

Rocky Mountain House - St. Matthew

ST. MATTHEW PARISH AND MISSIONS

Rocky Mountain House - St. Matthew Church
Caroline - St. Joseph the Workman Church
Evergreen - Jesuit Martyrs Church



Evergreen - Jesuit Martyrs



Caroline - St. Joseph



Bulletin QR Code

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE SUNDAY • *Isaiah 50:4-7 * Philippians 2:6-11 * Matthew 26:14-27:66 or 27:11-54*

We recall and commemorate the events of our salvation as we begin Holy Week. As we remember the suffering and death of Jesus, we are drawn more deeply into the mystery of God's steadfast love for all humanity: God so loved the world that he sent his only Son that all may be saved. ♦ Saint Matthew writes of Jesus' celebrated entry into Jerusalem, where some of *the very large crowd ... cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.* Isaiah prophesies of one who *may know how to sustain the weary with a word.* Paul writes to the Philippians about the total self-giving of Christ and his exaltation by the Father. **In the Gospel,** Matthew gives his account of the last hours of Jesus, including their Passover meal, his betrayal, and his passion, death, and burial.

Today is one of those unique days in the Church calendar when we hear two Gospel passages very different in tone and sentiment, and certainly in content. We begin the liturgy with a presentation of an enthusiastic and exuberant crowd as Jesus enters Jerusalem, the capital of David's kingdom. Along the way he is regaled and hailed as *Son of David; the prophet, from Nazareth; and the one who comes in the name of the Lord.* He gets the red-carpet treatment: cloaks and *cut branches from the trees* strewn on the dusty road; cries of Hosanna piercing the air; the crowd swelling, their voices crying out in a mixture of scriptural quotations and messianic aspirations.

Then, as the Mass progresses – and somewhat all of a sudden – the mood changes: Our Gospel announces that the king has been degraded to the level of a common criminal. The victory confetti is replaced by whips, spitting, and choking dust. Jesus the prophet and Davidic Savior is now Jesus the criminal, the blasphemer, the rebel. The donkey that once carried him in triumph has disappeared, and on his own back he now carries the heavy and awkward cross. Cries of celebration have turned to calls for death; shouts of joy have given way to the sound of the lash; the parade has become an execution march.

It is enough to make our spiritual head spin. For in this yearly remembrance of the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we are well-reminded of the nature of our own temptations and sins. We can often find ourselves with Jesus for the easy part of the journey, but then vanish like the wind when the pressure rises and the threats of death fill the air. We examine how deep is our own loyalty to Christ in a world where faith is so easily mocked and the name of Christ so easily denigrated. We think about the times when we want to skip ahead to the empty tomb without first walking to Golgotha. As Jesus tells us, the human spirit can be very willing, but the flesh very weak. But there can be no resurrection without the cross; there can be no new life without first dying to oneself. There is no Easter without Good Friday.

Let us not be like the crowd: fickle, inconsistent, swaying with the latest wind of popularity and fame, afraid to stand up for justice and truth – for the innocent one. But as we journey this Holy Week, let us keep our eyes firmly fixed on Jesus. Let us take note of his patience, his total and unyielding dedication to doing the will of the Father fully and completely. Then let us take up our cross and follow him, so that having shared in his cross, we might share in his resurrection.





PRIVATE ADORATION

DAILY • 3.00 PM - 4.00 PM

(Monday - Tuesday - Wednesday - Thursday - Friday - Saturday - Sunday)

Adoration is not intended as public event. It is private with simple Exposition and Benediction, no public prayers and singing. We ask to exercise social distancing when in the church. Do not come if you are sick!

INDIVIDUAL CONFESSIONS

DAILY • 3.00 PM - 4.00 PM (DURING ADORATION)
(Monday - Tuesday - Wednesday - Thursday - Friday - Saturday - Sunday)

Confessions are not intended as Penitential Service. Approach Fr. Leon during Adoration if you would like to go to confession. We ask to exercise social distancing when in the church. **Any other time by appointment.**



CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

MONDAY - TUESDAY - WEDNESDAY - THURSDAY - FRIDAY • NOON - 4.00 PM

Our church building will be open during office hours for people to come and pray and seek the Lord's strength and comfort at this time. We ask to exercise social distancing when in the church.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS!

