

## OLQP MISSION STATEMENT

Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church is dedicated to witnessing the teachings of Jesus Christ, especially the Gospel of Saint Matthew, Chapter 25:31-46. Our mission is to nurture the spirit and to encourage the potential of those we serve through liturgical celebration, educational endeavors and social ministries. The parish will continue to identify with its origin as a Black parish. As a multi-ethnic congregation we will seek to promote racial harmony and social justice. While our primary focus is within the immediate community, we will also work to provide for the well-being of the downtrodden everywhere. In this we strive for our parish community to be a caring, sharing, and loving family.

**Welcome to OLQP Catholic Church!**  
**¡Bienvenidos a OLQP Iglesia Católica!**

### Contact / Contacto:

2700 19th St S, Arlington VA 22204  
703-979-5580, office@olqpv.org

### Office Hours

#### Horas de oficina

Monday-Friday — 8:30am to 4:30pm  
Lunes a viernes — 8:30am a 4:30pm

### Website / sitioweb:

[www.ourladyqueenofpeace.org](http://www.ourladyqueenofpeace.org)

### Live Stream Mass Schedule:

#### Horario de Misas de transmisión en directo:

March 23-24— 9:45am and 2pm Spanish  
23-24 marzo— 9:45am y 2pm en español

### MASSES / MISAS:

#### Weekdays / Días laborables:

Mon-Thu 12pm / lunes a jueves 12pm  
Fri. 6pm / viernes 6pm

#### Weekend Mass Schedule /

#### Horario de misas de fin de semana:

Saturday Vigil — 5:30pm

Misa de vigilia sábados - 5:30 pm

Sundays — 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:15am,  
1:00pm (Spanish) & 6:00pm (Young Adult)

Domingos — 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:15 am,  
1:00 pm (español) y 6:00 pm (Misa de  
jóvenes adultos)

### DECLARACIÓN DE MISIÓN DE OLQP

La parroquia de la iglesia católica Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz se dedica a dar testimonio de las enseñanzas de Jesucristo, especialmente el Evangelio de San Mateo, Capítulo 25:21-46. Nuestra misión es nutrir el espíritu y alentar el potencial de aquellos a quienes servimos a través de la celebración litúrgica, labores educativas y ministerios sociales. La parroquia continuará identificándose con su origen como una comunidad afro-americana, pero reflejando una congregación multi-étnica y continuará promoviendo la armonía racial y la justicia social. Si bien es cierto que nuestro enfoque principal es la vecindad comunitaria, continuaremos trabajando para proveer por el bienestar de los más necesitados en general. Es así como nos esforzamos para hacer de nuestra comunidad parroquial una familia que comparte y se preocupa por sus miembros.

# OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE CHURCH

March 24, 2024

## PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

### HOLY WEEK AND EASTER MASSES, SERVICES & RECONCILIATION

**Holy Thursday, March 28 — \*Mass, 7pm**

**Good Friday, March 29**

Reconciliation, 11:00am to 1:00pm, in Fr. Ray Hall, Library & Stage

\* Passion of the Lord, Communion Service, 3pm

Stations of the Cross in Spanish, 6pm

\* Tenebrae (Service in darkness), 8pm

**Holy Saturday Easter Vigil, March 30**

Reconciliation, 1:00pm to 3:00pm, in Fr. Ray Hall, Library & Stage

\* Mass, 8:30pm

**Easter Sunday, March 31 — Special Mass Schedule**

Church: 8am, 9:45am, \*12noon, \*2pm in Spanish, 6pm

Fr. Ray Hall: 10am and 12:15pm

### SEMANA SANTA Y MISAS DE PASCUA, SERVICIOS Y RECONCILIACIÓN

**Jueves Santo, 28 de marzo — \*Misa, 7pm**

**Viernes Santo, 29 de marzo**

Reconciliación, 11:00am a 1:00pm en Fr. Ray Hall, Biblioteca y Escenario

\* Pasión del Señor, Servicio de comunión, 3pm

Vía Crucis en español, 6pm

\* Servicio en tinieblas, 8pm

**Sábado Santo, Vigilia de la Pascua, 30 de marzo**

Reconciliación, 1:00pm a 3:00pm en Fr. Ray Hall, Biblioteca y Escenario

\* Misa, 8:30pm

**Domingo de Pascua, 31 de marzo — Horario especial de Misas**

Iglesia: 8:00am, 9:45am, \*12:00pm, \*2:00pm, 6:00pm

Fr. Ray Hall: 10:00am y 12:15pm

\* Live-streamed / transmisión en vivo



**Good Friday Collection, March 29**

**CHRIST OF THE HOLY LAND – HOLY LAND SHRINES**

**Colecta, 29 de marzo, Viernes Santo**

**CRISTO DE TIERRA SANTA – SANTUARIOS DE TIERRA SANTA**



**NUESTRA SEÑORA REINA DE LA PAZ**

**24 de marzo de 2024**

**Domingo de Ramos de la Pasión del Señor**

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION / PREPARACIÓN SACRAMENTAL

### **Baptism / Bautizo:**

Please email Baptism Coordinator Mary Ann Suhocki, baptism@olqpva.org.  
Por favor mande un correo electrónico a la coordinadora de los bautizos, Mary Ann Suhocki, baptism@olqpva.org.

### **Marriage Preparation/ Preparación para el matrimonio:**

Please contact the parish office at least six months before your wedding date to complete requirements.  
Por favor llame a la oficina de la parroquia seis meses antes de su matrimonio para completar todos los requisitos.

### **Reconciliation / Reconciliación—Confesión:**

Fr. Ray Hall Library  
*Biblioteca Fr. Ray Hall*

Sat, 4:45-5:15 pm, Wed, 6:30-8 pm during Lent & by appointment.  
Los sábados: 4:45-5:15 pm, Los miércoles: 6:30-8 pm durante la Cuaresma y por cita previa.

## SUNDAY COLLECTIONS / COLECTAS DEL DOMINGO

Sunday Collection / Colecta del pasado domingo: \$6,827  
Faith Direct (February Average / promedio del mes de febrero): \$13,667

### WORD & EUCHARIST MISSALETTE/ MISAL PALABRA Y EUCARISTÍA

Today's readings can be found on page 488  
Las lecturas de hoy se encuentran en la página 489

## BULLETIN DEADLINE / PLAZO PARA EL BOLETÍN

Wednesdays 9am — office@olqpva.org

## OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND STRENGTHEN US / NUESTROS ENFERMOS Y CONFINADOS NOS FORTALECEN

**PLEASE PRAY FOR / POR FAVOR OREMOS POR:** Suri Barahona, Sheila Betit, Grace Bialecki, Cindy Bianga, Francis Bilgera, Joseph Leopold Bissonnette, Precious Bowens, April Brassard, Dave Brassard, Evie Brown, Lynne Burgh, Brody Carroll, Louise Chambers, Carmen Rosa Claire, Chris Comer, Jeff Cory, Adele Crump, Mary DaLuca, Cheryl Darby, Jim Davis, Adrienne DiCerbo, Patricia "Pat" Dowd, Calista Downey, Tim Felker, Irene Fitzpatrick, Elizabeth (Bunny) Foster, Yevette Francois, Allison Fratus, Anne Fullerton, Joseph Funk, Iva Futrell, Karen Gammache, Trishann Ganley, Francine Gemmill, Jean Giambalvo, Fred Gladbach, Nancy Gormley, Yolanda Gregorio, Melanie Guitreaux, Joe Harrington, Harris Family, Sally Hars, Linda Hawkins, Clare Hayden, Dee Hickey, Patrick Hynes, Lillian Jay, Pat Johnson, Sharon Jourdan, William Kahl, Ruth Klarman, Carmen Andrea Lara, Patrick Lawrey, John Lawyer, Kathleen Love, Lidia Montero Lopez, Olga MacKenzie, Wil McBride, Stefan McGuigan, Martha Gladys Medina, Maria Magdalena Medrano de Ventura, Eileen Melia, Frances Mierzwa, Arthur Miller, Mary Miller, Yvonne Mockler, Carmen Montijo, Dorothy Moran, Rosemary Morrissey, Luis R. Muñoz, Chelsea Murray, Connie Murray, Paul Murray, Dorothy Myrtle, Mario Amel Najarro, Julie O'Brien, Peggy O'Brien, Patrick Ogden, Carol Pacello, Roy Paco, Neil Parent, Catherine Parr, Mary Pasquarella, Mark Pazich, Minnie Pazich, Paul Ramirez, Santos Ramirez, Jeanna Reynolds, Jacob and Jaxson Rivera, Maritza Roldan, Marco Cristiaan Rufolo-Roger, Josefina Salgado, Carolyn Santos, Jane Shepard, Mary Shookhoff, Donna Smith, Jeffrey Smith, Mary E. Smith, Lora Smolenski, Eva Souza, Grace Starbird, Nina Stewart, Michael Arthur Sweat, Carmelita and Roy Tucker, Nancy Urquizo, Stephen Uteley, Alma Reyes Valentin, Carina Vaquez, Robin Vogel, Robert & Maureen Wallace, Kate Witkowski, Lauren Wolfe, Mary Woods,  
2/8

