

**MATER DOLOROSA CHURCH  
71 MAPLE STREET  
HOLYOKE, MA 01040**

**Served by the  
Conventual Franciscan Friars  
Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Assisi  
Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph**

**Mater Dolorosa School  
25 Maple Street  
Holyoke, MA 01040**

**Mater Dolorosa Cemetery  
Pittroff Avenue  
South Hadley, MA**

**Mass Schedule**

Daily - 8:00 am  
Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm  
Sundays: 7:30 am, 9:00 am (Polish),  
10:30 am, and 5:00 pm  
Holydays: Vigil, 7:00 pm (Polish); 8:00 am  
and 7:00 pm

**Confession:** Weekday mornings 7:20 to 7:40 am;  
Saturday: 3:15 to 3:45 pm

**Sacrament of Baptism:** First Sunday of each month  
(except during Lent) at 12 Noon. Contact Parish Office  
to schedule Baptism and instruction.

**Sacrament of Anointing:** At the request of patient or  
family. Communal Anointing on the First Saturday of  
each month after Vigil Mass.

**Visits to the Sick:** At the request of the patient or the  
family.

**Sacrament of Marriage:** Contact Parish Office one  
year in advance for requirements for Sacramental Mar-  
riage. Pre-Cana attendance is required.

**Religious Education Program:** Elementary grades on  
Saturday mornings; High School on Monday evenings.

**RCIA:** Parish-based program for adults who wish to  
prepare for Baptism and/or Confirmation. Call Parish  
Office for information.



**Parish Pastoral Staff**

Fr. Alex B. Cymerman, OFM Conv., Pastor  
Fr. Stanley Sobiech, OFM Conv., Parochial Vicar  
Br. Steve Murphy, OFM Conv., Pastoral Assistant  
Sr. Corinne Gurka, FSSJ, Principal

**Office Staff**

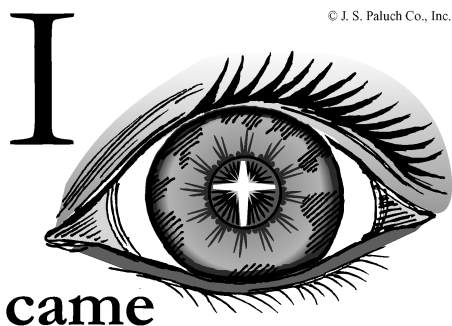
Mrs. Theresa Szumski, Parish Secretary  
Mrs. Martha Jendrysik, Parish Secretary  
Mrs. Diane Zakrzewski, School Secretary

**Lay Leadership**

Mr. Mitchell Koziol, Finance Council Chair  
Mrs. Dorothy Skibel, Pastoral Council Chair  
Ms. Joann Wauczinski, Director of  
Religious Education  
Mrs. Bethany Healy, RCIA  
Mr. Mitchell Koziol, School Board Chair  
Mrs. Angie Mercado, CYO Director  
Mrs. Shirley Anop, Child Advocate

**Telephone Numbers**

Parish Office: 413-532-7889  
Parish Fax: 413-538-6754  
School Office: 413-532-2831  
School Cafeteria: 413-534-0191  
Parish Cemetery: 413-532-7889  
Religious Education: 413-532-7889  
Friary: 413-532-8272  
Jeff Chirgwin, Choir Director: 413-374-8434



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**I**  
**came**  
**so that those who**  
**do not see might see**

### This Week's Feasts and Celebrations

**Monday, April 4. Lenten Weekday.** The prophecy of eschatological hope (1) finds its fulfillment in Jesus who heals and restores to life (2), who rescues us (Ps) from death.

**Tuesday, April 5. Lenten Weekday. Memorial of St. Vincent Ferrer, priest.** From the temple of Sion flows a stream of life-giving water (1, Ps), a symbol of the healing grace of baptism (2). **Vincent**, d. 1419; Dominican friar, noted orator and preacher, called the "angel of judgment"; worked tirelessly for the unity of the Church.

**Wednesday, April 6. Lenten Weekday.** As the prophet proclaims God's faithful love for his people (1, Ps), so Jesus speaks of his union with his Father (2).

**Thursday, April 7. Lenten Weekday. Memorial of St. John Baptist de la Salle, priest.** Moses, who interceded on behalf of the Israelites (1,Ps), will accuse all unbelievers before the Father (2). **Jean Baptiste de la Salle**, d. 1719; French canon who gave away his fortune to found (1680) the Brothers of the Christian Schools. Authored the "*Conduct of Schools.*" Patron of teachers.

**Friday, April 8. Lenten Weekday.** Jesus' enemies begin to plot against him (2). He professes to have knowledge of God (1), and trusts in his love (2).

