

St. Francis *of* Assisi Parish

Teutopolis, Illinois



Palm Sunday

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday, we begin Holy Week by commemorating the Lord's entrance into Jerusalem and recalling His passion and death in the Gospel of St. Luke. This, indeed, is a special week of prayer and sacrifice, calling to mind for us the depth of God's love for us.

On Holy Thursday, the night Jesus spent in prayer and then changed bread and wine into His body and blood and told us to do this in remembrance of me. Each time we celebrate the Mass and receive Jesus in Holy Communion, we are nourished and strengthened in our faith.

On Good Friday, we celebrate the Lord's Passion and Death. We recall His passion through the proclaiming of the Gospel of St. John; we express sorrow for our sins through our veneration of the cross, and the goodness of the Lord is celebrated by our reception of Holy Communion.

On Holy Saturday night, we bless the Easter fire, and light the Easter candle. Moreover, we welcome into the Church our candidates and catechumens through profession of faith and reception of the sacrament of Baptism. And on Easter Sunday, we celebrate the Lord's resurrection from the dead.

I hope you and your family are able and willing to participate in these great celebrations in the coming week. It is a special week of graces for all of us. Let us pray for one another during these special days.!

Peace, Love, Joy
Fr. Austin

Holy Week Ministry Sign-Ups

If you are involved in a liturgical ministry (Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors and Ushers) and would like to volunteer your services at any of the Holy Week liturgies listed below, please sign up at the church's main entrance:

Holy Thursday, April 1st at 7:00 pm
Good Friday, April 2nd at 1:00 pm
Easter Vigil, April 3rd at 8:00 pm

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. Your service makes our liturgies special and complete!!!

Please remember that if you are on the April schedule for either 7:00, 8:45 or 10:30 am Mass, then you are "on" for Easter Sunday at that time. If you need to, please find a substitute.

Office Closed—The parish office will close at noon on Good Friday and be closed all day on Monday, April 5th

Reconciliation

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On Ash Wednesday as the minister put ashes on our forehead we were reminded: "Turn away from sin and believe the Good News." The Good News is that Jesus has come as our Redeemer and Savior. We are called to turn away from all that hinders us from accepting Jesus' offer of salvation. Sin is ugly, whether it be pride, envy, lust, greed, anger, etc. Sin can slip into our lives in insidious ways.

Lent is a time for us to look more honestly at ourselves. The traditional practices of prayer, penance and almsgiving are intended to help us live more spiritually. A long standing Catholic practice has been and is to make a good confession before Easter. **Another opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance (Confession) will be this Tuesday, March 30th from 7:00-8:00 pm.**

Rediscovering Catholicism - Chapter 11

Will you be the next greatest basketball player, or the next greatest baseball player, or how about the next greatest golfer? What about, "will you be the next big saint?" In Kelly's book, it talks about who will be the next saint. For whom does the future belong to and who is going to influence it? Mother Teresa and Saint Francis had a role in God's plan, and they played it. Now it's up to you to fulfill God's plan, and be the best saint he wants you to be. Where do you sign up, or start? In St. Francis' words, "First do what is necessary. Then do what is possible. And before you know it, you will be doing the impossible." The challenge for you this week is, "How are you going to start living a saintly life?"

40 Days For Life

As of the 33rd day of 40 Days for Life, **352** babies have been reported as saved from abortion (that we know of)! Thank you for everything you are doing to support prayer and fasting to end abortion. It's working—one life at a time. God's word assures us that children are a blessing, that they are a reward of faithfully trusting and serving God and that they are the crown of their parents' old age. The spread of the contraception mentality that has so permeated our culture is, undoubtedly, a factor in the ready acceptance of abortion. May He help us to accept the gift of children and give Him thanks for every baby who is born into the world.

