

**Our Lady of the Lake Church**  
**Our Lady of the Lake Regional Catholic School**  
1037 West Houghton Lake Drive ~ PO Box 800  
Prudenville, MI 48651



March 19, 2021

Dear Parishioners,

**PALM SUNDAY**

March 28, 2021 is the feast of Palm Sunday which commemorates the triumphal entrance of Christ into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-9). Palm branches were placed in His path, before His arrest on Holy Thursday and His Crucifixion on Good Friday. It thus marks the beginning of Holy Week, the final week of Lent, and the week in which we celebrate the mystery of our salvation through Christ's Death and His Resurrection on Easter Sunday. The distribution of palms will take place before Mass. The ushers with sanitized hands or wearing gloves will assist in distribution of the Palms at both Saturday and Sunday Masses.

**HOLY THURSDAY**

Holy Thursday, April 1, 2021, is the commemoration of the Last Supper of Jesus Christ in which He established the sacrament of Holy Communion prior to his arrest and crucifixion. It also commemorates His institution of the priesthood, a special priesthood for his disciples, which is distinct from the "priesthood of all believers." Christ washed the feet of His Disciples, who would become the first priests. Jesus celebrated the dinner as a Passover feast. The Last Supper was the final meal Jesus shared with his Disciples in Jerusalem. During the meal, Jesus predicts his betrayal. During the Passover meal, Jesus breaks bread and gives it to his Disciples, uttering the words, "This is my body, which is given for you." Subsequently, he passes a cup filled with wine. He then says, "This is my blood..." It is believed those who eat of Christ's flesh and blood shall have eternal life.

Due to safety concern both the people and the priest, Washing of the Feet will be omitted this year. The transfer of the Most Blessed Sacrament to the altar of repose will be modified to allow for proper social distancing. This year the Altar of Repose will be prepared in front of the Statue of the Holy Family. There will be one-hour adoration following the Mass of the Last Supper which starts at **7PM**.

**GOOD FRIDAY**

**The Divine Mercy Novena of Chaplets**

The Divine Mercy Novena starts on Good Friday in case you will like to do the prayer. A novena is typically nine days of prayer in preparation of a celebration of a feast day. The Chaplet of Divine Mercy Novena is recited at the Hour of Great Mercy — the three o'clock hour. The Feast of Divine Mercy is on Sunday, April 11th, the Sunday following the Easter Sunday. While the Novena to the Divine Mercy will be done privately, we will have a communal celebration on the Feast of Divine Mercy Sunday, at 3pm in the church. Divine Mercy Novena and Chaplet prayer pamphlets are available at the entrances of the church, courtesy of Eleanore Bajak.

On Diary entry 699, Jesus spells out in detail the meaning of this feast day, and the comforting promises He attached to it. Jesus said to St. Faustina:

*My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins*

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*and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. Everything that exists has come forth from the very depths of My most tender mercy. Every soul in its relation to Me will contemplate My love and mercy throughout eternity. The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the First Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy.*

The Chaplet can be said anytime, but the Lord specifically asked that it be recited as a novena. He promised, "By this Novena (of Chaplets), I will grant every possible grace to souls."

For each of the nine days, our Lord gave Saint Faustina a different intention:

*All mankind, especially sinners; the souls of priests and religious; all devout and faithful souls; those who do not believe in God and those who do not yet know Jesus; the souls who have separated themselves from the Church; the meek and humble souls and the souls of little children; the souls who especially venerate and glorify His mercy; the souls detained in purgatory; and souls who have become lukewarm.*

The Lord said to Saint Faustina: "I desire that during these nine days you bring souls to the fountain of My mercy, that they may draw therefrom strength and refreshment and whatever grace they have need of in the hardships of life, and especially at the hour of death" (Diary, 1209).

On Good Friday, there is NO Mass. **The Good Friday Services begins with the Stations of the Cross at 1PM. Good Friday Celebration of the Passion of the Lord starts at 2PM.** Due to concern for safety and requirements for social distancing, for the veneration of the Cross, individual adoration of the Cross is permitted. The people are to process forward, socially distanced, to venerate the Cross with a bow. No touching of the Cross.

### **HOLY SATURDAY- THE EASTER VIGIL**

**The Service begins at 8PM** outside the entrance with the Service of Light. During the Service of Life and the procession inside the church, you are required to be socially distancing from others are not part of your household.

Due to the safety of all, the use of small candles by the faithful during the Lucernarium and the Renewal of Baptismal Promises, is omitted this year. No sprinkling of Holy Water at both Masses too at Renewal of Baptism of Baptism Promises.

**HOLY WATER** is a sacramental of the church. There is no Holy Water in the church, but they will be made available upon request. Contact the parish office if you are in need.

**FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION** will be celebrated here at Our Lady at 9AM Mass on Sunday, April 18, 2021.

**RCIA CANDIDATE:** Ms. Ilene Carroll will receive the Sacraments of Initiation, Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, on Easter Vigil Mass. Please keep her in your prayers as she takes this important step in her spiritual journey.



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**OLLRCS EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATION MASS** is on Thursday, June 3rd at 9AM Mass.

**HOUGHTON LAKE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION MASS** is on Sunday, June 6th, 2021 at the 9AM Mass.

**OLLRCS GOLF OUTING** is on Friday June 4th at Pine View. Contact the school office if you have any questions.

**2021 VEAGE NIGHT AND STARGAZER GALA** are cancelled due to uncertainties related to Covid-19. However, we shall be conducting a donation based fundraiser similar to the 2021 Covid-19 Relief Fundraiser. The school will also do the 50/50 Raffle Tickets.

**2021-2022 SCHOOL REGISTRATION:** As of March 18, 2021, our enrollment stands at 62 students. This is about 37% increase from last year. We have had several inquiries about enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year. Classrooms will be capped to 15 students in grades 1st - 8th and 18 students in PreK/K for next year. This is to assure class sizes maintain a small teacher-student ratio.

**Registration for returning families begins April 19th**

**Registration for registered parish parents/guardians from OLL and sister parishes begins May 3rd**

**Registration for all families begins May 10**

Once a section is filled, students will be placed on a waiting list. Additional sections will open when/if OLLRCS is able to hire a highly qualified teacher that possesses the loving, caring, hard-working, and dedicated qualities that our existing teachers have. OLLRCS is committed to providing a high-quality academic and spiritual education with small class sizes encompassed in a safe environment. Contact the office if you have questions.

Thanks again for your prayers and continued support to our parish and school families. May the good Lord continue to bless and protect each one of you. On behalf of the staff and faculty of Our parish and school, I wish everyone a wonderful Holy Week and Easter celebrations.

*Buona Pasqua*

*Felices Pascuas*

*Wesołych Świąt*

*Cásca sona*

*Ezi Ista*

Fr. Peter

Pastor