Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist

222 East Harris Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401 - Located at Abercorn and East Harris Streets
Most Reverend Gregory J. Hartmayer OFM Conv.— Bishop of Savannah
Most Reverend J. Kevin Boland — Bishop Emeritus

Mass Schedule

Saturday: 12 Noon & 5:30 p.m.
Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am, & 11:30 a.m.
Latin Mass 1:00 p.m.
Weekdays: Mon thru Fri: 7:30 am & 12 Noon
Holy Days: 7:30 am, 12 Noon, 6:00 pm
Nursery: 10:00 am Mass on Sundays.

Sacraments

Baptisms: Arrangements should be made in advance.
Confessions: Fridays: 4:00 to 5:00 pm
Saturday: 11:00 am to 11:45 am
Also by request at other times.
Weddings: Arrangements should be made at least four months in advance. Participation in a marriage preparation program is required. Please call parish office for more information.

Faith Formation

Children’s Religious Ed: Sundays 8:45 am to 9:50 am
R. C. I. A.: Tuesdays 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Parish Staff

Rector - Very Rev. J. Gerard Schreck, JCD
In Residence - Msgr. William O’Neill, Rector Emeritus
In Residence - Rev. Tom Peyton
Permanent Deacon - Rev. Dr. Dewain E. Smith
Director of Music - Dr. Paul Thornock
Director of Religious Education - Mrs. Janee Przybyl
Bookkeeper/Admin. Assistant - Ms. Jan Cunningham
Office Assistant - Mrs. Brenda Price
Maintenance - Mr. Jimmy Joseph Sheehan III
Housekeeper/Food Services - Ms. Alma Young
Docents - Mrs. Peggy Baker
Mrs. Gloria Keane

Photo by Mary Clark Rechtiene

Hours: Mon. - Fri. 9:00 to 5:00  Phone: (912)233-4709  Fax: (912)233-8229  E-mail: office@savannahcathedral.org
Cathedral Website: www.savannahcathedral.org  Cathedral Music: music@savannahcathedral.org
PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD’S PASSION

Most Reverend Gregory J. Hartmayer, OFM Conv Bishop of Savannah
Most Reverend J. Kevin Boland Bishop Emeritus
Very Reverend J. Gerard Schreck, JCD Rector
Msgr. William O’Neill Rector Emeritus
Rev. Tom Peyton In residence
Rev. Dr. Dewain E. Smith Deacon
Dr. Paul Thornock Director of Music

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COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD’S ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM

ANTIPHON

Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,
the King of Israel. Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna filio David
Mode VII

GOSPEL

When Jesus and the disciples drew near Jerusalem
and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives,
Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them,
“Go into the village opposite you,
and immediately you will find an ass tethered,
and a colt with her.
Untie them and bring them here to me.
And if anyone should say anything to you, reply,
‘The master has need of them.’
Then he will send them at once.”
This happened so that what had been spoken through
the prophet might be fulfilled:
Say to daughter Zion,
“Behold, your king comes to you,
meek and riding on an ass,
and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had ordered them.
They brought the ass and the colt and laid their cloaks
over them, and he sat upon them.
The very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road,
while others cut branches from the trees
and strewed them on the road.
The crowds preceding him and those following
kept crying out and saying:
“Hosanna to the Son of David;
blessed is the he who comes in the name of the Lord;
hosanna in the highest.”
And when he entered Jerusalem
the whole city was shaken and asked, “Who is this?”
And the crowds replied,
“This is Jesus the prophet, from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Matthew 21:1–11
HYMN

ST. THEODULPH

All glory, laud, and honor To you, Redeemer, King!
To whom the lips of children Made sweet hosannas ring.

1. You are the King of Israel, And David's royal Son,
2. The company of angels Are praising you on high;
3. The people of the Hebrews With palms before you went:
4. To you before your passion They sang their hymns of praise:
5. Their praises you accepted, Accept the prayers we bring,

Now in the Lord's Name coming, Our King and Blessed One.
And mortals, joined with all things Created, make reply.
Our praise and prayers and anthems Before you we present.
Great source of love and goodness, Our Savior and our King.

