

Lent/Easter 2010

**Saint Dominic Parish
Washington, DC**

LENT

February 17-April 1

This year the Season of Lent begins on February 17, Ash Wednesday, and ends on April 1, Holy Thursday, with the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper. Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit, was led by the Spirit through the wilderness being tempted by the devil for forty days. (Lk: 4: 1) During these forty days of Lent, we focus on our life as believers.

The Season of Lent is a time of spiritual preparation for those who will enter the Church at Easter. This preparation is celebrated with various rites on the Sundays of Lent. These liturgies are an opportunity for the St. Dominic Parish Community to support and pray for our RCIA candidates:

Sunday, February 21 - 3:00 PM At the National Shrine

Rite of Election

Sunday, March 7 – 8:00 AM Mass

First Scrutiny

Sunday, March 14 - 5:15 PM Mass

Second Scrutiny & Presentation of the Creed

Sunday March 21 - 10:45 AM Mass

Third Scrutiny & Presentation of Lord's Prayer

These rites continue conversion and deepen resolve to follow Christ with greater fidelity. The Creed and the Lord's Prayer express the heart of the church's faith and prayer. These presentations invite the elect to be enlightened by the light of faith and to come to a deeper understanding of the new spirit of adoption by which they and we call God our Father.

For the baptized, Lent is a time to renew and to deepen the baptismal consecration to live the new life Christ imparts through His death and resurrection. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving are the traditional activities of Lent. This season provides an opportunity to intensify in our life these actions that join us to the work of Christ: **Prayer** is our personal conversation with Christ. **Fasting** is a sign of the internal and spiritual fast from sin motivated by the pursuit of holiness. **Almsgiving** or helping the poor is a work of mercy in which we show to others the mercy Christ extends to us. It also allows us to reflect on our responsibility to those less fortunate and our obligations as stewards over material goods. Jesus speaks about these actions in the Gospel for Ash Wednesday (*Mt: 6: -6;16-18*).

LENTEN PRACTICES AND SYMBOLS AT ST. DOMINIC CHURCH

Days of Fast and Abstinence - During Lent all Catholics over the age of 15 years are obliged to observe the practice of abstaining from meat on Ash Wednesday and on all Fridays during Lent and Good Friday. All Catholics between the ages of 18 and 60 years are obliged to fast as well, on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday and are encouraged to fast, insofar as we can, during the season of Lent.

Liturgy of Evening Prayer -As we do at our Conventual Mass, we will be incorporating the Liturgy of the Hours into our appropriate Masses. The Saturday 5:15 PM and Sunday 5:15 PM Masses will incorporate Evening Prayer. The Liturgy of Evening Prayer, consisting of Psalms and Mary's Hymn, the *Magnificat*, will take the place of the Penitential Rite of Mass except for Palm Sunday. On that Sunday, the blessing and distribution of Palms takes the place of the Penitential Rite at all Masses.

Cross-The Cross is the main symbol for the season of Lent and will be in the Center of the Sanctuary behind the altar, overshadowing everything else. At its base is a basket for Lenten petitions. You are invited to place petitions in the basket during the season and that will be remembered at all the Masses in the church during Lent along with those in our Books of Intentions.

Empty Holy water fonts-We are reminded that like the Israelites, we are journeying through a desert, a desert in which our hope for water can only be realized with the waters that flow from the cross and resurrection of Christ at

Easter. In its place, crosses will be available for you to take so that you can carry it with you throughout the season to remind you of the practices you have chosen to take on yourself. Please only take one per person.

Gospel Symbols- Since we have five elect in the RCIA process, we will be using the readings for the liturgy that correspond to these rites. There will be symbols that reflect these gospels in the center front of our altar:

- 1st Sunday Temptations** The stone garden where they take place
2nd Sunday Transfiguration Open Bible - Jesus speaks with Moses
and Elijah
3rd Sunday Samaritan Woman Water jar symbolizing the woman's jar
4th Sunday Blind Man's Healing Cane and beggar's bowl of the blind man
5th Sunday Raising of Lazarus The binding strips of the dead man

Please remember our Elect in your prayers and Lenten practices:

Natasha Dalley
Alex Chun
Gary Yingling
Kevin Terpak
Alton Miller

Covered Statues - Many of us might remember from our younger days that on what was then called "Passion Sunday", the Sunday before Palm Sunday, the statues in the church were covered. This custom was to help us to focus more on the mysteries of Holy Week that we were about to enter and to keep us from being distracted. This practice is once more encouraged and here at St. Dominic's we will be covering the statues in our church on Passion (Palm) Sunday in order to keep us focused on the cross, that which signifies for us the Love of God. At the ringing of the bells and singing of the alleluias at the Great Vigil of Easter, the statues will be uncovered as the light of Christ once more enlightens our church and our hearts.

