ST. MARY CHURCH
UXBRIDGE

WELCOME

If you are a visitor to our parish, we welcome you to our celebration of the Liturgy. Your presence blesses our gathering in prayer! We are also happy to welcome new people to our parish family. If you live in the area and would like to become a part of our parish community, please contact Sue Leighton in the Parish Office at 508-278-2226.

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OUR PURPOSE | To form disciples who joyfully live out the mission of Jesus Christ.

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPi

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PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday | 9:00am-5:00pm
Sundays | 8:30am-12:30pm
Closed Fridays & civic holidays
Telephone: 508-278-2226

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE HOURS

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Telephone: 508-278-3777

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SAINT MARY CEMETERY

Steve Marsh, Caretaker
Telephone: 508-278-6592

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Sunday Mass | 7:30, 9:00, 11:00am
Saturday Vigil Mass | 5:00pm
Weekday Mass | 7:00am (Mon.-Thurs.)
7:00am (On Civic Holidays)
Holyday Masses as announced

PLEASE NOTE: The Sacrament of Reconciliation will not be available on Saturday, March 27, due to a previously scheduled wedding at 1:00pm that day, and there will not be reconciliation on Holy Saturday.
THIS SUNDAY READINGS: Mark 11:1-10 Isaiah 50:4-7 Mark 14:1-15:47

MASS TIMES:

The weekend celebration of the Eucharist is held at 5:00pm Saturday, and 7:30am, 9:00am and 11:00am on Sunday.
Weekday Masses—7:00am—Mon-Thurs

The weekday daily 7:00 am Mass is live streamed onto our Facebook page and can be watched anytime later in the day. The 7:30am Sunday Mass is also live streamed onto our FB.

DRIVE UP RECONCILIATION—Will continue here at St. Mary's on Saturdays, between 2:00-3:00pm. Drive up to the Statue of Mary in the back parking lot.

In light of the continuing and specific danger presented by this virus to older people and those with certain health conditions, the obligation to take part in the MASS ON SUNDAYS AND HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION CONTINUES TO BE LIFTED UNTIL PENTECOST, MAY 23, 2021.

† St. Vincent de Paul Society of Neighbors helping neighbors

It's a full year now since we entered under the cloud of **COVID 19**. We've made adjustments to our lives, comforted those in sorrow, and we look forward to when this will all end. We know that troubles do continue and sometimes can be overwhelming. Problems arise and don't discriminate; and it never seems fair. **Please know that the St. Vincent de Paul is here to help you**. If you or someone you know locally that needs assistance spiritually, or with rent, groceries, fuel, guidance or just needs someone to talk to—**we are here for you. You are never alone.** Please call the office at **508-278-2226** and someone from the SVdP Society will promptly return your call. God Bless.

TIME Talent TREASURE

March 21, 2021

Ordinary	| $ 5,965.00
Fuel and Energy	| $ 326.00
Renovations	| $ 290.00
Easter Flowers	| $ 75.00
Catholic Relief	| $ 100.00
Total	| $ 6,756.00

Thank you and may God bless you for your generous return to the Lord.

