

FROM FATHER BILL: **JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY AND SO ARE WE!** Our Beautiful Savior fills our hearts with Easter JOY, PEACE and HOPE. I pray that this EASTER DAY be an especially wonderful, grace filled day for all of you and yours. Know that I am proud to be your Parish Priest – my fifth Easter at St. Paul and St. Peter. We just can't sing those beautiful words enough, "ALLELUIA, HE is RISEN and WE HAVE BEEN SAVED"! We have been moved, by HIS RESURRECTION, from DEATH to LIFE, from DARKNESS to LIGHT and from SLAVERY to FREEDOM. God bless you on this HOLIEST DAY of THE YEAR. ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!!! *HAPPY EASTER to ALL!*

PLEASE PRAY for those people named on our Easter MEMORIAL FLOWER LIST found in today's EASTER BULLETIN.

THANK YOU to all who worked so hard to help us to help each other to celebrate HOLY WEEK and EASTER: our Church cleaners and Decorators; our Organists, Choir Directors and Choirs; our Soloists; our Altar Servers, Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers and money counters. Thank you to Cristina, Denise, Mike and Jerry, and our special Decorators and cleaners, the St. Peter's Ladies Group; Helen Lettko and her St. Paul's Ladies Group; to Jim Gray and Rich Carley who provided our Easter Balloons; to Judi Reeves, who laundered our server's albs at St. Paul's. SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL of our parishioners who came to our wonderful LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE; PALM SATURDAY, PALM SUNDAY and HOLY WEEK and EASTER LITURGIES and who contributed so generously to our RICE BOWL, HOLY LAND and FLOWER COLLECTIONS. THANK YOU TO all who participated in Our HOLY Thursday Mass and brought food for our wonderful POT LUCK HOLY THURSDAY SUPPER. God bless those who celebrated and received SACRAMENTS at the Easter Vigil Mass. And now THAT HE IS RISEN we can begin TO LOOKWARD FORWARD TO SPRING. Even Nature hails the Risen Savior and begins to come to life at Easter.

*** THIS EASTER WEEK, MORNING DAILY MASSES
at St. Paul's will be celebrated in the UPPER CHURCH.***

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.

WHAT DOES THE TERM "EASTER DUTY" mean: Because of the central importance of Easter to the Christian faith, the Catholic Church requires that all Catholics who have made their First Communion receive the Holy Eucharist sometime during the Easter season, which lasts through Pentecost Sunday, 50 days after Easter. (They should also take part in the Sacrament of Penance before receiving this Easter communion.) This reception of the Eucharist is a visible sign of our faith and our participation in the Kingdom of God. Of course, we should receive Communion as frequently as possible; this "Easter Duty" is simply the minimum requirement set by the Church.

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. PETER'S CHURCH is celebrating its 185th Anniversary along with the Annual Rev. T. K. Flanigan Humanitarian Awards EVENT, Sunday, April 26th. Awards will be presented to E. Stewart Jones, Patricia Flannery Walsh, Howard Reilly, and posthumously to Merton and Marie Thayer for their service to St. Peter's Church and Community. There will be a Mass of Thanksgiving at 4 PM followed by a Reception and Dinner at Franklin Plaza. Dinner choices are Stuffed Breast of Chicken, Filet Mignon, and Filet of Sole. For information, call 235-8847. Checks for reservations at \$30.00 per person should be made out to Father Flanigans' Marching Band and sent to Mickey de Rubertis, 241 – 6th Avenue, Troy, NY 12180 by April 16.

