

Liturgy Office

St. Peter the Apostle

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March 2011

ST. PETER THE APOSTLE CHURCH

March 2011—Liturgy Newsletter



St. Patrick

The feast day of St. Patrick, March 17, has taken on many secular features with parties and parades. This is due to the

influence and political power of the Irish Americans after their immigration during the 19th century. St. Patrick is their patron.

Much of our information about St. Patrick comes from his own writing, especially from his *Confessions*. He was born a Roman citizen of wealthy parents in the British Isles about 385.

When he was sixteen years old he was kidnapped by pirates and sold as a slave in Ireland. He worked there as a shepherd for six years, experiencing a spiritual awakening and divinely inspired dreams. Then he escaped to France, as promised in a dream, and eventually was reunited with his family. Years later he dedicated himself to the study of religion under St. Germanus at Auxerre, France, and was ordained a deacon. He desperately wanted to return to Ireland, the place and people of his enslavement, but was rejected at first by superiors. He was finally ordained bishop by Pope Celestine I and returned to Ireland in 432. There he ministered effectively for thirty years, baptizing thousands, including whole tribes, and establishing parishes and religious communities.

The efforts of St. Patrick were resisted in an organized way by the Druids, pagan religious leaders and sorcerers among the Celts. Legends tell of St. Patrick's miracles as he gradually undermined the power of the Druids among the people. Not long after his death in about 461, Patrick's disciples completed the conversion of the Irish nation.

Legends about St. Patrick became so popular after his death that it is now hard to separate fact from fiction. The best known of these is that he charmed all the snakes in Ireland into the sea where they drowned. Another, which is possibly authentic, led to the custom of "wearing of the green" on March 17. Patrick used the three-leaf green shamrock to explain the mystery of the Trinity: Each of the three leaves represented the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. The stem represented the Godhead from which the three proceed. The shamrock had been used at the time of St. Patrick in Celtic fertility rituals. It was symbolic of three goddesses. Its leaves were ritually burned and the ashes sprinkled over fields to provide good crops.

Secular observance of St. Patrick's Day began in Boston in 1737 by Protestants to benefit the

St. Patrick, St. Joseph and Lent!



needy of Irish blood. This tradition continued after the Revolutionary War under joint Catholic-Presbyterian coordination. The most famous celebration is the St. Patrick's Day Parade along New York's Fifth Avenue Parade.

Source: Catholic Customs & Traditions by Greg Dues

Dates to Remember

- ⇒ **Friday, March 4th**
24 Hour Adoration-Church
- ⇒ **Wednesday, March 9th**
Ash Wednesday / Mass at 8AM, Noon and 7PM
- ⇒ **Thursday, March 17th**
Evening of Reflection for all Liturgical Ministers in the Church at 7PM
All are Welcome to attend!
- ⇒ **Saturday, March 19th**
Protecting God's Children Wkshp
At 11AM in the Parish Office
- ⇒ **Monday March 28 to Wednesday March 30**, Parish Mission at 7PM in Church
- ⇒ **Friday, April 1st**
24 Hour Adoration—Church
- ⇒ **Saturday, April 16 at 10:30AM**
Palm Sunday Practice
- ⇒ **Sunday, April 17**
Palm Sunday
- ⇒ **Monday, April 18**
Chrism Mass at the Cathedral
- ⇒ **Tuesday, April 19**
Triduum Practice at 7PM
- ⇒ **Thursday, April 21**
Holy Thursday Liturgy @ 7PM
(Looking for men to have their feet washed!!!!)
- ⇒ **Friday, April 22**
Good Friday Liturgy @ 7PM
- ⇒ **Saturday, April 23**
Easter Vigil at 7:30PM
Pray for Nick Pigounakis who will be fully initiated into the Church at the Vigil!
- ⇒ **Sunday, April 23**
Easter Sunday
- ⇒ **Every Friday during Lent, Senior Stations will be at 1PM in the Church**
- ⇒ **Every Friday during Lent, Soup and Salad in the School Hall**
- ⇒ **Every Friday during Lent, Stations of the Cross at 7PM in the Church**

Prayer to St. Joseph
Feast Day is March 19, 2011



Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God. I place in you all my interests and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine Son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of Fathers.

