

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

SOME PEOPLE ESCAPE TAXES. BUT NO ONE WILL ESCAPE DEATH.

The tulip which blooms early this spring will have died long before summer arrives. Newly born infants who brighten the lives of loving parents will themselves grow old and follow those parents into the darkness of the grave. In the far distant future the sun, which is our furnace, will exhaust its energy and the earth will endure a frozen death. As a matter of fact the entire universe is finite, limited in the resources which are needed for continued existence. Even as I write this article the universe is slowly but surely passing away. Pessimistic as all of this sounds, we Catholics have been given the gift of Hope. Along with Faith Hope is like a bright light shining on an awesome truth within God's plan. We call this truth the Paschal Mystery.

According to God's plan death leads to life. This same plan applies to all of us. Some people escape taxes. But no one will escape death. In the preface for the Mass of the dead the priest says: "In Christ who rose from the dead, our hope of resurrection has dawned. The sadness of death gives way to the bright promise of immortality. Lord, for your faithful people life is changed, not ended. When the body of our earthly dwelling lies in death, we gain an everlasting dwelling place in heaven." And then in the Eucharistic Acclamation of every Mass we cry out to our Risen Savior: "By dying You destroyed our death; by rising You restored our life."

In the Gospel of today's Mass Jesus said to Nicodemus: "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life." Then St. John explained what Our Lord meant. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. Whoever believes in Him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God."

Jesus the Christ declared that He must be lifted up. It was His way of referring to His crucifix-

ion. The manner of His death was the kind inflicted on hardened criminals. The lives of executed criminals always end in tragedy. And so the cross seemed to indicate a defeat, not a victory. Faith, however, tells us something totally different. The only crime Jesus had committed was not a crime at all. He robbed death of its power. The cross was neither a tragedy nor a defeat but a glorious triumph. In that triumph we already share since God the Father in His great love has brought us to a life in God the Son when we were dead in sin. He also has reserved for us a place in His Heavenly Home so that in the ages to come He might display the great wealth of His favor toward us. This is precisely the truth that St. Paul told the Ephesians about in the second reading for this Mass.

"Brothers and sisters: God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love He had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ. By grace you have been saved and raised up with Him, and seated with Him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast. For we are His handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them."

Lent gives all of us Catholics the opportunity to rise from the death of sin to the life of grace. We can accomplish this through prayer, fasting, and alms giving. Especially we can accomplish this through the Sacrament of Penance. Confessions are heard on Saturday afternoons and on the Monday and Wednesday evening of Holy Week. Now is the right time for us to rise from our sinful graves.

God Bless Our Parish
FATHER ED GLEESON, PASTOR

FLOWERS

The two large bouquets adorning the main altar were made available through the kindness of **TOM & LYNN BACKOFEN—Happy Birthday intention for Vincent Ginalski.**

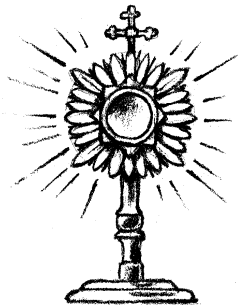


The collection for St. James on the weekend of **March 19th** was **\$3,553.86**
Aid to Central & Eastern Europe was **\$670.00**

The number of March 19th Offertory Envelopes handed in the weekend of March 18 and 19 was 165. The amount of money coming out of those envelopes was \$3,172.00 which averages out to \$19.22 per envelope. Our many thanks to the 165 contributing families.

BLESS YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED AND VALUED SUPPORT.

Adoration
of the
Blessed Sacrament



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LENTEN DAY OF ADORATION

March 30th, 9:00am to 9:00pm

Have you ever tried to spend a whole hour doing nothing but listening to the voice that dwells deep in your heart? When there is no radio to listen to, no TV to watch, no book to read, no person to talk to, no project to finish, no phone call to make, you are better able to discover the great compassion and love of Jesus who died for our sins. This Lent attend the Lenten Day of Adoration for just one short hour meditating on the love of God for you and for the whole world.



