



Dear Parish Family,



Friday, March 23rd marks the First Anniversary of the passing from this earthly life to eternal life of our beloved Miss Patricia Dolan. She was a figure in our parish family who is truly missed, especially by me, as she was my good friend, but her spirit is still alive in our community and we all know that she is watching over us from heaven. So Patty when I say this I know I am speaking for all the members of our parish family: your life with us was a blessing, your memory a treasure, we love you, we thank you for your example and for watching over us while you were with us, we miss you, and we continue to pray for you. May you rest in His peace.

During this Lenten Season we are, as a Parish family, journeying with Christ to the celebration of His Passion, Death and Resurrection. The recalling of these events of our salvation will begin on the weekend of March 24th and 25th with the celebration of *Palm Sunday* leading us to the great Feast of our Lord's Resurrection from the Dead on *Easter Sunday*, April 1st.

I invite you during these remaining Lenten days to participate in our **2018 Lenten Offerings**:

Daily Liturgy - 7:30 AM (Mon., Tues. and Fri.); **Sacrament of Reconciliation** on Monday evenings March 5th, 12th and 19th; our **Wednesday Evening Lenten Liturgy** at 7:00 PM with Msgr. Duffy. On Wednesday evening, March 21st Msgr. Duffy will celebrate a **Lenten Liturgy of Healing and Anointing**; **Stations of the Cross** on Friday evenings of Lent at 7:00 PM.

The schedule for our **Holy Week Celebrations** is as follows:



Weekend of March 24th & 25th - Palms will be blessed and distributed this weekend at all of our Eucharistic celebrations.



The Eucharist for Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday of Holy Week (March 26th, 27th & 28th) will be at the usual time - 7:30 A.M.



March 29th - Holy Thursday. This is the day when Jesus established the Holy Eucharist and Priesthood. It is a very special day. There will be **NO** morning Eucharist. The **Celebration of the Lord's Supper** will begin at 7:00 P.M. Twelve parishioners will have their feet washed at this celebration. A procession with the Eucharist will follow our Liturgy. Weather permitting; we will process outside around the church. Following the procession there will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at the Altar of Repose until 9:15 P.M.



March 30th - Good Friday. It is a day of fast (one full meal) and abstinence (no meat). We will celebrate the **Stations of the Cross** at 12:00 P.M. in our Cemetery Prayer Garden (weather permitting). The church will remain open so members of our parish family can spend time in private prayer and meditation on the saving act that Jesus endured on that first Friday. At 3:00 P.M. we will gather to remember our **Lord's Passion and Death with the Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion**; and at 7:00 PM we will gather again for Meditations on the **Seven Last Words of Christ from the Cross**.



March 31st - Holy Saturday. I will bless Easter Foods and Baskets in the Church at 1:00 P.M. There will be no Confessions and no 5:00 PM Liturgy. **The Easter Vigil** will begin at **7:00 P.M.** We will gather on this most Sacred night for the Blessing of the Easter Fire and process with the newly lit Easter Candle into the darkened Church bringing the light of Christ into our beautiful worship space.



April 1st - Easter Sunday, the day when we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ. The Eucharist will be celebrated at 8:00 AM, 10:30 AM and 12:00 Noon.

Easter Monday, April 2nd, and Easter Tuesday, April 3rd, there will be morning no Liturgy.

Easter is the most important Feast of our faith; The Resurrection of Christ is the hope in which we all share because of Jesus. I invite you to join us for the Liturgies of Holy Week and Easter. As a Parish Family we have much to praise and thank God for, especially our eternal life won for us by Jesus Christ.





TRICKY TRAY: Our *Annual Parish Tricky Tray* will take place on Friday evening, April 13th, at the Ogdensburg Firehouse beginning at 6:30 PM. Donations can be dropped off at the firehouse on Friday, April 13th, from 10:00 am to 5 pm. If you need to make other arrangements or have any questions, please contact please contact Sue Reimer at 973.209.4090 or Patti Ganz at 973.827.0360.

