

My Brothers, My Sisters,

Today throughout the Catholic world is Passion Sunday. While this new name is not as familiar, we still recognize it as it was called for years. It was called Palm Sunday because unfailingly palm is solemnly blessed, given to those in attendance, and finally a procession, recalling the procession by way of the East Gate into the city of Jerusalem where great multitudes greeted Jesus on what was for them a triumphant re-entry into that sacred city. It received its new name of Passion Sunday because at every Mass celebrated in the Church, the Gospel of the Passion is proclaimed in dialogue form.

This triumphant entry will be of short duration for as the week progresses, we are reminded of our faithlessness as demonstrated by those who lived at that time. The alleluias will radically change to “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

Amazing it is that demonstrated love turned into fanatical hatred. That fact is not left to only those people. It is true among us today. All we need to recall is our own proclamations: love, loyalty, and allegiance and our subsequent compromise of these feelings by our rejecting *His* order for the world He created. So we too proclaim with enthusiasm “Alleluia!” again and again with all the protestations of love, renewal of our Baptismal promises, and Acts of Contrition. And at the same time we also in our own way proclaim “Crucify him! Crucify him!” Perhaps we must take seriously this Passion Sunday. We are not to stare back and look at that crowd and think, “How could they?” because you and I are among them. Perhaps we too must reflect on our own sincerity when we are in prayer this very day and resolve that the hypocrisy of our own must be confronted and resolved. Liturgically, we demonstrate that by returning in 2006 the palms of 2005. We will burn them and place those ashes on our foreheads as a very visible reminder that this is God’s world. We are only stewards who, by profession (Baptismal promises) and by lifestyle, try to introduce and maintain His order for the world He created. Let us think, let us be consistent, and let us remember His Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The week to come is Holy Week. The solemn liturgies of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, our High Holy Days, will proclaim in humbling prayer as we try to discern what it is that has been given to us and most importantly what is our response. Part of our response can not be developed unless, by reflection, we participate in the liturgies of Holy Week.

The practical question for you and me is “Where will I be?” True, I am *not* obliged to be present. Can I afford to absent myself? Holy Week forces us to look at our interior lives and to consider our response.

I encourage you, my brothers, my sisters, to arrange your calendars to assemble with your fellow parishioners and to make Holy Week your week at prayer. Especially can this be done, in this Year of the Eucharist, by your adoration at the Repository (the place to which the Blessed Sacrament has been transferred on Holy Thursday).

We must cancel the showing of *The Passion of the Christ* listed in your mailing, which was scheduled to take place on Palm Sunday.

The schedules you have already received in the mail have minor corrections. Among them, the Communal Penance Service at Immaculate Conception is Wednesday, March 23rd at 7:30 PM and not Tuesday. The complete Holy Week schedule is included in this bulletin on page 4.

May the Lord bring us together these very same days.

One with you in the Holy Spirit,

James Frank



Mark Your Calendars

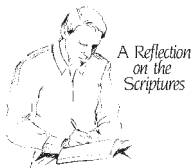
Easter Sunday - March 27
Divine Mercy Sunday - April 3
Daylight Saving Time Begins - April 3
Ascension of the Lord - Thursday, May 5
Pentecost Sunday - May 15
Corpus Christi Sunday - May 29

LENTEN SERIES: THE GOSPEL OF ST. MATTHEW

Matthew's Gospel is the third longest book in the New Testament. Which are the two longest? Why can we say Matthew's Gospel is "A"? Come learn these and even more important facts with Sr. Rose Vermette, RCD each Monday of Lent. Come *either* 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM *or* 8:00 PM to 9:30 PM in the lower rectory (revised schedule). Don't worry if you cannot make every week. You'll be glad you came!

How To Become A Catholic. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process by which people become members of the Catholic Church. This is a flexible process that respects the faith development of each individual while maintaining the ideals and vision of the Catholic community. We are an ongoing process here at Immaculate Conception. There is no "set" time to inquire except when the time is right for YOU! Call Kathy and Tom McAteer, 961-8952 or Sr. Rose Vermette, 961-3643.

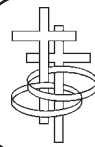
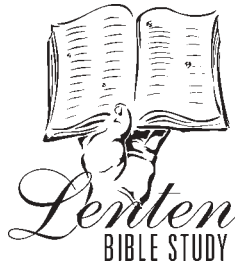
TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS



By Glenn CJ Byer, MA SLD

This day is named after the Gospel readings that we will hear. The account of the entry into Jerusalem and the Palms the people waved is put against the account of the passion of Christ, his death for us told in excruciating detail. What are we to make of this contrast? How are we to apply this to our own lives? The reading from Isaiah with the responsorial psalm and the famous Philippians hymn that is our second reading interpret these Gospels for us. God sees us as all the actors in the passion. We are the ones who wave the palms, the ones who drive the nails and the spear into the body of Christ, we are Mary and Peter and the apostles; but above all we are to be Christ for others, we are to lay down our life for the love of neighbor. And because of this call to accept the life of Christ with all its joy and pain, the glory and the suffering, we can expect to share in the lifting up of the Philippians hymn, sharing in the Lordship of Christ to the glory of the Father forever. © 2004, OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

Readings for Next Sunday, March 27 - Easter Sunday:
Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Ps. 118; Col 3:1-4 and John 20:1-9



Wedding Banns

Scott Short & Lauren Borducci

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

The Holy Week Schedule is on page 5 of this bulletin. Some minor revisions have been made. We apologize for any inconvenience or disappointment this may cause.

