

**SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2010
PALM SUNDAY**

PASTOR'S LETTER

We are arriving at the most beautiful time of the year liturgically. Holy Week is the high point of the year. The Holy Thursday Liturgy of the Lord's Supper, the Good Friday Liturgy of the Passion and death of Christ and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday are the most beautiful expressions of Catholic Faith.

One of the wonderful things about them is that they are **not** Holy Days of Obligation. This means that no one is there out of obligation or fear. It is my experience that the most involved and committed of our parishioners attend these sacred liturgies. And when only those who want to be there are there, then the liturgies have a special quality of devotion that cannot be duplicated. Here is a brief overview:

Holy Thursday Liturgy of the Lord's Supper: 7:30 p.m.

In this liturgy we process into the Church with the Holy Oils that were blessed by the Bishop and will be used for the Sick and for Baptism and Confirmation. During the mass, 12 parishioners will have their feet washed by myself as pastor in imitation of the humility of Christ. At the end of the mass we process with the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar of Repose where adoration will be done until midnight. At midnight the service we call 'Tenebrae' or 'The Darkenesses' is enacted. This is very dramatic and is not appropriate for small children. It is powerful and disturbing. After Tenebrae the Church is empty of the Blessed Sacrament until the Easter Vigil.

Good Friday Liturgy of the Lord's Passion and Death – 3:00 p.m.

This is such a dramatic service because it recalls the suffering of Jesus. At his high point, a large cross is brought into the Church and every member of the congregation venerates it personally. This service is repeated at 5:00 in Italian and at 8:30 in Spanish. There is a tri-lingual procession through the streets at 7:00 p.m. in which the Stations of the Cross are prayed.

Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday – 8:30 p.m.

We are honored to have our Bishop—Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio celebrate this most beautiful of all the liturgies of the year. The whole first section of the service is done in candlelight. At the Vigil we will baptize ten new adult members for the Catholic Church. We will also see them and eight others receive First Holy Communion and Confirmation exactly as has been done for centuries.

The Easter Vigil is the most powerful expression of faith in the Catholic Church and it is for mature and committed Catholics. All the more reason why I am so happy that it is not required! For those who do attend, however, it satisfies the Sunday Obligation.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY- April 1st – Holy Thursday

- 7:30 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by procession to the Altar of Repose
9:00 p.m.– Adoration
11:45 p.m.
Midnight Tenabrae Service

FRIDAY - April 2nd – Good Friday

- 12 Noon Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary & Meditation – Divine Mercy Novena
3:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Lord's Passion (English)
5:30 p.m. Liturgy of the Lord's Passion (Italian)
7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross (tri-lingual) and procession
8:30 p.m. Liturgy of the Lord's Passion (Spanish)

SATURDAY - April 3rd – Holy Saturday

- 10:45 a.m. Easter Basket Blessing (School Hall)
4:00 p.m. Confessions
8:30 p.m. Solemn Easter Vigil Service & Mass of Resurrection

EASTER PLANTS & FLOWERS

If you are interested in donating towards our Easter plants, either as a memorial to a deceased loved one or as a gift to the church, please use

the envelopes we have placed around the church. Please remember to put your account number on the envelope.

FLANNERY O'CONNOR BOOK CLUB

The Flannery O'Connor book club will be meeting on Wednesday, April 7th at 7:30 p.m. to discuss the book Gilead by Marylenn Robinson. The meeting will take place in the conference room in the rectory.

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY – March 29th

7:00 a.m. Joseph & Ann Dignam
9:00 a.m. Domenica Evangelista
12 Noon Living & Deceased members of the Jerome & DeCato Families

TUESDAY – March 30th

7:00 a.m. Nancy & Antonio DePace
9:00 a.m. Giuseppe Salvatore
12 Noon Francesco & Maria D'Addario

WEDNESDAY - March 31st

7:00a.m. Kathryn & Lester Frank
9:00 a.m. Mary & John Browne
12 Noon Maria & Adamo Penso

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7:30 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by procession to the Altar of Repose
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SUNDAY - April 4th – Easter Sunday

7:00 a.m. Denise, Blanche & Jesse Smith
9:00 a.m. Living & Deceased Parishioners
10:30 a.m. Mary Porcari
12:00 p.m. Spanish- Maria Monsalve
1:30 p.m. Peter & Margaret McCormack, William Kelly

Lower Church:

9:00 a.m. **Italian** – Pasquale, Stefano & Angelina DellaVecchia

THE BREAD AND WINE are donated this week in loving memory of Irene & James Dunne requested by the Boot Family.

