

**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

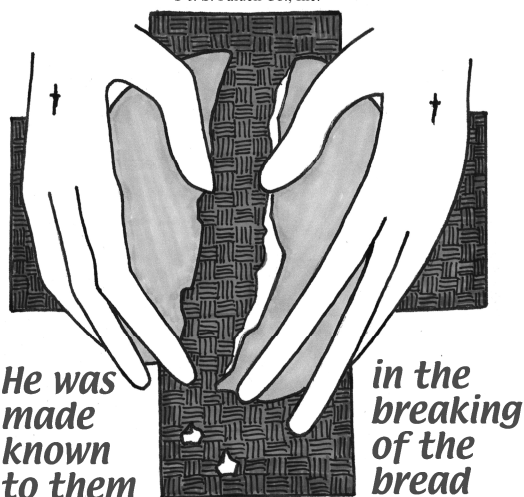
Lay Leadership

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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This Week's Feasts and Celebrations

Monday, May 9. Easter Weekday. With faith in the one sent by the Father (2), Stephen, blameless in life (Ps), performed signs for all to see (1).

Tuesday, May 10. St. Damien Joseph de Veuster of Moloka'i, priest (USA). Stephen entrusts (Ps) his spirit to the just one (1), the bread of life come down from heaven (2). **Father Damien the Leper**, d. 1889 at age 49. Belgian missionary to Honolulu (1864); began his work in the leper colony at Moloka'i in 1873 to serve the 800 lepers quarantined there. He succumbed to leprosy. A man of intense spirituality, he declared: "I will make myself a leper with the lepers, to gain all for Jesus Christ."

Wednesday, May 11. Easter Weekday. Resolute in their belief in the Risen One (2), the disciples joyfully proclaim (Ps) Jesus the Messiah (1).

Thursday, May 12. Easter Weekday. With joyful praise (Ps), Philip proclaims the good news to the Ethiopian (1): belief in Jesus brings eternal life.

Friday, May 13. Our Lady of Fatima. Paul is called by Jesus (1) to proclaim the good news to all peoples (Ps). Jesus invites all to his Eucharistic banquet (2). **Our Lady** is venerated under this title following apparitions to three shepherd children in Portugal in 1917. The message of Fatima includes a call to conversion of heart, repentance from sin, and prayer, especially the Rosary.

Saturday, May 14. St. Matthias, Apostle. Matthias is chosen by lot (to replace Judas) and added to the Eleven (1). Thus elected by God (Ps), he goes forth and bears fruit (2).



Third Sunday of Easter

May 8, 2011

You have made known to me the paths of life;
you will fill me with joy in your presence.

Acts 2:28



Scripture Readings for this Sunday

1st Reading: God has raised the crucified Jesus, who now pours forth the Holy Spirit upon us. (Acts 2:14, 22-33).

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, you will show us the path of life (Psalm 16).

2nd Reading: Our faith and hope are in God who raised Jesus from the dead (1 Peter 1: 17-21).

Gospel: Through his words and in the breaking of the bread, the risen Christ made himself known to two disciples on their way to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35).

GOD'S PLAN

Saint Peter speaks to us twice today. In the first reading, we hear an excerpt from his sermon on Pentecost; in the second, part of his first letter. Once a frightened, uneducated fisherman who often said just the wrong thing, now Peter is speaking what he knows to be true. Everything Jesus had said now makes sense. His death and rising were all part of God's plan, and our faith and hope can be centered on God.

Today's Gospel tells the story of Jesus' walk to Emmaus with two of the disciples. Frightened, sad and confused, the two of them don't recognize Jesus, who tells them what we heard Peter say above: all this had to happen as part of God's plan. In the end, these disciples recognize Jesus as we are to recognize him—in the breaking of the bread.

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Mass Intentions



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Saturday, May 7

4:00 +Walter Kuznarski—dtr Janice & family

Sunday, May 8

7:30 +Edward Kurdziel (20th anniv) wife & family
 9:00 +Kazimierz & Franciszka Haczynski—dtr & fam
SF +Anna & Helena Drobiak—Belz family
 10:30 Intentions of All Parishioners
 5:00 Int Nowak, Niesner & Nader Fam’s—Christine Nader

Monday, May 9

8:00 +Helen Sokoloski—daughters

Tuesday, May 10

8:00 +Wladyslaw Nisiewicz—daughter & family

Wednesday, May 11

8:00 +Helen & Jan Lichwala—M/M Mysliwicz

Thursday, May 12

8:00 +Ted Kopec—Allyn Family

Friday, May 13

8:00 +Mieczyslaw Wojtasik—zona i rodziny przyjaciol

Saturday, May 14

8:00 +Natalia & Wladyslaw Orszulak—Stasia Orszulak
 4:00 +Robert Monchamp—wife & dtr

Sunday, May 15

7:30 +John Domaszewicz—wife & children
 9:00 +Emil Gryszan—wife
 10:30 +Jane T. Galat—Edmund & Jane Galat
 3:00 Intentions of All Parishioners



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There is no greater sign of the Holy Spirit’s presence in the Church than the gift of healing. Jesus, filled with the Spirit, attracted most attention as He healed the physical and spiritual ills of the people. And so it is today: so much healing is needed in our world. Don’t be afraid to ask God for healing, since He is, after, all-powerful.

