

**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

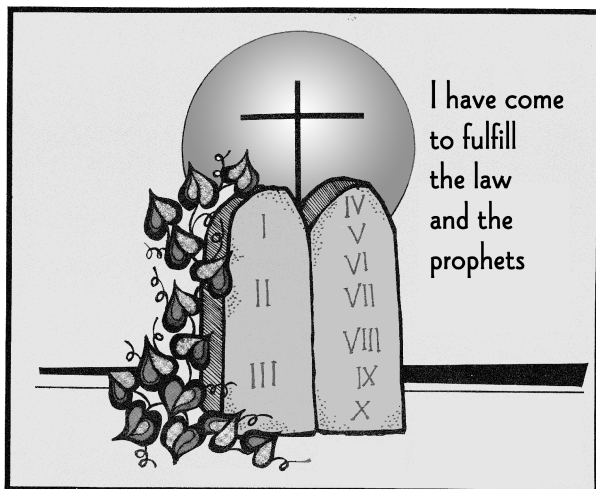
Mrs. Theresa Szumski, Parish Secretary
Mrs. Martha Jendrysik, Parish Secretary
Mrs. Diane Zakrzewski, School Secretary

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, February 14. Ss Cyril, monk, & Methodius, bishop. Abel's murder testifies to a regressive human history (1, Ps), forever reversed in Jesus, the sign of the Father (2). **Cyril** d. 869 and **Methodius**, d. 885; brothers known as the "Apostles to the Slavic Peoples." They prepared Slavic liturgical texts and served as the spiritual bridge between Eastern and Western traditions. Patrons of Europe. **Also ST VALENTINE'S DAY!**

Tuesday, February 15. Weekday. The flood waters (Ps) destroy a decadent humanity (1). We are saved from death through Jesus, the bread of life (2).

Wednesday, February 16. Weekday. Noah offers a sacrifice of praise to God (1, Ps) for his goodness. May we always see God's blessings in our lives (2).

Thursday, February 17. Weekday; Memorial of the Seven Founders of the Order of Servites, religious. The Lord looks kindly (Ps) upon Noah and makes a covenant with him (1). The Order of Friars Servants of Mary (**Servites**) was founded by seven Florentine cloth merchants in 1223. They popularized devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows (Mater Dolorosa).

Friday, February 18. If we wish to follow Christ, we must follow his way (2). Those who fear the Lord (Ps) reject the ways of the proud (1).

Saturday, February 19. Saturday Mass of Our Lady. The disciples seek to deepen their faith (1) in Jesus, transfigured (2) in glorious majesty.



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Happy Valentines Day to all you SWEETHEARTS!

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 13, 2011

What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard,
and what has not entered the human heart,
what God has prepared for those who love (God)
this God has revealed to us through the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2: 9-10



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Scripture Readings for this Sunday

1st Reading: God allows us to make choices, but we are not to choose injustice or sinfulness (Sirach 15: 15-20).

Responsorial Psalm: Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord! (Psalm 119).

2nd Reading: God's wisdom is mysterious and hidden (1 Corinthians 2: 6-10).

Gospel: Jesus has come not to abolish but to fulfill the law and the prophets (Matthew 5: 17-37).

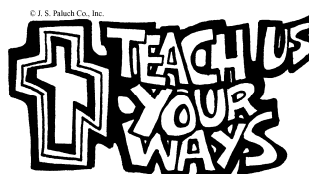
CHOICE

"If you choose you can keep the commandments," Sirach tells us. God "has set before you fire and water; to whichever you choose, stretch forth your hand" (Sirach 15: 15, 16). This is a great mystery: God does not control us so completely that we cannot choose our own path. We have certain boundaries, of course, but no one but we can choose our way within those boundaries.

In today's reading from Matthew's Gospel, Jesus reminds us of our freedom and our responsibility for our lives. He calls us to look beyond the words of the commandments, all the way to their meaning. Look beyond the adultery to the selfishness that poisons our love. Look beyond the murder to the anger that eats away at our compassion. Look beyond the perjured testimony to the lies and deception that drive our behavior.

Our vocation is to choose life for ourselves, and to choose a path through our part of the world that helps make life possible and more abundant for others as well.

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Mass Intentions



Saturday, February 12

4:00 +Caroline A. Kawalec—husband and family

Sunday, February 13

7:30 Intentions of All Parishioners
 9:00 +Walenty Kuczaj—daughter
 10:30 +40th Wedding Anniv: Bob and Dea Forest
 5:00 +Stanley Layzer—wife and family

Monday, February 14

8:00 +Frank & Mary Makara—dtr, Mary Ann
 SF +Jean Kibit—Stasia Sigda

Tuesday, February 15

8:00 +Helen & Joseph Sokoloski—daughters

Wednesday, February 16

8:00 Birthday Blessings—Mary

Thursday, February 17

8:00 +Aleksander Zieja—M/M Russell Gilardi, Jr.