Stations of the Cross in Spanish -

This Monday, March 21, the Stations of the Cross in Spanish will follow the 7:30 PM Mass at Immaculate Conception. Please extend an invitation to all who might be interested in attending.



Hispanic Ministry



Bereavement

Support Group

The Ministry of Consolation and Healing is providing a Bereavement Support Group for anyone in the community who is mourning the loss of a loved one. This six week program will provide a safe, *confidential* and caring environment with the support needed to move through the pain of grief towards hope and healing.

The group will meet on Monday evenings, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. in the lower rectory, March 28, 2005 through May 2, 2005. For additional information contact Jeanne Perlman at (914) 961-8034 or leave a message at the Immaculate Conception rectory at 961-3643, and we will return your call.

ANNUAL GOLDEN WEDDING JUBILEE MASS

Couples celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary any time during 2005 are invited to attend the Annual Golden Wedding Jubilee Mass with Cardinal Egan at the Cathedral of St. Patrick on Sunday, April 10, 2005 at 2:00 PM. Pre-registration is required. Please call the rectory to register. The closing date for registration for the 50th Anniversary Mass, sponsored by the Family Life & Respect Life Office, is Monday, March 28.



Couples celebrating 25 or 50 years of marriage will be honored at Assumption on June 5 at the 10:30am Mass and at Immaculate Conception on June 12 at the 10:30am Mass. Call the rectory to register: 961-3643.

Parish School of Religion

There are *no* PSR classes this coming Thursday, March 24th, for 2nd, 5th and 6th grade students. Please consider attending the Holy Thursday Mass, which will be celebrated at 7:30pm that evening.

Month's Mind Mass

Saturday, April 2nd at Noon

Carl Marlow	Robert Glassmacher
Vincenzina Bonacci	Fred Di Sessa
Philomena Gizzo	Julius Branca
Doris Romano	Mary C. Daley
Thomas G. Jeffrey	Celia Conte
Eloise Kilcullen	Phyllis Ciafone
Stanley Kobylack	Mary Ann Iadarola
Joan Tymoschak	Theresa Vecchio

The April 2nd Month's Mind Mass is celebrated in memory of parishioners who have died during January and February. Coffee and refreshments will be served in the Lower Church after Mass, during which time the family members have the opportunity to share their experiences and enjoy the presence of others. The next Month's Mind Mass will be May 21st.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

All PSR and ICS students in grades 2 and up are invited to join the Children's Choir, which sings at the 9:00 AM Mass on Sundays. Practice is on Tuesdays or Wednesdays (your choice) in the Lower Church. See page 8 for additional information.



Both Churches Choirs are looking for new members. The choirs sing at the 10:30 AM Sunday Mass. Practice for the Immaculate Conception Choir is on Wednesdays at 7:30 PM. New members for the adult choir should contact Jim Murtaugh at 337-0342. Practice for the Assumption Choir is on Thursdays at 7:30 PM.

Vendors Wanted - Immaculate Conception School will be hosting a Spring Bazaar on Saturday, April 30 - just in time for Mother's Day and Father's Day gift-giving. Vendors interested in obtaining a table should call Joanna Kennedy at 787-8122. The space is \$50 and a table rental is \$8.



On every fourth Tuesday of each month, the Padre Pio Prayer Group will gather for Mass at the Church of the Assumption at 7:30pm. Due to the Holy Week schedules, the next Mass will be delayed until Tuesday, March 29th. Praying of the Rosary begins at 7:00 PM.

HOLY LAND MISSION COLLECTION ON GOOD FRIDAY



The annual collection for the Holy Land Mission will be taken up on Good Friday, March 25th. The money collected will enable the Franciscan Fathers who are entrusted with the care of the Holy Places to maintain and to serve these sacred shrines with the zeal and the reverence they deserve.



The Assumption Altar Rosary Society will meet on Monday, March 28 at 7 PM in Fr. Fata Hall.

TAX SUBSTANTIATION LETTERS

We often receive requests for tax substantiation letters. These letters summarize donations for the tax year. Some people use these letters to prepare their tax returns. Many include the letter with the tax return when it is mailed to the IRS. Some will only request the letter in the event of an audit.

