS
- 8 p.m. - Special Intentions for Caleb Maxwell

#### Sun., April 5 ~ **Easter Sunday**

- 7 a.m. - People of the Parish
- 9 a.m. - Judy Baidy
- 11 a.m. - James Kirkessner
- 5 p.m. - NO MASS

### Parish Events

#### Sun., March 29 ~ **Palm Sunday**

- Following all Morning Masses - Coffee & Donuts - Social Hall
- Following all Masses - Blood Pressure Screenings - Conference Room
- Following all Masses - K of C Easter Candy Handout
- 6-8:30 p.m. - Youth Ministry - Youth Room, Social Hall

#### Mon., March 30

- 8:30 a.m. - Rosary - Church
- 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. - Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 6-7:30 p.m. - Women's Book Study - Social Hall, Youth Room, Library, Conference Room
- 7-8:30 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal - Church

#### Tues., March 31

- 8:30 a.m. - Rosary - Church
- 10-11:30 a.m. - Grief Share - Youth Room
- NO CGS

#### Wed., April 1

- 8:30 a.m. - Rosary - Church
- NO Adoration
- NO CGS
- 7:30 p.m. - Tenebrae Service - Church

#### Thurs., April 2 ~ **Holy Thursday**

- PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
- NO Rosary - Church
- NO CGS Level I or Level II
- NO Confessions
- 7 p.m. - Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by Adoration until Midnight

#### Fri., April 3 ~ **Good Friday**

- PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
- NO Men's Bible Study
- NO Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet
- 12 p.m. - Stations of the Cross - Church / Grove (weather permitting)
- 3 p.m. - Good Friday of the Passion of the Lord - Church

#### Sat., April 4 ~ **Holy Saturday**

- 10 a.m. - Blessing of the Food Baskets - Church
- NO CGS
- 2-3:30 p.m. - Confessions
- 8 p.m. - Easter Vigil Mass

#### Sun., April 5 ~ **Easter Sunday**

- 7 a.m., 9 a.m. & 11 a.m. - Easter Masses

# Collection

March 22, 2026

Will be posted in a future bulletin.

Each parish in the diocese operates as an independent Charitable Trust. Contributions provided to our parish are used solely for the operation of our parish and its missions.

**ParishSOFT** by Ministry Brands® If you are interested in enrolling in ParishSoft Giving, please visit

our webpage and click on the Donate Now Tab or scan this QR Code. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Gowarty at 717-569-8531.



*Thank you for your generosity!*

## 2026 Diocesan Annual Campaign

### FAITHFUL STEWARDS

Goal .....\$ 223,042  
 Total Pledged .....\$ 110,899  
 Total Cash Collected .....\$ 93,281

## Palm Sunday

D E N Y D L P C R L  
 P F T E M P L E C W  
 A P A S S O V E R C  
 S M B X W N D I C R  
 L J R L B R M S R Q  
 E T N E O R H O O N  
 E N K H M O E Y W O  
 P H L L M A D A S S  
 B E T R A Y I M D O  
 R E B U I L D N F U

Passover  
 Betray  
 Bread  
 Blood  
 Crows  
 Deny  
 Remain  
 Asleep  
 Temple  
 Rebuild



©Diocesan

## Daily Readings for March 30-April 4, 2026

<b>Holy Thursday</b>	
<b>Monday</b>	Ex 12:1-8, 11-14
Is 42:1-7	Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18;
Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14	1 Cor 11:23-26
Jn 12:1-11	Jn 13:1-15
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>
Is 49:1-6	Is 52:13-53:12
Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17	Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25
Jn 13:21-33, 36-38	Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9
<b>Wednesday</b>	Jn 18:1-19:42
Is 50:4-9a	<b>Easter Vigil</b>
Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34	Gen 1:1-2:2; Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35; Ex 14:15-15:1; 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18; Is 55:1-11; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Rom 6:3-11; Ps 118:1-2, 6-7, 22-23; Lk 24:1-12
Mt 26:14-25	

## Readings for Sunday, April 5, 2026

*Easter Sunday*

**First Reading:** Acts 10:34a, 37-43

**Second Reading:** Colossians 3:1-4

**Gospel:** John 20:1-9

## Hymns for March 29, 2026

**Entrance:** All Glory, Laud and Honor

**Prep of the Gifts:** What Wondrous Love Is This  
**Communion:** Were You There / Behold the Wood

**Recessional:** Jesus, Remember Me

My GOD, MY GOD, WHY?  
 HAVE YOU ABANDONED ME?



