

COVER SHEET

CHURCH NAME: MATER DOLOROSA

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

**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

Only the one who does
my Father's will
can enter the
kingdom of
heaven



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This Week's Feasts and Celebrations

Monday, March 7. Sts. Perpetua and Felicity. The father of Tobiah, being an upright man (Ps), buries one of his slain kinsfolk (1). Jesus tells a parable which speaks of his own future suffering and death (2). All we know about **St. Perpetua**, a noble lady, and her slave, **Felicity**, is that they died for their faith at Carthage in 203.

Tuesday, March 8. Weekday. St. John of God, religious. Though experiencing physical and domestic difficulties (1), Tobit trusts in the Lord (Ps). Jesus speaks of religious and civic duties (2). **John of God**, d. 1550. Spanish shepherd, soldier, and entrepreneur converted at age 42, and founded the Order of Hospitallers to care for the sick. Patron of hospitals and the sick, of nurses and booksellers.



Ash
Wednesday

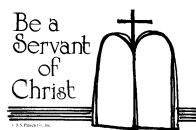
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ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9. Day of Fast and Abstinence for all Catholics. Be reconciled (Ps., 2) and return to the Lord (1) by means of prayer, fasting and deeds of loving service (3).

Thursday, March 10. Lenten Weekday. Choose not death, but life (1, Ps) by denying yourself and following in the footsteps of the Lord (2).

Friday, March 11. Lenten Weekday. Fasting without love (1) and repentance (Ps) is meaningless as we await the return of the bridegroom (2).

Saturday, March 12. We are called to a change of heart (2), to be renewed in the Lord by following his, not our, ways (1, Ps).



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9th Sunday in Ordinary Time

March 6, 2011

Be my rock of refuge,
a stronghold to give me safety.
You are my rock and my fortress;
for your name's sake you will lead and guide me.

Psalm 31: 3-4



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Scripture Readings for this Sunday

1st Reading: Moses urges the people to obey the commandments of God, a blessing on their lives. (Deuteronomy 11: 18, 26-28, 32).

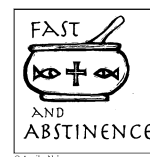
Responsorial Psalm: Lord, be my rock of safety (Ps 31).

2nd Reading: Redemption is a gift from God to all people, brought about through the blood of Jesus (Romans 3: 21-25, 28).

Gospel: The person who practices the teachings of Jesus is wise, like the one who builds his house firmly on solid rock (Matthew 7: 21-27).

SOLID FAITH

Today we hear Moses and Jesus summon their followers to listen attentively to their words. Moses reminds the people that a great blessing awaits those who obey the commandments of the Lord. Jesus tells his followers that those who listen to and act upon his words will be like the wise man who built his house on rock. Saint Paul recalls for us the central truth of our faith: that we have been justified freely by God's grace through the redemption of Christ. In a society in which we are constantly bombarded with words, let us take the sacred words we hear today to heart. May these words strengthen our faith and make that faith as solid as that house build on rock.



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On **Ash Wednesday** of this week, we begin Lent, a time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Our Ash Wednesday Bulletin will explain the Catholic rules of fasting, as decreed by our Bishop. But, until then, remember that **ASH WEDNESDAY is a day of fast and abstinence for ALL CATHOLICS. That means no meat or meat products at dinner—and at lunchtime, too.**



Saturday, March 5

4:00 +Stan Kedzior—wife, Mary Ann

Sunday, March 6

7:30 +Joseph Jurgen—son & family
 9:00 +Wladyslawa & Jozef Retfinski—family
 10:30 +Jane T. Galat—Irene & Bob Archambault
 5:00 The Intentions of All Parishioners

Monday, March 7

8:00 +Stanislawa & Cyprian Szumski—brother

Tuesday, March 8

8:00 +Gloria Chomas—Marie Prawlucki

Ash Wednesday, March 9

8:00 +Kazimierz Orszulak—Lidia & Jozef Pater
 12:00 Healing for Joseph Cymerman—Mom & brothers
 7:00 Lenten blessings on all Parishioners

Thursday, March 10

8:00 Good health of Dori Higgins—Mary Cymerman
 12:00 open

Friday, March 11

8:00 open
 12:00 open

Saturday, March 12

8:00 +Zofia & Wladyslaw Trzepacz—son & family
 4:00 Intentions of All Parishioners

Sunday, March 13

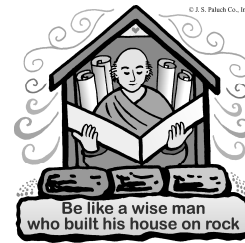
7:30 +Helen Sidur—Ann Marie & Julie
 9:00 +Wladyslawa Szymala—daughter
 10:30 +Wanda & son Edwin Pruchnik—family
 5:00 +Howard Bernier—wife, Irene



Do something REAL special this Lent. You have a few days to think about it, so Think, Resolve, and DO.

We will offer THREE MASSES on Ash Wednesday, with Ashes imposed on the faithful after the Gospel. Masses are at 8 am, 12 Noon, and 7 pm. Be an apostle and BRING A FRIEND TO ASH WEDNESDAY MASS.