If you are a registered parishioner (if you received the Christmas mailing, you are registered), we can provide you with a tax substantiation letter if you are using the envelope system. If you are not a registered parishioner but regularly attend Immaculate Conception or Assumption Churches, why not call the rectory and register with us?

Anyone who would like a tax substantiation letter should call the rectory. It would be helpful if you have your envelope with you when you call. Your letter will be available at the rectory the following weekend or can be mailed to you.



CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER

FOR CURRENT PARISHIONERS

If you have changed your phone number and/or moved, please let us know your new information and whether you will continue to be parishioners here. You can call the rectory or complete the information below and drop it in the collection basket. It is important to note apartment numbers. Thank you for keeping us informed!

PARISHIONER CHANGE OF INFORMATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Phone: _____

Moving within the parish _____

Moving to another parish _____

ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASS BEGINNING SOON!



Are you a Baptized adult or older teen Catholic who has received First Communion but who somehow missed the sacrament of Confirmation? Adult Confirmation classes will begin March 31st at 7:30 PM. Please call Sr. Rose Vermette 961-3643 for registration information.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

In the garden of Gethsamani, Jesus said, "My heart is filled with sorrow to the point of death." (Mt. 26:38). Jesus came to give Himself to humanity through the gift of the Holy Eucharist, yet so many would reject His Eucharistic love. He called on His apostles to comfort Him, but they preferred to sleep. Today, Jesus calls out to you "Could you not watch one hour with me?" (Mt. 26:40). He looks to you to comfort Him now!

Our Holy Father wrote the following regarding Eucharistic Adoration, "Let us take time to kneel before Jesus present in the Eucharist in order to make reparation for the acts of carelessness and neglect, and even the insults which our Savior must endure in many parts of the world."



MIDNIGHT RUN - APRIL 8TH



Midnight Run is our outreach program to provide food, clothing and toiletries to the homeless of NYC. The next Run is scheduled for Friday, April 8th. Your generosity in the past is greatly appreciated and requested again. Donations required:

- o men's sneakers, sizes 8-14
- o white socks
- o used or new men's clothing (mostly large & extra large):
 - o jeans
 - o tee shirts or casual pullovers
 - o lightweight outerwear
 - o baseball style hats
 - o new men's underwear, shirts, and boxers or briefs
- o sample (small) size toiletries such as: combs, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes and disposable razors
- o blankets
- o snack-sized fruit cups and snacks (pretzels, cookies, etc.)

To volunteer or for additional information please contact Kathy Doscher at 337-3356 or Marygrace Marbach at 965-5524.

Centering Prayer - The parish Centering Prayer group meets Wednesdays, 7:30 PM in the lower rectory. All are invited who have any experience with Christian meditation. Newcomers are welcome to come at 7:00 PM for a brief orientation. You may call Sr. Rose Vermette for further information.



THE YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST SPECIAL INDULGENCES

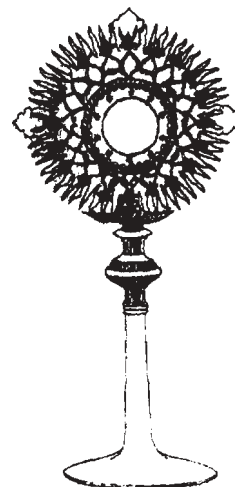
In establishing this year as the Year of the Eucharist, Pope John Paul II authorized special indulgences for Catholics for Eucharistic Adoration and Prayer before the Eucharist. An indulgence is a remission of the temporal punishment due for sins committed. According to Cardinal J. Francis Stafford, who heads the Apostolic Penitentiary, the purpose of establishing these indulgences is to encourage in the faithful "a deeper knowledge of and a more intense love" for the Eucharist. On January 14, the Vatican published the cardinal's statement announcing the indulgences and outlining the requirements for receiving them.

The special Year of the Eucharist indulgences include the normal requirements set by the Church for all plenary indulgences:

Within a reasonably short period of time, the person goes to confession, receives the Eucharist, and prays for the intentions of the Pope, all in a spirit of total detachment from the attraction of sin.

Special plenary indulgences, according to Cardinal Stafford, would be given to those who fulfill the normal requirements in conjunction with participating "with the attention and piety in a sacred function or a pious exercise carried out in honor of the Blessed Sacrament, either solemnly exposed or preserved in the tabernacle."

Additionally, those who recite the Vespers and compline prayers of the Liturgy of the Hours in a church or chapel where the Eucharist is present in the tabernacle will receive a plenary indulgence.



