Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

April 9, 2017

God greatly exalted [Christ] and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.

— Philippians 2:9
Celebrating over a Century of Faith and Education

St. Barbara Parish is a Roman Catholic community celebrating a century of faith in the Bridgeport area. Our faith community welcomes all people, helping them grow spiritually through liturgy, prayer, and education, and socially through activities for all ages. Our school takes great pride in fostering these values in our children. We give witness to our faith by sharing with each other our God-given gifts and talents. We nourish and sustain our faith as a family by celebrating the sacraments and the presence of the risen Lord among us in the Eucharist.

Lenten Fasting and Abstinence Regulations

The following fasting and abstinence regulations are observed:
Abstinence from meat is observed on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all the Fridays of Lent by all Catholics 14 years of age and older.
Fasting is observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59 years of age. Those bound by this rule may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted as necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.
The special Paschal fast and abstinence are observed on Good Friday and, where possible, on Holy Saturday. On these days, Christians prepare themselves by these disciplines in anticipation of the renewal of their baptismal commitment on Easter.
From its earliest days, the Church has urged the baptized and the catechumens to observe the threefold discipline of fasting, almsgiving, and prayer as a preparation for the celebration of Easter. Failure to observe any penitential days at all or a substantial number of such days must be considered serious.
During Lent, the Church encourages attendance at daily Mass, self-imposed times of fasting, and generosity to local, national, and worldwide programs of sharing.

ALTAR & ROSARY MEETING TODAY AT 1:00 P.M.
The Altar & Rosary Sodality will meet today at 1:00 p.m. for their monthly meeting. If you would like to pray the rosary, have a light lunch and play a few games of bingo, please be sure to join us in the Senior Mobile.

Baby Bottle Project
Have you filled your baby bottle? The bottles are due this weekend with any spare change or bills you may have placed inside. If you forgot your bottle, you can still return it next week.

HOLY NAME SOCIETY
ST. PATRICK’S LOTTERY


To all who bought tickets, thank you for supporting St. Barbara Parish and especially the Holy Name Society.

SAVE THE DATE
The Fourth Annual Car Show will be held on Saturday, August 19th.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
This morning at our 9:30 am Mass, we welcome the Knights of Columbus who will hold their Easter Corporate Communion Mass. A Continental breakfast will be served after Mass in the Senior Mobile for all members, their families and KC seniors.

Good Friday
Holy Land Special Collection

Christians around the world are united in a special way during Lent, Holy Week and Easter. Our hearts, minds and prayers are also especially aware of the Holy Land. Our parish, once a year on Good Friday, is called on to support Christians in the Holy Land. Many Christians in the Holy Land depend on the collection for their lives.

As a pontifical collection requested by Pope Francis, the annual Good Friday Collection offers a direct link for parishioners to be witnesses of peace and to help protect the Holy Places. When you donate on Good Friday, you are supporting Christians in the Holy Land. Please be as generous as your abundance allows.
FROM THE DESK OF THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR:

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

**Looking to the cross for hope**, we hear Jesus saying that the time we have here is just an episode in our lives. Our true home is in heaven. Jesus is the only one who is able to take us there. Our faithfulness to His words is our assurance of being with Him forever. Jesus is our way, truth and life; we go to the Father through Him. He reminds us not to be troubled because, through all His sufferings, death, resurrection and ascension into heaven, He has taken each of us in His heart and now He is waiting for us in the house of our Heavenly Father.

John 14: 1-7

Looking to the cross for hope, we experience every day our mortality. Our earthly dwelling is fragile and, very often, we see that everything around us is temporary. Inside of us, there is a yearning for a heavenly dwelling. God helps us to sense the reality of heaven by the gift of the Holy Spirit. This is why Jesus said that it is good for us when He went to Heaven so He can send us the gift of the Holy Spirit from there. We feel that we are away from home while being here. It is the same feeling when you plan to go to see someone you love. It might be next week, but your heart, thoughts and soul are already there. When we go visiting, we like to look good and bring something good. In the same way, we are trying to live good lives so, when we meet our Father, we will please Him.

2 Corinthians 5: 1-10

Looking to the cross for hope, we receive the gifts of endurance and encouragement so we can live in harmony and with one accord glorify God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Everything we have in the Bible, every Word of God, has been written or has been spoken in order to keep our faith and strengthen our hope. There are three cardinal virtues: faith, hope and love. Hope is in the middle to keep our faith and love together so we have strength to welcome one another. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we can share with others abundant hope, peace and joy because we can feel the lack of these gifts in many places in the world.