We offer an additional Mass at Noon on the weekdays of Lent. Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 6 pm (Polish) and 7 pm (English). Walk the way of the Cross with Jesus!



From the Pastor's Desk, March 6, 2011

Our prayers and sympathies are with the people in Christchurch, New Zealand, who suffered a terrible earthquake last week. It was their second earth-shaker in a year, but the first one hit when people were at home and did little damage. This one hit in the middle of the afternoon when people were at work, in school, in the streets and going about their daily business. A historic cathedral was destroyed, as were many homes, businesses, and the people's dreams. Sadly, this is not the only such catastrophe in recent news.

My brother Joe was living in California during the tragic Northridge earthquake in 1994. It was before cell phones, and we waited anxiously for two days before he was able to contact the family that he was ok; injured by falling debris, but ok. I remember asking afterwards why he lived in earthquake-prone California. Why would anyone choose to live where the ground could crumble beneath your feet at any moment? Like most Californians, he just shrugged it off and answered that "most earthquakes are not serious; at most a few cups fall out of the cupboard and a picture slides off the wall." He then added that while he lived in Texas, he feared tornadoes much more than the periodic "dancing dirt" in California.

I suppose that's why we live in New England. The ground doesn't move, the winds don't huff and puff and blow our houses down! We just wait for the gentle, falling snow to make our lives miserable. Snow is preferable to other disasters. Cheer up! June is coming, so the snow should disappear!

All that is a lengthy introduction to the words of Jesus in today's Gospel: "be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock."

I don't understand people who build homes on cliffs. They want to enjoy the beautiful ocean vistas. (You can do that from a beach chair!) A house on the cliff is impressive, until a mudslide takes down you and the house and you are swimming with the fishes!

Jesus is not addressing architects and engineers. His words of wisdom are not directed to condo-builders.

[Pastor's Desk continued on next page]

[Pastor's Desk, continued]

Jesus is addressing people who want to be his followers, his disciples. He is explaining about WHO and WHAT is to be the basis of their lives.

This reading from Matthew ends the Sermon on the Mount, in which Jesus squarely and plainly revealed the authentic values of human life. He taught us to look at life the way God sees life. What "the pagans" consider success and of value does not always square with God's plan. Jesus taught us how to view people, human life, and the world itself in the way that God sees them. Last week, Jesus went as far as saying that if we seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, we should never worry, never fear, because God will see to it that we have what we need.

Today Jesus goes a step farther, and tells us that only when we build our lives on God and His Law do we build on solid rock. Building on anything less may see our house, our dreams, and our efforts tumble down the hillside when the rain and mud comes, or when the dirt begins to dance.

In our first reading at today's Mass, from the Book of Deuteronomy, Moses addresses God's people at the end of their pilgrimage from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land. Moses reminds the people that God chose them, God led them, God enlightened them with His Law so that they don't end up being slaves to something less than God's Chosen People. They are Covenant People: God is their God and they are His people. Following the Law will not win favor for them with God; no, not at all. It is rather that God first loved them and chose them that they are privileged to know and live His law. God's law is the solid rock foundation on which to build their lives and family.

Our parish is filled with people who make God the center of their lives. Most of the time, that is not so visible to everyone. They are usually the quiet, calm, folks who don't kick up a lot of dust. But they are faithful to Sunday worship; they obey God's commandments; they are lovingly faithful to family and friends; they are the first to open their wallets to a good cause; and when you ask them for a hand they don't toss you a bumper sticker.

Yes, there are people in our midst whom Moses would welcome into his company. But they have been to the mountaintop and they have met Jesus. They heard Him. They believe Him. And now they walk the Journey of Faith on solid ground. They walk with confidence, and with a smile, because they know that the Lord will never lead them astray. They walk on holy ground; on solid ground. They walk with the Lord.

God bless....

+

SUNDAY OFFERING



February 20th Offertory Collection: \$4,377.00
 February 27th Offertory Collection: \$4,512.00
 Building Fund (both weeks): \$260.00
 Fuel & Utilities (both weeks): \$1,323.00
 Catholic Home Missions: \$372.00

Thank you to all those who faithfully support our parish and its ministries. Once again, we acknowledge the concern and generosity of parishioners who contribute to the monthly Fuel/Utilities envelopes. **Just for your information, the February oil/gas/electric bills for the School totaled \$9,116.67; and for the Church (church, rectory, office and Social Center), \$9,578.73.** This winter blew a big hole in our finances. The above does not include repairs due to snow/water damage and snow removal. May March be more merciful.

Thank you to Building Fund Donors

In memory of +Aleksander Zieja: Frank & Celia Drobiak \$20. +Stanley Kawalec: M/M Edwin Zabik \$50. +Kazmer Grabon: Lila Grabon \$10. +Blazej Sikora: Maria Wieczkowski \$50.; Ela Haley \$25.; Anna Lekarczyk \$20.; Bertha & Christine Thompson \$20.; Wacław Dziendzielewicz \$30.; Don Strahalak \$30.; Zofia Pagos \$20.; Halina Beben \$50.; Jadzia Cavanaugh \$50.; Dorotka Beben \$20. +Jean Kibit & Celia Szczecina: Phyllis Kaczynski \$25. +Fran Turek: Phyllis Kaczynski \$25.