We invite our parishioners to consider donation of food items for our local Food Bank. You can bring your donation during office hours. Collection boxes are placed in the church lobby. Thank you very much for your help! God bless!



SPECIAL APPEAL FOR DONATIONS



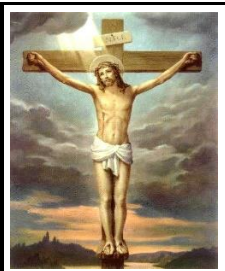
With the absence of regular Masses, we would like to highlight the option of Automatic Bank Withdrawal for regular and Together We Serve offerings. It's simple to implement, just fill in the form that is available on our parish website and confirm when you would like to start the deductions. Changes or cancellations can be made at any time but must be in writing. You can also donate to parish by bringing your donation to our parish office during office hours or you can donate securely and safely on our parish website.

OUR PARISH OFFICE HOURS ARE NOT CHANGED!

Our parish office working hours are not changed. Office is opened from Noon to 4.00 PM from Monday to Friday. Check our parish website for any changes and updates.



GOOD FRIDAY - DAY OF ABSTINENCE AND FASTING APRIL 10, 2020



Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast on Good Friday.

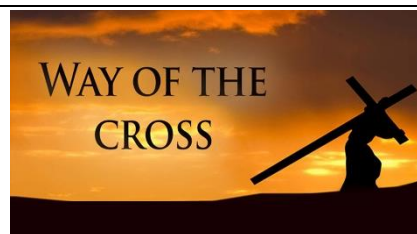
All Catholics 14 years old and older must abstain from meat on Good Friday.

Fasting means partaking of only one full meal. Some food (not equalling another full meal) is permitted at breakfast and around midday or in the evening – depending on when a person chooses to eat the main or full meal. **Abstinence** forbids the use of meat.

YOU ARE INVITED TO VIRTUAL WAY OF THE CROSS

APRIL 10, 2020 • 07.00 PM • ON PARISH WEBSITE

All our parishioners are invited to participate virtually in the Way of the Cross reflecting upon the sacrifice of Jesus for our salvation. This is a real life story, a story of the love that God has for each of us. We are called to walk with our pain and suffering in solidarity with Jesus knowing, through faith and hope, that Good Friday leads us to the Feast of Easter.



Why is it important to celebrate Holy Week?

Easter Sunday is the most important day in the Christian calendar. It comes after Holy Week, a week when Christians remember with sorrow all the events leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus. On Easter Sunday morning their sadness is turned to joy as they celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

AN INVITATION TO A HOLY WEEK

As we approach HOLY WEEK, I invite you to journey and worship together as parish community. In HOLY WEEK, we find God drawing close indeed, in His Son and through His Son's actions - like sacrifice, forgiveness, struggle and doubt. In Holy Week we find a human God and a God who desires our humanity be much more divine. That is tough stuff and often the kind of stuff which keeps us away from Church!

HOLY WEEK calls us to really journey with Jesus as Christian people! I invite our parish family to make HOLY WEEK a Christian discipline of practice - which may be truly life-changing and life-transforming. Anyone who has embraced the journey through ALL OF HOLY WEEK, Palm Sunday through Easter Vigil, will come away with a knowledge, appreciation, challenge and inspiration for the Christian faith - which can only be found by worshiping God in His deepest humanity.

Dear friends in Christ, journey with me this Holy Week as a spiritual discipline of faith. Attend virtually our services: on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil or Easter Sunday of HOLY WEEK.... Your Easter Sunday will not only be more meaningful and your understanding and life in the Gospel more complete and deep - but you will indeed embrace the humanity of God and the divinity of every human person.

Holy Week Schedule



PALM SUNDAY - APR. 05, 2020 12.00 PM - VIRTUAL MASS ON PARISH WEBSITE

This is Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Jesus had visited Jerusalem before, but He never did so in this way. Previously He had not wanted to be recognized as the Messiah; He avoided the enthusiasm of the crowd; but now He accepts their acclaim and even implies that it is justified, by entering the city in the style of a peace-loving king. Jesus' public ministry is about to come to a close: He has completed His mission; He has preached and worked miracles; He has revealed Himself as God the Father wished He should; and now in this triumphal entry into Jerusalem He shows that He is the Messiah.

