MARCH 16, 2008

Pastor's Perspective

Palm Sunday begin the solemn days of Holy Week. After the palms are blessed, we are invited to follow the Lord:

"Let us go forth in peace, proclaiming Jesus our Messiah,
as did the crowds who welcomed him to Jerusalem."

The invitation to follow extends to the whole of Holy Week.

As we move through Holy Week, the triumph of Palm Sunday is transformed into the tragedy of Jesus' arrest, trial and crucifixion. We gain perspective, though, on the deeper, salvific meaning of these events through the daily readings. The Old Testament selections from the prophet Isaiah's "servant songs" tell the story of God's upright and just servant who is persecuted and killed. This servant was the primary model by which Christians could make sense of Jesus' unexpected death. In the gospels, Jesus' last few days are marked by the growing hostility of the religious leaders and the startling realization that even his closest disciples will betray him and deny him.

At the Last Supper Jesus called His disciples to "Do this in Memory of Me". . . . and so we have down through the centuries:

"Was ever another command so obeyed? For century after century, spreading slowly to every continent and country and among every race on earth, this action has been done, in every conceivable human circumstance, for every conceivable human need from infancy and before it to extreme old age and after it, from the pinnacles of earthly greatness to the refuge of fugitives in caves and dens of the earth. Men have found no better thing than this to do for kings at their crowning and for criminals going to the scaffold; for armies in triumph or for a bride and bridegroom in a little country church; for the proclamation of a dogma or for a good crop of wheat; for the wisdom of a Parliament of a mighty nation or for a sick old woman afraid to die; for a school boy sitting for an examination or for Columbus setting out to discover America; for the famine of whole provinces or for the soul of a dead lover; in thankfulness because my father did not die of pneumonia; for a village headman much tempted to return to fetish because the yams had failed; because the Turk was at the gates of Vienna; for the repentance of Margaret, for the settlement of a strike; for a son for a barren woman; for Captain So-and-so, wounded and prisoner of war; while the lions roared in the nearby amphitheatre; on the beach at Dunkirk; while the hiss of scythes in the thick June grass came faintly through the windows of the church; tremulously, by an old monk on the fiftieth anniversary of his vows; furtively, by an exiled bishop who had hewn timber all day in a prison camp near Murmansk; gorgeously, for the canonization of St. Joan of Arc – one could fill many pages with the reasons why we have done this, and not tell a hundredth part of them. And best of all, week by week and month by month, on a hundred thousand successive Sundays, faithfully, unfailingly, across all the parishes of Christendom, the pastors have done this to make the plebs sancta Dei – the holy common people of God."

The Shape of the Liturgy by Dom Gregory Dix

The highpoint of Holy Week and the entire Christian Year is found in the "Triduum", Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil.

Will you watch with the Lord this Holy Week and follow His Way?
Will you do this in His Memory?

May this truly be for all of us a "Holy Week.

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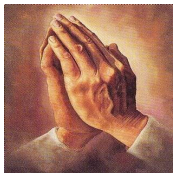

EUCHARIST INTENTIONS

Among the intentions for those who gather for the Eucharist this week will be:

MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2008
9:15AM MARY MAHANY – Patty & Joe Janiak

TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2008
7:00AM CHARLES & ANTOINETTE KAESSER – Mary Patel
9:15AM MINNIE & BOB FROHNE – The Polle Family

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2008
7:00AM FRANCES O'CONNOR – Diane & Family
9:15AM OVID B. PUNCH – Daughter Karen Napoli & Wife Doris

THE TRIDUUM

HOLY THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2008
8:30AM MORNING PRAYER
7:30PM MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Eucharistic Adoration will follow the Mass of our Lord's Supper until 11:00pm

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2008
8:30AM MORNING PRAYER
11:00AM CHILDREN'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS
3:00PM LITURGY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

HOLY SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2008
8:30AM MORNING PRAYER
11:00AM BLESSING OF EASTER FOOD
7:30PM EASTER VIGIL – FOR THE PEOPLE OF ST. RITA PARISH

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2008
7:30AM DAVID NIER – Wife Noreen
9:00AM JOHN BUTLER – Doris Stark
10:30AM KATHLEEN BAYER – Maria & Mollie Pellegrino

Additional parking for Easter Masses will be available across the street at the Armory.

This week the Tabernacle Light will burn in loving memory of Semaus McGinnity

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LENTEN PENITENTIAL REGULATIONS ~ Good Friday is a day of both fasting and abstinence. **Abstinence** refers to not eating meat. All persons fourteen years of age and up are obliged to abstain. **Fasting** refers to eating one full meal a day with smaller portions that do not constitute a full meal at the other two meal times. Adults eighteen years of age up to the age of sixty are obliged to fast.

