



April 4 - 5, 2009

Palm Sunday

"I gave my back to those beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard, my face I did not shield from buffets and spitting."

READ AND PREPARE

Next week's Scripture readings:
 First Reading: Acts 10:34a, 37 - 43
 Second Reading: Corinthians 5:6b - 8
 Gospel: John 20:1-9

Mass Intentions

Saturday, April 4th

Vigil: Palm Sunday

4:00 PM Carmello Lemmo
 Requested by his wife Louise

Sunday, April 5th

Palm Sunday

8:00 AM John R. Pacetti
 Requested by his wife Ann

10:30 AM Margaret Pandiscio
 Requested by Mary Macchio

Monday, April 6th

7:00 AM Mary Celona
 Requested by Grace Camera

5:30 PM John Curran (Anniversary)
 Requested by his family

Tuesday, April 7th

7:00 AM Deceased Curates of St. Anthony Parish

5:30 PM Lawrence Badagliacca
 Requested by his wife & family

Wednesday, April 8th

7:00 AM All the Souls in Purgatory

5:30 PM James G. DiConza (Anniversary)
 Requested by his wife & family

Thursday, April 9th

Holy Thursday
7:00 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper

Friday, April 10th

Good Friday of the Lord's Passion
7:00 PM Liturgy of the Passion

Saturday, April 11th

Vigil: Easter Sunday: The Resurrection of the Lord
7:30 PM Parishioners of St. Anthony Parish

Sunday, April 12th

Easter Sunday: The Resurrection of the Lord
8:00 AM Parishioners of St. Anthony Parish

10:30 AM Parishioners of St. Anthony Parish

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:
Gerald C. Volpe & Matthew Geremia
 who died this past week. May they rest in peace.

PREVIOUS WEEK OFFERINGS

Needed to Meet Budget	\$4,889.00
Sunday Offering	\$4,013.50
Children's Collection (\$15.50)	\$15.50
DEFICIT this week	\$860.50
DEFICIT Year to Date	\$5,912.50

Catholic Relief Service Collection Totaled \$1,672.00

Good Friday Collection: On Good Friday, our parish will take up the annual Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land. Your financial contribution helps to support our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land and allows the Franciscans and others to continue caring for the Christian community and to protect Christianity's holiest places. Please be generous in your support to nourish the faith in this land that is sacred for all Christians, as well as Jews and Muslims.

Sr. Angelina Panetti is recuperating after surgery at Presentation Health Care, 99 Church Street, Leominster, MA 01453 (for those of you who might want to send your well wishes along).

This week's St. Anthony Devotional Candle is requested by Lucille Maynard. Thank you.

HOLY WEEK BROADCASTS – During Lent, many Catholics are seeking to attend Mass more often. Please join us each day during Holy Week on your local access TV station. **Palm Sunday** (delay broadcast of 10:15 AM Mass) 6:00 PM, **Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday Mass** at 9:00 AM, **Chrism Mass on Tuesday**, April 7 at 10:30 AM; **Holy Thursday Morning Prayer** at 9:00 AM; **Holy Thursday Mass** at 7:30 PM; **Good Friday Morning Prayer** at 9:00 AM; **Good Friday Service** at 3:00 PM; **Easter Vigil** at 7:30 PM; **Easter Sunday** (delay broadcast of 10:15 Mass with Cardinal Arinze) at 6:00 PM.

St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry Items

Please don't forget about the pantry! **Additional items requested for Easter are pineapples, frosting & Pringles potato chips.** Other items needed are: bathroom tissue, cereal, canned vegetables, beef stew & canned soups, Spaghetti O's, jam or jelly, canned fruit, tuna, Hamburger Helper, baked beans. Many people rely on this weekly service that St. Francis provides. Continue to do what you can. Thank you!

Protect Freedom of Conscience! Help protect the conscience rights of our Catholic medical professionals and institutions! Visit www.usccb.org/conscienceprotection to access links to make a comment to the Dept. of Health and Human Services in support of retaining existing federal regulations that protect health care professionals from being forced to engage in procedures such as abortion that violate their religious and moral beliefs. **The deadline for comments is April 9th.** Please act today!

Dear Friends,

We enter into the most solemn of week in the Christian Year. As we meditate on the sufferings and death of Our Savior Jesus Christ, we tend to see this all in the past or, if in the present, in some remote nation in a far corner of the world. We don't see Christ and His Church persecuted right here in Fitchburg. Maybe we have become complaisant. Maybe we're too busy to notice. Maybe we choose not to see.

Last Wednesday, April 1, *The Sentinel* published an extremely anti-Catholic editorial cartoon, insulting the Church and its head on earth, the Holy Father Pope Benedict. The cartoon was based on two premises: a misunderstanding of Catholic Church teaching and an obvious untruth. To make a mistake of fact is one thing, although good journalists check their facts before they publish. But to print a cartoon which is a direct insult which is easily proven to be false – what can we make of that?

