

**FROM FATHER BILL:** Our EASTER SERVICES at St. Peter's and St. Paul's were beautiful and GRACE FILLED. Our Lord truly shared with us His Easter Peace and Hope on this HOLIEST of DAYS. Remember, we should accept His gifts and incorporate them into our lives. And, we thank God for the SUNSHINE that was clearly visible Easter Sunday morning in honor of His Resurrection. Our Easter balloons brightly and beautifully SOARED UPWARDS toward Heaven!! A SPLENDID EASTER. Today is DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY. Our Risen Lord came back from the tomb like a LAMB. He is the Paschal Lamb. On this special Sunday of Mercy, we should try to be like the Lamb of God – Gentle, Kind, Merciful, and absolutely NON – VIOLENT. O MERCIFUL JESUS, I PLACE MY TRUST IN YOU!

**KUDOS:** We were all impressed and moved by the large number of people who brought themselves and such delicious food for our Annual Holy Thursday Joint Parish Pot Luck Supper. Congratulations St. Peter and St. Paul parishioners! Thanks to Maureen Noonan who provided Easter treats for the Kids at St. Peter's and to "anonymous" at St. Paul's for Easter treats.

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY:** SPEAK, LORD, your Servant Listens! "Prayer is, in the strictest sense, a humble religious petition of man to God to seek divine benevolence and benefits he needs for life, both TEMPORAL and ETERNAL. It is a conversation with God, either by accepted prayer forms, or from the heart."

**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.

**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.

**NEXT SUNDAY - ST. PETER'S CHURCH** is celebrating its 185<sup>th</sup> 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. A GREAT DAY IN THE HISTORY OF ST. PETER'S PARISH.

### **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.

**BEST WISHES and CONGRATULATIONS** to Anthony James Saginario and Rhema Rose Etzel who were married on Saturday (April 18, 2009) at St. Peter's Church. GOD BLESS YOU BOTH!

**THANK YOU** again for your generous RICE BOWL DONATIONS. The POOR will be FED; the NAKED will be CLOTHED and the SICK will be given MEDICINE and the THIRSTY shall have WATER. All because of your generosity.

**Thank you** to Pat Burns and Maureen Noonan who provided Easter Floral Decorations for our Church Doors and to Patty Rupp for decorating, so beautifully, St. Paul's processional crucifix for Palm Sunday and Easter.

**ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!! ALLELUIA!!!**

**THE PRAYER of ST. FRANCIS**

*Lord, make me a channel of your peace;  
that where there is hatred, I may bring love;  
that where there is wrong, I may bring the spirit of forgiveness;  
that where there is discord, I may bring harmony;  
that where there is error, I may bring truth;  
that where there is doubt, I may bring faith;  
that where there is despair, I may bring hope;  
that where there are shadows, I may bring light;  
that where there is sadness, I may bring joy.  
Lord, grant that I may seek rather to comfort than to be comforted;  
to understand, than to be understood;  
to love, than to be loved.  
For it is by self-forgetting that one finds.  
It is by forgiving that one is forgiven.  
It is by dying that one awakens to eternal life.  
Amen.*

**PRAYER IN TIME OF CHANGE:**

**Beloved Jesus, anoint us to do your will.  
May the joy of your dwelling in us draw us closer to each other,  
Expand our vision to recognize your plan;  
Warm our hearts by the flame of your love;  
Open our lips so that we can embrace each other as your people; speak to us so we can discern the role you have for us,  
Your body, your Church.  
Fill us with your Holy Spirit,  
Empowering us to become a vital expression of growth  
In your changing Church.  
Your Kingdom is now!  
Help us to discover and live your will. AMEN.**

**A REFLECTION on "THOMAS the DOUBTER":** Thomas exemplifies someone who came to be united with the community through his coming to faith in Jesus. It is instructive that the community of apostles gave him the time to come to faith. Indeed, Jesus gave him the time to come to faith, even offering to meet Thomas' requirements of touching his wounds and putting his hand into his side. We don't know if Thomas did this or not; we do know by his acclamation that Thomas was moved to faith – "MY LORD and my GOD!". Growing in faith then flows into living in love.

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

**THE ROSARY is prayed Thursday's – 8:30 AM - at Planned Parenthood, 200 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Monument Square, Troy.**

**THE GLORY of EASTER:** On Easter, we renewed our baptismal profession of FAITH in Jesus Christ as the risen, crucified Lord, the Son of God. The fifty days after Easter continue the work of allowing our faith to penetrate our lives more deeply, reminding us how the risen Lord continues to work in and through us as individuals and as a community that believes

**EVANGELIZATION: Divine Mercy Sunday.....Domingo de la Divina Misericordia!**

**"HE IS RISEN, INDEED, AS HE SAID."  
ALLELUIA!**