Holy Week Schedule



MASS SCHEDULES: PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION

Saturday, March 19th Vigil Mass - 7:30pm
Sunday, March 20th
8:30am and 10:30am

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

Saturday, March 19th Vigil Mass - 5:30pm
Sunday, March 20th
7:15am, 9:00am, 11:00am, 1:00pm and 5:30pm
11:05am in the Lower Church

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION

Monday, March 21st - after Mass
Tuesday, March 22nd - after Mass
Friday, March 25th - 11:00am
Saturday, March 26 - 11:30am
Wednesday, March 23rd

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

Monday, March 21st - after all Masses
Tuesday, March 22nd - after all Masses
Wednesday, March 23rd:
Communal Penance Service - 7:30pm
Saturday, March 26th - 3:00pm

Communal Penance Service at Immaculate Conception

THE EASTER TRIDUUM

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION

HOLY THURSDAY, MARCH 24TH

Morning Prayer - 10:30am
Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Supper - 7:30pm
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - follows Liturgy of
the Lord's Supper until midnight
Fr. Fata Hall

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

HOLY THURSDAY, MARCH 24TH

Morning Prayer - 10:00am
Holy Mass - 11:00am
Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Supper - 7:30pm
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - follows Liturgy of
the Lord's Supper until midnight
Lower Church

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 25TH

Morning Prayer - Lamentations - 10:30am
Liturgy of the Lord's Passion - 3:00pm
Stations of the Cross - 7:30pm

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 25TH

Morning Prayer - Lamentations - 10:00am
Children's Stations of the Cross - 1:00pm at flagpole
Stations of the Cross - 3:00pm
Liturgy of the Lord's Passion - 7:30pm

HOLY SATURDAY, MARCH 26TH

Morning Prayer - 10:30am

HOLY SATURDAY, MARCH 26TH

Morning Prayer - 10:00am

MASS SCHEDULES: EASTER SUNDAY - RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION

Saturday, March 26th Easter Vigil Mass - 7:30pm
Sunday, March 27th
8:30am and 10:30am

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

Saturday, March 26th Easter Vigil Mass - 7:30pm
Sunday, March 27th
7:30am, 9:00am, 11:00am, 1:00pm
9:05am and 11:05 in the School Cafeteria
There will be no 5:30pm Mass on Easter Sunday

Things Don't Always Turn Out the Way We Want

Once there were three trees on a hill in the woods. They were discussing their hopes and dreams when the first tree said, "Someday I hope to be a treasure chest. I could be filled with gold, silver and precious gems. I could be decorated with intricate carving and everyone would see the beauty." Then the second tree said, "Someday I will be a mighty ship. I will take kings and queens across the waters and sail to the corners of the world. Everyone will feel safe in me because of the strength of my hull." Finally, the third tree said, "I want to grow to be the tallest and straightest tree in the forest. People will see me on top of the hill and look up to my branches, and think of the heavens and God and how close to them I am reaching. I will be the greatest tree of all time and people will always remember me."



After a few years of praying that their dreams would come true, a group of woodsmen came upon the trees. When one came to the first tree he said, "This looks like a strong tree, I think I should be able to sell the wood to a carpenter," and he began cutting it down. The tree was happy, because he knew that the carpenter would make him into a treasure chest.

At the second tree the woodsman said, "This looks like a strong tree. I should be able to sell it to the shipyard." The second tree was happy because he knew he was on his way to becoming a mighty ship.

When the woodsmen came upon the third tree, the tree was frightened because he knew that if they cut him down his dreams would not come true. One of the woodsmen said, "I don't need anything special from my tree, I'll take this one," and he cut it down.

When the first tree arrived at the carpenters, he was made into a feed box for animals. He was then placed in a barn and filled with hay. This was not at all what he had prayed for. The second tree was cut and made into a small fishing boat. His dreams of being a mighty ship and carrying kings had come to an end. The third tree was cut into large pieces and left alone in the dark.

The years went by, and the trees forgot about their dreams. Then one day, a man and woman came into the barn. She gave birth and they placed the baby in the hay in the feed box that was made from the first tree. The man wished that he could have made a crib for the baby, but this manger would have to do. The tree could feel the importance of this event and knew that it had held the greatest treasure of all time.

Years later, a group of men got in the fishing boat made from the second tree. One of them was tired and went to sleep. While they were out on the water, a great storm arose and the tree didn't think it was strong enough to keep the men safe. The men woke the sleeping man, and He stood and said "Peace" and the storm stopped. At this time, the tree knew that it had carried the King of Kings in its boat.

Finally, someone came and got the third tree. It was carried through the streets as the people mocked the man who was carrying it. When they came to a stop, the man was nailed to the tree and raised in the air to die at the top of a hill. When Sunday came, the tree came to realize that it was strong enough to stand at the top of a hill and be as close to God as was possible, because Jesus had been crucified on it.

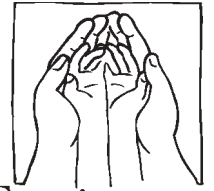


When things don't seem to be going your way, always know that God has a plan for you. If you place your trust in Him, He will give you great gifts. Each of the trees got what they wanted, just not in the way they had imagined. We don't always know what God's plans are for us. We just know that His ways are not our ways, but His ways are always best.