## **PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION**

### **DOMINGO DE RAMOS DE LA PASIÓN DEL SEÑOR**

Mark 11:1-10 (37B); Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Mark 14:1-15:47  
Marcos 11,1-10 (37B); Isaías 50,4-7; Filipenses 2,6-11; Marcos 14,1-15,47

### **EASTER SUNDAY**

#### **DOMINGO DE PASCUA**

Acts 10:34a, 37-43 (41B); Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8;  
John 20:1-9  
Hechos 10:34a, 37-43 (41B); Colosenses 3:1-4 or 1 Corintios 5:6b-8;  
Juan 20:1-9

## **MASS INTENTIONS, MARCH 23-29**

### **PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION**

#### **INTENCIONES DE LAS MISAS, 23-29 MARZO**

#### **DOMINGO DE RAMOS DE LA PASIÓN DEL SEÑOR**

##### **Saturday, March 23rd**

5:30 pm Ewaldus "Wally" Reyes (D) by Judy Francia Reyes & family

##### **Sunday, March 24th**

8:00 am - Rev. Richard A. Laurick, C.S.C. (D) by Chuck & Carol Moran  
9:45 am - Ferdinand Balinbin (D) by Susan Francia

12:00 pm – the parish

2:00 pm - Deceased members of the family by Lourdes Villca

6:00 pm – the parish

##### **Monday, March 25th**

12:00 pm Desmond Clarke (D) by Tony Clarke

##### **Tuesday, March 26th**

12:00 pm William Madill, Jr. (D) by Mike and Mary Ray

##### **Wednesday, March 27th**

12:00 pm Demetrio Yabes (Birthday) (D) by the Yabes family

##### **Thursday, March 28th**

7:00 pm – the parish

##### **Friday, March 29th**

Good Friday

## OLQP PARISH STAFF / PERSONAL DE LA PARROQUIA

*Pastor / Párroco:* **Fr. Tim Hickey, CSSP**, thickey@olqpva.org

*Parochial Vicar / Párroco Asociado:* **Fr. Martin Vu, CSSP**,

mvu@olqpva.org

*Ministerio Latino:* **Fr. Joseph Nangle, OFM**,

j.nangleofm@yahoo.com

*Deacon / Diácono:* **Dcn. Tony Remedios**, tremedios@olqpva.org

### Parish Office / Oficina parroquial

*Business Manager / Gerente de Negocios:* **Christina Kozyn**,

ckozyn@olqpva.org

*Social Justice & Outreach Minister / Ministro de Justicia Social y*

*Acercamiento (bilingüe):* **Sally Díaz-Wells**, sdiazwells@olqpva.org

*Youth & Young Adult Minister / Ministro de Adolescentes y Jóvenes Adultos:*

**Rebecca Grant Jenkins**, rgrantjenkins@olqpva.org

*Faith Formation Director / Director de Formación de Fe (bilingüe):*

**Cecilia López Oetgen**, clopez@olqpva.org

*Faith Formation Assistant:* **Tom Parisi**, tparisi@olqpva.org

*Office Manager (bilingüe):* **Ligia Loza**, lloza@olqpva.org

*Administrative Support:*

**Jeannette Gantz Daly**, jgantzdaly@olqpva.org

**Mike Leahy**, mleahy@olqpva.org

*Maintenance Department Support (bilingüe):*

**Mel Cabrera**, mlvncabrera@gmail.com

**Michael Hill**, mgdvet53155@yahoo.com

**Zulema Ramallo**

**JUST A THOUGHT...OR TWO...**

Palm Sunday's readings carry the sorrows and the weight of the world. The false accusations, denials, the betrayals, the injustice of it all, and the beatings Jesus faced are all heartbreaking.

