Today's readings for Palm Sunday highlight the resolve of God's servant to fulfill his will.

In the First Reading, the "servant" speaks. This is the third of four servant oracles in the Book of Isaiah. The servant goes unnamed, but he is depicted as freely giving over his will to God. Here we are told that he did not refuse when God opened his ear to hear what a disciple needs to know, and he set his face like flint to do God's will, knowing that God would not allow him to be put to shame.

The Second Reading invites us to join our voices in praise of the Christ who emptied himself to take on the form of a slave and accept death on a cross.

Today's Gospel recounts the story of Jesus' passion and death as told by Luke, highlighting the resolve of God's servant to fulfill his will.

Ask God to open your heart to more deeply ponder and give thanks for Christ's self-emptying.
Restoration of the Chalice at Mass for the Faithful

At the center of the church’s annual liturgical calendar is the commemoration of the Lord’s death and resurrection during the Three Days. Lent will end late in the afternoon of Thursday, April 18. The Three Days will begin this Thursday evening, April 18, with the Mass of the Lord’s Supper. As the Church enters the sacred Triduum, the offering of the chalice is to be restored in all the parishes of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown. At the Mass of the Lord’s Supper all in the Diocesan Church will be welcomed to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord under the species of bread and wine. Consistently the Church has stated that the fullness of the sign of Mass is seen in the reception of both the consecrated bread and the consecrated wine. This is what Jesus the Lord directed on the night before he died, to eat his Body and drink his Blood. All are invited to receive Holy Communion under the elements of both bread and wine Holy Thursday evening. Also, beginning at the Mass of the Lord’s Supper, we will now return to the regular manner of exchanging the sign of peace.

The THREE DAYS

April 18, Holy Thursday
Readings: Ex 12:1-14; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15
7:30 AM Celebration of the Lord’s Passion
Adoration until 10:00 PM
9:00 AM Morning Prayer
12:00 PM Good Friday of the Passion of the Lord
7:30 PM Tenebrae
April 20, Good Friday of the Passion of the Lord
Readings: Gn 22:1-18; Exodus 14:15-15:1; Is 54:5-14; Ez 36-16-17, 18-28; Rm 6-3-11
Ben Petrunak (Family)
April 21, Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 PM (No 5:00 PM Mass)

Mass Schedule Note
Due to the Chrism Mass celebrated at 11:00 AM on Monday of Holy Week, there will be NO Noon Mass on Monday, April 15. All are invited to participate in the Chrism Mass.

Chrism Mass
The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown will gather on Monday of Holy Week, April 15, at 11:00 AM in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament for the annual Chrism Mass. Bishop will gather with his college of presbyters assisted by his deacons with the assembled faithful from throughout the Diocese. Bishop will bless the Oil of Catechumens, the Oil of the Sick, and Sacred Chrism. These consecrated oils will be used for the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders and Anointing of the Sick; also, new altars will be consecrated with Sacred Chrism. Each parish community will take a portion of the three oils back to the parish for use in the appropriate liturgical celebrations. The entire diocesan family is invited to participate in this annual Liturgy.

Holy Thursday Dinner
At the end of Lent and as we enter The Three Days, the Cathedral Parish will gather for Dinner at 6:00 PM this Thursday, April 18, in the Cathedral Hall before our 7:30 PM Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord’s Supper. There will be a basket placed on the serving table to receive donations (if able) for this catered meal. All are welcome.

Lenten Evening Prayer
This evening and every Sunday in Lent, there will be Evening Prayer at 6:30 PM within Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Everyone is invited to participate in this special Lenten Liturgy.

F.I.R.E. Class
Religious Ed Students
Sunday April 14th 6:15- 8:15 PM
Sunday April 28th 6:15- 8:15 PM

THINK BASKET BINGO-SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2019
It’s that time of year again for our 5th Annual Basket Bingo. We’re asking for your support. We are in need of Gift Cards, new items such as home decor, non-perishables, theme baskets, household items, and monetary donations. Items can be dropped off at the Parish Office during the week between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM, or may be picked up by calling: Lorraine Beck, 942-7774. Tickets are available now at the Cathedral Square door after all masses and at the Parish Office: $25.00 per person with value pack for an additional $30.00. If you purchase your tickets by April 15th you will receive 1 set of Special Bingo cards.

Confessions
Confessions before Easter will be heard on Wednesday of Holy Week, April 17 at 7:00 PM.

Liturgical Reflection...

Today is Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. The Christian world begins its holiest of weeks. Today we enter the sacred city Jerusalem where our Lord is met with shouts of Hosannas, only later to be handed over to crucifixion and death. Lent will end this week before the great Three Days of the Lord’s death and resurrection. Can you name what must die in your life so that new life can enter? For forty days we have fasted, prayed, and given alms. We will die with the Lord, only to rise with him. For the living and the dead, these are the days commemorating our salvation in Jesus Christ. Death and resurrection ground our faith. We dare to enter the holy city to die and rise with our Lord.

Offertory Collection
Sunday, April 7, 2019 - $8,190.00
The CROSS
Our beautiful ten foot CROSS has been placed at the baptismal font for the seasons of Lent and Easter. This is the cross that will be used on Good Friday for veneration. This custom-made cross holds the relic of the True Cross. Special respect is to be shown to this sacred object. As you enter and leave the Cathedral by way of the front doors, take time to show reverence to this Cross. A genuflexion would be proper; one may kiss the sacred relic; one may touch the relic of the True Cross. Please make the conscious effort to show some form of respect to this very holy symbol of the faith. During the forty days, take more time and thought when signing yourself with the sign of the cross.

Saint Demetrius Parish - Roast Beef Dinner
Saint Demetrius Parish in Gallitzin will hold its 43rd Annual Roast Beef Dinner / Spring Festival on Sunday, April 28th. It will feature games, baskets, a bake sale, and of course our delicious roast beef dinner. Location: Church hall (former Saint Patrick building) at the top of Church street. Time: 10:30 AM to...? Tickets: Adults (eat-in or take-out) $10.00; Children 6 to 12, $6.00; 5 and under are FREE.

Blessing of Easter Baskets
On Saturday, April 20, at 1:30 PM at Our Lady of Fatima Parish, 2010 Twelfth Avenue, Easter Baskets will be blessed. All are welcome.

Pray For Our Sick - Remember our sisters and brothers who are weakened by illness in your prayers. Prayers are sometimes the best prescribed medicine.