Stations of the Cross will be held at Assumption Church on Good Friday at 3PM. At Immaculate Conception, Spanish Stations of the Cross will be on Monday after the 7:30PM Mass. On Good Friday, Children's Stations of the Cross will start at the flagpole at Immaculate Conception at 1PM. Stations of the Cross will also be at Immaculate Conception at 7:30PM on Good Friday. See page 5 for additional schedules.

Excerpts from
CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE
Questions and Answers

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/publishing/Penance.pdf>



Forgiveness

What happens in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation is almost more than one could imagine. If we could meet Jesus today, we would expect to be received with love and compassion, because he is perfect and knows what it is to forgive. Instead, we confess to an ordinary human being who represents Jesus Christ sacramentally. We can expect the priest to receive us with love and care and compassion as well—not because he is sinless, but because he knows what it is to need forgiveness. God transforms even our human frailty into the medium of life-giving grace.

— A Year of the Lord’s Favor

Why do we need the Sacrament of Penance? “Because of human weakness . . . Christians ‘turn aside from [their] early love’ (see Rev 2:4) and even break off their friendship with God by sinning. The Lord, therefore, instituted a special sacrament of penance for the pardon of sins committed after baptism, and the Church has faithfully celebrated the sacrament throughout the centuries—in varying ways, but retaining its essential elements” (Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship, decree promulgating the *Rite of Penance*).

What happens in the Sacrament of Penance? In the Sacrament of Penance, “the sinner who by grace of a merciful God embraces the way of penance comes back to the Father who ‘first loved us’ (1 Jn 4:19), to Christ who gave himself up for us, and to the Holy Spirit who has been poured out on us abundantly” (*Rite of Penance*, no. 5). Likewise, “those who by grave sin have withdrawn from the communion of love with God are called back in the sacrament of penance to the life they have lost. And those who through daily weakness fall into venial sins draw strength from a repeated celebration of penance to gain the full freedom of the children of God” (*RP*, no. 7).

What is the role of the priest in Sacrament of Penance? According to the Rite of Penance, “the Church exercises the ministry of the sacrament of penance through bishops and priests. By preaching God’s word they call the faithful to conversion; in the name of Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit they declare and grant the forgiveness of sins. In the exercise of this ministry priests act in communion with the bishop and share in his power and office . . .” (*RP*, no. 9).

What is the role of the community in Sacrament of Penance? According to the Rite of Penance, “the whole Church, as a priestly people, acts in different ways in the work of reconciliation which has been entrusted to it by the Lord. Not only does the Church call sinners to repentance by preaching the word of God, but it also intercedes for them and helps penitents with maternal care and solicitude to acknowledge and admit their sins and so obtain the mercy of God who alone can forgive sins. Furthermore, the Church becomes the instrument of the conversion and absolution of the penitent through the ministry entrusted by Christ to the apostles and their successors.” (*RP*, no. 8).

When should the Sacrament of Penance be scheduled? The Sacrament should be regularly scheduled at times convenient for the faithful (See Sacred Congregation for Rites, no. 35).

What are the different forms of the Sacrament of Penance? The Sacrament of Penance takes three forms, or rites. Pope Paul VI’s eloquent explanation of each rite is provided below (General Audience, July 19, 1972).

a. **The Rite for the Reconciliation of Individual Penitents**—“The first [form] is the reconciliation of an individual . . . with a new emphasis on the demand for personal dispositions and on the relationship to the word of God. . . . This form of reconciliation is the accustomed one, but enriched by a greater awareness, seriousness, listening, and so to speak, by a new outpouring of divine love and our own inexpressible joy in the knowledge of being restored to divine life. . . .”

b. **The Rite for the Reconciliation of Several Penitents**—“The second way of reconciliation is that of a communal preparation followed by individual confession and absolution. It combines the two values of being a community act and a personal act. It is a preferable form of reconciliation for our people when it is possible but it usually presupposes the presence of many ministers of the sacrament and this is not always easy.

c. **The Rite for the Reconciliation of Several Penitents with General Absolution**—“Then there is the third way, a collective form of reconciliation with a single, general absolution. This form, however, is by way of exception, of necessity, in cases sanctioned by the bishops, and with the continuing obligation of individual confession of grave sins, that is, mortal sins, at a later time.”

A Communal Penance Service will be held at Immaculate Conception Church on Wednesday, March 23rd at 7:30 PM. See page 5 for additional opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Immaculate Conception Children's Choir

featured at the 9:00 AM Family Mass



Interested in Joining the
Children's Choir?