Heavenly Father, we pray for the gift of openness to children. May we rejoice when a new baby, our own or someone else's, is born into the world. Help us to welcome them as we would welcome you, for whenever a new baby is conceived, another life to bear your image and another voice to praise and worship you, is beginning. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

—Rev. Ben Sheldon

Liturgy Schedule Holy Week March 28—April 4

Monday,	Mass at 6:15 am & 12:10 pm
Tuesday,	Mass at 6:15 & 8:05 am
Wednesday,	Mass at 6:15 & 8:05 am
Thursday,	Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 pm
Friday,	Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 1:00 pm Vespers at 7:00 pm
Saturday,	Easter Vigil at 8:00 pm
Sunday,	Easter Sunday Mass at 7:00, 8:45, 10:30 am

Confession Schedule

Tuesday, April 30 - 7:00-8:00 pm
**NO Confessions on
Holy Saturday, April 3rd**

Liturgy of the Hours with Friars

Monday-Friday -- 11:45 am & 4:45 pm

Question of the Week

In today's world, could you be proud to be the follower of someone who died by means of a lethal injection?

Why/why not?

Isaiah 50:4-7

Phil. 2:6-11

Luke 23:1-49



Pray for the Sick

Please remember in your prayers those who are sick, especially: Rebekah Volk, Sr. Clara Esker, Jodi Waymoth, Evelyn Krone, Steve Sehy, Cathy Green, Dorothy and Ermand Thoele, Joyce Vahling, Mardell Weis, Nicholas Rhodes

Stewardship of Treasure

	<u>Sunday</u> 3/21/2010	<u>Total Fiscal</u> <u>Year</u>
325 Adult envelopes	\$6,721.50	\$286,445.30
Other	524.88	23,049.54
TOTAL	\$7,246.38	\$309,494.84
GOAL	\$9,300.00	\$353,400.00



Parish Calendar

Monday, March 29

- Adult Choir, 7:00 pm

Tuesday, March 30

- Confessions, 7:00-8:00 pm

Wednesday, March 31

- Children's Choir, 3:30 pm
- Youth Choir, 6:00 pm
- Passion Practice, 8:30 pm

Saturday, April 3

- Easter Day of Fun, 8:30 to 10:30 am at Grade School Gym
- Easter Bake Sale, 8:00 am to 12:00 noon at Weber Bros Hardware

Special Collections—On Good Friday, a collection will be taken to help the work of the Church in the Holy Land. At the Easter Vigil Liturgy and the Easter Sunday Masses, the special collection will help our diocese to educate and form future priests. Please use the envelopes included with your set. Thank you for your generosity.

Happy April Birthdays

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The Art & Environment Committee

will be decorating the church for Easter on Saturday, April 3, at **7:00 am**. Any member who is able to attend, should contact Mary Flach at 857-6011 or 663-2356. Thank you.

Christ became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.



Attention Homebound

Holy Communion will be brought to you on First Friday, April 2nd. No Communion to you on Sunday, April 4th.

Run or Bike Ride the Countryside!

Join the Catholic Heart students in a day of fitness & fun on April 17! Run or bike ride from St. Francis Church Parking Lot to Sacred Heart in Lillyville and back! It's approximately an 11 mile route. Gearing up for the upcoming marathons or half marathons? This is a great time in your training to try the 11 miles! 11 miles NOT ENOUGH for you? Feel free to ride the course twice! For those in it for the fun & not the race, we also have a poker run going on at the same time – stop at the 5 card stations & draw a card. There'll be a prize to the winners of the ride & run & also for the best poker hand. Registration begins at 8 & the event kicks off at 9. Come out for the fun!

Concert—The local high school band, Easiest Fix (formerly FlipSwitch) featuring Derek Deters, Drew Deters and Blake, will be in concert on April 17 from 7:30 – 10:30 pm in the TGS Gym. All people, high school age and older, are invited to attend this concert! Dance to the dj dance music in between sets! Proceeds will benefit the CHWC participants.

