

Pope Leo Audience 18 March 2026

Today I would like to revisit the second chapter of the Conciliar Constitution *Lumen gentium* (LG), devoted to the Church as the people of God. The messianic people (LG, 9), receive from Christ the participation in the priestly, prophetic and kingly work office through which his salvific mission is carried out. The Council Fathers teach that the Lord Jesus, through the new and eternal Covenant, has established a kingdom of priests, constituting his disciples as a 'royal priesthood' (1 Pet 2:9; cf. 1 Pet 2:5; Rev 1:6). This common priesthood of the faithful is given with Baptism, which enables us to worship God in spirit and truth, and to "confess before men the faith which they have received from God through the Church" (LG, 11). Furthermore, through the sacrament of Confirmation, all the baptized "are more perfectly bound to the Church ... and the Holy Spirit endows them with special strength so that they are more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith, both by word and by deed, as true witnesses of Christ" (*ibid.*). This consecration is at the root of the common mission that unites the ordained ministries and the lay faithful. In this regard, Pope Francis observed that, "Looking at the People of God is remembering that we all enter the Church as lay people. The first sacrament, which seals our identity forever, and of which we should always be proud, is Baptism. Through Baptism and by the anointing of the Holy Spirit, (the faithful) 'are consecrated as a spiritual house and a holy priesthood' (LG, 10), [so that] everyone forms the faithful Holy People of God". The exercise of the royal priesthood takes place in many ways, all aimed at our sanctification, first and foremost through participation in the offering of the Eucharist. Through prayer, asceticism and active charity, we thus bear witness to a life renewed by God's grace (cf. LG, 10). As the Council summarizes, "it is through the sacraments and the exercise of the virtues that the sacred nature and organic structure of the priestly community is brought into operation" (LG, 11). The Council Fathers then teach that the holy People of God also participate in the prophetic mission of Christ (cf. LG, 12). In this context, the important theme of the *sense of the faith* and the *consensus of the faithful* is introduced. The Doctrinal Commission of the Council specified that this *sensus fidei* "is like a faculty of the whole Church, by which she, in her faith, recognises the revelation handed down, distinguishing between true and false in matters of faith, and at the same time penetrates it more deeply and applies it more fully in life". The sense of faith therefore belongs to individual believers not in their own right, but as members of the People of God as a whole. *Lumen gentium* focuses on this latter aspect, and places it in relation to the infallibility of the Church, to which that of the Roman Pontiff is inherent and by which it is served. "The entire body of the faithful, anointed as they are by the Holy One (c. 1 Jn 2:20,27), cannot err in matters of belief. They manifest this special property by means of the whole peoples' supernatural discernment in matters of faith when from the Bishops down to the last of the lay faithful they show universal agreement in matters of faith and morals" (LG, 12). The Church, therefore, as the communion of the faithful – which naturally includes the pastors – cannot err in matters of faith: the organ through which this truth is preserved, founded on the anointing of the Holy Spirit, is the *supernatural sense of faith* of the entire People of God, which is manifested in the *consensus of the faithful*. From this unity, which the Magisterium of the Church safeguards, it follows that every baptized person is an active agent of evangelization, called to bear consistent witness to Christ in accordance with the prophetic gift which the Lord bestows upon His whole Church. Indeed, the Holy Spirit, who comes to us from the Risen Christ, "distributes special graces among the faithful of every rank. By these gifts He makes them fit and ready to undertake the various tasks and offices which contribute toward the renewal and building up of the Church" (LG, 12). A particular demonstration of this charismatic vitality is offered by consecrated life, which continually germinates and flourishes through the work of grace. Ecclesial associations, too, are a shining example of the variety and fruitfulness of spiritual fruits for the edification of the People of God



Our Lady of Divine Providence

· ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH ·

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PALM SUNDAY 2026

HOLY MASS

Saturday: 05:30 pm English, Church.

Sunday: 09:00 am English, Church.
10:30 am Creole, Church.
12:30 pm Spanish, Church.

Weekdays: 05:30 pm English, Upper Room, St. Maria Goretti.

Thursdays: 04:00 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary.

NEW LOCATION

Saturdays: 04:00 pm English
St. Joseph's Church
Long Bay.

SCHEDULE OF SACRAMENTS

Baptisms: Contact one of the priests in person.

1st Confession: June 4, 2026
1st Communions: June 7, 2026

Confirmations: To be confirmed.

Marriage: Call the parish office for preparation before setting a fixed date.

Anointing of the Sick: Upon request.

Confessions: Everyday before Mass or by appointment.