COLLECT (OPENING PRAYER)

READING I

The Lord GOD has given me a well-trained tongue,
that I might know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them.
Morning after morning he opens my ear that I may hear;
and I have not rebelled, have not turned back.
I gave my back to those who beat me,
my cheeks to those who plucked my beard;
my face I did not shield from buffets and spitting.
The Lord GOD is my help,
therefore I am not disgraced;
I have set my face like flint,
knowing that I shall not be put to shame.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

All who see me deride me,
they curl their lips and toss their heads:
“He trusted in the Lord, let him save him,
let him release him if this is his friend.”

Many dogs have surrounded me,
a band of the wicked beset me;
They tear holes in my hands and my feet;
and lay me in the dust of death.

I can count every one of my bones.
These people stare at me and gloat;
they divide my clothing among them;
they cast lots for my robe.
I will tell your name to my brethren
and praise you where they are assembled:
“You who fear the Lord give him praise;
All sons of Jacob, give him glory.”
READING II

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Glo - ry to you, Word of God, Lord Je - sus Christ.

GOSPEL

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

One of the Twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, “What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?” They paid him thirty pieces of silver, and from that time on he looked for an opportunity to hand him over.

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples approached Jesus and said, “Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover?” He said, “Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, ‘The teacher says, “My appointed time draws near; in your house I shall celebrate the Passover with my disciples.’” The disciples then did as Jesus had ordered, and prepared the Passover.

When it was evening, he reclined at table with the Twelve. And while they were eating, he said, “Amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” Deeply distressed at this, they began to say to him one after another, “Surely it is not I, Lord?” He said in reply, “He who has dipped his hand into the dish with me is the one who will betray me. The Son of Man indeed goes, as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed. It would be better for that man if he had never been born.” Then Judas, his betrayer, said in reply, “Surely it is not I, Rabbi?” He answered, “You have said so.”

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said, “Take and eat; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, from now on I shall not drink this fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it with you new in the kingdom of my Father.” Then, after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them, “This night all of you will have your faith in me shaken, for it is written: I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be dispersed; but after I have been raised up, I shall go before you to Galilee.”
Peter said to him in reply,  
“Though all may have their faith in you shaken,  
mine will never be.”
Jesus said to him, “Amen, I say to you,  
this very night before the cock crows,  
you will deny me three times.”
Peter said to him,  
“Even though I should have to die with you,  
I will not deny you.”
And all the disciples spoke likewise.

Then Jesus came with them to a place called  
Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples,  
“Sit here while I go over there and pray.”
He took along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee,  
and began to feel sorrow and distress.
Then he said to them,  
“My soul is sorrowful even to death.  
Remain here and keep watch with me.”
He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying,  
“My Father, if it is possible,  
let this cup pass from me;  
yet, not as I will, but as you will.”
When he returned to his disciples  
he found them asleep.
He said to Peter,  
“So you could not keep watch with me for one hour?  
Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test.  
The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”
Withdrawing a second time, he prayed again,  
“My Father, if it is not possible that this cup pass  
without my drinking it, your will be done!”
Then he returned once more and found them asleep,  
for they could not keep their eyes open.
He left them and withdrew again  
and prayed a third time, saying the same thing again.
Then he returned to his disciples and said to them,  
“Are you still sleeping and taking your rest?  
Behold, the hour is at hand when the Son of Man is to  
be handed over to sinners.  
Get up, let us go. Look, my betrayer is at hand.”

While he was still speaking,  
Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived,  
accompanied by a large crowd, with swords and clubs,  
who had come from the chief priests and the elders  
of the people.
His betrayer had arranged a sign with them, saying,  
“The man I shall kiss is the one; arrest him.”
Immediately he went over to Jesus and said,  
“Hail, Rabbi!” and he kissed him.

Jesus answered him,  
“Friend, do what you have come for.”
Then stepping forward they laid hands on Jesus  
and arrested him.
And behold, one of those who accompanied Jesus  
put his hand to his sword, drew it,  
and struck the high priest’s servant, cutting off his ear.
Then Jesus said to him,  
“Put your sword back into its sheath,  
for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.
Do you think that I cannot call upon my Father  
and he will not provide me at this moment  
with more than twelve legions of angels?  
But then how would the Scriptures be fulfilled  
which say that it must come to pass in this way?”
At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,  
“Have you come out as against a robber,  
with swords and clubs to seize me?  
Day after day I sat teaching in the temple area,  
yet you did not arrest me.
But all this has come to pass  
that the writings of the prophets may be fulfilled.”
Then all the disciples left him and fled.