*Please remember our neighbors in need. Help us to help them.*



You can now use our new website for donations. Use the QR code or go to [www.sjnconfsvdp.org](http://www.sjnconfsvdp.org) and click on the **DONATE** button in the upper left corner.

Thank you.



Our Christian Community Welcomes

**Warren Charles Mynaugh**  
**Arthur Thomas Mynaugh**

*For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body...*

## Vocations Corner

Adoration for Vocations to the Priesthood every  
Thursday 6:30~7:30pm

### Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion



"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Matthew 21:9) As we enter Holy Week, we honor Christ's sacrifice. Priesthood, consecrated life, and holy matrimony mirror this self-giving love, offering one's life for others. Could God be calling you to serve? Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at (717) 657-4804 ext. 282 or via email: [vocations@hbgsdiocese.org](mailto:vocations@hbgsdiocese.org).

### Fast for Vocations This Lent

Bishop Timothy Senior invites Catholics throughout the diocese to fast on Wednesdays during Lent for an increase in vocations. This fasting is the same as what we observe on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, but whatever sacrifice you offer for vocations is greatly appreciated. An online pledge form is available for those wishing to participate in this shared Lenten sacrifice:  
[https://hbgsdiocese.formstack.com/forms/lenten\\_fast\\_ing\\_program](https://hbgsdiocese.formstack.com/forms/lenten_fast_ing_program)

### Where do we come from? Where are we going?

These questions are DECISIVE for understanding what it means to be human and how to orient our lives and our actions toward authentic fulfillment.

Join Christopher West and Mike Mangione as they creatively weave together dynamic presentations with live music, video clips, and sacred art for an evening of beauty and reflection on the meaning of life, love, and human destiny. You will come away with a faith-filled vision of hope that will instill in you the sheer wonder and joy of being alive...



Website: <https://aftontickets.com/M4MLancaster> (Online ticket sales)

<https://vimeo.com/251850893> (Official Trailer)

<https://vimeo.com/234588366> (Pastor promotion for hosting churches)

<https://vimeo.com/1105237188/09a4e690b5?share=cop> (Short trailer/local invitation)

## From Our Seminarian - Joe Amidon

Hello everyone!

I pray this letter find y'all well as we continue through the thick of Lent and into the great season of Easter in the next few weeks! Wanted to give y'all an update on this semester. In the seminary, they say February is the worst month of the year. We've been in school a few months now and there's nothing substantial that goes on in February; guys are starting to feel ready for their summer assignments and ordinations, and so on. If you pushed that to March, I would raise my hand. March has been tough, haha. It seems like there are so many parts of my formation - human, academic, spiritual, and pastoral - that are challenging me like never before. But that means growth if I don't buckle and growth is what makes a good priest!

In one of our Sunday homilies, the priest said that Lent should push us to our knees meaning that our Lenten sacrifices should show us how dependent we are on God. But when we experience that utter need and dependence on God, because we just cannot do it on our own strength (usually through struggle), we can either choose to buckle down on our self-resilience or choose to trust God. For Lent, I decided to make it to bed by 10 PM, no later, and do my Holy Hour first thing in the morning without snoozing my alarm. I was doing pretty good with it prior to Lent and wanted to continue this. Man, has God shown me humility. The fact that it is a struggle for me to do this on a daily basis has really pushed my prayer life to surrender and reflect on what Jesus went through when He carried the cross for us. That's the growth the Lord has planned for me. He's a Father that wishes to discipline, or strengthen, His children, He shows us that any strength we have comes from His grace and He wants to give us this strength when we are weak. What a solid Lent! I hope y'all have been encountering our Lord this lent as well.