Friday, February 18

8:00 +Edward S. Filipak—daughters

Saturday, February 19

8:00 +Helen Czelusniak—Richard Czerwicz
 4:00 +Joseph Sokoloski—daughters

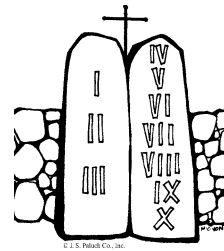
Sunday, February 20

7:30 +Helen Sidur—dtr Ann Marie & grndtr Julie
 9:00 Intentions of all Parishioners
 10:30 +Rose & Eugene Wolniewicz—family
 5:00 Stanley Szarek—Chirgwin family



The Secret of a Long Marriage

A couple was celebrating their golden wedding anniversary. Their domestic tranquility had long been the talk of the town. A local reporter was inquiring as to the secret of their long and happy marriage. “Well, it dates back to our honeymoon,” said the husband. “We visited the Grand Canyon and took a trip down to the bottom of the canyon by pack mule. We hadn’t gone far when my wife’s mule stumbled. My wife quietly said, ‘That’s once.’ We proceeded a little further when the mule stumbled again. Once more, my wife quietly said, ‘That’s twice.’ We hadn’t gone half a mile when the mule stumbled a third time. My wife promptly removed a revolver from her purse and shot the mule dead. I started to argue and protest her treatment of the mule when she looked at me and quietly said, ‘That’s once.’”



From the Pastor’s Desk, February 13, 2011

My favorite statue in my childhood parish of Queen of the Most Holy Rosary (closed many years ago) was one of St. Anne sitting on a chair with her daughter, Mary, standing at her side. She was holding open a scroll showing the Roman Numerals I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X. You know, of course, that those numbers represent nos. 1 to 10 in our script. And although I have often kidded about how complicated it was to teach *arithmetic* with Roman Numerals, I knew, of course that those numbers represented the Ten Commandments.

(We have a similar but smaller statue in our church near the baptismal font. The one I remember equals in size the Mater Dolorosa [Pieta] statue in our high altar.)

The Felician Sisters always taught the uniqueness of Mary, even as a little girl. But I was always most impressed that *someone* had to teach the Ten Commandments to the Mother of God so that she and St. Joseph could teach them to Jesus. **What a splendid model of the vocation of a grandparent!** And, you know, it makes sense. Grandparents are the living key to our past, our family and family traditions. If God’s law—the teaching and living of it—are integral to our family traditions, it is only logical that the whole family has to get into the act in bringing up children to be faithful Christians. “*It takes a village....*”

Once again, reaching back into my “*Cymer-space memory*” I ask myself what did my Grandparents teach me about God’s law? We were lucky to have my mother’s parents living with us until they died. It was not always easy to accept the ways of much older people, but my Mom and Dad insisted that we show honor and respect to our *Busia* and *Dziadzia*. Since I understood a little Polish, there was a closeness between us; but since they spoke only Polish we lacked the ability to discuss anything of a complicated nature. What they did teach me was **the reality and presence of God** in our lives. They were simple, uneducated and hard-working people. You always knew what they stood for and what they wouldn’t stand for. Sometimes they explained that rather clearly. At other times, “the look” said it all.

[Pastor’s Desk continued on next page]

[Pastor's Desk, continued]

I remember late evenings, sitting with Grandma in her rocking chair (we both fit!) as she prayed her Rosary; and Dziadzia would be kneeling at the kitchen table saying his night prayers, facing a picture of Jesus Crucified. I don't remember loud conversation or interaction, but there was a feeling that God was in that kitchen with us. They had their novenas and their church memberships, but the PRESENCE OF GOD in their lives was what I remember most. My parents, of course, followed that route.

Of all the temptations I've endured in my life, one that I've never experienced is thinking that God may *not* exist. For me to think that, I would also have to question the existence of my Busia, Dziadzia, Mom and Dad. God was and is just as REAL in my life as they were.

Learning and following God's commandments is another thing. But if we teach our children the REALITY of God and God's PRESENCE in our lives, the other stuff will follow.

There are still people who feel that the children will make their own decisions and choices when they grow up. Why do bother them with God now? *Believe me, parents, your kids will make their own decisions and choices when they grow up. Some of their choices will please you, some of them will break your heart.* So you gotta start now. I know a family where the boy, walking around in his underpants at home, got too close to the stove and sat down on the open (hot) oven door. His underpants burned right into his flesh (primitive tattoo). Thank God he was not more seriously hurt, but he walked funny for years and years. No one considered waiting until the boy could understand the effect of fire on the human anatomy. He was told in no uncertain terms to keep away from the stove! So why in the world do we think we can leave the God-story until some future date.

It is neither ironic nor coincidental that this Sunday's Scripture lessons fall on World Marriage Day. God has designed marriage so that man and woman can share the joys of human love. But it is also because there is a need for a **live-in FAMILY** to bring up children to be *human* beings who know that they were created by God and that God has a purpose for each of us. That will never come from Wikipedia or text messaging!

All of us are not teachers in the sense of conveying complex lessons. But everyone who is a believer should be able to stand up and say so. St. Francis exhorted the friars to "*preach always; and when necessary, use words.*" Get it? Teach by example! May we never shrink from admitting—by word and deed— that **God IS** and that **God is a part of lives.**

God bless....