**Saturday, April 9. Lenten Weekday.** Some people wish to apprehend Jesus (2). Like a trusting lamb (1), he takes refuge in God his Father (Ps).



## Fourth Sunday of Lent

“Laetare Sunday”

April 3, 2011

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

*Psalm 23: 1*

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### Scripture Readings for this Sunday

**1st Reading:** As the prophet Samuel anointed David with oil, the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David and remained with him from that day forward. (1 Samuel 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13).

**Responsorial Psalm:** The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want (Psalm 23).

**2nd Reading:** You who were once darkness are now light in the Lord. Live as children of light (Ephesians 5: 8-14).

**Gospel:** The man who was blind from birth proclaimed: “The one called Jesus made clay with his saliva, anointed my eyes with it, and told me to wash. When I washed, I was able to see!” (John 9: 1-41).

### LIGHT

“Awake, O sleeper, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.” (Ephesians 5: 14). We are at the mid-point of our Lenten journey of conversion. As always, God never gives up on us, especially those who have “fallen asleep” along the road to conversion. The most powerful stories of conversion are proclaimed during these final weeks of Lent. They have the power to shake us out of our sleep. Today’s Gospel story of the healing of the man born blind exposes the real blindness in the time of Christ—the blindness of self-righteous religious leaders. In a few weeks, at the Easter Vigil, the Church will proclaim “Christ our Light” as the paschal candle is carried into darkened churches throughout the world. May the darkness of sin that still pervades our lives, communities, and world, be dispelled by the Christ who comes to bring sight to the blind and light to the world.

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“In faith there is enough light for those who want to believe and enough shadows to blind those who don’t.” (Blaise Pascal)

**Mass Intentions**



**Saturday, April 2**

4:00 +Phyllis Kuznaarski—dtr Janice & family

**Sunday, April 3**

7:30 +Bill Park—Mary Cymerman  
 9:00 +Stefan & Helena Midura—son & family  
 10:30 Intentions of All Parishioners  
 5:00 +Blazej Sikora—M/M Wladyslaw Sroka

**Monday, April 4**

8:00 +Harry Bendiksen—Irene Bernier  
 12:00 +Stefanie Lukomski—Mom, Dad & Johnnie

**Tuesday, April 5**

8:00 +Aleksander Zieja—Christine Harrington  
 12:00 +Helena & Stanislaw Drobiak—Trzepacz Family

**Wednesday, April 6**

8:00 +Kazimierz Orszulak—Lidia & Jozef Pater  
 12:00 +Stella & Joseph Sefcik—dtr-in-law

**Thursday, April 7**

8:00 +Kazimierz Kapusta—Stefan Miszuk  
 12:00 +John Szalkucki

**Friday, April 8**

8:00 +Bronislaw Sidur—Carolyn & Julie  
 12:00 open

**Saturday, April 9**

8:00 +Stanislaw & Helena Drobiak—family  
 4:00 +Anna Zyla (anniv) - Zofia Zyla

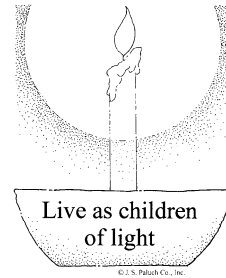
**Sunday, April 10**

7:30 +Franciszek Soltys—daughter, Stasia  
 9:00 +Maria Zieja—Frank Chmura  
 10:30 +Ciolek&Mikolajczyk Families—Joan Mikolajczyk  
**SF** +Shirley Shea—Diane Kelliher  
 5:00 Intentions of All Parishioners



Lots of reasons for *Thank you's* this weekend, and among them are the Pastor's words of gratitude for all who sent greetings or good wishes to my Mom who celebrated her 97th birthday one week ago. It takes a bit of time and effort for her to write *Thank you's*, but in the meantime, please accept my appreciation for your kindness....

*Fr. Alex*



**From the Pastor's Desk, April 3, 2011**

*There are none so blind  
 as those who will not see.*

This is the mid-Sunday of Lent. Two weeks from today is Palm Sunday and one week later, Easter. **Jak szybko mijaja chwile!** (*How quickly time passes....*)

During these Lenten Sundays we've shared some big-time Jesus-events. We witnessed His very human temptations and His very divine Transfiguration; we've seen Him quench the thirst of the Samaritan Woman with "living waters" and today He opens the eyes of a man-born-blind. (And wait till you see what He does for a good but very dead friend next Sunday! Unbelievable!)

