

FROM THE PASTOR'S PRINTER

Looking Ahead to Holy Week...

I realize that the schedule for Holy Week is in the bulletin, but if you are a scanner of the bulletin instead of an "I can't wait to read this thing," (which is perfectly fine with me), I want to draw your attention to the following.

1. The first Mass on Palm Sunday and Easter is moved up a half an hour to 7 AM in order to make the parking situation less nerve racking.
2. For all Palm Sunday Masses except for 7 PM, we will gather in the gym to bless the palms, and celebrating Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, process into church.
2. The last scheduled time before Easter for the Sacrament of Reconciliation is TUESDAY, MARCH

27th after 8 AM Mass. There are NO confessions scheduled on Holy Saturday.

3. There will NOT be a 4 PM Mass on Holy Saturday. The Easter Vigil (which is THE Mass for Easter) will be at 8:45 PM. At this Mass, nine people will be baptized (8 catechumens and the very cute baby of one of them), and eight people received into full communion in the Catholic Church. While the Vigil lasts about 2 hours, it is the most beautiful of the Church's liturgies, and seeing new Christians emerge from the font strengthens your hope in the life of the Church. (You also can sleep in on Easter morning.)
4. On Easter Sunday there is will be NO 7 PM Mass.

Why Does 11 AM Mass Have Different Readings?

If you are a parent and check with your teenage children to see if they have gone to Mass, you may be in the habit of asking what the readings were about. If they say that they went to 11 o'clock Mass, and they tell you the readings were different from what you heard at an earlier Mass, they weren't lying. The Lectionary lists as the primary readings for the third, fourth, and fifth Sundays of Lent the stories of the Woman at the Well, the Cure of the Man Born Blind, and the Raising of Lazarus, respectively. These readings are especially

appropriate as we prepare for Easter because they reveal aspects about moving from sin to risen life in Christ, and they are required at the Masses where the Scrutinies are celebrated (i.e., 11 am Mass) with the Elect (those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil). However, since there are so many more biblical passages than there are Sundays of Lent, the Lectionary provides offerings of readings for Cycle B & C as well. These may be used (as they are here at St. John's) at non-scrutiny Masses.

Planting & Harvesting

With 12 days between now and the celebration of the Triduum, we come to know in today's Gospel (Jn 12: 20-33), the truth about Christ's coming Passion and Resurrection. First, Jesus sees both as his glorification. Odd it is that Christ would see his Passion as his glorification, but he sees as God sees: the saving of humanity shows the glory of God and His love.

Secondly, He sees simply the loss of his life out of love for us, but also a productive act. Like the seed that falls to the ground and dies, so Christ's death brings life to trillions and even more people. Such is the love of our God!

Let not the coming days of the mysteries of loving redemption find you absent from the Church.