HOLY THURSDAY - APR. 09, 2020 07.00 PM - VIRTUAL MASS ON PARISH WEBSITE

Mass of the Lord's Supper: On Holy Thursday we remember the Last Supper and that Jesus gave himself in the Eucharist. We recall that Jesus chose his apostles to serve and lead the Church. Remembering that Jesus washed their feet at the Last Supper, the priest washes the feet of members of the congregation. Holy Thursday is a special day for all priests since it is a day to mark the beginning of the ordained priesthood.



GOOD FRIDAY - APR. 10, 2020 03.00 PM - VIRTUAL SERVICE ON PARISH WEBSITE



Good Friday: On Good Friday we remember the death of Jesus. According to an ancient custom, Mass is not celebrated on this day or before the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday. The celebration of the Lord's passion and death takes place in the afternoon. There are three parts to the liturgy of the day: the Liturgy of the Word; the Veneration of the Cross; and Holy Communion with Hosts consecrated on Holy Thursday.

EASTER VIGIL - APR. 11, 2020 07.00 PM - VIRTUAL CELEBRATION ON PARISH WEBSITE

Easter Vigil: On Holy Saturday the Church meditates on the suffering and death of Jesus. Then the Church gathers to celebrate the Easter Vigil. The Easter Vigil has four parts: The Service of Light; the Liturgy of the Word; the Liturgy of Baptism; and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.



EASTER SUNDAY - APR. 12, 2020 12.00 PM - VIRTUAL MASS ON PARISH WEBSITE



Easter Sunday: On Easter Sunday we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus. This year we invite you to the virtual celebration of the Eucharist on our parish website. This celebration is a joyous sharing in the sacrificial meal of Jesus Christ, Lord and Risen Savior.

PASTOR - FR. LEON KLER

Deacon (Retired) - Bernie Ouellette
Secretary - Vivian Duhamel

ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

5208-53 Ave (Box 130) ♦ Rocky Mountain House, AB * T4T 1A1

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 12.00 PM (Noon) - 04.00 PM

CONTACT INFORMATION

Direct voice/fax/text line to office 403.845.3457
Direct voice/fax/text line to pastor 587.355.3947
Direct email address to office office@smpmhc.ca
Direct email address to pastor pastor@smpmhc.ca

PARISH MINISTRIES

Altar Servers Deacon Bernie Ouellette 403.846.0453
Baptism Preparation Class Steve/Donna Oscar 403.895.0373
Bible Study Mondays Mara Gagne 403.845.0940
Bible Study Sundays Lisa Sembaliuk 403.846.7137
Called to Protect Ernie Murias 403.845.4860
Children's Liturgy Mona Cruickshank 403.846.1027
CWL Joyce Donald 403.895.4156
First Communion Class Catherine van Kampen 403.845.2923
Knights of Columbus Gary Donald 403.845.5269
Maintenance Ernie Murias 403.845.4860
Ministry to the Sick Ernie Murias 403.845.4860
Music Ministry Quintal Doreen 403.846.8733
Parish Finance Council Randall Sugden 403.844.8478
Parish Pastoral Council Lauren MacKenzie 403.845.2836
Prayer Chain Alice Murray 403.722.4056
Youth Group Peter van Kampen 403.848.0955

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday 07.00 PM Rocky Mountain House
Sunday 09.00 AM Rocky Mountain House
Sunday 11.00 AM Evergreen
Sunday 01.00 PM Caroline

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday No Mass
Tuesday 06.30 PM - St. Matthew Church, RMH
Wednesday 09.00 AM - St. Matthew Church, RMH
Thursday 09.00 AM - St. Matthew Church, RMH
10.30 AM - Jesuit Martyrs, Evergreen
Friday 09.00 AM - St. Matthew Church, RMH

MONTHLY MASSES

First Wednesday 08.00 AM - St. Matthew School, RMH
First Wednesday 11.00 AM - Eckville Manor, Eckville
First Friday 11.00 AM - Clearwater Centre, RMH
Second Wednesday 08.00 AM - St. Dominic School, RMH
Second Wednesday 11.00 AM - Westview Lodge, RMH
Second Friday 11.00 AM - Ravines at Park Ave., RMH

REQUESTS FOR USE OF CHURCH FACILITIES MUST BE APPROVED BY PASTOR AND BOOKED THROUGH OFFICE.

