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**St. John is a Stewardship Parish**

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**April 13, 2014**

**Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**

Saturday, April 12, 2014

4:00 – Parishioners of St. John

Sunday, April 13, 2014

8:00 – Parishioners of St. John

9:30 – Parishioners of St. John

11:30 – Parishioners of St. John

6:00 – Parishioners of St. John

**Important Dates**

Sat. 4/12 First Reconciliation/Retreat – 10 AM

Sun. 4/13 – TEEN MASS – 6 PM

Wed. 4/16 – Confessions – 6:30 – 8 PM

HOLY WEEK – see the box below

Sat. 4/26 – Confirmations at 10 AM & 1 PM

Sat. 4/26 – BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC – after 4:00

Sun. 4/27 – Divine Mercy Chaplet – 3 PM

Wed. 4/30 – Fin Comm. Mtg. – 7 PM

***Please keep the following in your prayers:***

*Pam Adornato, Mei Connelly, Dottie & Eddie  
Younis, Lillian Wedge, Richard Cerci,  
MacDonald Family, Susan Lynch, Roy Conrad,  
Mark DeLuca, Michael Terry, Harvey Day,  
Audrey Ribero, Toni McGrail, Scott Zabrek,  
Bill Maloney, Jerry Paluch, Mark Schatzl,  
Shane Thompson, John Gomes, Frank  
McCarthy, Jon Olson, Pat Sweet, Bob  
Solakoff, Bill Clements, Elaine Salvucci, Penny  
Walsh, Rita Orr, Nancy Porter, Dawn Bono,  
David LaRosa, Bob Small.*

**Lenten Schedule**

**The Light is on for You –  
Sacrament of Reconciliation.**

**Wednesdays throughout Lent from 6:30 – 8:00 PM**

**Holy Week**

**Holy Thursday– 7PM -- Mass of the Lord’s  
Supper –**

**Good Friday – The Seven Last Words – 3 PM**

**The Solemn Celebration of the  
Passion of our Lord – 7 PM**

**Holy Saturday – Easter Vigil – 8:30 PM**

**Easter Sunday – Masses at 8, 9:30 & 11:30**

*Our Shared Treasure*

*April 13, 2014*

*Total not available at printing*

Grand Annual: \$26,809

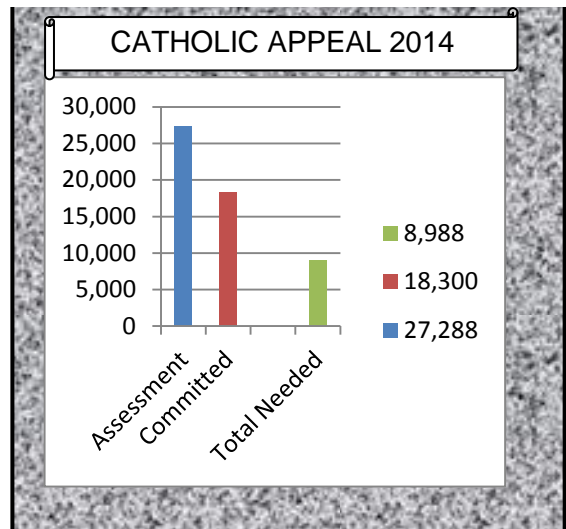
Weekly Collection Budgeted: \$5,882.00

Catholic Appeal: \$18,300

**Thank you** for your continued generosity.

*Collection – April 20, 2014 – Clergy Trust*

Next week’s Easter collection is for our priests. The Clergy Health and Retirement Trust helps care for the health and well-being of our 638 priests, ensuring the highest quality of care and quality of life for the men who have dedicated their lives in service to our Archdiocese of Boston. Our priests have been there for us. Now it is our turn to help secure the future for them in their time of need. Thank you for helping to keep the promises made to care for our priests.



**St John’s Divine Mercy Chaplet**

**Every Thursday following the 9:00 daily Mass  
in the Chapel.**

Prayed on ordinary rosary beads, The Chaplet of The Divine Mercy is an intercessory prayer that extends the offering of the Eucharist, so it is especially appropriate to use it after having received Holy Communion at Holy Mass.

**St Vincent de Paul Food Pantry**

Our food pantry will be providing forty families with an Easter dinner this year. We are grateful for your generosity which has enabled us to offer this dinner for a second year! We are now able to put together three holiday meals each year; Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. Thank you again for your kindness. Please know that our St. Vincent de Paul pantry works because of your food and cash donations. We are truly blessed.

**The holiest week of the year is once again upon us.**

**Palm (Passion) Sunday:** *Entrance*-this seems to be the key to understanding the liturgy of Palm Sunday. "On this day the Church celebrates Christ's entrance into Jerusalem to accomplish His paschal mystery." The principal liturgy of this day celebrates "entrance". Ordinarily we enter the church one by one, as we arrive. But on this day we enter the church together; we make a grand entrance. The parish gathers in another location, such as the side lawn of our church. This is our most joyful and triumphant procession of the liturgical year.