Romans 15: 5-13

Looking to the cross for hope, we realize that with us and for us is God, who did not spare His Only Son. If He is for us, He who governs all the universe, who can be against us? Such a beautiful feeling, a moment which raises our hopes. All God’s love is for me in the time of distress, persecution, and weakness; there is no power on this planet that is able to take His love away – is able to separate us from the love of God.

Romans 8: 31-19

Looking to the cross for hope, today on Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion, we need to remember that Jesus died but rose from the dead. He shows us the way we will go one day. We will fall asleep and we will rise one day to live with the Lord. We are looking for Resurrection Sunday to renew our hope. Every morning when we wake up is the moment of the resurrection to a new day, a new life. Every morning God gives us an opportunity to do something good, to enjoy His presence, to see Jesus in the faces of people we see. Every morning is the moment of resurrection in order to console one another with assurance that there is something besides this valley of tears; there is an eternal home with our loving God where we belong.

I wish you a blessed Easter. May the Resurrection of Jesus remind you that life can be more beautiful every day. Everything is possible to those who live in the presence of God.

May faith, hope and love dwell in your homes.

Fr. Andrzej
Activities This Week

Sun., Apr. 9 - KC Corporate Communion Mass; 9:30 am
- Altar & Rosary Meeting; 1:00 p.m.
- Baby Bottle Project Ends
Mon. Apr. 10 - First Communicants’ Parents Mandatory Mtg.; 6:30 pm
Wed., Apr. 12 - School Mass in Church; 8:30 am
Thurs., Apr. 13 - Morning Prayer; 8:30 am
- Liturgy of the Lord’s Supper; 7:00 pm
- Adoration until Midnight
Fri., Apr. 14 - Morning Prayer; 8:30 am
- Stations of the Cross; 3:00 pm
- Good Friday Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion and Veneration of the Cross; 7:00 pm
Sat. Apr. 15 - Morning Prayer; 8:30 am
- Blessing of Easter Baskets; 12:00 pm
- Confessions; 12:30 - 1:30 pm
- Easter Vigil; 8:00 pm
Sun. Apr. 16 - Masses at 6:00, 9:30 and 11:30 am

Holy Thursday Washing of Feet
a sign of extreme humility

“Very soon we will be observing Holy Week which will culminate in Easter, commemorating the resurrection of Jesus. On Holy Thursday we will witness the priest washing the feet of his 12 “apostles”. This act of Jesus was a revolutionary one which would have been scorned by those in power. By Jesus washing the feet of his apostles, he has demonstrated the most extreme form of humility and love for man, and this love resulted in the ultimate sacrifice of His life for us on the cross.”


If you and your family would like to have your feet washed on Holy Thursday, please see Fr. Arthur, Fr. Andrzej of sign up on the sheet on the ushers’ table.

My Easter Offering

There are many signs of Easter life at St. Barbara. In order for this to continue, I appeal to your generosity with your special Easter Offering. If you are a registered parishioner, you would have received in the mail my Easter Letter along with the special Easter Offering envelope. If you did not receive this mailing, there are extra My Easter Offering envelopes in the back of the Church. If you are not registered as a parishioner and would like to do so, please see Fr. Arthur or Fr. Andrzej.

Liturgies of Holy Week, the TRIDUUM

Holy Week is the culmination of the liturgical year. During these holy days, the liturgy will lead us, with Jesus, to the depths and to the heights.

It begins with a harsh juxtaposition, as we carry palms in remembrance of Christ’s triumphant entry into Jerusalem and then listen to the Passion according to Matthew, as the King is handed over for crucifixion. Then, on Holy Thursday, we remember the night Jesus was handed over: the night he gave himself for us and to us, to live in our midst forever in the sacrament of his Body and Blood. On Good Friday, we touch with our hands the mystery of the Lord’s cross, the instrument of torture that has become the tree of life. Then, at the great Easter Vigil, the lighting of the paschal candle speaks to us of the triumph of light over darkness, of life over death. The resurrection of the Lord becomes a living reality in our midst as the catechumens for whom the Church has prayed throughout Lent are plunged into the mystery of Christ’s death and share in the glory of his resurrection. These are indeed holy days, the culmination of the Church’s liturgy, and an invitation to participate in the very life of Christ.

