

FROM FATHER BILL: *TODAY IS THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT, LAETARE SUNDAY.* The priest wears ROSE (some say Pink) Vestments to signify the fact that we peek ahead and quietly start rejoicing that Easter is not so far away. We've had and will still have many opportunities to "convert" and prepare for this greatest of all Feasts. Have you hopped onto the "Lenten Bandwagon". If not, *START TODAY* and get ready to be lifted up by Jesus on the *BIG DAY.* A *BLESSED LENT!*

THE CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES SPECIAL SECOND COLLECTION will be taken up at Mass TODAY!

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE BASED ON PSALM 23: How tied down am I by the things of this world? Do I mistakenly think that my position or possessions are signs of God's favor? What do I need to surrender in order to be more aware that the Lord alone is everything I need, that all else is a gift.

ST. PAUL and ST. PETER JOINT PARISH LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE (EASTER CONFESSIONS)
Thursday, April 2, 6:30 pm at St. Peter's Church. Come forward in line to the front of the Church, mention a sin or fault and Father Bill will give you Absolution. As part of the service, we'll pray the psalms, recite an Act of Sorrow, receive a Penance and share Peace..

STATIONS OF THE CROSS:

ST. PETER (LATIN) – following the NOON Mass each Friday except Good Friday.

ST. PAUL (ENGLISH) – 3:00 pm, each Friday of Lent, except Good Friday.

RICE BOWL OFFERINGS (please use envelope) may be dropped into the Collection basket Palm Sunday Weekend, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil or Easter Day Mass. Try and round off your gift to the nearest dollar. Thank you!

THE OFFICIAL RICE BOWL COLLECTION will take place at the Holy Thursday Masses. Father Bill will dip people's hands into perfumed water as his act of priestly service to parishioners at the English Holy Thursday Mass at St. Paul's. Mark your envelope – St. Peter or St. Paul. THANK YOU!

CLOSING (FINAL) MASSES AT OUR PARISHES

St. Peter's – Sunday, May 17 –FINAL TRIDENTINE LATIN MASS AT ST. PETER'S - NOON

St. Paul's – Saturday, May 30 – 4:00 pm Mass for all parishioners and former parishioners.

NO MASS at St. Paul's on Sunday, May 31, 2009.

St. Peter's 10:30 AM English Mass for all parishioners and former parishioners, Sunday, May 31.

The Public may attend any or all of these Masses.

PALM SATURDAY and PALM SUNDAY (April 4 and April 5): Regular schedule of Masses. Weather permitting, PALM WILL BE BLESSED OUTSIDE, at all Masses, FOLLOWED BY A PROCESSION INTO THE CHURCH.

THE SACRED TRIDUUM and EASTER:

HOLY THURSDAY, April 9, 2009

SAINT PAUL – JOINT ST. PETER @ ST. PAUL 5:30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by a Pot Luck Supper for all. ADORATION until 9:00 pm.

SAINT PETER – 6:30pm Latin Mass and Procession to the Repository- Adoration till 10 pm.

GOOD FRIDAY, April 10– FAST AND ABSTINENCE - HOLY LAND COLLECTION

SAINT PETER – NOON – JOINT PARISH ENGLISH Liturgical Service of Good Friday.

6:30 pm LATIN Good Friday Service.

HOLY SATURDAY (April 11) – EASTER COLLECTION

SAINT PAUL –ST. PETER / ST. PAUL JOINT PARISH ENGLISH EASTER VIGIL MASS at 7:00 pm.

SAINT PETER – LATIN EASTER VIGIL SERVICE and MASS at 8:00 pm.

EASTER SUNDAY (April 12) – EASTER COLLECTION REGULAR SCHEDULE OF MASSES. 9:00 am and 10:30 am Masses. Young people and their families let go of helium filled balloons at the end of Mass to signify the Resurrection of Jesus. All girls, please wear Easter Bonnets so that Father Bill can sing "YOU KNOW WHAT!"