An additional day of Choir Practice has been added to accommodate ICS and PSR students in grades 2 through 8. Rehearsals are in the Lower Church. Choose the day that is best for you:



Tuesdays: 3:45 PM - 4:30 PM. or
Wednesdays: 3:15 PM - 4:00 PM



Please consider joining the Children's Choir. Each member is required to attend one practice session per week. If you feel inspired, you may attend both!

If you have any questions, contact Maria Cocucci (mardango@verizon.net) or Joanne Api (apij@aol.com)

WHAT IS DIVINE MERCY?

It is the devotion to Jesus and His “Divine Mercy” based on the diary of St. Faustina Kowalska, an uneducated Polish nun. The diary is composed of revelations she received directly from Jesus. He expressed His desire to grant “unimaginable graces to those souls who trust in His Mercy (D, 687). The essence of the devotion to the Divine Mercy is *trust*. *Divine Mercy* “*Heal the hurts and unforgiveness that prevent us from drawing closer to You.*”

A hundred years ago the world was consecrated to the Sacred Heart. Today there is greater need to experience God’s love and forgiveness. In the turmoil of the world today, mankind needs to turn with trust to His Divine Mercy and the sacraments of forgiveness and Eucharist. On May 23, 2000, Pope John-Paul II fulfilled Jesus’ desire to establish the feast of the Divine Mercy. This feast is to be celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Today, more than ever, we need to accept and live Jesus’ message of mercy.

THE DIVINE MERCY IMAGE

Jesus commissioned Saint Faustina to have an image painted of Him as He appeared to her in a vision: with red and pale rays coming from the area of His heart. The rays represent the blood and water which flowed from His pierced side on the cross. His right hand is raised in blessing and His left hand points to His merciful heart which is open to all. The image was to be signed “Jesus, I Trust In You”.

THE CHAPLET

In His revelation to St. Faustina, Our Lord made it clear the chaplet was not only for her, but also for the whole world. He attached extraordinary promises to its recitation. “Through the chaplet, you will obtain everything, if what you ask for is compatible with My will” (diary 1731). The chaplet is prayed on rosary beads. Pamphlets with explanation of how to pray the chaplet can be found at the entrance of the church.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Immaculate Conception will be hosting a Divine Mercy Service on Sunday, April 3rd (Divine Mercy Sunday) beginning with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at 2:30 PM and with Recitation of the Chaplet at 3PM.

PLENARY INDULGENCE

A special plenary indulgence includes recitation of the Chaplet and the reception of the Eucharist on Divine Mercy Sunday along with the recent reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. A Lenten Reconciliation would cover the requirement. The recipient must be in the state of grace. Let us not miss out on His outpouring of Mercy.



The man whispered, "God, speak to me"
and a meadowlark sang.
But, the man did not hear.



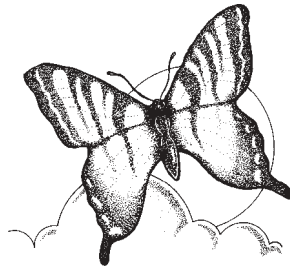
So the man yelled, "God, speak to me"
and the thunder rolled across the sky.
But, the man did not listen.

The man looked around and said,
"God let me see you."
And a star shined brightly.
But the man did not see.



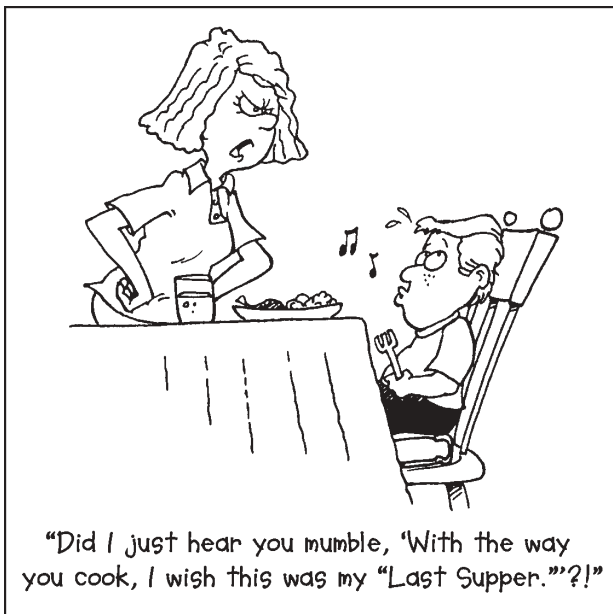
And, the man
shouted,
"God show me a miracle."
And, a life was born.
But, the man did not notice.

So, the man cried out in despair,
"Touch me God, and let me
know you are here
Whereupon, God reached down
and touched the man.
But, the man brushed the
butterfly away ...
and walked on.



The man cried,
"God, I need your help!"
And an e-mail arrived reaching out
with good news and encouragement.
But, the man deleted it and contin-
ued crying...

Don't miss out on a blessing because it isn't packaged the
way that you expect.



