

Palm Sunday

April 5, 2020

MASS SCHEDULE

The Priests will celebrate a private Mass for each of the particular intentions on the day indicated. In charity, he also remembers all of the parishioners and the silent intentions of their hearts.

Saturday, April 4th

Mass for the People (Fr. Hahr)
Donna Patoine (Fr. Robert) by her husband Clement

Palm Sunday, April 5th

Health of Catherine Bernier (Fr. Hahr) by Millie Chappell
Simone Carreau (Fr. Robert) by Terry Doyon

Monday – April 6th

Special Intention (Fr. Hahr) by Roger & Cynthia DeKett
Health of Catherine Bernier Fr. Robert) by Millie Chappell

Tuesday, April 7th

Ken Capriola (Fr. Hahr) by Lynn Parker
Intentions of the Good Shepherd Catholic School (Fr, Robert) by Fr. Robert

Wednesday, April 8th

Arthur Menard (Fr. Hahr) by David & Tina Houde
James LaClair (Fr. Robert) by Amy Marcinko

LENT ENDS THE SACRED TRIDUUM BEGINS

Holy Thursday, April 9th

(Fr. Hahr)
(Fr. Robert)

Good Friday, April 10th

No Masses today
3 Hours' Agony devotion (Fr. Hahr)
Good Friday Service (Fr. Robert)

Holy Saturday, April 11th

Mass for the People (Fr. Hahr)
(Fr. Robert)

Easter Sunday, April 12th

Deacon Al Toborg (Fr. Hahr) by his wife Linda
Richard & Mary Ellen King (Fr. Robert) by Joan King & the family

Please keep our parishioners in mind who are ill & in need of your prayers, especially: Charlene Chase, Connie, Lapage, Martin Fortin, George Thurston, Charlie Weis, Randy Thomas & Jerry Prevost.

The **FORMED** program is available to everyone in our parish. To start enjoying this free gift, please visit the FORMED website:

1. Go to: nekatholic.formed.org
2. Click on REGISTER to create a personal account

Suggested Content:

Daily Mass: Watch the Mass anytime on FORMED

Prayer for a Happy Death

O my Lord and Savior, support me in my last hour by the strong arms of Thy Sacraments, and the fragrance of Thy consolations. Let Thy absolving words be said over me, and the holy oil sign and seal me; and let Thine own Body be my food, and Thy Blood my sprinkling; and let Thy Mother Mary come to me, and my angel whisper peace to me, and thy glorious saints and my own dear patrons smile at me, that in and through them all I may die as I desire to live, in thy Church, in thy faith, and in thy love. Amen.

Please consider using the Online Giving tool for your weekly offertory donations. Visit our website at: nekatholic.com and click "Give

Online" to sign up! Leave your checkbook at home, and save the parish the expense of envelopes!

PARISH EVENTS

All Parish events are cancelled until further notice.

PLEASE NOTE: Confirmation and First Holy Communion has been postponed. The new date will be announced a.s.a.p. All students need to continue with their religious studies from home. Thank you.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Year: 7/1/19-6/30/20 Budget: \$282,000 (\$6,000 needed per week)
Reg. Collection Year-to-date: \$191,747+ On-Line: YTD: \$116,669

Collections and Receipts: March 29, 2020

Regular Offertory: \$2,697

Many thanks to those who are able to mail in their Collection Envelopes.

Dear Parishioners,

Please know that in these difficult times Fr. Robert and myself are keeping you all continually in our prayers – especially as we offer daily the holy Sacrifice of the Mass. You'll have a special remembrance in our prayers as we celebrate the Easter liturgies. It's a great sorrow that we can't be together for these celebrations, but please send your hearts to the church as we offer you and your intentions to our heavenly Father, along with His Son, in the love of the Holy Spirit. Please pray with us for a quick end to this pandemic that we might be soon gathered together again at the altar of God. So many things are out of our control in these days, but, no matter our particular situations, we can choose to allow them to draw us closer to God by remaining near Him in prayer.

Easter is normally a time when we celebrate the Sacraments abundantly, this year many of them are beyond our reach. I want to remind you that we are still here, especially for those needing the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and the Anointing of the Sick. Please feel free to call anytime, and if you're feeling ill, it'd be better to call early as it's becoming increasingly difficult to visit parishioners in the hospitals or nursing homes.

The Lord has an Easter waiting for each of us on the other side of this mess. May we cooperate with His grace in bringing this to fruition. May God bless us all with a very Happy Easter as we embrace the new life that He's won for us. ~ Fr. Hahr

Spy Wednesday

You may know why Holy Thursday is called "Maundy Thursday," but do you know why the day before is called "Spy Wednesday"? Many hearing the name "Spy Wednesday," assume that "Spy" must be a corruption of a Latin word, as the "Maundy" in Maundy Thursday (Holy Thursday) is an Anglicization of the Latin *mandatum* ("mandate"), referring to Christ's commandment in John 13:34, viz. "A new commandment I give unto you: That you love one another, as I have loved you." Likewise, the "Ember" in "Ember Days" has nothing to do with fire but comes from the Latin phrase *Quatuor Tempora* (four times), since the Ember Days are celebrated four times per year.

But in the case of Spy Wednesday, the word means exactly what we think it means. It's a reference to Judas's action in Mt 26:14-16: "Then went one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, to the chief priests, and said to them: What will you give me, and I will deliver Him

unto you?" The event occurred two days before Good Friday. Thus, a spy entered the midst of the disciples on Wednesday of Holy Week, when Judas resolved to betray our Lord for 30 pieces of silver.