Today's Eucharist begins with great joy with palm branches in hand, we sing victorious hymns to commemorate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Like the crowds, we too welcome and rejoice in his reign.

Similar to the disciples, we are also excited and filled with wonderful expectations. However, as we listen to the passion of Jesus Christ, we feel the mood of the crowds as well as that of the disciples swiftly changing. The crowds are fickle, cheering for Jesus one day and shouting "crucify him" the next day. Even many of his closest friends and followers sheepishly deny their knowledge of him and association with him, and in cowardly fashion, abandoned him out of fear for their own safety.

Jesus, on the other hand, is resolved to faithfully carry out his mission: the proclamation of the advent of the Reign of God and of God's lavish love and forgiveness poured out for each one of us, and for the earth itself..."for God so loved the world."

Through the suffering and death of Jesus we have been saved, forgiven our sins and our guilt put as far from us "as the East is from the West"! We may wonder at times if God really loves us...and just how much. Today we are

reminded how much. As Christ spread his arms wide upon the cross -- this is how much we are loved by God!

How do I live out my identity as the "beloved of God"? How can I share this message of God's love and forgiveness with others? To whom am I being called to open wide my arms to embrace them in the midst of their need? Who are being crucified today?...the people of Ukraine, the innocent Palestinians, Ethiopians and Eritreans, the people of Sudan and Afghanistan, the millions of refugees...people crucified because of the color of their skin, people crucified for their immigration status, for who they love, what language they speak, for what part of the world or country they were born in, or for their age? Crucified for their gender, for their intellectual or physical abilities?

As I enter this Holy Week, whose burdens will I help to shoulder to the foot of cross and meditate upon and hold in prayer as I walk with Jesus on his passion journey? And as I meditate upon the gift of love and forgiveness which he has so lavishly poured upon me, how can I share it with those most in need of hearing how deeply and passionately they are loved by God, just as they are? And in that sharing, allow the love of God to transform me and my life ever more closely to the dream God has for me and my life.

Lenten blessings,  
Fr. Tim

**2024 BISHOP'S LENTEN APPEAL (BLA)  
BEHOLD, I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW**

This weekend each household is asked to make a BLA pledge or gift. This appeal provides an opportunity to unite as a Catholic family to support programs, ministries and services helping tens of thousands of people. After reflecting upon God's blessings to you, please consider a pledge to the BLA. Each donation is vital to the success of the appeal and the important work that it funds. You may complete a pledge card at Mass, mail in your pledge, go online to [www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA) or scan the QR code.



**SCAN ME**

**LA PETICIÓN CUARESIMAL DEL OBISPO DE 2024  
HE AQUÍ QUE YO HARÉ NUEVAS TODAS LAS COSAS**

Este fin de semana se pide a cada familia que haga una promesa de contribución o una donación a la Petición Cuaresmal del Obispo. Esta Petición nos ofrece la oportunidad de unirnos como familia católica para apoyar las programas, ministerios y servicios de ayuda a decenas de miles de personas. Después de reflexionar sobre las bendiciones que Dios les ha dado, piensen en la posibilidad de hacer una promesa de contribución a la Petición Cuaresmal del Obispo. Para hacer una ofrenda pueden llenar la tarjeta correspondiente durante la Misa, enviarla por correo postal, hacer la ofrenda en línea en [www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/BLA) o escanear el código QR que aparece a continuación:



**ESCANÉAME**

# PALM SUNDAY



## **PASTORAL NOTE ON THE PASSION NARRATIVES**

The passion narratives are proclaimed in full so that all see vividly the love of Christ for each person. In light of this, the crimes during the Passion of Christ cannot be attributed, in either preaching or catechesis, indiscriminately to all Jews of that time, nor to Jews today. The Jewish people should not be referred to as though rejected or cursed, as if this view followed from Scripture. The Church ever keeps in mind that Jesus, his mother Mary, and the apostles all were Jewish. As the Church has always held, Christ freely suffered his passion and death because of the sins of all, that all might be saved.