I appreciate your prayers for me! Academics are going well and I'm doing much better this semester. On top of everything happening in Lent, God has been pushing me to grow closer to Him in all areas of my life, solely because I am His son in whom He is well pleased. Easter is coming up in a few weeks, and I'll be back Palm Sunday, Tenebrae, and the Sunday morning Easter Masses. I look forward to seeing you all soon! Please know of my prayers for you all!

# Holy Week Schedule

**Wednesday, April 1**

7:30 pm ~ Tenebrae Service

**Thursday, April 2 ~ Holy Thursday**

**NO 9:00 AM MASS**

Thursday Evening of the Lord's Supper

7:00 pm ~ Mass

Adoration will follow Mass until 12:00 Midnight

**Friday, April 3 ~ Good Friday**

**NO 9:00 AM MASS**

12:00 Noon ~ Stations of the Cross  
indoor & outdoor (weather permitting)

3:00 pm ~ Friday of the Passion of the Lord

**Saturday, April 4 ~ Holy Saturday**

10:00 am ~ Blessing of the Food

2:30 pm ~ Confessions

8:00 pm ~ Easter Vigil Mass

**NO 4:00 PM MASS**

**Sunday, April 5 ~ Easter Sunday**

7:00 am (**not 7:30 am**)

9:00 am and 11:00 am

**NO 5:00 PM MASS**

## Divine Mercy Corner

“The two rays denote Blood and Water. The pale ray stands for the water which makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for Blood which is the life of souls...These two rays issued forth from the very depths of my tender mercy when my agonized Heart was open by a lance on the Cross”.

(Diary, 299)

Save the date: Divine Mercy Novena – Good Friday  
Divine Mercy Sunday – April 12, 2026

## DIVINE MERCY CELEBRATION

# APRIL 12, 2026

SAVE THE DATE



Begins with Procession and Mass  
with choir at 11 a.m.

There will be Adoration from  
Noon until 4 p.m., blessing of the  
Divine Mercy Image, an  
opportunity for Confession and  
so much more.

More details as we get closer to  
the event.

## St. John Neumann Church

601 E. DELP ROAD, LANCASTER

## 2026 EASTER CANDY SALE GROFF'S CANDIES, LANCASTER



5" Solid Cross  
Milk or Dark Chocolate  
\$5 each

Orders will be handed out

Mar. 21/22

Mar. 28/29



Solid Easter Bunny  
8 oz.  
Milk or Dark Chocolate  
\$11 each



Charities we  
support:  
• A Woman's Concern  
• Serra Club  
• SJNCS  
• St. John Neumann  
Church  
• St. Vincent de Paul

‘My appointed  
time draws near.’



## Become A Knight

Are you a practicing Catholic man over the  
age of 18? As we continue to celebrate  
Blessed Michael McGivney's beatification,  
online membership with the Knights of  
Columbus is free when you use the promo code  
BLESSEDMCGIVNEY. Join today!



## Parish Health Ministry (PHM)

Excerpts printed with permission by ACST

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week and is familiar to us as the Sunday of the Great Paradox. The triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem before Mass, then the Passion narrative as the Gospel reading at Mass.

Today, we are invited to hear this all again. The Church is trying to help us prepare for Easter. And there are a handful of very striking moments in all this that can be easily overlooked. And one of the big ones is: Jesus is not who anyone expected, or daresay, wanted. In his homily for Palm Sunday, 2021, Pope Francis said, "From the start, Jesus leaves us amazed. His people give him a solemn welcome, yet he enters Jerusalem on a lowly colt. His people expect a powerful liberator at Passover, yet he comes to bring the Passover to fulfillment by sacrificing himself. His people are hoping to triumph over the Romans by the sword, but Jesus comes to celebrate God's triumph through the cross. What happened to those people who in a few days' time went from shouting "Hosanna" to crying out "Crucify him"? What happened? They were following an idea of the Messiah rather than the Messiah."

How often do we, too, follow our ideas of God, rather than the God who actually shows up? So it isn't just the paradox of the joyfulness of his entry into Jerusalem contrasted with the agony of his death on the cross. It's the paradox of Jesus himself. The God-Man. He said Blessed are the meek, turn the other cheek, whoever loses his life will find it, the first shall be last, strength in weakness, and all the rest. We are accustomed to hearing these words, and while we like the sound of them, we typically file them away under "nice but not very helpful."