Spaghetti Supper

JOE'S PIZZA & PASTA will be hosting a spaghetti supper to benefit the CHWC crew on Sunday, April 11 from 3 – 6:30 pm at the TGS grade school. We'll be serving salad, breadsticks and spaghetti and homemade desserts! Mark your calendars!

Easter Day of Fun

Have last minute Easter preparations? Leave the babysitting to us! The junior high and high school students invite you to drop your child (ages 4 – 11) off at the TGS gym on April 3 for crafts, music, snacks, and an Easter egg hunt! Easter Day of Fun runs from 8:30 am – 10:30 am. Cost is free but we do ask that all students be pre-registered. Permission slips are available at the entrance of church and these must be turned in the day of the event. Happy Easter!

Youth Notes:

No TEEN CENTER next weekend because of Holy Week. Please attend services with your family.

Youth council meetings for April will be rescheduled for a different time because the first Sunday is Easter – check the bulletin for further information.

53rd Annual Lion's Easter Egg Hunt

April 4, 1:00 pm, Teutopolis Park
Children ages pre-school through 4th grade will be able to hunt. Prizes awarded.

Religious Education News

GRADE SCHOOL- No Classes Good Friday, 4/2, or Easter Monday, 4/5.

PLEASE TURN IN REGISTRATION FORMS, AND CONSIDER SIGNING UP TO HELP WITH THE MORNING RELIGION PROGRAM ANY DAY OF THE WEEK NEXT YEAR. WE REALLY NEED YOU!

In children's prayer services this week, Father Vernon will be explaining the meaning and symbols used during the Triduum. Parishioners are invited to attend as well.

Grade 6 children will be participating in the SEDER MEAL—a meal commemorating the Jewish Passover—on Tuesday morning, March 30, in the cafeteria from 8:00 to 8:45. Parents and parishioners are invited to attend and participate and, if coming, are asked to call 857-6477. Thanks.

Grades 1-4—Representatives in each of these grades will be carrying up the Lenten mission boxes and folders at the Mass on these days—Tuesday 3/30—grades 3 and 4; Wednesday, 3/31, grades 1, 2. If they cannot find their boxes or folders, they may place their donation in a plastic bag and bring it to class.

Kdgn. & Pre—Sunday classes will be celebrating the Easter event today, on Palm Sunday. There will be no classes on Easter Sunday.

Classes will take place on April 11 and 18. The closing program will take place on April 25.

Junior High—There are NO classes on March 31, Wednesday of Holy Week. There are NO classes on Wednesday, April 7, but there will be an internet assignment which should be completed, printed out, studied, and handed in and an oral report given, on Wednesday, April 14. (They will be bringing home the half-sheet assignment notes from class this Wednesday.) On April 24, the youth will sign up for roles in the CLOSING Mass on Wed., April 28, and the 8th grade PARISH RECOGNITION MASS on Sunday, May 23.

Parents are asked to visit the classrooms at 8:15 to look through the folders and to view the materials the students have covered this year and to bring a small treat. Wednesday, April 28, all students and parents assemble in church for the closing Mass. After Mass all congregate in the Museum Dining Room for refreshments. Please turn in registration forms, if you have not already done so.

Thanks for all your help this year. BLESSED EASTER FROM STAFF AND CATECHISTS!!

HS Religious Ed

No high school religious ed classes this Wednesday because of Holy Week. Please attend services this week with your family.

FAMILY CORNER

This Sunday, Palm Sunday, opens what some call the holiest week of the year. The Triduum (3 days) are one non-stop celebration. With Holy Thursday and our commemoration of the Last Supper we leave Jesus in the garden—silent and alone. On Good Friday we follow him to Calvary and reverence the object on which he was crucified—the cross. Once again we leave in silence as we ponder the act of love willingly entered into by Jesus. The culmination of the week is on Holy Saturday, the day we move from the darkness of the tomb to the wonderful light of new birth, new life—resurrection.

A wonderful activity that marks this week is the making of Resurrection cookies that gives a hands-on Bible lesson at the same time. This recipe comes from last year's [Catholic Digest](#).