Come, let us worship. Join us for any or all of these very special Liturgies of Holy Week, the Triduum.

Blessing of Easter Baskets
Holy Saturday, April 15th, 12:00 noon

You are invited to bring to church your baskets containing a sampling of Easter foods which will be enjoyed at your Sunday Easter Dinner to be blessed on Holy Saturday. Though this has been a Polish tradition, many families have adopted this custom. The basket traditionally was lined with a white linen or lace napkin. Baskets can be filled with colored hardboiled eggs symbolizing the new life of the Resurrection; a sugar or butter lamb representing Christ, the Lamb of God; bread or a tall decorative cake called Babka; along with ham, sausage, salt and pepper.

Easter Flower Offering

Each year our church is beautifully decorated with lilies and other spring flowers for Easter Sunday due to the generosity of you who contribute to the collection. Extra Easter Flower Collection envelopes are in back of the church.
The Passion of Christ

On Tuesday evening, March 28th, the group “Misterium” presented the Passion of Christ in our church. This was a very moving portrayal of the last few days of Christ’s life performed by a cast of almost 70 actors from St. Hyacinth’s Basilica. The cast and crew is now in California to complete their Spring schedule of performances.

St. Barbara Teacher Mrs. Alicia Krok and her husband with writer and director, Cecylia Jablonska (center).

Easter Communion & Confession for Shut-Ins

If you know someone who is not able to make it to church and would like to receive Communion and maybe have their Confession heard, Fr. Arthur will be visiting the sick the week of April 16th. Please contact the rectory this week (312) 842-7979 with a request for a visit.

Thursday, March 30, 2017

Dora - $500 Coverall Winner
Weekly Collection - April 1 - 2
Due to early submission of the bulletin, figures will be posted next week.

Liturgical Ministers

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 13TH
7:00 p.m.
Altar Servers: N. Perez, A. Torres, A. Lemke, M. Lemke
Eucharistic Ministers: TBA
Lectors: E. Pollock, P. Saletta
Greeter: L. Saletta

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 14TH
7:00 p.m.
Altar Servers: L. Kwiatkowski, J. Kwiatkowski, D. Kwiatkowski, J. P. Kwiatkowski
Eucharistic Ministers: TBA
Lectors: L. Saletta, H. Diaz DeLeon
Greeter: P. Saletta

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 15TH
8:00 p.m.
Altar Servers: A. Rodriguez, M. Rodriguez, R. Cabrera, A. Alonzo, A. Gonzalez, M. Gonzalez
Eucharistic Ministers: A. Skokal, R. Carden
Lectors: P. Saletta, G. Dumelle, H. Alonzo, L. Szczepanski
Greeters: M. Szczepanski, D. Becatti

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 16TH
6:00 a.m.
Altar Server: G. Vanderford
Eucharistic Ministers: S. Guest, J. Balasa
Lector: J. Bertucci
Greeter: B. Webb
9:30 a.m.
Altar Servers: M. Arteaga, J. Gonzalez, P. Young, N. Perez
Eucharistic Ministers: P. Rodriguez, J. Rodriguez
Lectors: K. Ricci, H. Diaz DeLeon
Greeter: L. Echevarria
11:30 a.m.
Altar Servers: J. Murrihy, K. Zotamba, G. Parcon, A. Torres
Eucharistic Ministers: H. Alonzo, A. Alonzo
Lectors: B. Pienta, E. Raya, Jr.
Greeter: M. Rolon

For Rent: Four room apartment on Archer Avenue, close to Throop Street. For more information, please call the rectory (312) 842-7979.
Baptisms: Parents must be registered practicing parishioners and attend a baptismal preparation session before a baptism will be scheduled. Call the rectory office for further information.

Communion Calls: Please contact the Rectory when someone who is homebound or in the hospital wishes a visit to receive Holy Communion or the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. The Anointing of the Sick is for anyone seriously sick and not only for those near death.

Ministry of Care: Eucharistic Ministers are available to visit, pray with, and bring Holy Communion to those who are sick and unable to attend Mass. Notify the Parish Office when this service is needed.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a program for anyone inquiring and seeking information about entering the Catholic faith.

Weddings: Weddings need to be scheduled at least six months in advance. Couples are reminded to secure the Church date before the reception hall.

Moving/New Cell #: Please contact the rectory with address change or telephone change.

Please pray for those homebound, hospitalized and in need of continued prayers...