“Come to me, all who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28)

Holy Week is finally upon us and it starts with Jesus’ triumphant entrance into Jerusalem but it leads to His Passion and death.

In the proclamation of the Lord’s Passion we see the figure of Pilate, who wants to defend Jesus and has the power to do so but eventually he gave in to the crowd and did their wishes. In Matthew’s version he fears a riot breaking out but even this should not have prevented him from giving into the crowd. Can we not also be like Pilate? “Give the people what they want and leave me in peace.” I am sure that Pilate was not in peace about Jesus’ death!

The story of the Passion of Jesus Christ is surely to call everyone to recognize that you have helped to put Jesus on the cross. I remember a former parishioner being completely surprised by this. She said, “But it was the Jewish people who had him put to death!” Jesus died because you and I put Him on the cross by our sins and in particular by our treatment of other people. Jesus is alive in those around us and hence we will be judged on how we have treated them. That can mean anybody, such as the beggar outside Smart or the people at work whom you cannot stand or some of your relatives whom you either do not talk with or whom you despise in your heart.

Clearly there are many more examples and sins for which Christ has taken them on in His passion. May the reading of the Lord’s passion call us all to repentance and the grace to convict us so that we can be reconciled with our ‘enemies’ as were Pilate and Herod in today’s Gospel. Fr. Paul



HOLY HOUR THURSDAY

4:00 pm—5:00 pm.

Holy Rosary in three languages, readings reflection, and meditation on the Holy Eucharist. Upper Room St. Maria Goretti.

LENT AND HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

MORNING PRAYER: Monday to Wednesday, 6:20am. upper room

PALM SUNDAY
09:00am English
11:00am Multilingual Mass

***10am Solemn Procession to the Church.**

HOLY THURSDAY, April 2
06:30pm. Mass of the Lord’s supper. Multilingual.

GOOD FRIDAY, April 3
03:00pm. The passion of the Lord, Multilingual
04:15pm Live Stations of the Cross, by HFA Students.

SOLEMN EASTER VIGIL
April 4, 10:30pm.

(No 5:30 pm Mass this Saturday and no 4pm Mass at St. Joseph’s Easter weekend).

EASTER SUNDAY April 5
09:00am English
11:00am Multilingual

Parish Events March 22-29

Holy Mass: 09:00 am, 11:00 am

- 04:00 pm Coeur de Marie Children’s group.
- 05:00 pm Fraternite, Red Room.
- 05:00 pm Creole Youth Choir practice.
- 05:30 pm Sacre Coeur de Jesus, P. Hall.
- Choeur D’hommes 1st and 3rd Sunday at church.

Monday

- 09:00-12 Creole Charismatic group, Parish Hall
- 05:30 pm Daily Mass, SMG, Upper Room

Tuesday

- 05:30 pm Daily Mass, SMG, Upper Room
- 07:00pm First English
- 07:00pm Second English SMG
- 07:00pm Sixth English & Seventh Blue Chapel
- 07:00pm Spanish community St. Joseph Room

Wednesday

- 05:30 pm **Daily Mass, SMG, upper room**
- 07:00pm 3rd English, SMG Upper Room
- 07:00pm 4th English Red Room
- 07:00pm 5th English Blue Chapel
- 07:00pm Creole Blessed Sacrament chapel

Thursday HOLY THURSDAY
09:00 am Morning Prayer SMG

06:30pm Mass of the Lord’s supper

Friday GOOD FRIDAY
09:00 am Morning Prayer

03:00pm THE LORD’S PASSION
04:15pm Live Stations of the Cross.

Saturday HOLY SATURDAY
10:30 PM EASTER VIGIL



School Notes

Holy Family Academy

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March 24, 2026

Last week, our students participated in Track and Field competitions and had a wonderful time showing great energy and school spirit. Students have also continued practicing their Stations of the Cross plays and are preparing for Palm Sunday. We invite all families to join us this Sunday at 10:00 AM for this beautiful celebration, where all students will participate.



Next week, as we enter Holy Week, students will engage in special activities including Easter songs, arts and crafts, bread-making for Holy Thursday, and reflection on the Word of God. Report cards will also be sent home.

Our students are excited as they continue growing in faith through prayer, fasting, and alms-giving, preparing to celebrate the Resurrection of Christ.

SPONSORS / BENEFACTORS

We continue to look for donations and sponsors to support our **Scholarship Program** and help the school with necessary supplies.

Your sponsorship payment can be done through direct deposit or bank transfer or by donating any of the items below.

- Picnic Tables (Amazon List)
- Sport supplies
- Asthma Inhalers & AED
- Projectors and projector screens

