

**PALM SUNDAY  
APRIL 8-9, 2006 (XXI-37)**



**THEME OF TODAY'S MASS**

The story of the first "Holy Week" events in Jerusalem climax our Lenten journey. These events are central to those deepening their commitment as disciples of Jesus. Of all the stories of Holy Week that offer newness and hope, the story of Jesus' suffering and death in the Gospel passages climax the Lenten readings. Jesus' faith-filled actions—more than any other person's—have the capacity to gain life and give life when the old world offers no life!

**THINGS TO LISTEN FOR IN THE READINGS**

**In the First Reading**

Isaiah's task is to interpret the reality of exile. The prophet plants the seed of an alternative imagination of reality. It is a reality that remains outside the control of the empire's managers. The poetry appeals to the power of a new Word from God!

**In the Second Reading**

For Paul, Jesus' death and resurrection extends the tradition of life in the shape of death and power in the form of suffering, found in the poetry of Isaiah's servant songs and the psalmist's laments. The Christian community announces that the One Who was of the same stuff as the Supreme Being became a servant, "taking the form of a slave – and humbler..." Because Jesus endured such an existence freely, He was "exalted"!

**In the Gospel**

Three times Jesus had predicted His own violent death. Each time His disciples didn't understand. Ignorance of Jesus' role to transform lives, in the pattern of God's reigning, comes to its climax when He arrives in Jerusalem before the feast of the Passover. He declares the temple is a house of prayer for everyone. According to Mark, that declaration was the final act that set the religious powers-that-be (the priests and scribes) to plot His final destruction!

**Please pray** for the deceased members of the following parish families: Passander, Pauley, Paulishen, Paulisin, Paulter, Pawlak, Payne, Paytas, Pedivillano, Pelatowski, Pellizzari, Peluso, Pepe, Pereira, Pereiras, Perez, Pergola, Pero, Perrelli, Perriello.

**HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

*Wednesday (April 12)*

6:30 pm – Reconciliation Service

*Thursday (April 13), Holy Thursday*

(No 8:00 Morning Mass)

7:00 pm – Mass of the Lord's Last Supper

(First Communion)

8:00 – 10:00 pm – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

*Friday (April 14), Good Friday*

11:00 am – Confessions

3:00 pm – Liturgy of the Lord's Passion and Death

8:00 pm – Living Stations of the Cross

*Saturday (April 15), Holy Saturday*

11:00 am – Morning Prayer and Blessing of Food

12:30 pm – Confessions

8:00 pm – Easter Vigil

*Sunday (April 16), Easter Sunday*

Regular Sunday Schedule

Masses at 7:30, 9:30 and 11:30 am

**MEMORIAL PLANTS FOR EASTER**

If you would like to memorialize a plant to be used on the Altar during the Easter Season, please place \$15.00 in an envelope, or use your Easter Flower envelope, write your name and the name of the person to be remembered on the outside of the envelope, and place it in the Offertory Collection. **TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO DO THIS.**

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION | ANSONIA

**Generations  
of Faith**



**FASTING LEADS TO JUSTICE**

My friends, what is the use of us observing this Lenten fast of forty days without reflecting upon the meaning of what we are doing? What, for example, is the use of denying ourselves banquets, but then spending time in endless litigation? What is the use of not eating the bread we possess, if we persist in stealing that which belongs to the poor?

A Christian's fast should be fostering peace, not quarrels. What advantage is there in making one's stomach holy with fasting while defiling one's lips with lies?

My brothers and sisters in Christ, you will be able to come to church with integrity only if your feet are not entangled in the snares of usury. You will have the right to pray only if envy is not eating your heart. The money you give to the poor will be given in all righteousness only if you have not extorted that money from somebody else. So let us try hard to imitate the fasting of Christ by practicing the virtues. In so doing, grace may come upon us through a twofold fasting of body and spirit.

Excerpt from a sermon of Maximus, first bishop of Turin, Italy (c.408 AD)

**PARISH ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK**

- Sunday (April 9) Palm Sunday**  
 10:30 am-First Communion Class-School  
 8:00 am-1:00 pm-K of C and Sports Breakfast-Hall  
 1:00 -4:00 pm-Eucharistic Adoration-Rectory
- Monday (April 10)**  
 7:00 pm-Confirmation Class-Hall  
 7:00 pm-Bereavement Group-Rectory  
 7:30 pm-Parish Council Meeting-Rectory
- Tuesday (April 11)**  
 7:00 pm-Miraculous Medal Novena-Rectory  
 7:30 pm-Knights of Columbus Meeting-Rectory
- Wednesday (April 12)**  
 6:30 pm-Reconciliation Service-Church
- Thursday (April 13) Holy Thursday-Early School Dismissal**  
 7:00 pm-Mass of the Lord's Supper and First Communion
- Friday (April 14) Good Friday-No School-No Bingo**  
 11:00 am-Confessions-Church  
 3:00 pm-Liturgy of the Lord's Passion and Death-Church  
 8:00 pm-Living Stations-Church
- Saturday (April 15) Holy Saturday**  
 11:00 am-Morning Prayer and Blessing of Food-Church  
 12:30 pm-Confessions-Church  
 8:00 pm-Easter Vigil-Church

