



Saint Leonard of Port Maurice Parish

April 5, 2020 ~ Palm Sunday



Mass Schedule



Saint Leonard Church

Saturday: 5:00PM
Confession 4:15 -5:00PM and upon request

Sunday 9:00 AM
10:30 AM (Italian)
12:00 Noon
Monday - Friday 12:05PM



Saint Stephen Church

Saturday: 4:00PM
Sunday 11:00 AM
Thursday and Friday 7:30 AM



Sacred Heart Church
is temporarily closed



Saint John School

School Hours
Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Tel: 617-227-3143



Saint Francis Gift Shop

Manager: Brother Gabriel Aceto

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor:

Rev. Michael Della Penna, OFM

Parochial Vicar:

Father Claude Scrima, OFM

Guardian:

Brother Gabriel Aceto, OFM

Saint Stephen Rector:

Rev. David Costello

Saint John School:

Principal: Claire Cassidy

Parish Office

Business Manager: John Kutch

Secretary: Rita Ingersoll

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 AM - 4:00PM

Closed Friday and Weekend

Phone: 617-523-2110, **Fax:** 617-367-0456

Address: 320 Hanover Street 02113

Email: admin@saintleonardchurchboston.org

WWW: saintleonardchurchboston.org

DEVOTIONS at Saint Leonard Church



ROSARY

Monday - Friday 11:30 AM



NOVENA TO

SAINT ANTHONY

Tuesday 12:05 PM



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Friday after 12:05 PM Mass



CHAPLET OF

DIVINE MERCY

Friday at 3:00 PM



Queen of Peace Group

1st Wednesday of every month Rosary
at 6:30 and Mass at 7Pm

Parking 136 Blackstone Street, Boston (Enter on New Sudbury Street) There is validated* parking for visitors to the North End at the Parcel 7 parking garage, located on the corner of New Sudbury Street and Congress Street. Enter on New Sudbury Street next to the Haymarket "T" entrance. Validated parking tickets are good for \$1 for up to 2 hours of parking, and \$3 for up to 3 hours of parking. If you park for longer than 3 hours, the validation is void and regular rates apply. *For the discount, parking ticket must be validated by a North End store, church, attraction, restaurant, business or organization.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

will be live streamed at:

saintleonardchurchboston.org

Palm Sunday Masses

Saturday 500 pm

Sunday 10:30 am Italian

12:00 pm

Thursday 800pm

Friday 12:00 pm Stations of the Cross

3:00 pm Service

Easter Sunday Masses

Saturday 800 pm vigil

Sunday 1030 am Italian

12:00 pm



A message of support from Father Michael.

Your financial offerings are our basic means of support. During this time of Church closure due to the Coronavirus, we ask you to continue your weekly offering or make a one time offering to Saint Leonard Parish. Your generous donations will enable us to continue providing support for those families and elderly who are in need of food during this time of crisis.

Your offering can be made by one of the following methods:

- 1) Thru our donation portal on our website.
- 2) Sending your donation check to:
Saint Leonard Parish, 320 Hanover St,
Boston, MA. 02113.
Check should be made payable to
Saint Leonard Parish.
- 3) Dropping your donation in our Peace
Garden offertory box located on your left at
the entrance of the Garden.

Thank you and God Bless you,
Father Michael Della Penna, OFM, Pastor.



Pastor's Reflection

Forced to Carry the Cross

Simon of Cirene is the man who carried the cross for Jesus. What some do not realize, however, is that he was forced to do so by the soldiers against his will. In one sense we were all forced to carry the cross of the corona virus. Not only those who have suffered and died because of it, but in particular, the medical profession and all of us in general. In some ways, we are all like Simon of Cirene, compelled to embrace this difficult time and to bear this heavy burden which we did not choose. We can, never the less, embrace this cross with love as a means to unite us to Jesus.

This is our choice, as much as it was Simon's; not whether to carry it, but how to carry it. As the expression goes, life is not what happens to us but what we do with what happens to us.