I AM A CHRISTIAN

by Maya Angelou

When I say "I am a Christian"
I'm not shouting "I'm clean livin'".
I'm whispering "I was lost,
Now I'm found and forgiven."

When I say "I am a Christian"
I don't speak of this with pride.
I'm confessing that I stumble
and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say "I am a Christian"
I'm not trying to be strong.
I'm professing that I'm weak
and need His strength to carry on.

When I say "I am a Christian"
I'm not bragging of success.
I'm admitting I have failed
and need God to clean my mess.

When I say "I am a Christian"
I'm not claiming to be perfect.
My flaws are far too visible
But God believes I am worth it.

When I say "I am a Christian"
I still feel the sting of pain,
I have my share of heartaches
So I call upon His Name.

When I say "I am a Christian"
I'm not holier than thou.
I'm just a simple sinner
who received God's good grace, somehow.

Community Notes

Volunteers Needed - The Jansen Memorial Hospice provides compassionate and supportive care to terminally ill patients who wish to live their last days in peace and dignity in the comfort of their home. Volunteers are a vital part of the hospice team. Training begins **March 23**, 2:30 - 4:30 PM and runs for 7 consecutive Wednesdays at the Jansen Memorial Hospice, 69 Main Street in Tuckahoe. Call Didi Marcal, CSW at 961-2818 ext. 355 for more information.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world, indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Meade

Dominican College - two Open House dates are scheduled for prospective students. An Information Session for adults interested in undergraduate and graduate programs will be held on Wednesday, **April 6** from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM in the Hennessy Center. An Open House for High School and Transfer Students is scheduled for Sunday, **April 17** from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM at the Granito Center. For more information, contact the Office of Admissions at admissions@dc.edu or toll-free at 1-866-4DC-INFO.

Catholic Widows & Widowers of Yonkers will be meeting at 7:15pm on Tuesday, **April 19th** in the auditorium of Christ the King School, 740 North Broadway. New members are welcome. Call 476-4436 for more info. The 13th Anniversary Celebration will be a Spring Dinner Dance at the Riverview, 1 Warburton Ave., Hastings-On-Hudson on Friday, **April 22nd**, 5-11 PM. Guests are welcome. Reservations are required. Payment of \$50 is due by April 9th. For more info and reservations, call 478-3859 or 965-2427.

Higher Achievement Program (HAP) - St. Catharine Academy in the Bronx is offering the HAP for young women currently in grades 6-7 preparing for the Admissions Test into Catholic High School (TACHS). The program runs **June 27-July 29**. For more information, call (718) 882-2882 ext. 124.

Regina Coeli Alumni and Parents of Alumni - Help us celebrate our 50th anniversary. Contact Kathy Laurentiev (845) 229-1435 or the rectory at (845) 229-2134 to update our alumni list.

Is God calling you? - Blest are they who come in the Name of the Lord! Are you being called to proclaim Jesus as a priest, brother or sister? If so, call Fr. Ed Cipot at 968-1340.



Restaurant Vouchers to benefit ICS Immaculate Conception School is selling vouchers for Joe's Quarry Inn on Marbledale Road as a fund-raiser for the school. The vouchers cost \$20 and a portion of the proceeds will be used for the school's Technology Program. Restaurant vouchers make great gifts for family and friends!

Foster Grandparent Program - looking for low-income adults 60 years and older to serve 20 hrs./wk as volunteers serving children close to home. Receive a non-taxable, bi-weekly stipend. For more information, call 592-5600.

Volunteer Drivers Needed - The Sisters of St. Francis are in need of volunteers to drive the Sisters to medical appointments in southern Westchester, usually late morning or afternoon. Please contact the Health Care Coordinator: Mary Ann McDevitt, RN at 478-8419.



Catholic Relief Services - Thousands have lost their lives. Millions more remain homeless. Catholic Relief Services is helping those who need it most. Respond to the Tsunami disaster. Visit www.HelpCRS.org or call 1-877-435-7277.

HELP WANTED

Receptionist/Clerical - Part time - Wednesday afternoons: 1-6 PM. Call Dr. Liebowitz at 793-3666

House Cleaner - Woman looking for house cleaner who is able to do all chores in an apartment. Needed every 2 or 3 weeks in Yonkers. Please call 968-1465.

Home Health Care Worker - for elderly Italian-speaking woman in Pelham area. 10AM - 1PM Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Prefer English/Italian bilingual. Call (914) 337-6790 in the evening. Car needed to drive to appointments.

POSITIONS WANTED

Cleaning and Shopping - Available in the mornings to do laundry, ironing, cooking and more. Can also take anyone shopping. Call Flor at 337-4553.

Babysitter, Companion, Cook and/or Housekeeper - Young Spanish-speaking woman willing to work evenings, afternoons, and/or weekends. Excellent references. Call Maria at 771-6294.

