

**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



The Celebrations of Easter Week

Easter Monday, April 25. Not undergoing corruption (Ps), but raised from death (1), Jesus instructs the women to announce his resurrection to the disciples (2).

Tuesday in the Octave of Easter. April 26. Mary Magdalene proclaims the resurrection of Jesus (2), delivered from death (Ps), and made both Lord and Messiah (1).

Wednesday in the Octave of Easter. April 27. Invoking the name (Ps) of Jesus, Peter heals the cripple (1). The disciples recognize Jesus in the breaking of bread (2).

Thursday in the Octave of Easter. April 28. Glorified by the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (1), Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law and the prophets (2). All things have been put under his power (Ps).

Friday in the Octave of Easter. April 29. His personal experience of the Risen One (2) leads Peter to proclaim salvation in the name of Jesus of Nazareth (1), the “stone rejected by the builders”(Ps).

Saturday in the Octave of Easter. April 30. Jesus commissions his disciples to go forth (2) and joyfully (Ps) preach what they have seen and heard (1).



Saturday, April 30, First Holy Communion Day.

Sunday, May 1, Feast of Divine Mercy.

Sunday, May 15, 3:00 pm. HEALING MASS at Mater Dolorosa celebrated by Fr. Andre Patenaude, internationally known as “Father Pat.” This LaSalette Missionary has made music an integral part of his healing ministry. Father Pat will pray with us for our healing on Sun., May 15th, 3 p.m. Spread the word!

EASTER SUNDAY

April 24, 2011

This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad.

Psalm 118



Scripture Readings for this Sunday

1st Reading: Peter is an eyewitness: The Lord is risen (Acts 10: 34, 37-43).

Responsorial Psalm: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad (Psalm 118).

2nd Reading: All who are baptized, set your hearts in heaven (Colossians 3: 1-4).

Gospel: Three witnesses, Mary, Peter, and John; each responds to the empty tomb (John 20: 1-9)

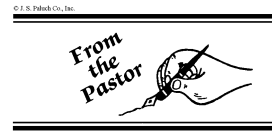
SEEDS OF FAITH

There is a brevity, a certain terseness, in the scripture readings for Easter Sunday. Peter’s speech in Acts is built of direct, pointed sentences. Paul’s letters are based on straightforward creed-like statements. Even the Gospel story only briefly recounts what will turn out to be one of the most remarkable events in human history—the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

Advertising agents call these encapsulated points of information “bullet points.” Scripture scholars call them *kerygma*, or “kernels” of our faith. Actually, “kernels” or “seeds” are good terms for these statements since throughout the Easter season, we will hear in the Acts of the Apostles, the Letters of Paul and the Gospel accounts of the days following the Resurrection, exactly how these *kerygma* began to flower, how they continued to grow through the life of the early Church. May these Easter “seeds” of faith serve a similar purpose for us, too, so that the life of the Risen Christ will flourish in us and through our witness in the coming days.

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**CHRYSTUS ZMARTWYCHWSTAL, Alleluia
PRAWDZIWIEM ZMARTWYCHWSTAL, Alleluia**

Mr. Aleksander Zieja and I greeted one other every Easter morning with those words: “*Christ is Risen, Alleluia; He is Truly Risen, Alleluia*” I will miss his greeting this year, and I can only imagine how he and our loved ones celebrate Easter in Heaven. (*You think they have a video?!?*)

The magnitude of the feast and mystery merits telling the story by many witnesses. That’s why you never know which Readings you will hear or which songs we will sing at Easter Sunday Mass. All the Easter Gospels are proclaimed throughout Easter week, the *Octave* of Easter.

We hear testimonies of key witnesses: Peter, John, Mary Magdalene, the Emmaus disciples, St. Paul and the others. In the early Church, the Easter story was the only one repeated week after week. Even today, when invited to *proclaim “the mystery” of our faith*, we say:

**Christ has died.
Christ has RISEN.
Christ will come again.**

That, in a nutshell, is what we believe!

I wonder about the Gospel characters that we don’t hear about. What was their reaction to Jesus’ rising? How did they find out? The Jewish people were terrified of ghosts, so “shock and awe” had to play some part in the stories.

The sixth window on the street side of our church depicts the “Sixth Joy of Our Lady: Meeting Jesus after His Resurrection.” Imagine what that was like! We who worship and pray in the shadow of *Mater Dolorosa* all year long need to think about that “Sixth Joy.” Like any bereaved mother, Mary was probably at home, unable to sleep, forcing down bits of casserole the neighbors brought over. Her eyes were puffed from crying; her heart broken as she recalled what He looked like when they put Him in her lap. No mother should have to bury her child, right? And then, all of sudden, He is there. I doubt that He gave her a “Hi, Mom” wave. But it must have been so tender and comforting. I’ll bet the first thing she did was warm up that casserole! What else would a Jewish mother do!

My point is: earthly sorrow lasts only so long. It is real; you have to endure it, but don’t cling to it. Resurrection is also REAL! So get the casserole! Eat! LIFE goes on!

From the Pastor and Friars: **HAPPY EASTER!**

What’s Happening?

Steeple jacks and roofers climbed to the top of our church last week. They were not hiding Easter eggs. We have problems there. Snow guards and roof tiles came down with the avalanche of ice and snow in early February. Estimated cost to replace just that runs over \$10,000. Structural surveys of our church revealed cracks and weakness in the steeple. That is no surprise. We’ve known that for a long time. The crack over the choir loft is a symptom of that problem. That is being monitored, and it is likely that our insurers will require at least parts of the steeple be removed before the next winter season. The steeple was also examined for loose tiles.

At the last Finance Council meeting, I pointed out the financial difficulties our parish faces on a week to week basis. Weekly Bulletins report that Sunday collections are down about one thousand dollars per week. That translates into \$50,000. per year. The July 2010 to March 2011 financial report shows a deficit of \$69,262. That’s in real money. At this writing, although we try to pay our bills, we are running two months behind with our payments for (church) employees’ medical benefits, property insurance, and our assessments for parishioner-students in Catholic high schools. We are five months behind with salary payments to the friars.

This winter was a killer. \$34,000. heating bills; \$15,500. for other utilities. Here’s how our recent collections look:

**April 10th Offertory Collection: \$4,527.00
Building Fund: \$602.00**

The collection-by-Mass breakdown on a recent weekend:

**\$1,520.00—Saturday Vigil Mass
\$685.00—7:30 Mass
\$572.00—9:00 (Polish) Mass
\$1,449.00—10:30 Mass
\$300.00—5:00 Mass
\$460.00—by mail**

That seems to be our pattern.... We hope for some generous Easter-time collections, and utility bills should level off. But that is our pattern; that is our reality! By the way, in the last two years, we have unable to pay off any of our long-time \$703,000.00 debt to the Diocese for the bills they have been paying for us.

So, the U.S. government is not the only entity in deficit spending. We have to find a solution—and fast!

God bless.....