HOLY THURSDAY BUS VISITING LOCAL CHURCHES

Again this year we have hired a bus to take us visiting four local churches on Holy Thursday, April 13th. This year we will be going to visit *Our Lady of Peace* in Darien, then *Holy Trinity* in Westmont, *Notre Dame* in Clarendon Hills and our final stop will be at *St. Isaac Joques*. There is no cost to go. However, the seating is very limited. There is a Bus Trip Sign Up Sheet in back of church. You must sign up in order to go. You can still attend Holy Thursday Mass at our own St. James parish and the bus will leave our parking lot promptly at 8:30pm and will return somewhere between 10:30 and 11:00pm.

CONSTANTINE'S SWORD REVISITED

Looking to deepen your understanding of the church history or to brush up on your knowledge of the early church? The Holy Name Society has invited renowned lecturer and world traveler Carl DiNello to speak here at St. James at Sag Bridge.



A narrative of the beginning of Christianity and the Catholic Church in particular, as it evolved from a small, clandestine, persecuted group to the state religion of the Roman Empire.

Carl, a Holy Name member, and his wife JoAnn are members of our parish and have traveled extensively throughout the world.

Plan to be with us on **Tuesday March 28, at 7 PM** in Saginaw Hall. Admission is free.

All are welcome. Refreshments will be served. Bring the entire family and together discover the rich history of our Church.



5TH ANNIVERSARY SYMPOSIUM

On Cardinal George's Pastoral Letter on Racism

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2006

CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL UNION

5401 S. Cornell Ave, Chicago

Panel Presenters

"Setting the Historical Context: The American Catholic Church's struggle with the sin of racism"

Father Martin Zielinski, PhD

"Black and Catholic: A faith response to racism"

Sister Jamie Phelps, OP, PhD

"Immigration: The new face of racism in the United States"

Father Claudio Diaz, MDiv.

Closing Reflections on Pastoral Letter

FRANCIS CARDINAL GEORGE, OMI

For more information call the Office for Racial Justice at 312-751-8336.

Cardinal George's Pastoral Letter on Racism

5TH ANNIVERSARY MASS

SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2006

5:00PM

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

1019 SOUTH MAY, CHICAGO

(corner W. Roosevelt Rd. & So. May St.)

The 2006 St. Katharine Drexel Racial Justice

Award will be awarded to: Holy Family church, Hole Angels Church, St. Mary of the Woods, Queen of All Saints Basilica and St. Raymond De Penafort. For more information call the Office for Racial Justice at 312-751-8336.

ST. RITA FASHION SHOW & ART AUCTION

St. Rita High School Mother's Club will hold their fashion show and art auction, "Sunday Afternoon at LaGrande" on Sunday, March 26th at Gaelic Park in Oak Forest, IL, from 1:00 to 5:00pm. Tickets are \$32.00 per person. Cash Bar. To reserve tickets, call Nancy LoMaglio at 773-239-4129, or Sandy Urdal at 708-361-3721.

Parents We Need Your Help



Clip Box Tops Earn Cash for

Guardian Angel Day Care Center!

Sister Bonaventure, Sister Isaac (Lisa) and Sister Benigna are working hard to open a day care center. This will help them make a living and carry on their teaching mission. Sister Bonaventure has started to collect box top coupons to help buy supplies for their school. We are asking for your help. Please help them earn cash for their day care center. Every time you shop for groceries Clip Box Top coupons from hundreds of your favorite products that can be found at your local grocery store. Each coupon is worth 10 cents that she can use when she redeems them. Please check that the date on the coupon has not expired. We were blessed to have them here helping us for three years. Now they are in need of our help. Please cut out the box tops and bring them to us so that we can pass them on to these missionary sisters who have helped us. We will collect them during the rest of this school year and start up next year. So during the summer please continue to collect them. We appreciate your generous hearts.

Thank You!

Elsa Rubinelli and Linda Arra

Pillsbury, Yoplait, Betty Crocker, Ziploc, Nature Valley, Old El Paso, Hamburger Helper, Pop Secret, Bisquick, Gold Medal Flour, Cereals such as: Cheerios, Wheaties, Rice/Corn Chex, Total, Kix, Cinnamon Toast Crunch, Trix, Cocoa Puffs, Reese's Puffs, Raisin Nut Bran, Fiber One, Country Corn Flakes, Basic 4, Golden Grahams, Boo Berry, Count Chocula, Golden Grahams. For a complete list go to the web at boxtops4education.com.