## **NEWS FROM HAITI:**

Despite the recent escalation of gang violence in Haiti, especially in the capitol, the children and teachers in St. Joseph parish continue going to school, Medor farmers continue planting trees and working with their crops, the parish celebrated St. Joseph feast day last Tuesday, and are preparing for Holy Week and Easter. But they do these things with difficulty and great courage. What is new is the almost total lockdown of the country: so individuals living in Medor do not dare travel to the nearest small town. It is harder and harder for them to get basic necessities. Everyone is suffering. We are in the middle of the Haiti Easter Drive, and our assistance in Medor is even more important now, with the increasing food insecurity and rising inflation. Your contributions are vital! Checks can be made out to OLQP with "Haiti" on the memo line. Online donations through Faith Direct are another excellent option. Thank you for your love and support for the people of St. Joseph parish.

## **NOTAS PASTORALES SOBRE LAS NARRATIVAS DE LA PASIÓN**

Las narraciones de la pasión se proclaman en su totalidad para que todas las personas vean vívidamente el amor de Cristo por cada persona. A la luz de esto, los crímenes durante la Pasión de Cristo no pueden atribuirse indiscriminadamente ni en la predicación ni en la catequesis, a todos los judíos de ese tiempo, ni a los judíos de hoy. No debemos referirnos al pueblo judío como si fuera rechazado o maldecido, como si este punto de vista se dedujera de las Sagradas Escrituras. La Iglesia siempre tiene en mente que Jesús, su madre María y los apóstoles eran todos judíos. Como la Iglesia siempre ha sostenido, Cristo sufrió libremente su pasión y muerte a causa de los pecados de todas las personas para que todas pudieran ser salvadas.

## **NOTICIAS DE HAITÍ:**

A pesar de la reciente escalada de violencia de las pandillas en Haití, especialmente en la capital, los estudiantes y maestras y maestros en la parroquia de St. Joseph continúan asistiendo a la escuela, los agricultores en Medor continúan sembrando árboles y trabajando en sus cosechas. La parroquia celebró la fiesta de San José el martes pasado y se está preparando para la Semana Santa y la Pascua. Pero todo esto lo hacen con dificultad y mucho valor. Lo que es nuevo es el cierre casi total del país. Por eso las personas que viven en Medor no se atreven a viajar al pueblecito más cercano. Se les hace más y más difícil conseguir las necesidades básicas. Todas las personas están sufriendo. Estamos en medio de la Campaña de Pascua para Haití y nuestra ayuda en Medor es aún más importante ahora con el aumento de la inseguridad alimentaria y de la inflación. ¡Sus contribuciones son vitales! Pueden hacer los cheques a nombre de OLQP y escribir "Haití" en la línea del asunto.

Otra opción excelente es donar en línea por Faith Direct. Gracias por su cariño y apoyo por las personas de la parroquia St. Joseph.



**CRS RICE BOWL** – Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week. As we walk with Jesus this week, we remember the countless women, children and men who carry the heavy crosses of hunger, poverty, and vulnerability. How – like Simon of Cyrene – can you help to carry the crosses of our sisters and brothers in your local community and around the world? That’s a lot to think about. Remember 25% of funds raised by the Bowls stays in our own diocese.

**COMMITMENT TO SERVICE**

*Jesus rose from supper and took off his outer garments...Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and dry them with the towel from around his waist....Then he said to them, “Do you realize what I have done for you? I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do.” -- John 13*

During the season of Lent, we commit to following Jesus’ example of service. Please take a purple Commitment to Service card from the back of church and reflect on how you serve. Keep your card in a place where you will be reminded daily and then bring it back on Holy Thursday (March 28) as your offertory gift.

**TEACH 20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION** – Are you connected with TEACH? Are you interested in helping to educate students in Guatemala? If the answer is yes to either or both questions, this Party is for you. Saturday, April 6, 6:30pm, St. Mary of Sorrows, 5222 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Contact Joan Brown, 703-608-5059, [jogebrown737@gmail.com](mailto:jogebrown737@gmail.com) before March 31.

**PLATO DE ARROZ CRS** – El Domingo de Ramos marca el comienzo de la Semana Santa. Mientras caminamos con Jesús esta semana, recordamos las innumerables mujeres, niñas y niños y hombres que cargan con cruces pesadas del hambre, la pobreza y la vulnerabilidad. Igual que Simón de Cirene, ¿cómo puede ayudar a cargar las cruces de nuestras hermanas y hermanos en su comunidad local y alrededor del mundo? Eso es mucho en lo que pensar. Recuerde que el 25% de lo que se recaude de los Platos se queda en nuestra diócesis.