To appreciate the impact of these stories, we need to understand that long before the Gospels were *written* they were the "oral tradition," or the *family stories*, of the Christian community. When the apostles came to town and assembled the faithful and the curious, these are the stories they told. Through these stories the people came to understand who Jesus was and why He came. That's why *we* use them.

Our problem is that we have heard these stories too many times to be moved by them. If you dislike the priest's voice, you have a bigger problem. And if you are not paying full attention to the story, you just can't wait to sit down and fall asleep. Too bad for YOU! Jesus still does not have YOUR heart. That should scare the heck out you, and the word *heck*, well, you know what it really means!

At this historical moment in His ministry, Jesus was constantly confronted by local religious leaders who did not like Him because He did not put THEM on a pedestal. Frankly, I suspect Jesus didn't like them much. They belonged to that category of people who say: "*No one is going to tell me what to do. No one is going to tell me what is right and what is wrong. I'm smart enough to figure it out myself.*" There are enough people who think that way and they have given us the world we live in. Pretty messy, huh! Anyway, those particular religious leaders should have known better because it was their vocation to await and prepare for the coming of Jesus.

[Pastor's Desk continued on next page]

*[Pastor's Desk, continued]*

Instead, they made permanent what was meant to be temporary and they just refused to let go. They were no different than King Herod who, rather than rejoice that the Messiah was born in his land, could only think that his throne and prestige were threatened and therefore he had to kill the child! Some things never change.

The man-born-blind presented Jesus with an opportunity to heal one person and to invite the multitudes to faith! The man could not SEE! He humbly asked Jesus to be able to SEE! Jesus blessed the man with SIGHT and INSIGHT. *Insight* is another word for FAITH.

The gospel relates that once the man received his sight, he was bullied by those same religious leaders who wrote him off as a poor sinner who was not deserving of God's gifts, miraculous or otherwise. The fact that he was a sinner—and they were convinced that they were not—blinded them to Jesus, His power, and His mission. THERE ARE NONE SO BLIND AS THOSE WHO WILL NOT SEE! How foolish some people are, how blind they remain when they refuse to be convinced, even by an act of God.

I wonder if the man cured by Jesus ever rode along with John or the other apostles to give witness to this story. If he did, I'll bet he really got those religious leaders angrier, while others may have been moved to a deeper faith by his testimony. That's what happens!

Faith is a gift. It is also an invitation which we are free to accept or reject. Faith helps us delve deeper into the mystery of God and His presence in our lives. In doing that, we take a risk because embracing God means we are going to have to change, *maybe even move!* We don't like change. We are afraid of it. Many of us will even admit that "it is better to embrace the known-devil than to chance the unknown one." Conversion means changing the way we LOOK at things. That's why we first need to be healed from our inner blindness.

The gift of faith does not make everything perfectly clear. That's what we don't like. The man in today's Gospel came back, discovered who Jesus was, and worshipped Him. Then, instead of going his own way, he followed Jesus whom he could now see. He didn't know where this would lead him. But Jesus knew where He was going, that was good enough for the man. That is faith. That is INSIGHT.

How much "proof" is necessary for belief? One person said this: *for those who believe, no proof is necessary; for those who refuse to believe, no proof is sufficient.* Pray for faith; a stronger faith; a deeper faith. Jesus knows where He is going. Follow Him.

**God bless....****SUNDAY OFFERING**

March 20th Offertory Collection: \$3,665.00  
 March 27th Offertory Collection: \$5,708.00  
 Building Fund (both weeks): \$489.00  
 Fuel & Utilities (both weeks): \$789.00  
 Lenten Rice Bowl (both weeks): \$611.00

*Thank you* to all those who faithfully support our parish and its ministries. **237** parishioners used their weekly support envelopes on March 19/20; **365** on March 26/27. The smaller number last week reflects inability of some people to get to church because of St. Patrick's weekend events parking.

**Thank you to Building Fund Donors**

*In memory of* +**Philip Sheridan**: Jane Kane \$10.; +**Annunziata Gandini**: Jane Kane \$10. +**Aleksander Zieja**: Walter Szeliga \$25. +**Joseph Manijak**: Alice Manijak \$20.; Martha & Ron Jendrysik \$10.; Jo-Anne & Jack Sbrega \$25.; Lowry & Watson Certified Public Accountants \$50. +**Sabina Orlinki Golash**: Edward & Martha Walz \$50. +**Stanley Sowa**: Ralph Goudreau \$25.; Martha & Ron Jendrysik \$10. +**Erin Harrison**: Jane Kane \$10.

Memorial contributions made to the **Mater Dolorosa School Endowment Fund** *in memory of* +**Aleksander Zieja**: M.D. PTO \$50.