Certified Home Health Care Worker - looking to care for elderly at night. Call Gloria at 961-1423 or 274-0724 (cell).

Certified Nurse's Aide, with over 20 years experience, seeks job taking care of elderly or special needs children. Clean driving record with own car and excellent references. Call Ruth (718) 993-6521

Child Care - Experienced Mom will care for your toddler in my Eastchester home. Call 961-7872.

Companion Position Wanted PT/FT - Experienced lady to bathe, to prepare a meal, will drive to medical appointments and shopping. Excellent references. Call 961-6440.

Pregnant? Need Help? 914-235-0505 or 1-800-640-0767.
Absolutely Confidential - Total Services Free.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 19 Vigil: Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

5:30 PM Anthony Thomas Cannata (*) Mem.

Sunday, March 20 Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Masses at 7:15 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 11:05 PM (Lower Church), 1:00 PM and 5:30 PM

Monday, March 21 Monday of Holy Week

6:45 AM Vincent Nicoletti Mem.

8:00 AM Michael Iamartino 6th Ann.

12:00 PM Davide Gustaferrero Mem.

7:30 PM Luigi La Vista Mem.

Tuesday, March 22 Tuesday of Holy Week

8:00 AM Edna Lalor Mem.

12:00 PM James P. Doody Mem.

Wednesday, March 23 Wednesday of Holy Week

6:45 AM Mary Jegarajah Mem.

8:00 AM Ann Tome Mem.

12:00 PM Leonardo Milano Mem.

Thursday, March 24 Holy Thursday

11:00 AM Holy Mass Mem.

7:30 PM Liturgy of the Lord's Supper Mem.



Friday, March 25 Good Friday

There are no Masses after the Liturgy of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday until the Easter Vigil.



Saturday, March 26 Easter Vigil

7:30 PM Easter Vigil

Sunday, March 27 Easter

Masses in the Church: 7:30AM, 9:00AM, 11:00AM, 1:00PM

Masses in the ICS Cafeteria: 9:05AM, 11:05AM

There is no 5:30 PM Mass on Easter Sunday

March 13, 2005

Attendance: Adults 1372 Children 349 Total 1721

Collection: \$11,867 Last Year: \$17,763

Thank you, dear parishioners, for your generous love for the Church.

Schedule for the Week

Sunday, March 20

English Class 8:00 AM School

CYO 6:30 PM Lower Church

Monday, March 21

Exposition & Benediction 12:30 PM-7:15 PM Church

Lenten Series 1:00 PM Lower Rectory

Spanish Stations of the Cross 8:00 PM Church

Lenten Series 8:00 PM Lower Rectory

Tuesday, March 22

Legion of Mary 12:30 PM Lower Rectory

Children's Choir 3:45 - 4:30 PM Lower Church

RCIA 7:30 PM Lower Rectory

Wednesday, March 23

Children's Choir 3:15 - 4:00 PM Lower Church

Centering Prayer 7:30 PM Lower Rectory

Friday, March 25

Stations of the Cross 7:30 PM Church

Saturday, March 26

Hospitality after Easter Vigil Lower Church

Monday, March 28

Exposition & Benediction 12:30 PM-7:15 PM Church

Lenten Series 1:00 PM Lower Rectory

Bereavement Support 7:00 - 8:30 PM Lower Rectory

Parish Council 7:30 PM Lower Church

Lenten Series 8:00 PM Lower Rectory

Tuesday, March 29

Legion of Mary 12:30 PM Lower Rectory

Children's Choir 3:45 - 4:30 PM Lower Church

RCIA 7:30 PM Lower Rectory

Rosary Society Board Meeting 8:30 PM Lower Church



Holy Week Activities

A special Holy Week Schedule on page 5 lists all the opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at both Immaculate Conception and Assumption Churches. It also includes special prayers and liturgies during the Sacred Triduum: Holy Thursday - Good Friday - Holy Saturday.

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION

Mass Intentions

Sat 3/19 7:30 PM Giustino Bucciarelli
 Sun 3/20 8:30 AM Giuseppe Marcoccia
 10:30 AM William Ciamarra & Maria Concetta Pinto
 Mon 3/21 7:45 AM Alessandra & Santo Tambone
 7:30 PM Memorial Mass for Michael Frey
 Tues 3/22 7:45 AM Chester Rinko
 Wed 3/23 7:45 AM John Sacrapanti
 Thur 3/24 7:30 PM Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Supper
 Sat 3/26 7:30 PM Easter Vigil
 Sun 3/27 8:30 AM Maria D'Aversa
 10:30 AM Carmela & Luigi Di Rienzo



H O L Y · W E E K

March 13, 2005

Attendance: Adults 326 Children 36 Total 362

Collection: \$1,262 Last Year: \$1,486

Thank you, dear parishioners, for your generous love for the Church.