"Do you not hear how many things they are testifying against you?" Pilate asked Jesus. But he did not answer him one word. Here is where we might have wanted someone to speak up, to defend himself, to put Pilate in his place—to stop this madness and win the day. But instead, Jesus keeps his mouth shut. And he let it all happen. In his silence, he proved that every single word he preached... he also lived. And so, by the time we kneel down at Mass, when Jesus gives up his spirit, we know that this has really happened. He really went to his death to save us. His silence shouts and screams at us from then to now, every Palm Sunday. It is his love that cries out. And like the stunned centurion at the foot of the cross, we fearfully, tearfully say, "Truly, this was the Son of God!" Throughout Lent, Jesus has been speaking to us. Gently but firmly inviting us to a conversion of heart, to trust him to see us as we really are, to heal our physical and emotional wounds, and to free us from what keeps us from him. Today, his silence is also speaking. How will we respond?

**WHY WE CALL IT THE PASSION OF CHRIST:** The word passion comes from the Latin passio, meaning to suffer, to endure, to be acted upon. At first glance, it seems like a somber word— heavy, even painful. Yet within our faith, it carries a deeper truth: Christ's Passion is not only about His suffering, but about His love made visible through that suffering.

In the final hours of His earthly life, Jesus allowed Himself to be handed over, mocked, wounded, and crucified. None of this was forced upon Him. He embraced it freely, out of a love so complete that it held nothing back. His Passion reveals a God who does not love from a distance, but steps into human pain and transforms it from within. When we meditate on the Passion, we are not simply remembering an ancient tragedy. We are standing before the greatest act of love the world has ever known, a love that endures, a love that saves, a love that still reaches for us today.

May this sacred mystery draw us closer to the heart of Christ, who shows us that love is strongest when it chooses to stay, even in suffering.

\*\*\* \*\*

**PHM MEAL MINISTRY:** We are looking to increase our volunteer pool; will you join us? Only requirement is ability to provide a simple meal when a fellow parishioner and/or family are dealing with a medical issue that precludes them from obtaining the healthy nutrients needed to recover or a family that has been blessed with a newborn. A meal request is sent out noting days meals are needed, you choose the day that works best for you. There is no required meeting times or number of meals that we expect you to provide. Assist when you are able. Please prayerfully consider this beautiful way to show our fellow parishioners that we care.

\* Rest in Peace \*

**Gerard Link \* Dennis Karli**

*Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them Oh Lord, and Let  
Perpetual Light Shine Upon Them. May All the  
Souls of the Faithful Departed, through the Mercy of  
God, Rest in Peace.*

**Remember the Sick of our Parish ~ Especially**

Bob Beal, Hans Deatruck, Dennis Downey, Michael  
Jurasinski, Jeff Lamp, John Perozich, Linda Philbin,  
Dick Savicky, Bob Sugra, Bill White, Dennis White,  
Karen Zielinski and all those on the Prayer



Circle/Chain.



*As an authentically Catholic community, we welcome and value each person's giftedness while inspiring growth in Truth, Wisdom, Faith & Virtue. We exemplify Christ's love in service to others.*

**This Week at SJNCS**

SJNCS will begin their Easter Break with an 11:30 a.m. dismissal on Wednesday. Classes will resume on Tuesday, April 7.

The students, faculty & staff wish all parishioners a joyful & blessed Easter!

Applications are still being accepted for the 2026-2027 School Year. Interested parishioners can complete the online application on the school's website at [www.sjncls Lancaster.org](http://www.sjncls Lancaster.org). Please see the ad in today's bulletin for more information!