LATIN TRIDENTINE MASS at NOON.

ALTAR SERVERS REHEARSAL FOR ALL HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES at ST. PAUL'S: ONLY ONE REHEARSAL WITH FATHER BILL on Wednesday, April 8th at 4:30 pm followed by a cheese pizza supper at the Notty Pine. St. Peter's Altar Servers are also invited to this rehearsal and supper.

LECTOR REHEARSAL at SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH on Saturday, April 4th at 10:00 am, for those in both parishes reading the PASSION on Palm Saturday and Sunday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil English Mass.

CALLED TO BE CHURCH – IMPLEMENTATION PHASE PRAYER: Loving God, you who are present with us in all of life's moments, make yourself known in these challenging times of parish closure, merger and linkage. Comfort those who mourn. Receive and transform the anger of those who feel powerless. Ease the minds of the fearful. Give wisdom to our leaders and patience and insight to your people. Help us to appreciate the way you are re-creating your Church. Make us partners with you in this effort. We pray this in the name of Jesus, who is Lord and brother through the grace of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Serenity Prayer

God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.

ST. PAUL'S PARISHIONERS will meet THIS Thursday, March 26, 2009 (5:30 pm at the Hall) to finalize plans for the Holy Thursday Joint St. Paul and St. Peter Parishes Mass and supper at St. Paul's. Hopefully all of St. Peter's and St. Paul's parishioners will attend this Mass and supper. ST. PAUL'S PASTORAL COUNCIL will meet on Tuesday, March 31, 6:30 pm.

LENTEN REFLECTION: The Son of Man was lifted up so that everyone who believes in Him might have Eternal life! John in today's gospel unequivocally links eternal life with belief in the one who was sent, Jesus, the Son of God!~ Belief is essential to a deep intimate relationship with God and neighbor. Belief is essential for our own salvation and belief is essential for the salvation of our brothers and sisters....even if they be the least and the poorest among us.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH OF TROY WILL BE HOLDING THEIR ANNUAL ROAST BEEF DINNER, SATURDAY,
MARCH 28, 2009 – 5:00PM-7:30 PM
in the DONAGHY CENTER (Washington Street side entrance of the Church).
Tickets: \$8 for adults; \$4.00 Children under 12 - Take-outs are also available.
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CALL THE PARISH OFFICE at 518-272-5820.

ZITI DINNER - SAVE THIS DATE - MARCH 28, 2009
SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH PROVINCIAL HOUSE
385 Waterlily-Shaker Road, Latham, NEW YORK
ADVANCE SALE TICKETS FOR SERVINGS AT
1:30PM 3:00PM 4:30PM
Tickets: ADULTS \$8.00
CHILDREN (6-12) \$4.00
UNDER 6 FREE but must have ticket
TAKE-OUTS AVAILABLE \$8.00
TO PURCHASE DINNER AND RAFFLE TICKETS CALL 518-783-3614
To benefit The Mission & Ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – NICODEMUS and JESUS

In today's Gospel, the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus reminds us during Lent that as we seek to put our spiritual lives in order, we cannot accomplish this task on our own. God has done for us what we cannot do for ourselves. We are reminded that we have been made able to see the kingdom of God; we have been given the gift of Eternal life through the waters of Baptism.

A LENTEN PRAYER

Oh loving Lord, during this Season of Lent, I lift up my voice to you.
Instill in my heart the desire to hear your voice in the voices of the poor, your people.
May I find in their example the path to my conversion.
Bless my Prayer, Fasting, Learning, and Giving in this season of grace.
May these actions answer the call to transform our world. AMEN.

A LENTEN PETITION: That through our participation in Operation Rice Bowl this Lent, we cherish nature and the environment, gifts that God has given to us through His Creation, WE PRAY TO THE LORD.

EVANGELIZATION: "Operation Rice Bowl.....la Operacion Plato."