What Happened on Monday of Holy Week?

On the following day [the Monday after Palm Sunday] ... He was hungry. And seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, He went to see if He could find anything on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. And He said to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And His disciples heard it. ... As they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. And Peter remembered and said to Him, "Master, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered." (cf. Mk 11:12-21)

Why does Jesus curse the fig tree? ... In ancient Jewish tradition, they actually believed that the tree of knowledge of good and evil was ... a fig tree. ... An ancient Jewish book ... called *The Life of Adam and Eve* ... from the first century AD ... reflects the beliefs of Jesus' time, and this is how it describes the fall of Eve ... Eve says this: "At the very moment my eyes were open, I knew that I was naked of the righteousness with which I had been clothed. I looked for leaves, so that I might cover my shame, but I did not find any from the trees of paradise, except those of the fig tree only. And I took its leaves, and I made for myself skirts. They were from the same plants of which I ate." (*Life of Adam and Eve* 20:1, 4-5) ... In Jewish tradition, the fig tree was associated with the tree of ... the knowledge of good and evil ... And so on His way into Jerusalem for His Passion, Jesus sees the fig tree on Holy Monday. And what does He say? "*May no one ever eat of you again.*" ... He curses it, because He's not just a new Solomon. He's not just the Messiah. He's not just coming to set up the new temple. He's also the new Adam. And He's come to undo the effects of the fall, to undo the effects of the first Adam. He doesn't want anybody to eat of the tree of death anymore. He doesn't want anybody to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, so He curses this fig tree as a symbol of what He's going to accomplish on the cross...when he undoes sin and its power, and death and its dominion. ~ Dr. Brant Pitre

Good Friday?

This Friday is Good Friday, the day on which Christians commemorate the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ. The name may seem counterintuitive ... since the day is typically viewed as a solemn one, often observed with fasting and somber processions. Why is Good Friday called *Good Friday*? The first theory is that it is called *Good Friday* because, Christians believe, there is something very good about it: It is the anniversary of Jesus suffering and dying for our sins. That terrible Friday has been called Good Friday because it led to the Resurrection of Jesus and His victory over death and sin. This is certainly how many Christians today understand the name—but it is not where the name originally comes from. The theory supported by both the *Oxford English Dictionary* and many language experts is that the name comes from an antiquated meaning of "good," which meant "holy." If you consider the other names for Good Friday throughout the world—e.g., the German for "Good Friday" isn't actually "Gottes Freitag" ("God's Friday"), but rather *Karfreitag* ("Sorrowful Friday"); it's called "Sacred Friday" in the Romance languages, and "Passion Friday" in Russian—the *OED*'s explanation makes excellent sense. The *OED* also notes that there

was once *Good Wednesday*, the Wednesday before Easter, which is sometimes known as Holy Wednesday, because it is the Wednesday of Holy Week.

Holy Saturday

What is happening? Today there is a great silence over the earth, a great silence, and stillness, a great silence because the King sleeps; the earth was in terror and was still, because God slept in the flesh and raised up those who were sleeping from the ages. God has died in the flesh, and the underworld has trembled.

Truly He goes to seek out our first parent like a lost sheep; He wishes to visit those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. He goes to free the prisoner Adam and his fellow-prisoner Eve from their pains, He who is God, and Adam's son.

The Lord goes in to them holding His victorious weapon, His cross. When Adam, the first created man, sees Him, he strikes his breast in terror and calls out to all: 'My Lord be with you all.' And Christ in reply says to Adam: 'And with your spirit.' And grasping his hand He raises him up, saying: 'Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light.

'I am your God, Who for your sake became your son, Who for you and your descendants now speak and command with authority those in prison: Come forth, and those in darkness: Have light, and those who sleep: Rise.

'I command you: Awake, sleeper, I have not made you to be held a prisoner in the underworld. Arise from the dead; I am the life of the dead. Arise, O man, work of My hands, arise, you who were fashioned in My image. Rise, let us go hence; for you in Me and I in you, together we are one undivided person.

'For you, I your God became your son; for you, I the Master took on your form; that of slave; for you, I who am above the heavens came on earth and under the earth; for you, man, I became as a man without help, free among the dead; for you, who left a garden, I was handed over to Jews from a garden and crucified in a garden.

'Look at the spittle on My face, which I received because of you, in order to restore you to that first divine inbreathing at creation. See the blows on My cheeks, which I accepted in order to refashion your distorted form to My own image.

'See the scourging of My back, which I accepted in order to disperse the load of your sins which was laid upon your back. See My hands nailed to the tree for a good purpose, for you, who stretched out your hand to the tree for an evil one.

'I slept on the cross and a sword pierced My side, for you, who slept in paradise and brought forth Eve from your side. My side healed the pain of your side; My sleep will release you from your sleep in Hades; My sword has checked the sword which was turned against you.

'But arise, let us go hence. The enemy brought you out of the land of paradise; I will reinstate you, no longer in paradise, but on the throne of heaven. I denied you the tree of life, which was a figure, but now I Myself am united to you, I who am life. I posted the cherubim to guard you as they would slaves; now I make the cherubim worship you as they would God.

"The cherubim throne has been prepared, the bearers are ready and waiting, the bridal chamber is in order, the food is provided, the

everlasting houses and rooms are in readiness; the treasures of good things have been opened; the kingdom of heaven has been prepared before the ages." ~ from an ancient Holy Saturday homily