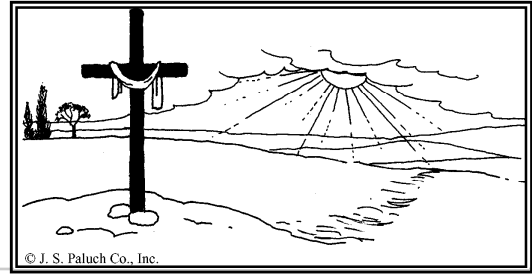
MARY QUEEN OF HEAVEN

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Mary Queen of Heaven Parish, 426 N. West Ave., Elmhurst, IL will celebrate its 50th Anniversary with a year-long schedule of events. The opening celebration will take place on Sunday, April 2nd at the 10:30am Mass. Bishop Joseph Imesch will be the principal celebrant and a special reception will be held afterwards in Barrett Hall.

For further information or a calendar of events planned in connection with their 50th Anniversary, please call 630-279-5700.

APRIL 2006




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SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

1

2 **RE CLASSES**
Holy Name Mass
10:00am
BAPTISMS

5 **Altar & Rosary Sodality**
6:30pm Rosary
7:00 Mass
7:45 Meeting

7 
Sacred Heart Novena
6:45pm
7pm Mass & Stations

9 
CONFESSIONS
7:00 to 8:00pm

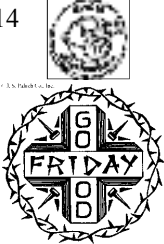
Palm Sunday

RE CLASSES

12 **Purgatorial Society Mass**
7:00pm

CONFESSIONS
6 to 7pm
7:45 to 8:30pm

13 **HOLY THURSDAY**
Mass 7:00pm
Adoration 8:30 to midnight
Bus leaves 8:30pm

14 
3pm Stations
6:30pm Divine Mercy Novena
7pm Lit. Svc.



15 **1pm Bless Baskets**
6:30 Divine Mercy Novena
EASTER VIGIL
7:00PM

16 
NO RE
Divine Mercy Novena
7:00pm

17 **Divine Mercy Novena**
7:00pm

18 **Divine Mercy Novena**
7:00pm

19 **Divine Mercy Novena** 6:30pm
Prayerful Wishes Mass 7:00pm
Holy Name Meeting 7:45pm

20 **Divine Mercy Novena**
7:00pm

21 **Divine Mercy Novena**
7:00pm

22 **Divine Mercy Novena**
5:00pm

23 **RE CLASSES**

24 
1:00 to 3pm Adoration,
3:00 Chaplet
3:30 Benediction

25 **LCCA Lunch at St. James rectory basement**
11:30am

27 **Practice for First Communion**
6:30pm

28 
First Communion
Mass 2:00pm

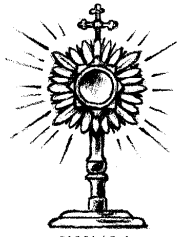
30

RE CLASSES

LENTEN, HOLYWEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE OF DEVOTIONAL AND SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES

Sunday, March 26
Fourth Sunday of Lent

Adoration
of the
Blessed Sacrament



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Thursday, March 30
DAY OF ADORATION
9:00am to 9:00pm

Friday, March 31
Mass and Stations of the Cross
7:00pm

Sunday, April 2
Fifth Sunday of Lent

Friday, April 7
Sacred Heart Novena 6:45pm
Mass and Stations of the Cross
7:00pm



Saturday, Sunday,
April 8 & 9
Passion Sunday
(PALM SUNDAY)
Masses with the
Blessing and
Distribution of Palms
5:30pm, 8:30, 10:00,
11:30am

Monday, April 10
Confessions 7:00 to 8:00pm

Wednesday, April 12
Confessions 6:00 to 7:00pm
Mass 7:00pm
Confessions 7:45 to 8:30pm



holy thursday

Thursday, April 13
HOLY THURSDAY
Mass of the Last
Supper

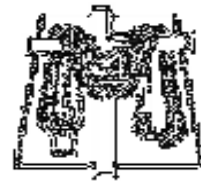
7:00pm
Adoration of the Blessed
Sacrament
8:30pm to 12:00 Midnight
Bus Leaves to Visit Churches
8:30pm