Prelude Music for this weekend

Chorale Preludes:
Fugue in A Minor
BWV 543

by Johann Sebastian Bach

IN NEED OF OUR PRAYER

In the charity of your prayers, please remember the sick of our parish and others especially **(in alphabetical order):** Lily Agostino, Theresa Aldrich, Greg Anacki, Agnes Anselmo, Leland C. Atonson, Frances Bachant, Gloria Baldor, Dcn. Joe Baniukiewicz, Sr. Yvette Beford, Michelle Beland, Maureen Bernard, Lucille Blair, Elizabeth Brennan, Dr. Ken Burgwinn, Fr. Ron Calhoun, Deborah Carmichael, David Caron, Normand Caron, Karen Ciepielowski, Anthony Clark, James Clark, Tim Costa, Bill Cote, Mary Cove, Lorraine Crawford, Morgan Creighton, Sr., Tim Crowley, Betty Cusson, Elizabeth Cybulski, Jackie Dailey, Janet Davis, Joe Deslouriers, Bill Doty, Helen Dunleavy, Robbie East, Stephen Fearebay, Lisa Firth, Steven Forman, John Garrity, Albina Giardiello, Walter Gion, Paulette Girard, Frances Gniadek, Sandra Goff, Bob Gray, Ron Griffin, Donna Hall, Philip Harcourt, Rick Hirko, Joseph Hoffman, Rose Hudon, Matthew Jackson, Don Jasmin, Sheila Jeziorski, Don & Madeleine Jolin, Jacquelyn Kleya, Alex Larsen, Kevin Larson, Artie Leary, Michael & Laurie MacCarthy, Michelle Mashak, Marley Jean Martin, Lisa Martini, Lorna McWilliam, Felipe Mendoza, Jim Moro, Joan Mulligan, Pat O'Melia, Linda Poulin, Kenny Richards, Peter Rice, Sandra Robbins, Christin Sanchez, Angel Santos, Kairo Santiago, George Shaheen, Jonathan A. Shaw, Joan Smith, Justin Smith, Todd Smith, Carl Speight, Debbie Stafford, Jack Stafford, Elise Strickland, Alice Susskey, Shirley Tellier, Alan Titus, Maureen Tracy, Anne Trudeau, Seth Updergraff, Ronald Valliere, Laura Wayland, Jeanette White, Rebecca Wise, and all our service members serving away from home.

THE DECEASED

In the charity of your prayers, please pray for those who have died, Dennis Meagher, Pearl Decker, and for all the victims of war and terrorism.

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

In the charity of your prayers please pray for all those serving in the armed services, especially, Sgt. Michael St. Jean, Ashley Wallis, Ryan Carnell, Maj. Eric Calvey, Lt. Evan Depetrillo, Ens. Samuel P. Rose, Maj. Sean Cahill, SSGT. Felice Covino IV, John Flood, Adam Lareau, Pvt. Trevor Benoit, Cpt. Justin Trimble, Jonah Boudreau.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER CHAIN

If you wish to have a personal intention or special needs remembered in prayer, please contact Donna Featherstone.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat., 03/27 ***St. Catherine of Genoa***
Candle Intention: Lanny Remillard
5:00PM **For Richard, Thelma & Kevin McCrohan** by the Family
Sun., 03/28 Palm Sunday of the Passion of Our Lord
7:30AM **For James King** by the Gion Family
For Stella Sak & Claire Bernard by Ann Caouette
9:00AM **For the People of St. Mary Parish**
11:00AM **For Bob & Connie Beland** by Michelle Beland
Mon., 03/29
7:00AM **For Martin Zajak** by Michael LaShomb
Tues., 03/30
7:00AM **For Andrew MaGowan (2nd. Anniv.)** by his Mom & Dad
Wed., 03/31
7:00AM **For Rev. D. Timothy O'Mara** by the People of St. Mary Parish
8:00PM **Tenebrae Prayer Service—Church**
Thurs.,04/01 Solemn Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper—Holy Thursday
7:30PM **For the Deceased Former Priests of St. Mary Parish**
Fri., 04/02 Good Friday Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
7:30PM ***Good Friday is an obligatory day of Fasting and Abstinence Ages 18-59***
Sat., 04/03 The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night &
7:30PM **The First Mass of Easter**
Sun., 04/04 Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of The Lord
7:30AM **For the People of St. Mary Parish**
9:00AM **For Lanny Remillard** by the Family
For Alfred "Junie" Desimone (1st. Anniv.) by The Hay Family
11:00AM **For Carolyn Murphy** by the Robbins Family
For Dennis Meagher by the Gion Family

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF OUR LORD

"Pilate again said to them, 'Then what shall I do with the man whom you call the King of the Jews?' And they cried out again, 'Crucify him.'" (MARK 15:12-13) Jesus told us "whatever you do for the least of my brothers, you do for me." Every day we are presented opportunities to help someone. Every day we have the opportunity to see the face of Jesus in others and be the face of Jesus to others. Pray for the strength and courage to be the answer to someone's prayer.

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF OUR LORD

Each Lent we turn again to the Church's ancient practices to reawaken our spirits to the presence of God. We pray, fast, and embrace works of charity. Through these disciplines we seek to deepen our faith in Jesus' promise of new life.

What are some things that I can do during Lent to prepare myself for Easter?