**SAVE THE DATE- Vacation Bible School**

Dates: July 13-17, 2026 (9 a.m.- noon)

Host Location: St. Leo the Great Parish

Who: Children in current grades PreK 4-6th

Questions: [VBSLancastercatholicparishes@gmail.com](mailto:VBSLancastercatholicparishes@gmail.com)




**IT MAY BE SPRING NOW... BUT ARE YOU REGISTERED FOR SJNCS PREK THIS FALL?**

- Full Day, Half Day & 2/3 Day Options
- Academic & Social Preparation for Kindergarten
- Instruction includes STEM, Art, Music, Library, Gym & Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- Extended Day After School Program
- Financial Assistance Available
- Student must be 4 by Sept. 1

**Contact the school today to set up a personal tour!**

Janice Wolfe | SJNCS Admissions  
717-844-6100 | [wolfeja@sjnchoollancaster.org](mailto:wolfeja@sjnchoollancaster.org)

**THE FINE & PERFORMING ARTS**  
LANCASTER CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

**CALLING ALL COMMUNITY SINGERS!**

**CRUSADER COMMUNITY CHORUS**

OPEN TO ANY AND ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS AGES 14 TO 99½. NO AUDITION NECESSARY!

**REHEARSAL AND CONCERT DATES**

REHEARSAL - TUESDAY, MAY 5 ~ 7:00PM-8:30PM  
 REHEARSAL - THURSDAY, MAY 7 ~ 7:00PM-8:30PM  
 REHEARSAL - SATURDAY, MAY 9 ~ 10:00AM-12:00PM  
 CONCERT - TUESDAY, MAY 12 ~ 6:00PM

**\*\*MUST ATTEND 2 REHEARSALS - ALL HELD AT LANCASTER CATHOLIC\*\***

EMAIL MICHAEL ADAMS AT [MADAMS@LCHSYES.ORG](mailto:MADAMS@LCHSYES.ORG) TO SIGN UP TODAY AND HAVE YOUR MUSIC AND PRACTICE TRACKS SENT TO YOU!

**THE FINE & PERFORMING ARTS**  
LANCASTER CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

**Day with FPA**

**FRIDAY MAY 8, 2026**

Information and registration: [www.lchsyes.org/fpa/events](http://www.lchsyes.org/fpa/events) OR Scan QR code to register!

**Middle School Honor Choir**  
Students in grades 6-8 who are interested in participating

**Purple and Gold Bands**  
Students in grades 4-8 who take instrumental lessons

Do you feel called to become a  
lay spiritual director?

*Are you curious, but unsure?*



Join us online for an inquiry session  
**Thursday, April 30th**  
7 pm

Email Melissa Maleski for the Zoom link:  
mmaleski@hbgdiocese.org

## Hope for a Better Marriage

If your marriage feels distant, strained, stuck, or even in crisis –  
**Retrouvaille can help.**

Retrouvaille is a Catholic program that has helped thousands find new hope, better communication, and a deeper connection.

 Our next program starts May 1st

 717-356-2185

 [HelpOurMarriage.org](http://HelpOurMarriage.org)



**You can have a better marriage. Don't wait.**

# CHILDREN'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS



## For Good Friday

We invite your family to reflect on Jesus' passion through a child friendly Stations of the Cross, followed by playtime and fellowship at St. John Neumann's preschool playground.

 **FRIDAY, APRIL 3RD**

 **9:45- 11:45AM**

 **ST. JOHN NEUMANN'S  
OUTDOOR STATIONS**



 **THE DIOCESE  
OF HARRISBURG**

Contact us at [catholic.families.lanc@gmail.com](mailto:catholic.families.lanc@gmail.com)

### SAINT FRANCIS OF PAOLA (1416-1507)

April 2

A witness to miracles from a young age, Francis of Paola later went on to perform many himself. His parents struggled with infertility, so turned to the intercession of St. Francis of Assisi. Their devout prayers bore them a son, whom they named Francis out of gratitude. As an infant, Francis suffered from swollen eyes and was again healed by his namesake. His parents promised him a friary education, where young Francis voluntarily abstained from meat, practiced solitude, and prayed fervently. After a year, he went on a pilgrimage with his parents to Assisi which deepened his devotion. Upon their return, Francis committed to the life of a hermit, first on family property before moving to a remote cave near the sea. A couple others were inspired by his journey and joined him, forming a small hermitage with a chapel. Over several decades, they expanded to a larger church and monastery as more followers joined. They became known as the Minims Friars, minim meaning least to convey their humility. They valued poverty, chastity, obedience, and later added veganism to their vows. Francis is said to have performed many miracles: prophetic speaking, food appearing from nothing, casting out demons, and raising the dead. Despite a life of solitude, he was sought out by many, popes and kings even calling on him for counsel. In his old age, Francis returned to complete solitude for three months, before passing on Good Friday—fitting for a life of perpetual Lent. Francis embodied love for God through radical vocation, giving his all in everything he did. While we may not be as radical in our own lives, the same call of love is extended to us today.