Liturgy During Lent

In order to allow for full participation at the Masses on Ash Wednesday and in anticipation of the large numbers of people present, there will be no confessions in the Church on Ash Wednesday. On Monday and Tuesday, February 15 and February 16, there will be four confessors available at the usual times (11:55 AM) in the Church if you wish to avail yourself of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for Lent.

Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2010

Masses in the Church

7:45AM

11:30 AM

12:20 PM

5:15 PM

Ashes will only be distributed at the Masses.

The Little Sisters of the Poor will be here for their annual collection at all the Masses on Ash Wednesday. Please be generous to help them in their ministry here in Washington at the Jeanne Jugan Residence, St. Joseph Home.

During Lent the regular Mass and reconciliation schedule will be followed. Masses will be celebrated in the Church Monday – Friday at 8:00 AM and at 12:10 PM and Saturdays at 12:10 PM. Opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be Monday – Friday at 11:55 AM and on Saturdays at 4:30 PM – 5:00 PM. On the Wednesdays of Lent (Feb 24, March 3, 10, 17 and 24), the Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be available from 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM in the church.

HOLY WEEK

SUNDAY, March 28 - PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY

Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem

Blessing and distribution of palms at each Mass

Saturday	5:15 PM	Mass with Simple Entrance
Sunday	8:00 AM	Mass with Simple Entrance
	10:45 AM	Mass with Solemn Entrance
	12:15 PM	Spanish Simple Entrance
	5:15 PM	Mass with Simple Entrance

The entrances today with the blessing of palms take the place of the Penitential Rite.

MONDAY, March 29 - Mass

8:00 AM
12:10 PM

7:30 PM Mass with Anointing of the sick

Through his passion, Christ gives meaning to human suffering. In the Sacrament of the anointing of the sick, the Lord Jesus brings this meaning to human illness and to age as He touches the human condition with his healing and saving power. During this week, as the Church commemorates the passion, death and resurrection of Christ, it is appropriate to celebrate this Sacrament with those who are experiencing the mystery of suffering in human illness and age. All those who suffer from physical, mental or spiritual illnesses (including children who are able to understand the benefit from the Sacrament) or the difficulties that arise from advanced age, are invited to receive this Sacrament.

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, March 30 & 31 - Mass

8:00 AM
12:10 P

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Monday - Friday 11:55 AM
Saturday 4:30 PM - 5:00 PM

On Wednesday evenings, February 24, March 3, 10, 17 and 24, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available in the church from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM.

Please note that the *Holy Triduum* - Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday - are unique in the Church year. Because of the importance and the unique quality of these days, they have specific liturgical norms which we are following and which will afford us the opportunity to set these days apart from the rest of the year. Holy Communion is only given out at the Solemn Liturgies of the Days except for *viaticum*, *i.e.*, to one in danger of death. Note please that after Wednesday, March 31, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will next be available on Monday, April 5 at the usual times.

HOLY TRIDUUM

THURSDAY, APRIL 1 - Holy Thursday

7:30 PM Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

Mandatum - Washing of the Feet

Simple Procession to the Altar of Reposition

Adoration until 10 PM

FRIDAY, APRIL 2 - Good Friday

12:15 PM Stations of the Cross

3:00 PM Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Liturgy of the Word with Sung Passion

Solemn Intercessions

Veneration of the Cross

Service of Holy Communion

SATURDAY, APRIL 3 - Holy Saturday

9:00 AM *Tenebrae*: Office of Readings

and Morning Prayer

Tenebrae is Latin for darkness. It refers to the Office of Readings and Morning Prayer of the last three days of Holy Week. The term is used because candles are gradually extinguished after each psalm of the Office

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

SATURDAY, APRIL 3 - 7:30 PM

Service of Light
 Blessing of New Fire
 Procession into the Church and *Exultet*
Liturgy of the Word
Blessing of Easter Water
Celebration of Initiation rites for the Elect
 Natasha Dalley
 Alex Chun
 Gary Yingling
 Kevin Terpak

Renewal of Baptismal promises and
Solemn Eucharist of Easter

Confirmations

All of our parishioners are encouraged to attend the Great Vigil of Easter on Holy Saturday to welcome into our faith community those who will enter the Church and who will complete the Sacraments of Initiation -- Confirmation and Eucharist. It is the most important celebration of the liturgical year. On this night, as the *Exultet* proclaims, “*alone of all nights, to have known the hour and the time when Christ rose from the dead,*” the Church keeps vigil by listening to nine Scripture readings recounting the story of our salvation. It is in the risen Christ that what was promised by God through the same Scriptures is fulfilled.

SUNDAY, APRIL 4 Easter Sunday

8:00 AM MASS AT DAWN

10:45 AM FESTIVE MASS OF EASTER

12:15 PM SPANISH

During the Celebration of Easter which extends from the Great Vigil Mass of Easter (April 3) through the octave and until Sunday, April 11, Easter Water which will be blessed at the Great Vigil Mass will be available here for you to take home.