Donations to the Mater Dolorosa School Fund *in memory of* +Stanley Kawalec: Anna P. Jordan & Joann Finck \$25. +Frances K. Lavelle: John & Sandra Peret \$20.



LIFE IN THE SPIRIT Seminars at M.D.

... a series of talks designed to help people encounter the life and power of the Holy Spirit in their lives. The seminars are simple, informal, and introductory in nature. They are presented over the course of six weeks. Seminars are balanced with teachings, personal testimonies, scriptures and prayers. Small group discussions for people to share what they have experienced and learned, if they wish. **MD Social Center, Thursdays during Lent, 7 to 9 pm.** Call Dorothy Skibel 533-4150; Paula Brunault 534-1596; Dan O'Driscoll 535-2216 or Mary Riel 533-7660 No charge; light refreshments will be served.

The Linking and Merging of Parishes

Question: What is the consequence of the split decisions given by the Vatican to the appeals concerning the parish closing in the Diocese of Springfield? What are implications of this decision for our future at Mater Dolorosa?

Answer: Good questions! First of all, allow me a little disclaimer here: I have no information other than what appeared in the local newspapers and in the official statement released by the Diocese of Springfield. By the time you read this, official explanations may be offered that differ from mine. Secondly, as the local media and the Diocesan statements made clear, the Bishop has requested an immediate clarification of this decision, and he also has the right to appeal it. (As of this writing, I know of no appeal by the Bishop. I think he too is scratching his head.)

“Split decision” is an apt description of the Vatican response, at least for us who are not legal experts. The decisions find no issue with the **merging and closing of the “parishes”** in question. That means that, in their view, the Bishop followed the canons of Church Law and his reasoning is acceptable to the Church authorities who read this appeal. However, according to these same authorities, equally sufficient reasons are not clear for the actual **closing of the church buildings**. So, the way I read it, the parishes that have been closed and merged remain closed and merged. What happens to the church *buildings* is anyone’s guess. Diocesan statements make clear that the churches will no longer “host a parish.” No pastor will be assigned, because a pastor heads a parish, he does not maintain a (church) building.

Church law recognizes various kinds of worship sites. Most significant is a **parish church**, with registered members, and the mission of baptizing and celebrating all the sacraments. At **Shrines**, like that of Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, people assemble to worship, pray, and honor a special devotion or mystery of faith. Then there are seminary, convent, and nursing home **chapels** where Mass and devotions may be celebrated. **Shrines and chapels** operate at the invitation and direction of the local Bishop. Baptisms, marriages and funerals (other than for community members) are NOT celebrated in shrines and chapels.

The thing is SOMEONE is responsible to maintain and pay for the upkeep of these places. What can be done at these former-parish churches is ... a good question.

What the implications are for us and others—I would think that the answer to that is yet to come.



LOVING KINDNESS

*“Right from the moment of our birth,
we are under the care of our parents,
and then later on in life
when we are oppressed by sickness and become old,
we are again dependent on the kindness of others.
Since at the beginning and end of our lives
we are so dependent on other’s kindness,
how can it be that in the middle
we neglect kindness toward others?”*

Those are the words of “H.H., The XIVth Dalai Lama,” which I found while meandering through the Mystic Outlets. Jesus, of course, had a little different way of encouraging reaching out to others: *“Whatever you do to the least of my brothers, you do to ME!”* The point is clear. It is more than *appropriate* to help others.

Lent is about to begin, and “almsgiving” is part of our Lenten practice. We also note that the **Diocesan Annual Catholic Appeal** is beginning. I hope that you took notice of the February/March 2011 SPECIAL EDITION of **The Catholic Mirror**, our diocesan monthly publication. Several pages are dedicated to the 40 ministries supported by the Annual Catholic Appeal. Each ministry is featured on its own page. Its mission is explained along with its scriptural foundation. The articles describe where the work is done; who is doing it; who are the beneficiaries. If YOU have need of this ministry, how do YOU get in touch with them?

These presentations put a real face on your annual pledge to do the work of Jesus in and through our own diocese.

Read the profiles of the 40 ministries. It should make you proud. And it will inspire you to be a part of the work that Jesus has entrusted to us.

God bless....

Fr. Alex

Previews of Coming Attractions

Our Lenten weekly Bulletins will feature a section on the Liturgy, highlighting the CHANGES we anticipate when the new Roman Missal is inaugurated on the First Sunday of Advent, 2011. Our presentations will briefly explain a small section of the Mass, its historical development and what it is meant to say. There will be a comparison of what we say/do now and the proposed CHANGES. Hopefully, this will deepen our own personal understanding of the Mass and prepare us to confront the CHANGES that are coming.