

Intentions for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

Saturday, March 27, Palm Sunday (Vigil)

5:00 pm John T. Crowley

Sunday, March 28, Palm Sunday

9:00 am Marie & Edward Paparelli

12:00 pm Arturo Olvera

Monday, March 29, Monday of Holy Week

12:00 pm Tom Weadock

Tuesday, March 30, Tuesday of Holy Week

12:00 pm Kathleen McHugh

Wednesday, March 31, Spy Wednesday

12:00 pm Msgr. Edward M. O'Brien
(13th Anniversary)

Thursday, April 1, Holy Thursday

Mass of the Lord's Supper

7:00 pm For Priests in the Year for Priests

Friday, April 2, Good Friday

Veneration of the Cross & Mass of the Presanctified

3:00 pm Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

Saturday, April 3, Easter Vigil

8:00 pm Gerard & Elizabeth Morrongiello

Sunday, April 4, Easter Sunday

9:00 am Anthony Nicoletti

12:00 pm Deceased Members of the McElduff Family

Attendance and Collections for the Fifth Sunday of Lent (March 21)

Our attendance last week, March 21 was 185. The collection was \$1242. Thank you for your generosity.

Please Pray for the Sick of Our Parish

Please pray for our sick parishioners: Patti Adcroft, Mary Barone, Mary Billings, Johnathan Caban, Anne Cahill, Kara Jean Fleming, Margaret Flynn, Sister Eileen McCabe, Carol Mohler, Jacqueline O'Grady, Clara Rancier, Fred Serafini. If you know of a parishioner who is sick, please contact the Rectory.

Visit to the Sick, Homebound, or Hospitalized

If you or someone you know is sick, homebound, or hospitalized and would like a visit from a priest for Confession, Communion, or Anointing of the Sick, please call the Rectory.

Please Participate in the Stewardship Appeal!

Your Participation is Crucial to Guardian Angel

We have begun the 2010 Archdiocesan Stewardship Appeal, but only 24 pledges have been received. Last year, we had over 35!

Every single contribution is large in terms of participation, even if the contribution is monetarily relatively small. To show the Archdiocese that Guardian Angel is a vibrant parish, though a small one, we need greater participation. Please take a pledge card from the back of the church and participate.

Holy Week Schedule

Holy Week is this coming week. Each one of us should make every effort to participate in all three days of the Sacred Triduum: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.

Holy Thursday

April 1, 7:00 pm—Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday

April 2, 3:00 pm—Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday

April 3, 8:00 pm—Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday

April 4, Masses at 9:00 am and 12:00

Sacred Triduum

Christians have been commemorating the death and resurrection of Jesus since Apostolic times, because his death and resurrection are at the heart of Christian salvation. At least by the second century, Christians celebrated the Great Easter Vigil, an event which began the night of Holy Saturday, continuing until dawn on Easter morning. During this vigil, Christians commemorated salvation history, awaited the return of Jesus, and celebrated the resurrection of Jesus at dawn on Easter Sunday. It was at the vigil that catechumens, after a three-year period of catechesis, were baptized and received first communion. The Easter Vigil was the most important day of the liturgical year. Eventually Christians expanded this celebration to a three-day commemoration of Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection, with the Easter Vigil being the high point of the three-day commemoration. Nonetheless, over time, as the liturgical year expanded, the Easter Vigil lost its preeminence, although the three days celebrating the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus still held an important place in the Church Year. Since the liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council, the Easter Vigil, and the Triduum have regained their position of prominence in the Western Catholic liturgical calendar. The General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar re-established the Triduum as a season to follow the Lord to his Cross and Resurrection.

St. Patrick's Breastplate: A Variation

Frank Meade, one of our parishioners, notes that a favorite evening prayer of his is St. Patrick's Breastplate. Whilst meditating on it, he added some additional thoughts. Please see his thoughts below.

Christ in my Joy,
In my Fears,
In my Heart,
In my Love,
In my Day,
In my Night,
In my Life,
In my Death,
In my Mind,
In my Soul.

Christ in my Wakening,
In my Sleeping,
In my Walking,
In my Resting,
In my Seeing,
In my Hearing,
In my Working,
In my Playing,
In my Singing,
In my Crying,
In my Youth,
In my Age.

Christ in my Drinking,
In my Eating,
In my Laughter,
In my Tears,
In my Giving,
In my Receiving,
In my Writing,
In my Reading,
In my Learning,
In my Teaching.

Christ in my Hands,
In my Feet,
In my Leading,
In my Following,

Christ in my Sun,
In my Moon,
In my Stars,
In my Clouds.

Christ in my Memory,
Christ in my Now,
Christ in my Future,
Christ in my Always.

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday is the sixth and last Sunday of Lent and beginning of Holy Week, a Sunday of the highest rank.

The principal ceremonies of the day are the benediction of the palms, the procession, the Mass, and during it the singing of the Passion. The blessing of the palms follows a ritual similar to that of Mass. An antiphon "Hosanna to the Son of David" is followed by a prayer. The Epistle is read from Exodus 15:27-16:7, narrating the murmuring of the children of Israel in the desert of Sin, and sighing for the fleshpots of Egypt, and gives the promise of the manna to be sent as food from heaven. The Gradual contains the prophetic words uttered by the high-priest Caiphaz, "That it was expedient that one man should die for the people"; and another the prayer of Christ in the Garden of Olives that the chalice might pass; also his admonition to the disciples to watch and pray. The Gospel, taken from St. Matthew, xvi, 1-9, describes the triumphant entry of Christ into Jerusalem when the populace cut boughs from the trees and strewed them as He passed, crying, Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Then follow an oration, a preface, the Sanctus, and Benedictus.

In the five prayers which are then said the priest asks God to bless the branches of palm or olive, that they may be a protection to all places into which they may be brought, that the right hand of God may expel all adversity, bless and protect all who dwell in them, who have been redeemed by our Lord Jesus Christ. The prayers make reference to the dove bringing back the olive branch to Noah's ark and to the multitude greeting Our Lord; they say that the branches of palms signify victory over the prince of death and the olive the advent of spiritual unction through Christ. The officiating clergyman sprinkles the palms with holy water, incenses them, and, after another prayer, distributes them. During the distribution the choir sings the "Pueri Hebræorum". The Hebrew children spread their garments in the way and cried out saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David; Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord."

Mass is celebrated, the principal feature of which is the singing of the Passion according to St. Matthew, during which all hold the palms in their hands.

Palm branches have been used by all nations as an emblem of joy and victory over enemies; in Christianity as a sign of victory over the flesh and the world. Hence, palms are especially associated with the memory of the martyrs. The palms blessed on Palm Sunday are used in the procession of the day, then taken home by the faithful and used as a sacramental. They are preserved in prominent places in the house.