**The Triduum:** The phrase is a Latin one which translates: **The Three Days.** The Sacred Triduum begins with Holy Thursday and includes Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Funerals, weddings or any other ceremonies are not permitted during the Sacred Triduum.

**Holy Thursday:** Triduum begins with the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper. Today we celebrate the Lord's institution of the Holy Eucharist. The second reading of this Mass contains the earliest written account of the Lord's Supper. "I received from the Lord what I handed on to you, namely, that the Lord Jesus on the night in which He was betrayed took bread, and after He had given thanks, broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." The gospel proclaimed at this Mass of the Lord's Supper is not one of the accounts of the "institution of the Eucharist." Instead the Church presents to us John 13: 1-15: Jesus washing the feet of His disciples, but we see and experience it. I will be washing the feet of 12 members of this parish. It may seem unusual that on the night that we celebrate the gift of the Eucharist we would wash the feet of members of the parish, but it should serve as a sign that the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist is not an end in itself. It is a means of building up the Body of Christ through service. Following the Mass the Blessed Sacrament is carried in solemn procession to the Chapel for a period of prayer and adoration until 10:00 pm.

**Good Friday:** Good Friday is the most sober day of the entire Church year. Sober is perhaps the key word—the liturgy is very restrained and straightforward. The altar is bare, without cloths, candles or cross.

There is no Mass on this day. The first part of the liturgy consists of reading from the scripture and reaches its climax with the solemn Proclamation of the Passion. The second part of the Good Friday liturgy is unique to this day. A large cross will be brought forward and I will hold it for you to venerate. We approach the wood of the cross, the instrument of torture, cruelty and death, and we reverence it with a touch or a kiss. The Good Friday service concludes with a simple communion service with the communion coming from the Holy Thursday liturgy.

**The Great Vigil of Easter:** The service begins with the congregation gathering around a fire and we think of Christ, the light of God. The Easter Candle is lit from this fire and is carried into a darkened church and from this one candle the candles of each member of the assembly will be lit. I will chant the Easter Proclamation: "Exult, all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ our King is risen!" Salvation History is recalled in the readings which culminate in the singing of the "Gloria" which is not said or sung during Lent. We then stand and joyfully sing "Alleluia" - a word we have not heard for forty days. Then the gospel of the resurrection is proclaimed. After the homily we chant the Litany of the Saints praying that they intercede for us and then the Mass will then continue as usual.

**The Easter Vigil** is scheduled for **8:30** (This is not a typo; it has been requested by the Archdiocese.)



My Dear Friends in Christ,

If someone were to ask you, "what is the holiest day in the Church year", what would your answer be? Most, I dare say, would answer "Christmas"...and they'd be wrong! Now, don't get me wrong – I like Christmas as much as the next person, but it is second to Easter, the most sacred day of the Church Year. We begin our "final approach" into Easter (as well as our Holy Week services) with today's celebration of Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion (interchangeably referred to as either "Palm Sunday" or "Passion Sunday" (due to our reading of the Passion Narrative today)).

Today is unique in that two gospel passages are read, one depicting Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem and one speaking to us of Jesus' Passion and Death. Both read at today's liturgy serve as "bookends" to our Holy Week services. The entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem (intoned at the beginning of Mass) speaks of the kingship of Christ, for it is a celebration befitting royalty, with people lining the streets offering shouts of praise and acclamation to Jesus. They recognize Jesus as Messiah at this moment, and pledge their loyalty to Him with shouts of "hosanna" (a word which means "save us" or "help", an appropriate cry made to Jesus). The interesting thing is that the same crowd who is crying "hosanna" is most likely the same crowd who, in a few short days, will be calling for blood with cries of "crucify him".

This is where the second gospel (read at the usual time) comes in. It is the telling of the Passion and Death of Jesus, about how He was betrayed and handed over to be killed just a few hours after celebrating the Last Supper (a Passover meal) with His disciples. This depiction of the last hours of Jesus' earthly life serve as a reminder to us of how much Jesus gave Himself for us, offering His life so as to save ours. The telling of this Passion narrative shows to us that Jesus, He without sin, became sin for us and won for us newness of life. Jesus did all of this without rebelling, without turning back, not shielding Himself from the torture and torment that He knew awaited Him. This is true love, the self-emptying love by which Jesus shows us how we are to act.

May this Passion/Palm Sunday be a fitting time for us to unite ourselves with Jesus. Let us make the long walk to Calvary with Him so that we might have a share in His Passion, Death and, ultimately, Resurrection. May we have the courage to not turn back, to not shy away from all that Jesus suffered, so that we might have a share in new and everlasting life!

Wishing You All A Blessed Holy Week,  
Fr. Paul

Have a Blessed Lent,  
Fr. Paul