Those who had arrested Jesus led him away  
to Caiaphas the high priest,  
where the scribes and the elders were assembled.
Peter was following him at a distance  
as far as the high priest’s courtyard,  
and going inside he sat down with the servants  
to see the outcome.
The chief priests and the entire Sanhedrin  
kept trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus  
in order to put him to death, but they found none,  
though many false witnesses came forward.
Finally two came forward who stated,  
“This man said, ‘I can destroy the temple of God  
and within three days rebuild it.’”
The high priest rose and addressed him,  
“What are these men testifying against you?”
But Jesus was silent.
Then the high priest said to him,  
“I order you to tell us under oath before the living God  
whether you are the Christ, the Son of God.”
Jesus said to him in reply, “You have said so.
But I tell you:  
From now on you will see ‘the Son of Man  
seated at the right hand of the Power’  
and ‘coming on the clouds of heaven.’”
Then the high priest tore his robes and said,  
“He has blasphemed!  
What further need have we of witnesses?  
You have now heard the blasphemy;  
what is your opinion?”  
They said in reply, “He deserves to die!”  
Then they spat in his face and struck him,  
while some slapped him, saying,  
“Prophesy for us, Christ: who is it that struck you?”  
Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard.  
One of the maids came over to him and said,  
“You too were with Jesus the Galilean.”  
But he denied it in front of everyone, saying,  
“I do not know what you are talking about!”  
As he went out to the gate, another girl saw him  
and said to those who were there,  
“This man was with Jesus the Nazorean.”  
Again he denied it with an oath,  
“I do not know the man!”  
A little later the bystanders came over and said to Pe-  
ter, “Surely you too are one of them;  
even your speech gives you away.”  
At that he began to curse and to swear,  
“I do not know the man.”  
And immediately a cock crowed.  
Then Peter remembered the word  
that Jesus had spoken:  
“Before the cock crows you will deny me three times.”  
He went out and began to weep bitterly.  

When it was morning,  
all the chief priests and the elders of the people  
took counsel against Jesus to put him to death.  
They bound him, led him away,  
and handed him over to Pilate, the governor.  

Then Judas, his betrayer, seeing that Jesus had been condemned, deeply regretted what he had done.  
He returned the thirty pieces of silver  
to the chief priests and elders, saying,  
“I have sinned in betraying innocent blood.”  
They said, “What is that to us? Look to it yourself.”  
Flinging the money into the temple,  
he departed and went off and hanged himself.  
The chief priests gathered up the money, but said,  
“It is not lawful to deposit this in the temple treasury,  
for it is the price of blood.”  

After consultation, they used it to buy the potter’s field  
as a burial place for foreigners.  
That is why that field even today is called  
the Field of Blood.  

Then was fulfilled what had been said through  
Jeremiah the prophet,  
*And they took the thirty pieces of silver,  
the value of a man with a price on his head,  
a price set by some of the Israelites,  
and they paid it out for the potter’s field  
just as the Lord had commanded me.*  

Now Jesus stood before the governor,  
and he questioned him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”  
Jesus said, “You say so.”  
And when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he made no answer.  
Then Pilate said to him, “Do you not hear how many things they are testifying against you?”  
But he did not answer him one word,  
so that the governor was greatly amazed.  

“Have nothing to do with that righteous man.  
I suffered much in a dream today because of him.”  
The chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds  
to ask for Barabbas but to destroy Jesus.  
The governor said to them in reply,  
“Which of the two do you want me to release to you?”  
They answered, “Barabbas!”  
Pilate said to them,  
“Then what shall I do with Jesus called Christ?”  
They all said, “Let him be crucified!”  
But he said, “Why? What evil has he done?”  
They only shouted the louder, “Let him be crucified!”  
When Pilate saw that he was not succeeding at all,  
but that a riot was breaking out instead,  
he took water and washed his hands in the  
sight of the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s  
blood. Look to it yourselves.”  
And the whole people said in reply,  
“His blood be upon us and upon our children.”  
Then he released Barabbas to them,  
but after he had Jesus scourged,  
he handed him over to be crucified.  