PRAYER: A little time apart to pray can restore resilience and give us a chance to be quiet, be still, and reflect on where we're going on our life's journey with God.

FASTING: We fast to break our routines and to test how life giving they really are. We take time from what dulls and drugs us (whether food, alcohol, TV, or the computer) in order to find time to rediscover the things that give us life. The practice of fasting also prepares us to resist the even greater temptation of sin.

ALMSGIVING: In giving alms (embracing works of charity) we learn the needs of others, stretch our resources to contribute to their well-being, and work for just and humane public policies. Some of the ways through which we can embrace these practices during Lent are:

WEEKDAY MASS: Mass is **celebrated Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 7:00am**. It is still live-streamed for those unable to physically attend. Check our Website or our Facebook Page.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: . Throughout the entire year the Sacrament of **Reconciliation During Lent, is offered on Saturdays from 1:00-3:00pm.**

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: Weekly adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place each **Wednesday from 3:00pm – 6:00pm** in the church. Adoration is an opportunity for quiet, prayerful reflection in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Many find it to be a way of assuring a time of prayer in the midst of an overly busy and noisy world. It serves as a means to re-focus our attention on Christ.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS:-Fridays during Lent at **6:00pm** in the Church. All are welcome—no reservations required.

NOVENA FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION

Join the Respect Life Ministry in praying a special novena March 17-25 in preparation for the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord on March 25. The Annunciation commemorates the visit of the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary to inform her that she was to be the mother of our Savior. After giving her consent to God's word, Mary became the mother of God. This solemnity helps us to recognize the gift of life from conception. It calls us to reflect on how we are to care for, protect, and welcome new life, as the Blessed Mother did for the Christ child.

The Church teaching on the value and inviolability of every human life remains an indispensable source of truth for all people. Let us follow the example of Mary and call upon her intercession to help us open our hearts to say "yes" to God and to life!

Copies of this novena can be picked up at the entrance of the church.

YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

March--Joseph Most Just

Joseph was first and foremost just unto God, rendering to Him what was His due. Since all things are due to God, Joseph was perfectly religious in prayer, in labor, and in love giving to God, even as an infant, the energy of his whole life.

"In human life, Joseph was Jesus' teacher in their daily contact, full of refined affection, glad to deny himself to take better care of Jesus. Isn't that reason enough for us to consider this just man, this holy patriarch, in whom the faith of the Old Covenant comes to full fruition, as a master of interior life? Interior life is nothing but continual and direct conversation with Christ, so as to become one with him. And Joseph can tell us many things about Jesus. Therefore, never neglect devotion to him—Ite ad Ioseph: "Go to Joseph"—as Christian tradition puts it in the words of the Old Testament (Gen 41:55)" - St. Josemaría Escriva

HOLY WEEK

We invite you to join with us as we celebrate the holiest of weeks in the entire Christian year. Our schedule of liturgies is as follows:

March 27/28: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
Blessing of palm branches and proclamation of the Lord's Passion at all Masses.

March 29: Monday of Holy Week
7:00am – Mass

March 30: Tuesday of Holy Week
7:00am – Mass

March 31: Wednesday of Holy Week
7:00am – Mass
8:00pm—Tenebrae Prayer Service

April 01: Holy Thursday
7:30pm – Solemn Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper
(Procession with the Blessed Sacrament to the altar of repose)
9**:00pm – 12:00am** – **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

April 02: Good Friday of the Lord's Passion
3:00pm – Stations of the Cross
7:30pm – Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion and Death
(Proclamation of the Lord's Passion, Veneration of the Cross, and Holy Communion)

April 03: Holy Saturday
7:30pm – The Great Vigil and First Mass of Easter
(Lighting of the Paschal candle, Sacraments of Baptism & Confirmation, and First Mass of Easter)
******Reminder: On Holy Saturday there is no 5pm Mass******

April 04: Easter Sunday: The Resurrection of the Lord
7:30, 9:00 and 11:00am Mass

COMMUNITY & PRAYER

THE BLESSING OF BRANCHES ON PALM SUNDAY

In the ancient world, palm branches represented victory and hope. The carrying and waving of these branches could signify the hope that former oppression and tyranny would be overthrown. The crowds that welcomes Jesus into the city of Jerusalem welcomes him as a king. Their understanding of Jesus' kingship and power was imperfect, however. Later that week they would come to understand the kind of king and the kind of victory Jesus' entry into Jerusalem would ultimately bring.