IN MARCH WE CELEBRATE:



Daylight Savings Time - March 11th. *Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour before going to sleep on Saturday night, March 10th*



Saint Patrick's Day - March 17th. Saint Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. He almost didn't get the job of Bishop of Ireland because he lacked the required scholarship. Far from being a saint, he considered himself a pagan. He was sold into slavery by a group of Irish marauders that raided his village. During his captivity, he became closer to God. He escaped from slavery after six years and went to Gaul where he studied in a monastery for a period of twelve years. During his training he became aware that his calling was to convert the pagans to Christianity. Patrick was quite successful at winning converts, and this fact upset the Celtic Druids. Patrick was arrested several times, but escaped each time. He traveled throughout Ireland, establishing monasteries across the country. He also set up schools and churches which would aid him in his conversion of Ireland to Christianity. His mission in Ireland lasted for thirty years. After that time, Patrick retired. He died on March 17 in AD 461. That day has been commemorated as St. Patrick's Day ever since.



Saint Joseph's Day – March 19th. Relatively little is known about the life of St. Joseph except for what is written in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Everything known about Joseph suggests he was poor. Joseph's family was from Bethlehem of Judea, but he had moved to Nazareth in Galilee to take up the occupation of a carpenter. Joseph was a man of great faith, who when called by God responded by taking Mary as his wife and to be the foster father of Jesus. Since Joseph is not mentioned during the ministry of Jesus or at the Passion, it is assumed that he had already died by that point. The feast of St. Joseph's Day is often celebrated by Italian communities and includes enjoying zeppole di San Giuseppe and other Italian dishes for their celebration.



First Day of Spring – Spring Equinox - March 20th. This day is the official beginning of springtime. After the long cold and snowy winter, the air is now alive with promises of new growth, fertility, swelling buds on all the trees, and new love. Soon there will be flowers everywhere. This is a time of balance, when day and night are of equal length. From this point on, we celebrate the oncoming season of longer days and shorter nights.

SOME IMPORTANT PARISH DATES IN MARCH:



Sunday, March 4th - Rosary Society Meeting following the 8:00 AM Liturgy - Church Hall
 Sunday, March 11th - Annual Saint Patrick's Party & Dinner - 4:00 PM - Church Hall; Palm Cross orders due
 Weekend of March 17th & 18th - Palm Cross order pick-up



ANNUAL SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARTY: Join your fellow leprechauns for a traditional Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner along with wine, beer, soda, Irish soda bread, tea and Irish coffee. **Date:** Sunday, March 11th, 2018 beginning at 4:00 PM in the Church Hall. **Cost:** \$12.00 for an individual; \$30.00 for a family. Reservation forms are available on the table at the entrance of the Church.

GOD'S GATHERING OF CHILDREN - RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM



UPCOMING FAITH FORMATION EVENTS: **First Eucharist Parent Meeting** – Sunday, April 15th following the 12 noon Liturgy - Church Hall. **First Eucharist Retreat** – Saturday, April 21st from 1:00 - 3:30 PM at Camp Auxilium, Newton; **First Eucharist Banner Making** Sunday, April 22nd following the 12 noon Liturgy - Church Hall. **Sacrament of First Eucharist and May Crowning** - Saturday, May 5th at 11:00 AM.



"BE SEALED WITH THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT" – CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

Confirmation Classes for Grades 9 and 10 meet on Monday evenings at the Ogdensburg School from 6:45-8:00 PM. Bishop Serratelli will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for our 10th Grade Confirmation Candidates here at Saint Thomas on **Saturday morning, April 21st, 2018 at 11:00 AM.**



Parish Meetings: The next **Finance Council** meeting will be on Wednesday evening, April 11th, 2018 at 7:00 PM. The next **Parish Advisory Board** meeting will be on Wednesday evening, April 18th, 2018, at 7:00 PM. All meetings are held at the Rectory. These Parish Committees meet four times a year.

The Rosary Society meets on first Sunday of the months of October, November, February, March, April & May after the 8:00 AM Liturgy in the Church Hall. The **Holy Name Society** meets when necessary in the Church Hall.

Let us pray for each other as we continue our Lenten Journey to the events of our salvation - His Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Enjoy the Month!

In His Love,

Fr. John