—Meghan McDonagh

### Vacancy - Full Time Administrative Assistant at the Diocesan Center, Harrisburg

The Diocese of Harrisburg is seeking an experienced administrative assistant with customer service experience.

Must be able to take direction and follow through on duties and responsibilities with minimum supervision. Proficiency in using all MS office programs is essential, particularly excel and word. Must possess high levels of verbal, interpersonal and written communication skills. Candidates must be a Catholic in good standing, and a knowledge of diocesan and parish structure would be helpful. Full job description available at [www.hbgdiocese.org/careers](http://www.hbgdiocese.org/careers). Please send resume and cover letter to: [employment@hbgdiocese.org](mailto:employment@hbgdiocese.org).



# YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

March 29<sup>th</sup> - April 12<sup>th</sup>

<b>SUN 29<sup>TH</sup></b>	Youth Group Palm Sunday 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM Theme: Past, Present, & Future
<b>FRI 3<sup>RD</sup></b>	SJN Youth Group Presents Good Friday's <b>Stations of the Cross</b> Start time 7:00 pm Yg 6 pm - 8:30 pm
<b>SAT 4<sup>TH</sup></b>	Easter Vigil Youth Group 12:00 PM - 2:30 PM Theme: Abandoned
<b>SAT 11<sup>TH</sup></b>	Pursuit of Happiness Youth Group Retreat Start: 10 AM Vigil Mass 4:30 PM Location: St. Mary's Who: 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade - 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade only Price: <b>FREE</b>
<b>SUN 12<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>Divine Mercy Sunday Youth Group</b> 11 am Mass start; Image Blessing Ends 3:30 pm YG: 12 pm - 4 pm (Can leave earlier if needed) Theme: Feast of Divine Mercy

SJN Youth Minister & St. Mary's YM Assistant: F. Udoka Ugoagwu  
Contact: youthministry@sjnlancaster.org

**ART IMITATES LIFE**  
**A Novel about Spiritual Battle**  
**MEET THE AUTHOR JESSE HEREDA!!**

When:  
Sunday, April 19  
6-8:30 PM

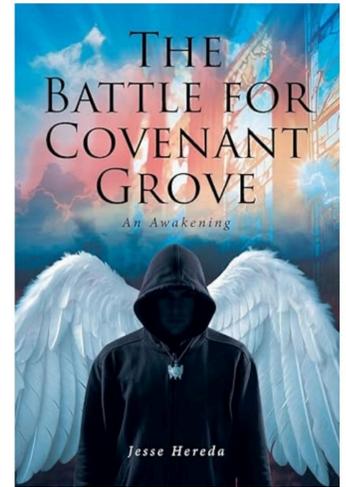
Where:  
TBD  
Register using the QR code below!



Catholic author and parishioner at St. John Neumann Parish, Jesse Hereda, has written a YA book for tweens and teens exploring what happens when we can actually see the spiritual battles around us. Listen to an excerpt from his book and join the discussion about spiritual battle! Every participant will get a FREE signed copy of "The Battle for Covenant Grove"!

The battle is real!

RSVP: irma@stmaryslancaster.org



## Life and the Pursuit of Happiness & Holiness

### A FREE Youth Retreat!

When: Saturday, April 11 at 10 AM

Vigil Mass at 4:30 PM

Where: Historic St. Mary's, Lancaster

Who: Open to ALL Youth from Grade 7-12

Find out how to have a **HAPPY HEART** through Jesus' **HOLY HEART**

Scan QR code for more information and to register:



HERALDS OF THE GOSPEL



### Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Most Christians today receive a bunch of palm fronds, olive branches, pussy willow, or forsythia (a relative of the olive) to carry in procession and to bear home in blessing. Some even offer sprigs of palm or other branches as a gesture of peace to those they have offended. The desire is to make a clean sweep of your spiritual house before the Easter feast.