BLESSING OF EASTER FOOD (and Easter baskets)

Saturday, March 22
11:00 am in Church

Come and be part of this wonderful Easter tradition. Children are invited to bring their Easter baskets.

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CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Due to the anticipated large crowd, we will not have Children's Liturgy on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. We apologize for any inconvenience.

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WHAT TO DO WITH LAST YEAR'S PALMS?

Do you know that you can dispose of your palms from last year? They need to be burned (in a fireplace or grill for example) or bury them in the ground.

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The Parish Offices will be closed on Friday, March 21 In observance of Good Friday

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SAVE THE DATE!
St. Rita's Vacation Bible School 2008
July 14 through 18 from 9:00am to Noon. Information and registration forms will be available next weekend in the Narthex.

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OPERATION RICE BOWL

The story of the passion includes Jesus' last instructions to his disciples before he completes his mission through suffering and death. We are called to follow Jesus in his mission that we may all be one. We are nourished through our faith and communion with one another, both here in the United States and in the far corners of the globe. Please support Catholic Relief Service's efforts with your prayers, fasting, learning and giving with Operation Rice Bowl and your donations through the use of the Lenten Coin boxes. Please return them next weekend.

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GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY PLACES

Few places in the world are as precious to Catholics as those where Jesus Christ, our Savior, walked and taught, lived and died. Your generosity to this collection on Good Friday can help keep alive those Holy Places and Shrines and the Franciscan Missioners who serve the people there.

PLANS FOR THE WEEK MARCH 16, 2008

SUNDAY 3/16

8:30-11:00am	Breakfast Club – Gym
4:00pm	Sung Evening Prayer – Church

MONDAY 3/17

4:30-5:30pm	Faith Formation Classes
6:30-7:30pm	Faith Formation Classes

TUESDAY 3/18

9:00-11:00am	MOMS Group – Rm 3
1:00pm	Recovery – Rm 3
4:30-5:30pm	Faith Formation Classes

WEDNESDAY 3/19

7:00-9:00pm	Bible Study – Rm 1
7:00-8:30pm	Choir Rehearsal – Rm 3

GOOD FRIDAY 3/21

5:00-7:00pm	Fish Dinner – Gym

HOLY SATURDAY 3/22

11:00am Blessing of Easter Food & Baskets – Church

PARISH SUPPORT
For Last Weekend March 8 & 9

Last Week	Weekly Goal	Variance
$10,555	$13,700	- $3,145
Year to Date	**Year to Date Goal**	**Variance**
$537,039	$506,900	+$30,139

(Our fiscal year is 7/1/07 – 6/30/08)

The surplus in the weekly collection is allocated to reduce the overall budget deficit of the parish.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

SENIORS: Holy Trinity Seniors are hosting the viewing of ***"The Passion of the Christ"***, by Mel Gibson. Please join us on Wednesday, March 19. You are welcome to attend Mass and the rosary at 9:00am – the movie will follow. We will meet in the Gathering Space for coffee and danish and then show the movie on DVD. Please call Kay Tichacek @265-9354 for reservations.

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5TH GRADER NEEDS YOUR VOTE!!!

St. Rita School 5th Grader Noah Ritzel and his teammate, parishioner Tom Cali, have qualified for the FOX Rochester Toyota 5th Grade Challenge. In order to make the televised finals they need your help! Anytime from March 18 - 23 go to www.rochesterhomepage.net and click on the Toyota 5th Grade Challenge logo where you can vote for Noah and Tom to be in the finals. The top 8 vote getters will make it to the finals which will be televised March 29 on FOX-31(cable channel 7).

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NO BREAKFAST CLUB NEXT WEEKEND
All of our volunteers wish you a blessed Easter.

BIBLE READINGS:

16 Sun **Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion** Mt 21:1-11 Is 50:4-7 Ps 22:8-9,17-20,23-24 Phil 2:6-11 Mt 26:14-27:66
17 Mon Is 42:1-7 Ps 27:1-3,13-14 Jn 12:1-11
18 Tue Is 49:1-6 Ps 71:1-6,15,17 Jn 13:21-33,36-38
19 Wed Is 50:4-9a Ps 69:8-10,21-22,31,33-34 Mt 26:14-25
20 Thu **Holy Thursday** Ex 12:1-8,11-14 Ps 116:12-13,15-18 1 Cor 11:23-26 Jn 13:1-15
21 Fri **Good Friday of the Lord's Passion** Is 52:13-53:12 Ps 31:2,6,12-13,15-17,25 Heb 4:14-16;5:7-9 Jn 18:1-19:42
22 Sat **Holy Saturday** Ex 14:15-15:1 Ex 15:1-6,17-18 Rom 6:3-11 Ps 118:1-2,16-17,22-23 Mt 28:1-10
23 Sun **Easter Sunday, the Resurrection of the Lord** Acts 10:34a,37-43 Ps 118:1-2,16-17,22-23 Col 3:1-4 Jn 20:1-9