The Sentinel's political agenda is at variance with Church teachings on many points, although there are also many points of agreement. *The Sentinel* is not expected to agree with every teaching of the Church. It's not a Catholic publication. We have freedom on the press in this country. But when they choose to attack one person, and base that attack on a lie, is there any sense of grievance? Does anyone stand up for Christ and His Church, or, like the people who waved palms at Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and then turned their backs on Him when His popularity ran out, do we just stand idly by?

Pace e Bene,

Item of the Month – The Youth Group is accepting donations for Our Father's House and the Veterans' Homestead. **This month's item is toothpaste & toothbrushes.** Items can be placed in the marked boxes at the entrances of the church. Thank you for your support.

The Serra Club of Worcester North invites you to join us in offering daily prayer for priests and seminarians of our Diocese. The names for the week of April 5th through April 11th: Deacon Mark Carrier; Rev. Terence Kilcoyne; Deacon Roderick Cashes; Rev. Francis Goguen; Deacon Ronald Aubuchon; Rev. James Mazzone; Msgr. Thomas Sullivan.

Lecture Invitation: You are cordially invited to a lecture by His Eminence Francis Cardinal Arinze, Prefect Emeritus of the Congregation of Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments at the Vatican, on **Wednesday, April 15, 2009** at Assumption College. The lecture will take place at 7:00 PM in the Hagan Campus Center Hall. Due to limited seating, RSVPs are encouraged. Please call 508-767-7322.

Italy for the Gourmet Traveler – A scrumptious sampling of foods as authentic as those in various regions of Italy: Marche, Abruzzo, Sicilia, Calabria etc. will be presented by gastronomical Italian expert Fred Plotkin in his delightful raconteur style on **Friday, April 17, 2009 at 5:30 PM at The Fay Club, Fitchburg.** Tickets are \$25 and must be purchased in advance as seating is limited. Call Anna Mazzaferro for more information at 978-537-2172.

Divine Mercy Sunday will be held on **Sunday, April 19th** at St. Camillus Church, 333 Mechanic St., Fitchburg. Devotions will start at 12:45 PM with confession followed by Mass at 2 PM, Adoration and the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3 PM followed by Benediction and the veneration of the Divine Mercy Image. After the devotions there will be refreshments in the church hall. This event is sponsored by the Divine Mercy Perpetual Adoration Chapel. All are invited.

Walk for Hope - Beacon of Hope Community Services announces its Walk for Hope on Sunday, April 26th beginning at the Knights of Columbus, 484 Lancaster Street, Leominster. Spring is here! Get out your walking shoes and join us for our annual WALK for HOPE to benefit programs for people with developmental disabilities at Beacon of Hope Community Services. The walk is a 5 mile journey through the

neighborhood. You can walk the entire route, a few miles, or part of a mile. Registration starts at 8:30 AM. The first 100 walkers to register will receive a free T-shirt. The walk begins promptly at 9:30 AM – rain or shine. Please check the flier at the entrances of the church for detailed information or call 978-840-2727. Come out and walk for a great cause!

Want to experience a different culture in the comfort of your own home? The Fitchburg Sister City Committee Exchange Program (FSCCEP) is looking for three (3) host families to open their homes to German Exchange students for the fall 2009 Fall Semester. The students are between the ages of 16 and 17 and will be in their junior year. They will be coming from the end of August to the middle of November in 2009 from our sister city, Kleve, Germany. If interested or curious about this opportunity please email fkexchange@hotmail.com or call 978-343-7673 and ask for Jenn or Geoff.

Kindergarten Registration for Fitchburg Public Schools has begun. If your child is 5 years old on or before September 1, 2009 please complete registration no later than April 30th. Parents may call 978-345-3200 for information or an appointment or you may walk in between 8am and 3:30pm at 376 South Street.

Concert at St. Stephen, Worcester – Salisbury Singers, celebrating its 35th anniversary season, will perform Joseph Haydn's masterful oratorio "**The Creation**" on **Saturday, April 25th at 7:30 PM** in St. Stephen's Church, Worcester. The performance with full orchestra, regionally renowned soloists and select members of the Worcester Academy Advanced Chorus, is a powerful and joyous depiction of the seven days of creation according to the Book of Genesis.

UMass Memorial Hospice invites you to become a part of our Hospice Team! Volunteers share their gifts of compassion, love and support with terminally ill patients and their families. They visit patients to help them maintain their dignity and enhance the quality of their remaining days. **The next Volunteer Training Session includes two Saturdays, April 25th and May 2nd and Wednesday evening, May 13th at 650 Lincoln Street, Worcester.** Our classes fill very quickly so please call soon for more information at 508-754-0052. Ask for Kathy Drew, ext. 3057 or email at drewk@ummhc.org.