THE CANDLES ON THE ALTAR were donated last week and this week in loving memory of all deceased members of the Filagrossi Family requested by Maria Filagrossi & Family.

THE SANCTUARY LAMP is burning this week in loving memory of Salvatore Rago requested by his wife Lucy Rago and children.

PLEASE KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS



Please pray for the recently deceased:

Antonio Paratore
Marie Petraglia

Grant them eternal rest, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine on them forever. +

SPANISH MISSION

We are pleased to announce that Fr. Fernando LoVerde, Pastor of St. Rita's in East New York, will give the Mission in Spanish this week on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Upper Church.

ITALIAN MISSION

As we did last year, the Italian Mission will take place on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week (March 29, 30 and 31) at 7:00

p.m. in the Upper Church. The mission will be preached by a Priest of the Scalabrini congregation.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

The Italian film, *The Gospel According to Matthew*, will be shown the Wednesday of Holy Week (**March 31st**) at **8:00 p.m. in the Lower Church**. This film is by the renown Italian director Pier Paolo Pasolini and was shot with the local non-actors in the south of Italy. It is considered one of the finest lives of Christ on film. This film is in black and white and is in Italian with English subtitles. It will help us to get into the right frame of mind for the Holy Days that follow.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW (1964)

Some of the most intriguing artistic tributes to faith and religion come from nonbelievers. *A Man For All Seasons*, the great drama of the life and martyrdom of St. Thomas More, was written for the stage and screen by the non-Christian Robert Bolt. The story of *The Song of Bernadette*, the Marian Visionary of Lourdes, was first written as a historical novel by a Jewish author, Franz Werfel. And Mark Twain's favorite work among all of his books was his *Joan of Arc*.

Pier Paolo Pasolini was an atheist, indeed a Marxist, and his *The Gospel According to Matthew* is routinely interpreted as a proto-Marxist allegory. Yet Pasolini was perhaps first of all a poet and the concepts of the sacred and the divine, far from repelling him as so much religious superstition, held for him a powerful appeal. In 1962 he came to Assisi in response to Pope John XXIII's call for dialogue with non-Christian artists. While there, he read through a book of the Gospels "from beginning to end, like a novel," later proclaiming the story of Jesus "the most exalting thing one can read."

SQUIRES NEED YOUR HELP TO HELP OTHERS

The Squires will be collecting Easter candy and toys for the St. Margaret Mary Head Start Program on Sunday, March 28th in the school hall from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. They will also be collecting slightly used clothing for toddlers up to age 5 for Bridge to Life.

The Squire will also be selling battery operated candles, which will be used during the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, April 3rd, for \$3.00 (batteries included) on Sunday, March 28th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the entrance of the Church.

COLLECTION

Week of: March 20 th & 21 st	\$8,994.89
Attendance:	2,098
Per Capita:	\$4.29



EASTER BASKET BLESSING

Once again this year we will have the blessing of the Easter Baskets in the school auditorium on Holy **Saturday, April 3rd, at 11 a.m.** We are happy to incorporate this beautiful and solemn ceremony into our Easter rituals.

We ask that you arrive at 10:45 a.m. so that we can begin promptly at 11:00 a.m.

Among the Slavic community the custom of bring an Easter Basket to Church on Easter Sunday is an age old tradition. It stems from the desire of the Christian community to ask God's blessing on the foods that will break the Great Fast (Lent) and from which they have abstained from during this period. The religious significance attached to the foods eaten is symbolic of Christ Himself, our true Passover. **ALL** parishioners are invited regardless of your ethnic heritage.

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

On Good Friday, our parish will take up the annual Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land. Your financial contribution helps to support the struggling Christian community and to protect Christianity's holiest places. Please be as generous as possible.