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ALTAR SERVERS SCHEDULED
Next Weekend ~ March 22 & 23

Saturday, 7:30pm:
Easter Vigil
Sunday, 7:30am:
Sandy Loeb, Susan Loeb, Olivia Zucaro
Sunday, 9:00am:
Matt Hayes, Joseph Hayes, Jack Meisenzahl
Sunday, 10:30am:
Kyle Swovick, Nick Gaglio, Phil DeMarco

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SACRISTAN:
Week of March 16 Elaine Doriguzzi

LINENS:
Week of March 23 Jacqueline Volo

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LENTEN FISH DINNERS
Served on Good Friday

5:00-7:00 PM
in the Parish Center

Fried and Baked Haddock are available as well as Cheese Pizza for those who do not care for fish! Adult fish dinners include coleslaw, French fries and a roll for $8.00. Seniors $7.00. Children's portions are available for $4.00, as well as Soft Drinks, Milk, Coffee and Tea. Desserts will be offered by the Youth Group Bake Sale each Friday. Eat In or Take Out!

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HAVE YOU BEEN AWAY? ~ Contribution envelopes and year-end tax statements have been returned to the parish office for those who have been "Temporarily Away". If you were away and did not receive these please call the parish office at 671-1100.

St. Rita's 54th Annual Fiesta

Friday, June 6 and Saturday, June 7

Big News - Now Under the Big Top !!!

That's right….thanks to our Platinum Sponsor *Isaac Heating & Air Conditioning* and Gold Sponsor *Taylor Rental*, this year all the fun and excitement will be under cover. We will make it easy for everyone by keeping the food and entertainment under one big tent with plenty of room to eat, dance, and play games!!

The 2008 St. Rita's Fiesta will be held from 5:00pm – 10:00pm on June 6th, and from 3:00pm to 11:00pm on June 7th. The St. Rita's Fiesta is a combination event, provided as a fundraiser for our Parish, as well as a family-oriented event intended for families of the parish and the community at large. This year we are bringing back the sounds of the '60s with "It's My Party" headlining Friday night. Back by popular demand, The Skycoasters will keep you dancing on Saturday night. In addition to the great entertainment we have games for kids of all ages, plenty of food and a good time for one and all. This year marks the 54th anniversary of this event and we'd like you to be a participant in any number of ways.

Your involvement can be accomplished by:

1) **Corporate Sponsors – if you own a business or think your employer would be interested in sponsoring an event that brings in close to 5,000 attendees, then please contact Steve Gaglio (670-9515) or Gary Nicastro (872-5648)**

2) **Committee Help Needed – All of our Committee Chairs could use help in the planning of this year's Fiesta. Typically, this includes making phone calls, brainstorming, soliciting volunteers, and some expertise, like making signs, writing press releases, finance/bookkeeping, etc.**

3) **Help is always needed and appreciated in all areas including: The Casino, Food & Game Booths, Kids Creations, Parking & Security, Book Sale, Plant Sale, and Setup/Takedown.**

4) **Additional help is needed to create a great Chinese Auction -- Besides the normal request from businesses for donations for the auction, we are soliciting you… if you have a pair (or more) tickets for a sporting event, airline or hotel vouchers, or other items of value that you would like to donate we will incorporate them into our auction and have you receive recognition in our bulletin. Other donation ideas would be new games or toys, services such as a free haircut, massage, facial, lawn care or snow plowing. We are grateful for any donations!**

   Donations can be sent to the parish office at:
   St. Rita's Church
   Attn: Sharon Pucher (bookkeeper)
   1008 Maple Drive
   Webster, NY 14580 (be sure to indicate the donation is for the Chinese Auction)

   or Contact Linda or Tony Kehoe 872-2087 for pickup

If you have any questions, please contact Tom Cali (671-0428) or Ed Ritzel (787-1937). We are extremely grateful for all donations of time, talent and treasure over the years in support of our Parish Community. Thank you, in advance for your support and involvement!

Plant Sale Puts Down Roots ~ Once again we will be having the Plant Sale at the Fiesta and due to your generous donations last year of perennials, annuals, shrubs and houseplants; we had a large assortment of plants to sell. For more information, call either Carol VanAtta, 671-7832, or Joyce Hollander, 671-3281