ST. PETER'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL met on March 19 at the Lyceum. Father Bill chaired the meeting in place of Kay McCarty, who was excused. Everyone voiced their approval for the 185th Anniversary Celebration and spoke of how well events are being attended. In particular, all members were pleased with the February 14th special Renewal of Vows Mass and Reception. The Corned Beef Dinner was a smashing success and, although final reports were not yet in, the profit for Joseph's House was projected to be over \$3,000.00. Extensive preparation has been completed for the 185th Anniversary Mass and Tribute to Father Flanigan, including activities at Franklin Plaza on Sunday, April 26. Father Bill informed the Pastoral Council that the final Latin Tridentine Mass celebrated at St. Peter's will take place at NOON on Sunday, May 17. Father Bill reviewed the dates of the final English Masses the weekend of May 30 and 31st. The idea of a very light reception after St. Peter's and St. Paul's closing Masses was discussed. Holy Week and Easter plans were discussed and it was noted that Jim Gray will provide Easter balloons for the 10:30 am Easter Mass at St. Peter's. A Council member commented that some St. Peter's parishioners said that Father was speaking about Parish closing activities and Masses too much. The meeting began at 6:35 pm and ended at 8:40 pm. Several non-council members were present and expressed their concerns about the closing of St. Peter's. St. Peter's Cemetery Memorial Day Mass will be celebrated on Monday, May 25 at 9:00 am, rain or shine. Father Mario Julian, OFM, Pastor of St. Anthony's, will concelebrate the Cemetery Mass with Father Bill.

ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE PASTORAL COUNCIL met on March 31st. All members were present. Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Celebrations were discussed and approved. It was hoped that many would attend the joint St. Peter and Paul Parish Holy Thursday Mass and Pot Luck supper at St. Paul's. Set up for this event will take place at 5:00 pm on April 8th. Several people will be baptized, confirmed and receive First Eucharist at the 7:00 pm Easter Vigil Mass at St. Paul's Church. Father has trained and prepared all of the candidates. Rich Carley will take care of the balloons for the St. Paul's 9:00 am Easter Mass at St. Paul's. Time was spent discussing the mood of our St. Paul's Parishioners in light of the closing. The Council said that although this is not really a happy time for us, most parishioners have accepted the closing reality and are looking into worshipping elsewhere and beginning "Fresh". Many people at St. Paul's are concerned as to where Father Bill will go after May 31. Father mentioned that he is grateful for the support, concern and prayers. Planning was completed for the Closing Mass at St. Paul's on Saturday, May 30th at 4:00 pm. Concern was expressed as to how many will be present at this Mass, hoping that we will have enough liquid refreshments for everyone. Father mentioned our financial situation at St. Paul's and stated that we should be able to make it to May 31st without going into debt. St. Paul's "Good Stewardship Spending Plan" has paid off. Details of the moving of our Perpetual Adoration Chapel to St. Augustine's were discussed. It was also mentioned that all Church articles, bought or donated, belong to St. Paul's Church and ultimately to Bishop Hubbard. Nothing may be removed from the Church building as is true for St. Peter's. The meeting began at 6:30 pm and ended at 8:30 pm. St. Paul's Pastoral Council hoped that all St. Paul's Parishioners would remain at St. Paul's until we literally "cross the finish line". We need each other until we start our new beginning!

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOD BLESS THE FOLLOWING WHO RECEIVED SACRAMENTS AT OUR ST. PAUL'S EASTER VIGIL MASS LAST EVENING, HOLY SATURDAY, April 11, 2009:
BAPTISM –Jaden A. Bermudez and Javier J. Bermudez/ CONFIRMATION – Casey Lin Darmetko and Maribel R. Lind/ FIRST HOLY COMMUNION – Catiria Candelario, Casey Lin Darmetko, Brianna Marie Gettings, Juan Ernesto Laboy, Carmen Lind and Maribel R. Lind.

RICE BOWL – Jesus Christ is Risen! Our Operation Rice Bowl journey has ended but working towards global solidarity doesn't have to. Let us continue to PRAY for all those who work for justice and for those who benefit from the programs of Catholic Relief Services, and continue to LEARN how to stay connected with our global family through Catholic Relief Services. Take some time to visit www.crs.org. Thank you for taking part in the Lenten journey with Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS TO RICE BOWL.**

CLOSING (FINAL) MASSES AT OUR PARISHES

St. Peter's – Sunday, May 17 – LAST TRIDENTINE 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.

Pray for the soul of JEAN W. LECLAIR. God grant him Eternal Life.

FINAL BANNES OF MARRIAGE for Anthony J. Saginario and Rhema R. Etzel. Blessings!

EVANGELIZATION: HAPPY EASTER!.....FELICES PASCUI!