

FROM FATHER BILL: IT'S THE FIFTH SUNDAY of LENT!! THE DIE IS CAST!! Hope you have gotten into the Lenten taxicab driven by Jesus and let Him take you wherever. There's not much time left until the BIG BURST. And the Stone will be rolled back... We look towards next Sunday, known as PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY. I hope everyone will wear RED next weekend to welcome the Messiah into our "SPACE" in a special way. Pray for good weather. We MUST go outside the doors for the blessing of PALM and have a real procession. By the way, take all the Palm you want. Some people just take a strand???? – remember, it's FREE, it's BLESSED and it's YOURS – WAVE IT IN HONOR OF CHRIST. Remember to make your Easter Confession at our JOINT PARISH Reconciliation Service this Thursday at St. Peter's. I hope to see you in Church this week at morning or Noon Mass!! BLESSED LENT.

EASTER FLOWER MEMORIAL ENVELOPES must be placed in the basket by Palm Sunday so that we can print the names of our beloved DECEASED in our Easter Bulletin. **HURRY!**

A LENTEN MEDITATION: Do I completely and joyfully accept and believe in God's mercy? Or do I think that God somehow always holds onto my sins, even when I've been forgiven? Can I celebrate God's mercy by giving joyful witness to the Gospel?

ST. PAUL and ST. PETER JOINT PARISH LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE (EASTER CONFESSIONS): THIS THURSDAY, April 2, 6:30 pm at St. Peter's Church. Come and BE FORGIVEN by the LORD.

FINAL 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.

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.

PALM SATURDAY and PALM SUNDAY (April 4th and 5th): 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

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.

SAINT PAUL – Traditional ENGLISH Stations of the Cross at 6:30 pm.

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.

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.

WE ADORE YOU, O CHRIST and WE PRAISE YOU, BECAUSE BY YOUR HOLY CROSS YOU HAVE REDEEMED THE WORLD.

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.

DECEASED: Father Francis Ciani, Helen Latimore and Mim Purcell. God grant them Eternal Life.

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 PASTORAL COUNCIL will meet this Tuesday, March 31, 6:30 pm.

A PRAYER INTENTION: That through our participation in Operation Rice Bowl this Lent, we may realize and reflect in our actions that we belong to a global community. **WE PRAY TO THE LORD.**

A MEDITATION – Fifth Sunday of Lent – Jesus tells us that a grain of wheat is useless unless it dies. When it dies it brings new life to the world. He tells us that when he dies he will bring new life to our world. He is urging us to die too, so that there will be new life wherever we happen to be. How do we die and yet live our lives every day? During Lent we practice dying to ourselves by fasting, by doing what we can to assist others through almsgiving, by praying. This dying to self – self denial – can help us to give life to other side to fast as part of Operation Rice Bowl, cook and eat a simple meal, and donate money saved to be sure that children in Ghana can have access to better educational opportunities, we die to ourselves and new life flourishes in people overseas. There are many ways for the grain of wheat to die and bring life to our world.

TODAY'S GOSPEL – Jesus reminds us that judgment, repentance, and dying to sin are necessary before we can truly know the joy of God's mercy, forgiveness, and new life in Christ. Jesus put it this way: "If you love your life, you must let it go...If you want to serve me, you must follow me and do what I do...". Let us remember in prayer that human beings are not only sacred, but also social. How we participate in our family and community, from our daily actions to our policy decisions, affects each and every person. May our fasting keep us mindful of the families and communities that are hungry. May our almsgiving assist Catholic Relief services as we learn about education programming in Ghana.

St. Peter's 185th Anniversary Celebration, Sunday, April 26, 2009 – 4:00 pm Mass followed by Father Flanigan Awards Dinner. **A MONUMENTAL DAY IN THE HISTORY OF OUR PARISH!**

BANNS of MARRIAGE: Father Bill will marry Anthony James Saginario and Rhema Rose Etzel in the Latin Tridentine rite on Saturday, April 18, 2009 at 11:00 am at St. Peter's Church, Troy, NY. We pray for them.

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.

**Catholic Information: 1-800-MY FAITH
Pro-Life Pregnancy Hotline: 1-800-848-LOVE**

EVANGELIZATION: "5th Sunday of Lent.....Quinto Domingo de Cuaresma."