**UP-COMING PARISH ACTIVITIES**

**NO SCHOOL APRIL 17-21 – SPRING RECESS**

- Monday (April 17)**  
 6:30 pm-Strategic Planning Committee Meeting-Rectory  
 7:00 pm-Bereavement Group-Rectory
- Tuesday (April 18)**  
 7:00 pm-Miraculous Medal Novena-Rectory  
 7:00 pm-Rosary Society Meeting Hall
- Friday (April 21)**  
 6:45 pm-Bingo-Hall  
 7:30 pm-Vocations Holy Hour-Rectory
- Saturday (April 22)**  
 4:00-8:00 pm-Cub Scouts Ziti Dinner-Hall

**COLLECTIONS**

|                                                                                                         |             |             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                                                                                         | <b>2006</b> | <b>2005</b> |
| Offertory                                                                                               | \$8,646.37  | \$6,917.61  |
| As of last weekend, the total cumulative Offertory Collection is <b>\$1,977.61</b> more than last year. |             |             |
| Our goal is \$36,000.00 more than last year.                                                            |             |             |

**ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL-2006**

If you have not already done so, please prayerfully consider making a pledge or gift to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. Your financial support will touch the lives of thousands of people who are served through the Annual Appeal. It supports the Deacons and Retired Clergy of the Archdiocese. Your gift will help support those whose dedication and service to our Archdiocese have enriched us all.

**HELPING HANDS RAFFLE**

For each \$25,000.00 that Assumption School makes through Helping Hands, we can raffle \$1,000.00 to participants. We are able to keep track of this. If you give cash, please make sure that the seller takes your name and the amount.. The money must be made by June 30, 2006. As of April 2, we have made \$16,345.00. Thank you very much for helping.

**CHURCH DECORATING GROUP**

The church Decorating Group will meet in the church on Good Friday evening about 8:30 pm, after the Living Stations, to place flowers in the church for the Easter services. We welcome any parishioners wishing to help.

**ANNOUNCED MASSES FOR THE WEEK**

If the members of the family for whom a Mass is being celebrated would like to bring up the Offertory gifts, please notify one of the ushers before Mass. Thank you.

- Saturday (April 8) Vigil Palm Sunday (R)**  
 4:00 pm-HM-Anna W. Gascoigne-14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
 (Daughter Judy Gascoigne)
- Sunday (April 9) Palm Sunday (R)**  
 7:30 am-LM-For All Parishioners  
 9:30 am-HM-John Huber (Ed Gubbins & Family)  
 11:30 am-HM-Regina McDermott (David & Kimberly McDermott & Family)
- Monday (April 10) Monday of Holy Week (V)**  
 8:00 am-LM-Deceased Members of the Brickley Family
- Tuesday (April 11) Tuesday of Holy Week (V)**  
 8:00 am-LM-Rosella Gallagher (Niece Mary Sheehy)
- Wednesday (April 12) Wednesday of Holy week (V)**  
 8:00 am-LM-Margaret Kelleher (Mary Sheehy)
- Thursday (April 13) Holy Thursday (W)**  
**No 8:00 am Mass**  
 7:00 pm-Mass of the Lord's Supper and First Communion
- Friday (April 14) Good Friday**  
**No 8:00 am Mass**  
 3:00 pm-Liturgy of the Lord's Passion and Death
- Saturday (April 15) Holy Saturday**  
**No 8:00 am Mass**
- Saturday (April 15) Vigil of Easter (W)**  
 8:00 pm-HM-Denise Simpson Hebert (Family)
- Sunday (April 16) Easter Sunday (W)**  
 7:30 am-LM-For All Parishioners  
 9:30 am-HM-Kathryn Jurkowski (Mary & Jerry Mahoney)  
 11:30 am-HM-Jennie Vacca (The Kemp Family)

**BENEFIT ART AUCTION**

The Assumption School will sponsor a benefit Art Auction this Saturday, April 8, in the church hall. A preview of art begins at 7:00, bidding to commence at 8:00 pm. About 150 works will be available, from both contemporary and well-known masters. Many pieces are signed and numbered by the artist. Admission is \$8.00 per person, and \$15.00 per couple, and tickets will be available at the door.

**FREE HEALTH AND WELLNESS WORKSHOP**

A free health and wellness educational workshop will be presented by Bonnie Loglisci, at the Rosary Society Meeting on Tuesday, April 18, at 7:00 pm in the Assumption Church Hall. All women of the parish are welcome.

**BREAKFAST TO BE HELD**

A breakfast will be held in the Church Hall this Sunday (Palm Sunday) April 9, following all Masses, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and the Assumption Sports Programs. Tickets will be available at the door, and are \$7.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children under 12, and free for 5-year-olds and younger.

**SHELTER MEAL**

Thanks to Tim and Mary Pat O'Connor's Group for the terrific meal they prepared for the Spooner House guests. Altogether, it served about 40 people, including the workers.  
 Thanks again—great job!