**COMPROMISO AL SERVICIO**

*Jesús se levantó mientras cenaba, se quitó el manto...echó agua en un recipiente. Luego se puso a lavarles los pies a sus discípulos y se los secaba con la toalla. ...y dijo ‘¿Entienden lo que he hecho con ustedes? Les he dado un ejemplo, para que hagan lo mismo que yo hice con ustedes’.* – Juan 13

Durante la temporada de Cuaresma, comprométase a seguir el ejemplo de servicio de Jesús. Por favor lleve una de las tarjetas moradas de Compromiso al servicio que están en la parte trasera de la iglesia y reflexione sobre como planea servir. Ponga su tarjeta en un lugar que sea un recordatorio diario y entonces tráigala el Jueves santo (28 de marzo) como su ofrenda del ofertorio.

**CELEBRACIÓN DEL ANIVERSARIO 20 DE TEACH** – ¿Tiene conexiones con TEACH? ¿Está interesada/o en ayudar a educar estudiantes en Guatemala? Si la respuesta es que sí a cualquiera o a ambas preguntas, esta celebración es para usted. Es el sábado, 6 de abril, a las 6:30pm, en St. Mary of Sorrows, 5222 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Contacte a Joan Brown, 703-608-5059, [jogebrown737@gmail.com](mailto:jogebrown737@gmail.com) antes del 31 de marzo.

**EASTER FLOWER MEMORIALS**

We invite you to remember a deceased family member with an Easter Flower Memorial, to be published in the Easter bulletin, March 31. Please send an email request to Christina at [office@olqpva.org](mailto:office@olqpva.org) with the information below (Easter Flower Memorial in the subject line) or complete this form, check payable to Our Lady Queen of Peace Church (donation amount is at your discretion) and send to the parish office (attention Christina) by Monday, March 25. Donations can also be made through Faith Direct — please remember to also send an email to [office@olqpva.org](mailto:office@olqpva.org). (FaithDirect.net, parish code VA271, select “general donation” with notation “flower memorial”.) **Remember the deadline is Mon., March 25.**

Honoring / En honor de: \_\_\_\_\_

Requested by / A petición de: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation / Donativo: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMORIALES DE FLORES DE PASCUA DE RESURRECCIÓN**

Les invitamos a recordar a un familiar fallecido con un Memorial de la Flor de Pascua, que se publicará en el boletín del Domingo de Pascua el 31 de marzo. Envíe una solicitud por correo electrónico a Christina a [office@olqpva.org](mailto:office@olqpva.org) con la información a continuación (Easter Flower Memorial en la línea de asunto) o complete este formulario, cheque pagadero a Our Lady Queen of Peace Church (la cantidad de la donación queda a su discreción) y envíelo a la oficina parroquial (atención Christina) antes del lunes, 25 de marzo. Las donaciones también se pueden hacer a través de Faith Direct, pero recuerde enviar también un correo electrónico. (FaithDirect.net, código parroquial VA271, seleccione “general donation” con la anotación “flower memorial”.) **Recuerde que la fecha límite es el lunes, 25 de marzo.**



*Programs that are open to the entire community, but offered in English only.  
Programas que le dan la bienvenida a toda la comunidad, pero que solo se ofrecen en inglés.*



### **OUR LENTEN JOURNEY CROSS TO RESURRECTION**

As we careen toward the Cross (*and gratefully to the empty tomb with all its promise*), we are challenged to look back on our Lenten activities.

During this 2024 Lenten season, our parish's Integrity of Creation (IOC) Team has been providing information and recommending actions to serve God and others by living more sustainably.

The parish IOC Team is diligently trying to shape our attitude toward the environment and encouraging a passion for the possible. *The Lenten Creation Care Calendar* that was distributed, and the focused presentations in the weekly Bulletin leaned on the Lenten practices of PRAYER, FASTING and ALMSGIVING.

Through that lens, numerous ideas and important resources helped make the journey to a sustainable lifestyle achievable. Many of us accepted the challenge of eating less meat during Lent as a way to honor Creation. We reflected on practices to reduce food waste and eat more locally sourced food.

Thomas Lovejoy, a renowned ecologist of our time, currently featured at the Smithsonian, *Forces of Nature* exhibit, reminds us: "I think there's every reason to be optimistic and engaged — and try to make the future turn out better than current trajectories might imply." Noted author Maya Angelou advises us: "*Do the best you can until you know better. Then, when you know better, do better!*"

As Holy Week begins, let us reflect on our Lenten journey. May we continue our practices to honor Creation now that we know how to do better?