In a letter to our Pastor **Rev. L. Donald R. Lapointe, Director of the Diocesan Society for the Propagation of the Faith** writes: *Thank you very much for your 2010 World Mission Sunday contributions amounting to \$706.00 from the people of Mater Dolorosa Parish. I am grateful and encouraged by the missionary spirit of prayer and sacrifice among your parish family. Know that you and they remain in my prayers—and in the prayers of the people of the Missions.*

From the Office of the **Annual Catholic Appeal**, the first report to the parish, dated 3/25/11 announces that **112 Mater Dolorosa parishioners** pledged or donated **\$10,607.00** gifts to the Campaign. Can we TRIPLE that?

Congratulations to the **P.T.O. Dads** who collected over **\$3,200.00 in parking donations** on the day of the St. Patrick's Day Race. All this goes to the Mater Dolorosa School Endowment Fund!



**HOW DO WE CALCULATE THE DATE OF EASTER?**

*An M.D. parishioner requested information about how the Church determines the date for the annual celebration of Easter. After doing some research, we thought it might be an interesting item to pass on to our readers.*

“Since the majority of early Christians were Jewish converts, it is understandable that from the outset the Christian calendar was governed by the fact that the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ had taken place at the time of the chief Jewish feast, the Pasch, or **Passover**, celebrated on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the month of Nisan, i.e. at the full moon following the Spring equinox. However, rather than literally follow the Jewish Passover, since this would necessitate the commemoration of the Resurrection on a different day of the week each year, Christian custom (sanctioned at the Council of Nicea in 325), fixed the anniversary of Christ’s Resurrection on the actual day of the week (“the first day”) on which the Resurrection had taken place. As a result, **Easter falls on the first day of the week (Sunday) after the first full moon following the spring equinox**, and this can be as early as March 22 and as late as April 25.”

*(New Catholic Encyclopedia, Volume 2, p. 1062-1063)*

**The March (Spring) Equinox Explained**

“The March equinox occurred on **March 20 in 2011**, marking the beginning of spring in the northern hemisphere and fall (autumn) in the southern hemisphere from an astronomical viewpoint. **The March equinox occurred at 23:21 (or 11:21 pm)** at Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) on this date.”

*(from the Internet)*

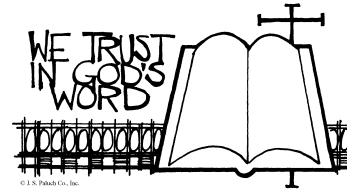
N.B. the March equinox falls either on March 20 or 21. On our calendars it is called the “first day of Spring.” Note that this year the actual moment was just 39 minutes from midnight. How close it was to the next day!

**OKAY. SO:**

In the year 2011, the spring equinox is on March 20.

The first full moon after the spring equinox in 2011 is on Sunday, April 17.

**The SUNDAY AFTER THE FIRST FULL MOON FOLLOWING THE SPRING EQUINOX IN 2011 IS APRIL 24th, HENCE THAT IS THE DAY OF OUR EASTER CELEBRATION THIS YEAR.**



**In preparation for the Introduction of the Roman Missal in November 2011, we offer a weekly summary of the NEW MASS RITES**

**The Opening Prayer**

Collecting all our prayers into one the priest prays that we will be open to Jesus and become more like Him. Now we are ready. We have gathered. We have become a worshiping community. Our hearts are open to hear God’s word and to remember Jesus’ saving death.

**The Liturgy of the Word**

At Mass, listening and responding are the two most important activities in the Liturgy of the Word. God has something important to say to us, and God does this through the Scripture readings.

**The First Reading**

Usually taken from the Old Testament, it tells the story of how God saved God’s people before the coming of Jesus. The most important event in God’s plan of salvation is the coming of Jesus. Jesus came to complete the salvation God started through the Jewish people. So the stories of the Jewish people are our stories too. The first reading is chosen to relate to the Gospel reading in some way. They go together to help us understand something important about God and ourselves.

**The Psalm**

After the first reading the cantor leads us in singing one of the psalms. Usually, the psalm is sung in “call and response” form. That’s why it is called the *responsorial* psalm. The psalm is a good example of how God is active in the Liturgy of the Word: God’s word calls us and we answer. The Bible contains 150 psalms. They are prayers that were used in ancient Jewish worship. There are sad psalms and happy psalms. Some praise God’s goodness, while others cry out to God for help. There are psalms that ask for forgiveness and psalms that ask for healing. Singing is a wonderful way to pray because when we sing our prayer, we use more of our mind and more of our heart to praise God. As St. Augustine once said: “*They who sing, pray twice.*”

**Next week: Reflection on The Second Reading, Gospel, & Homily.**

