

THE PHILADELPHIA ORDINARIATE POST

A NEWSLETTER OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH
THE PERSONAL ORDINARIATE OF THE CHAIR OF SAINT PETER IN THE PHILADELPHIA AREA

WWW.SJBRIDGEPORT.ORG

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April, 2019

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Holy Week (April 14-21 this year) is at the center of the church year. This is the time for us to enter into the events of our redemption: Jesus' Passion and Resurrection. It is important to us because the events are historically and theologically essential to our faith. More than that, we have been united with Jesus, and since we love Him, we will want to be with Him every step of the way: with palms at His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, at the Last Supper, with Him in the Garden of Gethsemane, at His trials before the Sanhedrin and Pilate, and with Him on Calvary. He is our beloved Lord and Savior, and invites us to worship in union with Him in love.

So you will (at a minimum) want to make every effort to offer worship at the principal services on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. Those who spend an hour "watching" at the Altar of Repose on Thursday or Friday report that it is a very meaningful time as well. And I especially commend the Easter Vigil on Saturday night, which takes us from the darkness of death and the tomb to the glory of Jesus' resurrection, which is our new life. You will also want to make a sacramental confession, since this cleanses us for worship, and for love. Holy Week confession times are below.

Palm Sunday

Blessing & Distribution of Palms, Procession & Sung Mass, 10 a.m.
Confessions, 9-9:45 a.m.

Monday in Holy Week: Mass, 6 p.m.

Tuesday in Holy Week: Mass, 6 p.m.

Wednesday in Holy Week: Mass, 10 a.m.

Confessions after the Mass each day

Maundy Thursday

Pontifical Solemn Mass, Procession to the Altar of Repose 7:30 p.m.

The Most Reverent Steven J. Lopes, Celebrant

The Watch follows, until noon on Good Friday

Good Friday

Good Friday Liturgy, noon-3

Veneration of the Cross, Mass of the Presanctified

Preaching on the Seven Last Words from the Cross

Confessions after the service

Holy Saturday

The Altar Service, 10 a.m.

Vigil & First Mass of Easter, 8:30 p.m.

Easter Day

Procession & Sung Mass, 10 a.m.

Confessions, 9-9:45 a.m.

There are a couple of exceptional events in our Holy Week this year. Our Bishop, Steven J. Lopes, has arranged to be with us for Maundy Thursday. So he will be washing feet as well as preaching and celebrating. He will be spending the principal days of Holy Week in various of his parishes this year, celebrating only Easter at the Cathedral. While the travel is no doubt wearing for him, this is a wonderful expression of his pastoral care for his far-flung flock.

Then at the Easter Vigil, which is the traditional time for adults to be baptized, we have three adults who will be putting on Christ, Michelle Kerns, and Philip and Kelly Herot. As you reaffirm your baptismal vows, they will be taking them for the first time. They will also be confirmed and receive Communion for the first time at the Vigil Mass. (On Low Sunday, Michelle and her husband Mark will be convalidating their marriage at the ten o'clock Mass – they

wanted to share the event with their parish family. They were married civilly some years ago, and in the convalidation they commit to (and receive the blessings of) a Catholic and sacramental marriage as well as civil.)

A brief description of the Holy Week services is available, and can also be found on the web site. Our Easter celebration will continue with a Paschaltide Evensong and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament on Friday, May 3 (not May 2 as I erroneously said last month). The choir will be with us, and perhaps Mr Gatens will begin to let loose on the new organ. We usually have a good number of visitors for Evensong, so please plan to be here to meet and greet, as well as to worship. It begins at 7:30, with reception to follow.

Lent

These last weeks of Lent, we still have Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament on Friday (April 5 and 12 – not on Good Friday) at 7:30 p.m. with Lenten soup supper at 6:30. Even if your Lenten discipline has more or less collapsed, it is not too late to start anew. We often learn more from our failures than we do from our successes. This is especially true when we set out to have a “really good Lent” – meaning that we keep all our resolutions and disciplines. So often that ends up being something we do on our own, rather than in humble dependence on God. In that case, it is good for us to fail. We need to learn that we can do nothing good without Him. If He tries to teach you that, be grateful for the lesson, and don’t resist. God only wants what is good for us.

November Ordination

We have now heard that Matthew Hummel will be ordained to the Diaconate along with Roger Converse on November 8, here at St John’s. I’m grateful that Bishop Lopes will make the trip to Bridgeport so that we can celebrate with these two sons of the parish as they enter Holy Orders in the Catholic Church. Both will continue their service to the Church at St John’s, but after November as Deacons.

The J. Bennett Hill Memorial Organ Update

The three manual Wicks electronic organ is now in place in the organ loft, and playable, though not in its final form. Basic connection and speaker placement continues, and should be done within the next couple weeks. Permanent speaker placement awaits the completion of an added speaker shelf on the front of the loft. That will not be done before Easter. When that construction is completed and the speakers in place, then the final voicing will be done. Short version: the sound will only get better!

Calendar

There is a new special events calendar now on our website. These are things you’ll want to be sure to plan for:

April 14-21 – Holy Week

April 18, Maundy Thursday – Bishop Lopes visits St John’s; Mass is at 7:30 p.m.

May 3 – Paschaltide Evensong & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, 7:30 p.m.

June 30 – Observance of the Solemnity of Saint John the Baptist, our Patronal Feast

October 15 – Ordinariate Form Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Ss Peter and Paul in Philadelphia

November 8 – Ordination of Roger Converse and Matthew Hummel as Deacons, by Bishop Lopes, at St John’s

And here’s the regular calendar for April:

April 3 & 10 – Wednesday Bible Study on the Psalms (no class April 17 or 24)

April 5 & 12 – Fridays in Lent: Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, 7:30 p.m.; Lenten soup & bread supper at 6:30

April 10 – Patricians adult discussion group; this month on the Eucharist, 6:45 in the parish hall

April 11 – Chrism Mass for the Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter at the Cathedral of our Lady of Walsingham in Houston (you’re invited if you want to make the trip!). Thursday Mass at SJB as usual at 6 (confessions at 5:30); no noon Mass on Friday, April 12

April 4 & 26 – Youth Group (on Thursday during Lent), 7-8:45

April 26 – Knights of Columbus Bingo, 7

May 3, Evensong & Benediction, 7:30

Thanks

Thanks to all who have pledged or contributed to the 2019 Bishop’s Appeal! (There is still time if you haven’t yet.)

Thanks to Fr Warren Tanghe for fine addresses at the Lenten Quiet Day (and to Beth for providing breakfast and lunch).

Thanks to Kevin Chun and Eric Keebler for getting the organ up and running, and to Roger Converse for preparing the speaker shelf.

Yours faithfully,
Fr David Ousley