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus inside  
the praetorium and gathered the whole cohort around  
him. They stripped off his clothes  
and threw a scarlet military cloak about him.  
Weaving a crown out of thorns, they placed it on his  
head, and a reed in his right hand.  
And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying,  
“Hail, King of the Jews!”  
They spat upon him and took the reed  
and kept striking him on the head.
And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him off to crucify him.

As they were going out, they met a Cyrenian named Simon; this man they pressed into service to carry his cross.

And when they came to a place called Golgotha—which means Place of the Skull—they gave Jesus wine to drink mixed with gall. But when he had tasted it, he refused to drink.

After they had crucified him, they divided his garments by casting lots; then they sat down and kept watch over him there.

And they placed over his head the written charge against him: This is Jesus, the King of the Jews. Two revolutionaries were crucified with him, one on his right and the other on his left.

Those passing by reviled him, shaking their heads and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, if you are the Son of God, and come down from the cross!”

Likewise the chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him and said, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. So he is the king of Israel! Let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now if he wants him. For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”

The revolutionaries who were crucified with him also kept abusing him in the same way.

From noon onward, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.

And about three o’clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Some of the bystanders who heard it said, “This one is calling for Elijah.”

Immediately one of them ran to get a sponge; he soaked it in wine, and putting it on a reed, gave it to him to drink.

But the rest said, “Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to save him.”

But Jesus cried out again in a loud voice, and gave up his spirit. [all kneel]

And behold, the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom.

The earth quaked, rocks were split, tombs were opened, and the bodies of many saints who had fallen asleep were raised. And coming forth from their tombs after his resurrection, they entered the holy city and appeared to many.

The centurion and the men with him who were keeping watch over Jesus feared greatly when they saw the earthquake and all that was happening, and they said, “Truly, this was the Son of God!”

There were many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him.

Among them were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who was himself a disciple of Jesus.

He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be handed over.

Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in clean linen and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock.

Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed.

But Mary Magdalene and the other Mary remained sitting there, facing the tomb.

The next day, the one following the day of preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, “Sir, we remember that this impostor while still alive said, ‘After three days I will be raised up.’ Give orders, then, that the grave be secured until the third day, lest his disciples come and steal him and say to the people, ‘He has been raised from the dead.’ This last imposture would be worse than the first.”

Pilate said to them, “The guard is yours; go, secure it as best you can.”

So they went and secured the tomb by fixing a seal to the stone and setting the guard.

The Gospel of the Lord.
CREED
I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (bow) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. (rise)
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

[Musical notation]
Lord, hear our prayer.

DIOCESAN PRAYER FOR Vocations
O God, hear our prayer and let our cry come unto You. Bless our Diocese of Savannah with many vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate, and Religious Life.
Give the men and women You call the light to understand Your gift and the love to follow always in the footsteps of Your priestly Son.

PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR

Please consider making an online contribution to the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist by clicking the link below:

https://savannahcathedral.org/give/

My Song is Love Unknown

My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me; Love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be.
O who am I, that for my sake My Lord should take frail flesh, and die?
He came from His blest throne salvation to bestow; But men made strange, and none the longed-for Christ would know:
But oh, my Friend, my Friend indeed, Who at my need His life did spend.
Sometimes they strew His way, and His sweet praises sing; Resounding all the day Hosannas to their King:

Then “Crucify!” is all their breath, And for His death they thirst and cry.
They rise and needs will have my dear Lord made away; A murderer they save, the Prince of life they slay.
Yet cheerful He to suffering goes, That He His foes From thence might free.
Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine; Never was love, dear King, never was grief like Thine.
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend. John Ireland
SANCTUS

Corpus Christi Mass

Cantor, then All:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Choir: Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Cantor, then All:

Ho - san - na in the high - est, in the high - est.

Choir: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Cantor, then All:

Ho - san - na in the high - est, in the high - est.