BAPTISM OF CHILDREN

Contact office if you want your child to be baptized in our parish. Preparation Class is mandatory. For more info, call office.

CONFESSIONS

Rocky Mountain House - Every Saturday from 6.15 PM to 6.45 PM
Evergreen/Caroline - after Sun. Masses ♦ Anytime by appointment

MARRIAGE

Contact office if you want to celebrate Sacrament of Marriage in our parish. Preparation is mandatory. For more info, call office.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Every Friday in St. Matthew Church - Rocky Mountain House
9.00 AM MASS ♦ 9.30 AM - 12.00 PM ADORATION
Every First Tuesday of the month in St. Matthew Church - RMH
6.30 PM MASS ♦ 7.00 PM - 8.00 PM HOLY HOUR ADORATION

PARISH WEBSITE → WWW.SMPRMH.CA



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Fr. Leon celebrates daily Masses privately for the intentions requested by parishioners. See the schedule of Mass intentions below.

Saturday April 04, 2020 – Weekday in Season of Lent

Intention: For all members of our parish communities

Sunday April 05, 2020 – Palm (Passion) Sunday

Intention: For the intentions of Pearl Krzyworuczka

Monday April 06, 2020 – Monday of the Holy Week

Intention: For a special intention

Tuesday April 07, 2020 – Tuesday of the Holy Week

Intention: For the outpouring of the Holy Spirit

Wednesday April 08, 2020 – Wednesday of the Holy Week

Intention: Blessings & grace for Chris Ouellette

Thursday April 09, 2020 – Holy Thursday (Lord's Supper)

07.00 PM Virtual Mass on our parish website (www.smpmhc.ca)

Intention: For all the souls in purgatory

Friday April 10, 2020 – Good Friday (Passion of the Lord)

03.00 PM Virtual Service of Lord's Passion on our website (www.smpmhc.ca)

07.00 PM Virtual Stations of the Cross on parish website (www.smpmhc.ca)

Saturday April 11, 2020 – Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil)

07.00 PM Virtual Easter Vigil Celebration on parish website (www.smpmhc.ca)

Intention: For all members of our parish communities

Sunday April 12, 2020 – Easter Sunday (Resurrection of the Lord)

12.00 PM Virtual Mass of Resurrection on parish website (www.smpmhc.ca)

Intention: + Bill Long

RECORDED MASSES ON PARISH WEBSITE

We invite all our parishioners to "watch" daily Masses celebrated by Fr. Leon in St. Matthew Church. Masses are published on our parish website daily around 11.00 AM. It's not a livestream. There will be different schedule for Holy Week (see above).



OFFICE HOURS IN HOLY WEEK

Apr. 06, 2020	Monday	12.00 PM - 04.00 PM
Apr. 07, 2020	Tuesday	12.00 PM - 04.00 PM
Apr. 08, 2020	Wednesday	12.00 PM - 04.00 PM
Apr. 09, 2020	Holy Thursday	Office Closed
Apr. 10, 2020	Good Friday	Office Closed
Apr. 13, 2020	Easter Monday	Office Closed

CORONAVIRUS PRAYER

Since you, O God, are with us, nothing that has happened, nothing still to come, can rob us of our hope in Christ. ♦ Sustain us, we beg you, during this time of uncertainty. ♦ Bless all the emergency and medical personnel who are caring for the sick and working to contain the outbreak. ♦ Grant swift recovery to those who are affected and comfort to their families and loved ones. ♦ Encourage those who are afraid. ♦ Bind us now, more than ever, to you and to each other, so that we may triumph by the power of him who loves us, our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

MAR. 22, 2020 THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT!

ONLINE DONATIONS: RMH - \$60.00 * Evergreen - \$215.00 * Caroline - \$00.00

MAR. 29, 2020 THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT!

SUNDAY REG. COLLECTION: RMH - \$840.00 * Evergreen - \$00.00 * Caroline - \$00.00

TOGETHER WE SERVE: RMH - \$1,500.00 * Evergreen - \$00.00 * Caroline - \$00.00

ONLINE DONATIONS: RMH - \$140.00 * Evergreen - \$20.00 * Caroline - \$00.00