*Anne Murphy, Integrity of Creation Team*

**SAVE THE DATE!** Celebrate Earth Month with a special event! Mass, complementary dinner, and presentations from two faith-based authors. Don't miss it. Saturday, April 20. Mass 5:30pm, Dinner and program at 6:45pm, Fr. Ray Hall.

**ST. CHARLES EARLY EDUCATION CENTER** is now accepting applications for the 2024-2025 school year. We are a play-based, screen-free preschool located in the heart of Clarendon, for children ages 2-5, with daycare options. For more information, visit our website: [stcharlesarlington.org](http://stcharlesarlington.org) <<http://stcharlesarlington.org/>> . To schedule a tour, call 703-527-0608.

### **Join OLQP's Ministry of Welcome USHER/GREETER MINISTRY**

*St. Paul instructed the assembled Community to "welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, to the glory of God." (Romans 15:7)*

Ushers welcome the faithful, assist with distribution of materials, with seating, with visitors and new comers, take up the collection and organize and ready the gifts for presentation. They also assist in tidying the church in preparation for the next liturgy and place items in the lost and found that have been left behind. Serve each week or on occasion at the mass you normally attend. Arrive 20 minutes early for any special instructions; depart 10 minutes after Mass. We are recruiting for all Masses. Please contact Ginny Franco [vfranco1@verizon.net](mailto:vfranco1@verizon.net), 703-919-5763.

### **ALTAR SERVER MINISTRY – Calling girls, boys, adults!**

We are looking for parishioners to assist the priests during Mass as Altar Servers. If you are interested, and you have already made your First Communion, contact Kezia Charles ([KeziaC@gmail.com](mailto:KeziaC@gmail.com)) and Christina Kozyn ([CKozyn@olqpva.org](mailto:CKozyn@olqpva.org)). **Adults and children\* are welcome to join the ministry!** \* Parental consent and contact information needed for those under age 18.

**THANK YOU for supporting the  
Lasagna Dinner hosted by our  
Confirmation Class!!  
It was a huge success and wonderful  
fundrasier for St. Joesph's  
parish in Medor, Haiti.**

**Here's a glimpse of the activity...**



# An ecological approach to Holy Week



**BY DANIEL P. HORAN**

---

In 1950, the renowned German theologian and theologian peritus at the Second Vatican Council, Jesuit Fr. Karl Rahner, published a short article titled, "A Faith That Loves the Earth," in the journal *Geist und Leben*. The focus of his reflection was an attempt to say something about the joyful mystery of Easter, which is, as he put it, "the most human message of Christianity." And yet, [Rahner notes](#), this "is the reason we have such a hard time understanding it. For what is the most true and obvious, in short, the easiest, is also the hardest to live out, to do, and to believe."

Rahner emphasizes our creatureliness, finitude and precarity as human beings, and reflects on the importance of Christ's full participation in that same human experience we all share. The mystery of Easter is the summation of God's incarnational expression of love — God's emptying God's self of all power and control ([Philippians 2:6-11](#)) in order to participate in the full range of crea-

turely existence, drawing near to human and nonhuman creatures, becoming a part of creation like us.

Precisely as one who is also fully divine, Christ's participation in the created order shows forth not only the inherent goodness of creation — something the second-century theologian Irenaeus of Lyon worked hard to communicate millennia earlier — but also the capacity of creation to receive the greatest good God could bestow to it, the gift of God's very self. In this way, what we celebrate at Easter is the full affirmation of the presence of the divine in the world and the hope we have of new life to come.

Rahner writes: "His resurrection is like the first erupting of a volcano, which shows that the fire of God is already burning inside the world and its light will eventually bring everything else to a blessed glow. He is risen to show that it has already started."

Easter is not only about the resurrection of one individual, but it is also about the whole of creation and salvation history, which are inextricably

united. Easter is not only significant for us human beings alone, but also for all God's creatures. In a particularly moving passage, Rahner explains:

Christ is already at the very heart of all the lowly things of the earth that we are unable to let go of and that belong to the earth as mother. He is at the heart of the nameless yearning of all creatures, waiting — though perhaps unaware that they are waiting — to be allowed to participate in the transfiguration of his body. He is at the heart of earth's history, whose blind progress amidst all victories and all defeats is headed with uncanny precision toward the day that is his, where his glory will break forth from its own depths, thereby transforming everything.