Come to our **“HEALING MASS with FATHER PAT”** NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 15th AT 3 P.M. Internationally known and acclaimed for tying together his gifts of music and healing, “Father Pat” will be doing that right here at Mater Dolorosa next Sunday. The Healing MASS satisfies your Holyday Obligation. **DUE TO THE HEALING MASS, THERE WILL BE NO FIVE O’CLOCK MASS NEXT SUNDAY.**

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From the Pastor’s Desk, May 9, 2011



WERE NOT OUR HEARTS
 BURNING WITHIN US?
 © Annika Nelson

“*Were not our hearts burning within us...*” ... the immortal words of two disciples who met Jesus on their way home to Emmaus on the first Easter night. That story is our gospel today. Two of Jesus’ disciples, frightened and depressed, were going home after that nightmare of a weekend in Jerusalem. Long before they uttered those words, I think they suffered more from common *heart-burn* and a bunch of other maladies that accompany fear, confusion, and discouragement. They were talking about Jesus’ violent death, their own feelings of loss, and the confusing stories they had heard just as it was time to go home: some of their friends claimed to have seen Jesus—alive!

Now here comes the point I want you to think about: as they were walking along, Jesus joined them “*but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him.*” Now how strange is that! The friend they are talking about, crying about, is walking with them, *and they do not recognize him.* The truth is, they are so emotionally overloaded—mixed emotions—that they can’t see clearly! Don’t lose that thought! That is part of today’s Gospel lesson.

Then they invite Jesus into their house for a bite. It’s nice of them, but this stranger has been helping them comprehend some things about the weekend. He and his explanations were calming them down. Then, “while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them,” and BINGO! Their eyes were opened they saw that it was Jesus, and heart-burn turned to “hearts burning.”

Why did it take so long?

Well, that’s the point. Grief, anger, despair are very strong emotions that can overwhelm our minds, our spirit, and even our bodies. We’ve all have had the experience of “feeling sick” when something bad was happening. Right? While you are sick, you are **BLINDED** to what is happening around you. That’s why these disciples could not recognize Jesus. All they felt at the moment was confusion, rage, and when all that envelops us,

[Pastor’s Desk continued on next page]

[Pastor's Desk, continued]

the last thing we think of is Jesus! We want to punch somebody out; we may want to kill someone. That would make us feel good! But to see Jesus standing next to us at that moment, WHOA! No way.

As normal as bad feelings are when we experience something bad, we must always beware that we are not thinking clearly when we are emotionally overloaded.

For the two Emmaus disciples, it took the breaking of the bread (just like at Thursday's supper) to knock out their rage. Jesus must have looked at them, gave them PEACE, and then the bread. And everything changed.

They got back on the road, literally ran to Jerusalem to tell the others what they had seen, only to be comforted by stories that others had likewise seen the Lord.

That is quite a story. I think that when the liturgists placed the Greeting of PEACE just before Holy Communion, it was in recognition of the Emmaus and Jerusalem events: that we have to have PEACE before we can experience the fullness of Jesus.

My dear fellow-Mater Dolorosa parishioners: the news that we will have to leave our church and go to another is hurtful. It is hard. Many of you have experienced your whole faith-life-cycle at Mater Dolorosa. To pick up and move is not easy. A wise woman once told me: *when you are young and you move, you can think about the future; when you are old and you move, you think about the past.* I believe that to be true.

Like the Emmaus disciples, our minds may be clouded and our hearts hurting. We need someone to walk with us on the way, like the disciples had Jesus.

Our hurt is real and we have to deal with it. But let's open up to the words and works and the power of Jesus.

Since the news was announced on the day that our late Holy Father was declared "Blessed," I suggest that Blessed John Paul II be our patron and guide on our merge. At his Installation Mass homily in 1978, the pope who had to leave his beloved homeland to do God's work invited all of us to join him as he said: **DO NOT BE AFRAID. OPEN, OPEN WIDE THE DOORS TO CHRIST!** *Were not our hearts burning within us* as we embraced J P II and his challenge. Let's try to do this in such a way that we open all doors to Christ—the doors we exit and the doors we enter.

We will continue to meet Jesus in the breaking of the bread. In the final analysis, that's what it is all about. Do not be afraid! Let us walk together. Let's help each other. The Lord is walking with us and our Blessed-Patron-Pope is praying for us. We are in good company.

God bless....

SUNDAY OFFERING

Easter Sunday Offertory Collection: \$8,301.00
 May 1st Offertory Collection: \$4,013.00
 Holy Thursday Collection: \$262.00
 Good Friday Holy Land Collection: \$930.00
 Building Fund (both weeks): \$1149.00
 Catholic Relief Services: \$193.00
 Home Missions: \$128.00

Number of parishioners using church support envelopes in past weeks: April 10: **349**; April 17 (Palm Sunday): **384**; April 24 (Easter): **478**; May 1: **313**.

Thank you to all those who faithfully support our parish and its ministries.

