

Pastoral Message for March 25, 2018  
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Baptism,

I am grateful to retired Army chaplain, Fr. Donald VanAlstyne, MIC, for our Cathedral Basilica's Parish Lenten Mission this past week. Our mission was a grace-filled spiritual experience! Please pray for Fr. Don and may God bless his ministry abundantly.

Our Holy Week/Easter schedule is enclosed in this bulletin. Please plan to participate in as many Holy Week sacred celebrations here in our Cathedral Basilica as possible. This is the most sacred week of the church's year and offers each of us powerful opportunities to give our full attention to deepening our relationship with God. The heart-moving ceremonies of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday will fill you with many great graces that will stir your soul and deepen your response to God's sacrificial saving love. Even if spiritually living life with God has not been the primary focus of your life, these sacred services of Holy Week will spiritually offer you God's loving inner peace. Please allow God's unconditional sacrificial love to touch your heart! I also urge you to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation this week. There are many opportunities throughout this coming week to celebrate God's wonderful Sacrament of healing mercy and profound peace.

During Holy Week and Easter I invite you and your family to wear the special colors that symbolize each sacred day:

Holy Thursday - White clothing  
**Good Friday—Red clothing**  
Easter—White clothing

Kindly also consider "lending a hand" to help decorate our Cathedral Basilica for Easter. We will gather after our 3:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday. Decorating will begin at about 4:30 p.m.

Please continue to pray for our Elect who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil and our Candidates who will make their Profession of Faith during that same liturgy. Let us together thank God and send an Easter card to these young people and adults welcoming them into our Catholic Faith through the Easter Sacraments of Initiation.

I am deeply grateful to all who have already made their pledge to this year's Bishop's Faith Appeal! If you have not as yet made your 2018 Bishop's Faith Appeal gift, please prayerfully consider making your pledge as soon as possible. Your donation is vital in continuing Jesus' ministries of mercy throughout our diocese. Your pledge helps people of all age groups and people with every spiritual/human need experience God's amazing graces. God love you for your pledge!

Lenten love and prayers,

***Msgr. Jerry***