Accepting the branch is a token of the bearer's willingness to journey with the Church through a grateful remembrance of Jesus Christ's passion, death, and life giving resurrection. Traditionally, the plants associated with today's feast are planted in cemeteries as a sign of Christ's victory over death and the promise of new life.

The joy of this day's opening procession soon gives way to a solemn reading of the Passion, this year according to Matthew. The ritual is meant not only to strengthen us to hear this account, but to stir us up to accompany the Church on this journey through Holy Week. It also prepares us for next Sunday's joyful renewal of our baptismal vows.

—Rev. James Field

The Diocese of Harrisburg is in the midst of a feasibility study to receive feedback on the best way to address immediate needs and to strengthen funding for our ministries in the years ahead. **For the next several weeks, we will be highlighting the priorities of the campaign. To learn more about these priorities, review the mailing you received or go to [steiergroup.com/survey](https://steiergroup.com/survey) and select Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg.**

**Priority:** Our local Catholic Charities serves as the human services branch of the diocese, sharing Christ's love with those in greatest need. In today's rapidly changing political and social environment, our needs are growing and becoming more urgent. We aim to raise awareness, build trust, and involve communities by sharing the transformative, pro-life, and pro-family work in our local neighborhoods. The proposed plans include an immediate cash infusion for urgent needs with an endowment fund to enable quicker responses to disasters, crises, and unforeseen needs, and secure years of funding for multiple new initiatives despite fluctuations in government support.



Share your feedback on these important initiative and others by completing the feasibility study survey at: [steiergroup.com/survey](https://steiergroup.com/survey) or scan the QR code and select Roman Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg.



# Palm



# Sunday



## A Week to Feel His Profound Love

Today's Gospel reading reveals the depths of divine love through Jesus' suffering and sacrifice. This passage is enormously long! As we stand to listen to the Gospel proclaimed during Mass, you may feel your knees buckle a little or your back begin to ache. Small children in the pews will fiddle and whine. Altar servers' arms will grow tired from holding their candles. You will also feel your heart break as we recall Jesus' pain and suffering, our contribution to His pain, and the profundity of His love for us.

The physical discomfort that you'll likely experience at Mass today is part of the genius of the Catholic liturgy. The twinges of pain or discomfort that we experience while listening to Matthew's account of the Passover meal, Jesus' agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, his trial, passion, death, and burial, is part of the point. We may offer our discomfort as a miniscule, participation in Jesus' crucible ordeal. By the mere act of standing for the Gospel, we may draw closer to Jesus' cross and understand his profligate and sacrificial love for us more fully.

Entering into Holy Week, we have just a few more days to rededicate ourselves to our Lenten penances, mortifications, and fasts, to get to confession, and to prepare our hearts for Easter. Throughout Lent, and especially as we listen to today's Gospel, our hearts are filled with compassion and gratitude for Jesus' suffering. Our Lenten offerings may not have been easy, as suffering rarely is, but our physical work truly prepares our hearts and souls to receive all that Jesus offers us.

Though today's Gospel passage is full of trials, Jesus, as a deliberate and loving participant in humanity's redemption, also reminds us of God's goodness. Jesus promises us that goodness prevails. During the Passover meal, Jesus gives the disciples His body and blood. And on the cross He offers that same body and blood in death for the salvation of all.

As the baptized Christians, we participate sacramentally in Jesus' death and resurrection. Entering into the waters of baptism, we die to sin, and emerging, we rise incorporated into Jesus' divine sonship. This is a sonship whereby we participate in the life of Jesus eternally. We know that without the cross there is no resurrection. Rather than avoid suffering this week, let us unite our sufferings to Jesus and prepare our hearts for Easter's victory over death and the opening of the promise of heaven.

By Elizabeth Tomlin