The Pastor offers a warm and prayerful THANK YOU to parishioners and friends who called or e-mailed their prayers and support for him and the Friars after the announcements last week. We appreciate that. This is *our place*, too.

**HAPPY MOTHERS DAY to All Our Moms**

This year's late Easter brought up the month of May just too quickly. Easter lilies are still on the altar and it's time for Mother's Day and Mary's Month of May. We will crown the image of our Blessed Mother at the 10:30 Mass this Sunday (Mother's Day) and we want to wish all our Mothers a Happy Day, and Happy tomorrows, too. No one influences a child's life like a Mother. From birth to fully-grown, we depend on our Mothers for love and encouragement. Sometimes I think it strange that God identifies Himself as a "Father" when so many things for which we depend on God really come through our Mothers. But, another mystery!

As we pray for our mothers and offer them the gifts they deserve, let's also remember those people who are not mothers but who love and cherish us with a mother's love: our teachers, care-givers, grandparents, best-friends, and the people who flash an encouraging smile our way just when we need it most.

Remember Mary, the mother of Jesus and our mother, too, who watches over us with her own maternal love!

The Linking and Merging of Parishes

THE BISHOP'S LETTER

Divine Mercy Sunday, 2011

Dear Father Cymerman and the people of Mater Dolorosa Parish:

As we celebrate today the beatification of Pope John Paul II, I remember well the phrase he repeated so often: "**Be not afraid.**" The spirit of hope he embodied is in my thoughts as I write this letter to provide a look at the future.

Two years ago, I wrote to you about Pastoral Planning in Holyoke. The Pastoral Planning Committee had reported to me that:

"We believe that the situation at Holyoke is in a state of flux, making long range planning challenging. Further preparation is required regarding the overall needs of the Holyoke community."

As a result I accepted the Committee's recommendation that there be a two-year process for Holy Cross and Mater Dolorosa to work together toward merging into one parish. I want to thank the priests and people of both parishes for all the efforts put into the process. The input of so many people has been invaluable, especially that of the two pastors, Fathers Alex Cymerman and Roland Galipeau.

A new wrinkle, however, entered the picture when an engineering report indicated that the steeple of Mater Dolorosa Church would have to be taken down, effectively closing the church building. That work, I have been informed, must take place this summer.

In keeping with the efforts that have been made, and in light of the structural situation at Mater Dolorosa, after consultation with both pastors and with the Presbyteral Council, I have determined that the amalgamation of the parish of Mater Dolorosa and the parish of Holy Cross into the new parish of Our Lady of the Cross will take place on July 1st, 2011. With the retirement of Father Roland Galipeau, Fr. Alex Cymerman, OFM Conv., will be pastor of the new parish with residence for the Conventual Franciscans at the present Holy Cross rectory. Mater Dolorosa School, Pope John Paul II Center and Mater Dolorosa Cemetery will be part of the new parish with Holy Cross Church as the parish church of Our Lady of the Cross parish.

In my letter two years ago, I quoted an article about the reconfiguration of Catholic parishes throughout the Northeastern United States; I believe it is worth repeating today:

(continued in next column)

"[Reconfiguration] is not always an easy thing to accept, but it gives us something to work for, and something to build anew. Remember, the ones who came before us and began the project two centuries ago—whether the traversing hills on horseback or walking miles in dirt to get to a ramshackle church of a Mass-hosting home on the sporadic Sundays a cleric was relatively nearby or both—had it way tougher ... persecution and prejudice included." In a real sense, the article speaks to the fact that we are a pilgrim people, that we are constantly on the move, and to be on the move in following Christ often means change, even radical change in our lives. And yet, the celebration of Easter reminded us that sorrow does give way to joy, for Christ's death and resurrection promises us, as Mother Teresa used to say: "**There's nothing so bad that God can't bring a greater good out of it—if we let Him.**"

May Our Lady of the Cross lead you to ongoing Easter joy.

You are in my prayers; I ask that you keep me in yours.

In Christ.

(signed) *Most Reverend Timothy A. Mc Donnell*
Bishop of Springfield

The Bishop directed that the letter printed above be read at all weekend Masses, April 30/May 1, and so it was.

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Last week's Bulletin reported the official request of Bishop McDonnell that the Conventual Franciscan Friars undertake to staff the new parish that will result from the merger of Mater Dolorosa with Holy Cross parish. The following includes pertinent response from the Franciscan Minister Provincial:

Dear Bishop McDonnell:

... I am so very pleased that indeed there is a "light at the end of the tunnel" in the complicated unfolding of the pastoral plan for the merger of parishes in Holyoke. As always, let me reiterate, that our Franciscan Friars Conventual support you 100% in your decisions for the welfare and upbuilding of the Church in Holyoke.

After consultation with my Provincial Definitory, and with the local Friars, particularly Fr. Alex Cymerman, pastor of Mater Dolorosa, I humbly and happily accept your invitation that the Friars staff the new parish which will be formed in the merger. Thank you very much for the trust and confidence that you have in the Friars. We hope to prove worthy.

Sincerely,

(signed) *Fr. James McCurry, OFM Conv.*
Minister Provincial