+

SUNDAY OFFERING



February 6th Offertory Collection: \$3,797.00
Building Fund: \$521.00
Fuel & Utilities: \$400.00

Thank you to all those who faithfully support our parish and its ministries. Last week's icy streets made for dangerous travel and less worshippers. That explains the low collection. Unless our collections are near \$7,000.00 per week, we will not be able to sustain our parish as it exists now.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

It is a tradition to take up food collections on Super Bowl Sunday to provide a Bowl of hot Soup for the needy. Our Religious Education H.S. students took up this collection last week after all Masses. **Joann Wauczinski**, DRE, and the **R.E.P. students** who were able to make it to church, acknowledge the generosity of our worshippers' donations. The breakdown of the collections:

4:00 Vigil	\$166.00
7:30 am	\$117.31
9:00 am	\$ 54.35
10:30 am	\$290.70
5:00 pm	\$ 74.98
Total:	\$703.34

**DON'T WE KNOW
TO KEEP OUR MOUTHS SHUT?**

Sometimes it is good and prudent not to brag or proclaim anything lest things change quickly. Last week we reported that "all our current bills are paid," which gave the impression that, financially, all is going smoothly. That was true—*last week!* Well, by late that week, the big utility bills caught up with us and left deficits in our church bank accounts. We were short one thousand dollars plus. Thank the Lord for some strong memorial contributions in the Building Fund and a balance from the 2010 Summer Festival! That money is now working its way into general expenses, and our lower Sunday collections are putting pressure on our ability to meet our ordinary obligations. Last week's damage to the church roof will puts added pressure upon us. The cold winter is not helping.

We ask all supporting parishioners to help as much as you can. But let's all realize that a picture is being painted here.

Jesus, please help us in the stormy winds and rising seas!



“W.M.D.”

We once went to war over “W.M.D.,” i.e., “Weapons of Mass Destruction?” Today the initials give us the real reason for the Valentine Season: **World Marriage Day**. At Mater Dolorosa, we will honor Bob and Dea Forest on their 40th Wedding Anniversary, all the 2010 newlyweds who sacramentalized their marriages at Holy Cross and Mater Dolorosa churches, and the current year’s “significant” jubilarians. Snow cancellations complicated our efforts to make contacts, but we hope that many will join our celebration.

Like any and all commitments, marriage has its challenges. But to those who are faithful, it brings the best of blessings. The concept of marriage has taken some hits in recent years, and one wonders where all this will end. But to people of faith, the words of Sacred Scripture make it clear, and the Jesus, the Word of God confirms it: **“Have you not read that from the beginning the Creator made them male and female and said: For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”** (Matthew 19: 3-6).

St. Paul, in his Letter to the Ephesians, compares the self-giving love of marriage to the love that exists between Christ and His bride, the Church. Each loves the other; each needs the other; each is incomplete without the other. (see Ephesians 5: 21-32). The Nuptial Blessing says: **Father, you have made the union of man and wife so holy a mystery that it symbolizes the marriage of Christ and his Church. ... married life has been established as the one blessing that was not forfeited by original sin or washed away in the flood.** Those are GOD’S words. Today many try to reduce marriage to a cultural tradition that changes with the culture. Not true!

Someday the Church may have to distinguish between marriage, *however society defines that*, and speak of “the Sacrament of Matrimony,” with emphasis on God’s role in the relationship.

We congratulate all married couples, those we honor today and those we will bless tomorrow.

May Jesus keep our husbands and wives united in love just as He does for His bride, the Church.



**LET US GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD
FOR HE IS GOOD!**

MATER DOLOROSA PARISH dodged a bullet when tons of ice and snow came cascading down the roof on the Maple Street (east) side just as we ended the distribution of Holy Communion at the 10:30 Mass last Sunday.

The snow crashed down in two sections. A parishioner made a 911 call after the first fall and the Fire Department arrived just after the second fall. Fire officials probed to see if anyone was trapped under the snow. The snow that fell to the sidewalk measured five to six feet all the way from the corner to the rectory door. It tore off the snow guards and gutters, and may have caused roof damage. Fire officials cordoned off the church building for fear that the same thing might happen on the other side of the church once the sun set in the west. As of now (Sunday evening) that hasn’t happened.

The fire fighters checked through the piles of snow and removed it. Using ladder trucks they shoveled the remaining snow off the roof. We are grateful to the Holyoke Fire Department for their diligence and care.

Roofers will replace the snow guards and determine any damage to the slate roof. Local papers and newscasts have been carrying stories of roof collapses and falling ice and snow all over New England. On Monday morning, our story was a front-page feature. Our snow banks are 10 feet high and more snow is on the way.

Had this happened five minutes later, many people would have been walking home to Pulaski Heights or the parking lot and children would be climbing the snow piles. This could have been a real disaster.

Let us all offer a prayer of thanks to God that no one was hurt or killed.

(And let this be a reminder of the danger that lurks when you leave church *before* the Mass is ended!)



WINTER BAZAAR

Next Weekend

Saturday and Sunday

February 19 & 20

11 am to 7 pm