



## CHURCH OF SAINT MARY

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## MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH CHURCH

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Dear Parish Family,

April 10, 2011

Lenten Soup Suppers conclude this Wednesday, April 13 at 6:00 pm at St. Mary. This week's guest speaker is Fr. Jim Bessert. His talk will begin at 6:30 pm.

Stations of the Cross continue on Fridays at 7:00 pm at Mt. St. Joseph. Come and walk in the footsteps of Our Lord along the road to Calvary.

### **LENTEN FAST AND ABSTINENCE GUIDELINES**

**FASTING** is required of those between the ages of 18 and 59 on **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday**. On days of fasting, one full meal and two smaller meals are permitted with **NO** eating between meals.

**ABSTINENCE** is required of all those 14 years and older on **ALL Fridays of Lent**, as well as on **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday**. Abstinence means refraining from eating food items made of or from red meat (beef and pork), animal fat, or poultry.

The students at St. Mary School experienced 'Fine Arts Day' this past Wednesday. It was very educational and a lot of fun to see the presentations on music, art, photography, and food. I hope the children had as much fun as I did!

Tuesday evening daily Mass continues at St. Mary at 8:00 pm followed by Adoration and Compline; ending right around 9:00 pm. This is an excellent opportunity to step up your practice of prayer during Lent.

Last week saw the 'rose' vestments marking the mid-point of Lent. This week, our statues are veiled as we move into Passion Week. Next weekend is Palm Sunday, with red vestments; followed by Holy Week and the Triduum. Let us intensify our efforts at prayer, fasting, and works of mercy! Keep praying! God bless you!

*Fr. David*

## *St. Therese of Lisieux and the "Little Way"*

This past week, the Holy Father spoke on St. Therese of Lisieux "who lived in this world for only twenty-four years at the end of the nineteenth century, leading a very simple and hidden life, but who, after her death and the publication of her writings, became one of the best-known and loved saints".

"Little Therese never failed to help the most simple souls, the little ones, the poor and the suffering who prayed to her, but also illuminated all the Church with her profound spiritual doctrine, to the point that the Venerable John Paul II, in 1997, granted her the title of Doctor of the Church ... and described her as an 'expert in *scientia amoris*' (the science of love). Therese expressed this science, in which all the truth of the faith is revealed in love, in her autobiography 'The Story of a Soul', published a year after her death".

During her life, "she lived the faith at its most heroic, as the light in the shadows that invade the soul" the Pope said. In this context of suffering, living the greatest love in the littlest things of daily life, the Saint realised her vocation of becoming the love at the heart of the Church".

She died uttering the simple words, "My Lord, I love You!". "These last words are the key to all her doctrine, to her interpretation of the Gospel. The act of love, expressed in her final breath, was like the continued breathing of the soul ... The words 'Jesus, I love You' are at the centre of all her writings".

St. Therese is "one of the 'little ones' of the Gospel who allow themselves to be guided by God, in the depth of His mystery. A guide for all, especially for... theologians. With humility and faith, Therese continually entered the heart of the Scriptures which contain the Mystery of Christ. This reading of the Bible, enriched by the science of love, does not oppose academic science. The 'science of the saints', to which she refers on the final page of 'The Story of a Soul', is the highest form of science".

"In the Gospel, Therese discovers above all the Mercy of Jesus ... and 'Trust and Love' are therefore the end point of her account of her life, two words that, like beacons, illuminated her saintly path, in order to guide others along the same 'little way of trust and love', of spiritual childhood. Her trust is like that of a child, entrusting herself to the hands of God, and inseparable from her strong, radical commitment to the true love that is the full giving of oneself."

# VEILING OF CRUCIFIXES AND STATUES DURING LENT

**Q:** Are statues and crucifixes supposed to be veiled from the Fifth Sunday of Lent until Good Friday? If the crucifixes aren't veiled, what is the point of having an unveiling on Good Friday?

**A:** According to the *Sacramentary*, "The practice of covering crosses and images in the church may be observed. The crosses are to be covered until the end of the celebration of the Lord's passion on Good Friday. Images are to remain covered until the beginning of the Easter vigil."

The *Sacramentary* states that following the Holy Thursday Mass "the altar is stripped and, if possible, the crosses are removed from the church. It is desirable to cover any crosses which remain in the church."

In 1988 the Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship issued *Paschale Solemnitatis*, a new document on the Easter feasts. According to this document, "It is fitting that any crosses in the church be covered with a red or purple veil, unless they have already been veiled on the Saturday before the Fifth Sunday of Lent." (n. 57)

This leaves the decision to cover the crucifixes in the church up to the individual parishes and strongly encourages this tradition.

Even though the veiling of crucifixes is highly recommended but not mandatory, it does not make liturgical sense to have the unveiling of the crucifix on Good Friday if the crucifixes were never covered in the first place.

According to the Ceremonial of Bishops, there are two forms of veneration for Good Friday. The first is the one most often seen where the crucifix is unveiled in steps. The second form is a procession from the church entrance to the sanctuary with an unveiled crucifix. This would be the proper form to use if the crucifixes in the church had never been veiled.

*From <http://www.catholicliturgy.com>*

## WHAT IS PASSIONTIDE?

Passiontide in the Church liturgical year is the name for the last two weeks of Lent, beginning on the Fifth Sunday of Lent and ending on Holy Saturday.

In the Catholic Church, all crucifixes and images may be covered in veils (*usually violet, the color of vestments in Lent*) starting on the Fifth Sunday of Lent. "The practice of covering crosses and images in the church may be observed. The crucifixes are to be covered until the end of the celebration of the Lord's passion on Good Friday. Images are to remain covered until the beginning of the

Easter Vigil." The veiling was associated with this Thursday's Gospel (John 8:51-59), in which Jesus "hid himself" from the people.

The Preface of the Passion of the Lord I is used during the Fifth Week of Lent and the Preface of the Passion of the Lord II is used in Holy Week up to the Triduum.

### HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE 2011

<u>PALM SUNDAY</u>	April 16/17	<i>Regular Schedule</i>
Liturgy begins in hall with procession to church		
<u>HOLY THURSDAY</u>	April 21	Mt. St. Joseph
Potluck	6:00 pm	
Mass	7:30 pm	
Adoration until midnight		
<u>GOOD FRIDAY</u>	12 noon April 22	St. Mary
<u>EASTER VIGIL</u>	9:00 pm April 23	St. Mary
<u>EASTER SUNDAY</u>	April 24	<i>Regular Schedule</i>