Friday, April 14
GOOD FRIDAY
Outdoor
Stations of the Cross
3:00pm
Divine Mercy Novena 6:30pm
Good Friday Liturgical Service
7:00pm



Saturday, April 15
EASTER VIGIL
Blessing of Food Baskets
1:00pm
Divine Mercy Novena
6:30pm
Mass of the Easter Vigil 7:00pm



Sunday, April 16
EASTER SUNDAY
Masses with the Sprinkling of
the Holy Waters
8:30, 10:00, 11:30am
Divine Mercy Novena 7:00pm

Monday, April 17 at 7:00pm
Tuesday, April 18 at 7:00pm
Wednesday, April 19 at 6:30pm
Thursday, April 20 at 7:00pm
Friday, April 21 at 7:00pm
Saturday, April 22 at 5:00pm
DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

Divine Mercy
Sunday



Sunday, April 23
DIVINE MERCY
SUNDAY
Adoration 1:00 to 3:00pm
Divine Mercy Chaplet 3:00pm
Benediction 3:30pm

VOTIVE CANDLES

Votive offering for the week of March 26th:

In memory of Darren Chud Tony & Denise Aragon in
 Brandon Doyle, Safety in Iraq honor of St. Joseph
 In memory of Jan Pulit The Hilan Family

Protect the Unborn

**Jewel Shop & Share Days
 Dominick's Benefit Days**

Please help the Illinois Right to Life Committee educate more people about the humanity and rights of the unborn by using the Jewel Shop & Save and Dominick's Benefit Days fundraising coupons, March 27, 28, & 29, April 3, 4 & 5 and April 10, 11, & 12. We have coupons for you to use in back of church—please take some home with you.

Just hand in your signed coupon on the designated days to the checkout clerk when you pay for your groceries. It doesn't cost you anything, but 5% of every dollar you spend at Jewel or Dominick's will benefit the Illinois Right to Life Committee.

Remember to use your coupons when you shop for your Easter Food baskets and Easter dinners.

FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS

March 31	7:00PM
Altar Servers	K. Smuda M. Christakas N. Christakas
Lector	S. Hagen



Monday **March 27 Lenten Weekday**
 8:15 AM †Rose Stanek

Tuesday **March 28 Lenten Weekday**
 8:15 AM †Anton & Caroline Lang

Wednesday **March 29 Lenten Weekday**
 7:00PM †Teresa Jones

Thursday **March 30 Lenten Weekday**
 8:15AM †Earl Wood

Friday **March 31 Lenten Weekday**
MASS & STATIONS OF THE CROSS
 6:45PM **SACRED HEART NOVENA**
 7:00PM **int. of Irene Slosowski—**
 Birthday

Saturday **April 1**
 Vigil: 5th Sunday of Lent
 4:30 to 5:15PM **Confessions**
 5:30PM †Earl Wood

Sunday **April 2**
 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
 8:30AM **Living & Deceased**
 Parishioners
 10:00AM †Eugene & Estelle Litoborski
 11:30AM †Dr. William Graber

April 1 & 2	5:30 PM	8:30AM	10:00 AM	11:30 AM
Celebrant	Father Gleeson	Father Gleeson	Father Gleeson	Father Gleeson
Altar Servers	L. Nowaczyk A. Nowaczyk C. Nowaczyk	J. Zubek M. Zubek Z. Reitz	B. Ahearn M. Witter S. Witter	R. Rubinelli E. Czyzewicz A. Gorniak
Lector	J. Jagger	M. Zubek	D. Witter	D. Lasica
LEM	L. Backofen	Deacon John	Deacon John	D. Lasica
Ushers	P. Walsh C. Hughes E. Liczwek N. Nowaczyk	J. Starha T. Lang F. Pearman H. Grutza	M. Lavery M. Wall J. Pajkos R. Lawler	B. Czaja R. Poynter J. Neadly N. Konieczny