It is for this reason that we ourselves carry palm branches today. We acclaim the One whose kingship will be revealed through a cross. Our bearing these branches signifies our willingness to continue the mission of Christ our King, aware that its fulfillment in our lives will entail its own crosses. We live in hope that Christ's victory will ultimately be our own.

The blessed palm branches we receive today are **sacramental**. They may appropriately be placed behind a cross, crucifix, or religious icons at home. As such they serve as an ongoing reminder of our joining our lives to the mission and work of Jesus. The following prayer used when placing palm branches in the home aptly expresses their meaning:

Blessed are you, God of Israel
So rich in love and mercy.
Let these branches ever remind us
Of Christ's triumph.
May we who bear them rejoice in his cross
And one day come to sing your praise
In the joy of eternity.

NOT ABLE TO RETURN TO MASS YET?

Families who are still unable to attend Mass in person are invited to come to St. Mary Church after the 11:00am Mass on Palm Sunday to pick up your palms.

Drive up to the handicap entrance of the Church as we did last year. We will have a table set up for distribution of the blessed palms. No reservations required, just simply drive up to pick up your palms.

LENTEN RICE BOWLS used to collect money for the poor and hungry may be returned at any time. Baskets for the purpose of collecting the bowls have been placed at the entrances to the church.

Please note:
75% of our gifts to the Rice Bowl program support Catholic Relief Services around the world. The remaining 25% of your contributions stay in the U.S. to assist local hunger and poverty alleviation programs. We thank all our parish families who have used the Rice Bowls during the past 40 days of Lent.

Calendar of Events

SUNDAY

CHOSEN YEAR 1 PROGRAM

03/28/2021 5:00-6:30pm

On ZOOM

MONDAY

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

03/29/2021 6:30-8:00pm, Parish Center

03/29/2021 **6:30-8:00pm on Zoom**

WEDNESDAY

The word *Tenebrae* is Latin for "shadows" or "darkness." It can also be translated as "night" or "death." The Tenebrae service is an ancient tradition in Christian history. The purpose of this service is to remember the somber events that occurred in Jesus' life from the exuberant entrance into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday through the night of Jesus' burial on Good Friday. All are welcome. Please plan to arrive by 7:45pm. **The service begins promptly** at **8:00pm.**

THURSDAY

Holy Thursday Liturgy will begin at 7:30pm with the Solemn evening Mass of the Lord's Supper. Holy Thursday is the celebration of the institution of the Eucharist as the true body and blood of Jesus Christ and the institution of the Sacrament of Holy Orders of the Priesthood. At the conclusion of the Mass, there will be a procession with the Blessed Sacrament to the altar of repose, and stripping of the main altar. **Adoration will be held until Midnight**.

FRIDAY

Stations of the Cross on Good Friday starts **at 3:00pm**, in the Church. All are welcome to join. No tickets necessary. Masks required and social distancing will be observed. **At 7:30, the Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion and Death** will take place with the proclamation of the Lord's Passion, Veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion.

SATURDAY

The Great Vigil and First Mass of Easter will begin promptly at 7:30pm with the Lighting of the Paschal candle, the Sacraments of Baptism & Confirmation, and the First Mass of Easter. This year St. Mary Parish especially welcomes Beck Ramirez and her son, Liam, into our Catholic faith. The day celebrates the vigil that Christ's followers held for him outside of his tomb, waiting for his resurrection. Join us for this Celebration which will be livestreamed.

THE HEART OF THE CHURCH'S YEAR

The Paschal Triduum is the celebration of the heart of our faith, the Paschal Mystery of our Lord Jesus Christ: His Passion, death, and Resurrection. Being one long celebration, it begins with the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday and concludes at sundown on Easter Sunday.

The forty days of Lent prepare us for this most sacred celebration. The fifty days of Easter unfold following the celebration.

The Paschal Triduum is a liturgical season in itself, albeit the shortest of the liturgical year. Although the Paschal Triduum lasts three days, the liturgies form a unity. Each is understood as connected to the others. It is best to understand the Paschal Triduum as one liturgy celebrated in stages or moments.

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