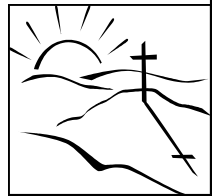
Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary of contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls - Pray for me.

This prayer was found in the fiftieth year of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In 1505 it was sent from the Pope to Emperor Charles when he was going into battle. Whoever shall read this prayer or hear it or keep it about themselves, shall never die a sudden death, or be drowned, nor shall poison take effect of them; neither shall they fall into the hands of the enemy; or shall be burned in any fire, or shall be overpowered in battle.

Say for nine mornings for anything you may desire. It has never been known to fail, so be sure you

The Glad Tidings of the Cross
Day by Day with Pope Benedict XVI
Source: Benedictus by Ignatius Press

The content of the Christian *evangelium* reads: God finds man so important that he himself has suffered for man. The cross is in truth the center of the *evangelium*, the glad tidings: "It is good that you exist" — no, "It is necessary that you exist." The cross is the proof of our existence, not in words, but in an act so completely radical that it caused God to become flesh and pierced this flesh to the quick; that, to God, it was worth death of his incarnate Son. One who is so loved that the other identifies his life with this love and no longer desires to live if he is deprived of it; on who is loved even unto death — such a one knows that he is truly loved. But if God so loves us, then we are loved in truth. The love is truth, and truth is love. The life is worth living. This is *evangelium*. This is why, even as the message of the cross, it is glad tidings for one who believes; the only glad tidings that destroy the ambiguity of all other joys and make them worthy to be joy. Christianity is, by its very nature, joy — the ability to be joyful. The "Rejoice!" with which it begins expresses its whole nature. By its very essence, by its very nature, Christian belief is "glad tidings" ... deep joy of the heart is also the true prerequisite for a sense of humor, and thus humor is, in a certain sense, the measure of faith.



Please remember!!!

- 1) ALTAR SERVERS, PLEASE DO NOT BLOW OUT THE CANDLES AT THE ALTAR; USE THE SNUFFER SO YOU DON'T SPRAY THE WAX OVER THE ALTAR AND CANDLE HOLDERS
- 2) USHERS, PLEASE ENSURE THE MONEY BAGS ARE SEALED PROPERLY...IF YOU CAN STICK YOUR FINGER THROUGH AN OPENING, IT IS NOT SEALED PROPERLY. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU ARE HAVING TROUBLE WITH THIS

Scriptures for Everyone

"Living with Christ" Scripture Study twice a month on a Wednesday morning at 9AM with Schubie or on Thursday evening at 7PM with Deacon Bob. If you are interested, please call Schubie on ext 201 to register...

"Women's Bible Study" On February 8th at 7PM in the School, we started 6-week Bible Study for women of all ages. This is free! The theme is called "Real Beauty" and we have had some awesome conversations.

"Men's Spirituality Study" Coming this Lent on Wednesday Evenings from 7-8:30PM The topic is "Be A Man" from Fr. Larry Richards. Please call Deacon Bob for more info on 630-924-8091.

More Adult Formation to come.....

Things to think about...

- 1) If you are interested in getting your feet washed on Holy Thursday, April 21st, please let me know if you feel called to participate. I will need 12 men!
- 2) The Passion reading on Palm Sunday will be handled a little different this year. I will need 3 readers for each Mass on Palm Sunday to read the Passion. Please let me know if you feel called to read.

Thank you, Schubie

What do you plan to do during Lent that will challenge, inspire and deepen your faith. Lent is a time for fasting, almsgiving and prayer. Do you plan to give something up or make a commitment to attend daily Mass, read scripture, read the lives of the Saints or ?????? Whatever it is, it should stretch you beyond your comfort zone; that is when you will grow! When you get discouraged, remember how much Jesus stretched beyond His comfort zone for you...