Ingredients: 1 cup whole pecans

1 tsp. vinegar (plus some to taste)

3 egg whites

pinch of salt (plus some to taste)

1 c. sugar (plus some to taste)

Tools: rolling pin, plastic bag with zipper-lock, tape, Bible

Preheat oven to 300 F. (this is important. Don't wait!) Place pecans in the zip-lock bag & beat them with a rolling pin to break into small pieces. After Jesus was arrested He was beaten by Roman soldiers.

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. The soldiers wove a crown of thorns & put it on his head...They kept coming up to him saying, "Hail King of the Jews!" & striking him on the face. (John 19:1-3)

Smell & taste the vinegar. Put vinegar into mixing bowl. Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross he was given vinegar to drink.

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the Scripture) "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop & held it to his mouth. When Jesus received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head & gave up his spirit. (John 19:28-30)

Add egg whites to vinegar. Eggs represent life. Explain that Jesus gave his life to give us life.

The thief comes only to steal & kill & destroy. I came that they may have life, & have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. (John 10:10-11)

Sprinkle a little salt into each hand. Taste it as you put the teaspoon of salt into the bowl. Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers, & the bitterness of our own sin.

A great number of the people followed him & among them were women who were beating their breasts & wailing for him. (Luke 23:27)

Beat with a mixer on high speed for 12-15 minutes until stiff peaks are formed. Explain that the color white represents the purity in God's eyes of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus.

Come now, let us argue it out, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. (Is. 1:18)

So far the ingredients are not very appetizing. Add the sugar to the egg mixture and give some to be tasted. Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because he loves us. He wants us to know & belong to him.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. (John 3:16)

Fold in the broken nuts. Drop by teaspoons onto waxed paper-covered cooking sheet (do not use a baking stone!). Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid.

Put the cookie sheet in the oven, close the door, & turn the oven off. Take a piece of tape to seal "the tomb" (oven door). Explain that Jesus' tomb was sealed.

So they made the tomb secure by sealing the stone. (Mt. 27:66)

Go to bed. Family members may be sad to leave the cookies overnight but explain that Jesus' followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed.

Very truly, I tell you, you will weep & mourn, but the world will rejoice; you will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy. (John 16:20)

On Easter morning, open the oven & give everyone a cookie. Take a bite. Notice the cookies are hollow! On the first Easter, Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open & empty.

But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay." (Mt. 28:5-6)

Enjoy the Easter blessings!

Ministry Schedules for April

Servers: Please pick up a schedule from an entrance of church.

Eucharistic Ministers

5:30 pm Sat.

Body
*Pam Hemmen
Karen Pruemmer
Dan Niemerg
Susie Niemerg

Blood
Lois Meinhart
Tom Hemmen
Janet Probst
Kent Probst
Becky Wilson
Lynn Semple

7:00 am Sun.

Body
*Bernice Broom
Linda Hutmacher
Sharon Wente

Blood
Jim Esker
Jean Habing
Lenora Drees
Dolores Kroeger

8:45 am Sun.

Body
*Clete Waldhoff
Jerry Brummer
Chandler Hewing
Linda Bergfeld

Blood
Sr. Ann
Sr. Christina
Annette Schnabel
Jane Ruholl
Mary Lou Gier
Janet Goldstein

10:30 am Sun.

Body
*Liz Kremer
Mary Jo Kreke
Jack Fuelle
Nicole Pals

Blood
Jane Spiker
Cheryl Walker
Mary Lynn Hartke
Ron Hartke
Dick Hawickhorst
Louise Sheehan

Lectors

5:30 pm Sat.
Gordon Zuber
Cindy Esker

7:00 am Sun.
Ellen Runde

8:45 am Sun.
Phil Hartke
Tina Vonderheide

10:30 am Sun.
Cathy Thoele
Anita Deters

Kdgn/Pre-School Aids for April 11, 18, 25

Kdg—Kate Campbell, Elle Wessel, Chanel Pals
Pre—Katie Thoele, Cheyenne Lueken, Mitch Meinhart