While carrying the cross is something unwanted, unplanned and unpleasant, ironically, for Simon, it would be the most significant and meaningful thing he would do in his whole life; earning him a unique and unforgettable place in salvation history, greater than any athlete, entertainer, politician, or writer could ever attain. This forced task, as humbling and disruptive to his own agenda, becomes, in the end, the most important thing Simon ever did.

We have an opportunity to allow this cross of the virus to be transformed through love.

For us, embracing our cross with grace and love can be a means of not only coming to peace with the reality that suffering is an inevitable part of life, but accepting some "other little deaths" before our physical death, that is, letting certain parts of ourselves die. When Jesus invites us to die in order to find life, he is not talking about physical death but

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rather about “dying to self.” It’s a call to absolute surrender which can teach us how to depend on God more and more each day.

It also purifies our love, which as St. Thomas Aquinas defined it is “willing the good of the other” By turning our often self-referential love toward our neighbor, we can learn to love more fully. Rather than dwelling on our own sufferings, we can, moved by compassion for other people, use this time to come out of ourselves and pray for and help others who are in need.

In this way we can share in the mission of Simon, and shoulder the cross of our neighbor. This is the true meaning of Christian charity which goes beyond social outreach projects, but is willing to sweat blood and die to ourselves at times. There is no other route. That is the message of the cross. Love costs, costs everything. What you see when you look at the cross of Jesus is what true committed love asks of us; choosing to embrace the suffering, saying: “Not my will, but yours, be done.”



SAINT OF THE WEEK

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, known also as Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus, remains one of the most popular saints of recent times. Marie Frances Theresa Martin was born on January 2nd, 1873 in Alençon, France, the daughter of Blessed Louis Martin, a watchmaker, and Blessed Marie-Zélie Guérin, a lacemaker. They had nine children of whom only five daughters survived to adulthood: Marie, Pauline, Léonie, Céline and Thérèse.

Both her parents were very religious. Zélie died of breast cancer in 1877 when Thérèse was only four years old, shortly after, her father sold the family lace business and moved to Lisieux in the Calvados

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region of Normandy where Zélie's brother Isidore Guérin, a pharmacist, lived with his wife and two daughters.

Thérèse studied at the Benedictine Abbey of Lisieux. When she was nine years old, her sister Pauline, who had acted as a “*second mother*” to her, entered the Carmelite monastery at Lisieux. Thérèse was devastated. She tried also to enter the convent, but was told she was too young. At 14, her sister Marie entered the same Carmelite monastery; Thérèse once again attempted to join the order, but was not accepted because of her youth. Finally the Bishop of Bayeux authorized the prioress to receive Thérèse, and on April 9, 1888 she became a Carmelite postulant. She took as her motto the words of the great Carmelite, Saint John of the Cross: Love is repaid by love alone.”

Love of God as a Father, expressed in childlike simplicity and trust, and a deep understanding of the mystery of the cross were the basic principles of her “Little Way” which is an image that tries to capture her understanding of being a disciple of Jesus Christ, of seeking holiness of life in the ordinary and the everyday. St Therese based “her little way” on two fundamental convictions: (1) God shows love by mercy and forgiveness, and (2) she could not be “perfect” in following the Lord. St Therese believed that the people of her time lived in too great a fear of God's judgment. The fear was stifling and did not allow people to experience the freedom of the children of God. St Therese once wrote that she could not understand how anyone could be afraid of a God who became a child. She also knew that she would never be perfect. Therefore, she went to God as a child approaches a parent, with open arms and a profound trust.

In her autobiography, “Story of a Soul”, written under obedience, she gives an account of her eleven years of religious life. God rejoices more in what He can do in a soul humbly resigned to its poverty than in the creation of millions of suns and the vast stretch of the heavens, is a wonderful passage from her book that gives insight into her spirituality

Thérèse's final years were marked by a steady decline in her health that she bore resolutely and without complaint. On the morning of Good Friday, 1896, she began bleeding at the mouth due to her tuberculosis which had taken a turn for the worse. In July 1897 she was moved to the monastery infirmary, where she died on September 30, 1897, at age 24. “She is buried at the Basilica of St. Thérèse in Lisieux”



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