And because Christ is at the heart of all of creation, we can say that it is not only Easter but all of Holy Week that has significance for more than just humanity alone.

Take Sunday's celebration of Jesus's arrival in Jerusalem. Nonhuman creatures, animals like the donkey upon which he rides and plants like

the palms cut down and laid on the path before him, play a key role in the final chapter of the paschal mystery.

When we grasp those palms in our hands this weekend, and hold them up with shouts of "Hosanna" then raise them to be sprinkled with life-giving water, what thoughts enter our mind? Do we think about what significance there might be for the rest of creation in what we commemorate this week? Do we recognize the way nonhuman creation participates in the event of Christ's arrival?

What about Holy Thursday? The institution of the Lord's Supper — what the [Second Vatican Council](#) called the "source and summit" of our faith — is fundamentally about a meal shared by Jesus Christ with those women and men closest to him. They took "fruit of the earth and work of human hands," as our eucharistic prayer reminds us, and consumed it as we do all food.

The intimacy of the eucharistic meal is obviously about the sacramental presence of Christ drawing near; of God becoming "closer to us than we are to ourselves," as St. Augustine famously described. But it is also about *real* bread and *real* wine, which began as wheat and water and grapes, and which nourishes and becomes part of us as all our food does.

It can be easy to overlook the ecological significance of the Eucharist, but as Pope Francis has taught in "[Laudato Si'](#)", On Care for our Common Home," the Eucharist has cosmic implications:

Indeed the Eucharist is itself an act of cosmic love: "Yes, cosmic! Because even when it is celebrated on the humble altar of a country

church, the Eucharist is always in some way celebrated on the altar of the world." The Eucharist joins heaven and earth; it embraces and penetrates all creation. The world which came forth from God's hands returns to him in blessed and undivided adoration: in the bread of the Eucharist, "creation is projected towards divinization, towards the holy wedding feast, towards unification with the Creator himself." Thus, the Eucharist is also a source of light and motivation for our concerns for the environment, directing us to be stewards of all creation.

When we say "amen" to "the body of Christ," may we also say "amen" to our interconnectedness with and interdependence on the rest of creation, recognizing that the Word first became part of that creation in the Incarnation and continues to draw near to creation in the transformed food we consume at Mass.

Rahner makes the point that even Christ's death has environmental significance, thereby signaling the ecological importance of Good Friday. He explains:

Especially because he died, he belongs to the earth, for putting someone's body into earth's grave means that the person (or the soul, as we would say) who has died enters not only into relationship with God but also into that final union with the mysterious ground of being, where all space-time elements are tied together and have their point of origin. In his death, the Lord descended into the lowest and deepest region of what is visible. It is no longer a place of impermanence and death, because there *he* now is. By his own death, he has become the heart of this earthly world. ...

In addition to reflecting on the agonizing death of an innocent man executed by the state, which continues

to unveil the radical injustice of the death penalty and the culture of death reflected in support for capital punishment today, perhaps we might also reflect on the ecological implications of Christ's death.

Rahner suggests that we think about the present and future time as "still Holy Saturday until the last day, which will be the day of Easter for the entire cosmos." He adds that Easter calls us forward "as a loving faith that allows us to be brought along on this unimaginable journey of all earthly reality headed toward its own glory, a journey that started with the resurrection of Christ."

As we commemorate the paschal mystery this Holy Week, may we also remember that we are "children of this earth," as Rahner puts it. And may the creatureliness that we share with all of God's creation and with the Word incarnate, challenge us to also consider this sacred time of year through ecological lenses.

**Franciscan Fr. Daniel P. Horan** is the director of the [Center for the Study of Spirituality](#) and professor of philosophy, religious studies and theology at [Saint Mary's College](#) in Notre Dame, Indiana. He is also affiliated professor of spirituality at the [Oblate School of Theology](#) in San Antonio, Texas. His most recent books are [Engaging Thomas Merton: Spirituality, Justice, and Racism](#) (Orbis Books, 2023) and [Fear and Faith: Hope and Wholeness in a Fractured World](#) (Paulist Press, 2024). Follow him on Facebook: [Facebook.com/DanHoranOFM](#).

March 22, 2024

**National Catholic Report**

**Ncronline.org**