Ushers

5:30 pm Sat. *Paul Grunloh Irv Hoene Mark Weber John Pals Ken Vahling Charles Semple	7:00 am Sun. *Tim McMahon Martin Hutmacher Dave Probst Charlie Kroeger Dean Kremer Norbert Lohman	8:45 am Sun. *Greg Hess Troy Bloemer Dan Habing Kyle Jansen Bob Koester Don Bergfeld	10:30 am Sun. *Tom Niebrugge Ed Kreke Mike Funneman Scott Copple Michael Horn Carl Waldhoff
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Gift Bearers

5:30 pm Sat. 4/3 RCIA 4/10 Gordon Zuber 4/17 Joe Weis 4/24 Ben Habing	7:00 am Sun. 4/4 Harold Hartke 4/11 Ray Willenborg 4/18 Bill Hewing 4/25 Martin Hutmacher
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8:45 am Sun. 4/4 Bob Herd 4/11 Chandler Hewing 4/18 Troy Bloemer 4/25 Bill Schnabel	10:30 am Sun. 4/4 Cathy Thoele 4/11 Tom Schabbing 4/18 Doug Schabbing 4/25 Darren Tabbert
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Children's Liturgy of the Word

5:30 pm Sat. 4/3 No Liturgy—Easter 4/10 Kathy Bloemer 4/17 Janet Goldstein 4/24 Jody Smith	10:30 am Sun. 4/4 No Liturgy—Easter 4/11 Elaine Buehnerkemper 4/18 Carrie Copple 4/25 Monica Feldhake
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Clean Linens - Tammy Willenborg

Change in Museum Opening Date

Due to Easter being on the first Sunday of April, the Teutopolis Monastery Museum will not be open on Sunday, April 4, 2010. The Museum will begin the 2010 season in May and be open for the public on the first Sunday, May 2, 2010 and on the first Sunday of each month thru November. Hours are from 12:30-4 pm. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children 14 years and younger.

Fundraiser Today

The CEFS Golden Circle Nutrition Program is sponsoring a card party and dominos fundraiser at the Dieterich Civic Center on Sunday, March 28th at 6:00 pm. There will be a \$5.00 fee for the evening which also includes lunch. Prizes will be awarded.

Holy Humor... "Why are you arguing?" a teacher asked two little boys on the playground. "We found ten dollars," one of them answered, "and decided that whoever can tell the biggest lie should keep it." "You should be ashamed of yourselves!" said the teacher. "When I was your age, I didn't even know what a lie was." "You win," said the boys as they handed over the money.

Annual Easter Bake Sale

St. Francis Council of Catholic Women will sponsor their annual Easter Bake Sale on Saturday, April 3, 2010 from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm at Weber Bros. Hardware. All ladies of the parish are asked to donate baked goods, fresh and colored eggs, canned items such as jellies, jams, fruits, salsa, etc., candy and any items to raffle. These items can be dropped off at St. Clare Hall on Good Friday afternoon after church services, Rita Habing's home, or on Saturday at Weber's store. Your donations make the sale a great success every year. Thank you in advance for taking the time to share your baking talents during this Easter season. Following is a list of workers:
7:45 to 10:00 am: Mary Lou Esker, Lisa Siemer, Kathy Wellbaum, Leann Buening, Pam Esker, Billie Jansen, Stacey Workman, Wendy Ordner, Monica Stortzum, Kelly Heuerman, Mary Dascalos, Shanta Pruemmer.
10:00 am to 12:00 pm: Joni Goeckner, Dorothy Weber, Rose Niebrugge, Beth Dahnke, Janet Dhom, Lydia Hatfill, Jane Austin, Evelyn Schabbing, Brenda Stevens, Jane Ruholl. If you can't work your shift, please call Rita Habing at 857-3006.

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