MYSTERIUM FIDEI

Proulx

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

GREAT AMEN

Proulx


AGNUS DEI

Vatican XVII

1., 2. mi - se - re - re no - bis. 3. do - na no - bis pa - cem.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Pater, si non potest
Mode VIII

Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it,
your will be done. Matthew 26
COMMUNION MOTET

Stabat Mater

At the cross her station keeping,
stood the mournful mother weeping,
close to Jesus to the last.
Through her soul, of joy bereaved,
bowed with anguish, deeply grieved,
now at length the sword hath passed.
Oh how sad and sore distressed
was that mother highly blessed,
of the sole-begotten One!

FINAL BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

HYMN

PASSION CHORALE

1. O Sa - cred Head sur - round - ed By crown of pier - ing thorn!
2. I see your strength and vig - or All fading in the strife,
3. In this, your bit - ter pas - sion, Good Shep - herd, think of me

O bleed - ing Head, so wound - ed, Re - viled and put to scorn!
And death with cru - el rig - or, Be - reav - ing you of life;
With your most sweet com - pas - sion, Un - worth - y though I be:

The pow’r of death comes o’er you, The glow of life decays,
O ag - o - ny and dy - ing! O love to sin - ner’s free!
Be -neath your cross a - bid - ing For ev - er would I rest,

Yet an - gel hosts a - dore you, And trem - ble as they gaze.
Je - sus, all grace sup - ply - ing, O turn your face on me.
In your dear love con - fid - ing, And with your pres - ence blest.

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Dear friends,

As we all try to make our way through this bewildering time, I want to thank you for your patience, and for carefully respecting the directives of Governor Kemp and Mayor Johnson that we not gather in Church and shelter at home. Although this is hard for all of us, it really is the right thing to do. I want you to know how much we priests miss seeing you. We are all doing just fine, and we have our health, thanks be to God. We pray for you each day, and especially when we celebrate Mass.

I came across a few good ideas as to how we can participate in the Holy Week Liturgies from home. First, keep the Holy Week Schedule handy and set aside time, with everyone in the house, to watch the Liturgies as Bishop Hartmayer celebrates them with us at the Cathedral. Second, set up a small shrine in your home on which you can place your computer monitor, a crucifix, two lighted candles, and a statue of the Blessed Mother. Place the chairs nearby in such a way that everyone can see and hear easily. Third, make sure you download copies of the Program for each particular Liturgy. Dr. Paul Thornock has been producing them for us and placing them online. Fourth, have everyone dress as they would dress for Liturgy at the Cathedral. Fifth, participate in the prayers, the responses and the hymns (if you are brave enough!). The schedule is as follows:

**PALM SUNDAY MASS – 4/5 – 10:00am**

**MASS OF THE CHRISM – Tuesday - 4/7 – 7:00pm**

**MASS OF THE LORD’S SUPPER – Holy Thursday – 4/9 – 7:00pm**

**THE LITURGY OF THE PASSION – Good Friday – 4/10 – 12:00pm**

**THE WAY OF THE CROSS – Good Friday – 4/10 – 3:00pm**

**THE EASTER VIGIL – Holy Saturday – 4/11 – 8:30pm**

**EASTER SUNDAY MASS – 4/12 – 10:00am**

This is the most sacred and solemn week of the year for Roman Catholics. It can be particularly meaningful for us all this year, as we reflect upon the passion and suffering and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and unite our own pain and the suffering of the world to Him. May God bless you!

Rev. J. Gerard Schreck
We hold palm branches today, recalling Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem, the holy city. It is a bittersweet remembrance because we know that no sooner had he celebrated the Passover meal with his disciples than he was arrested, tried, convicted, and put to death. But Jerusalem is more than the site of his crucifixion. It is also the site of his resurrection. Through his sacrifice we all hope to one day reach the eternal Jerusalem.

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe,
Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas. We fly to you today as your beloved children. We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother, and gain for our nation and world, and for all our families and loved ones, the protection of your holy angels, that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted, we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance. Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful, wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing, teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind. Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence, knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother, health of the sick and cause of our joy. Shelter us under the mantle of your protection, keep us in the embrace of your arms, help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.