



The Basilica of Saint John the Evangelist

The Mother Church of Stamford
279 Atlantic Street · Stamford, Connecticut 06901

April 9, 2017 Palm Sunday



Pastor

Rev. Msgr. Stephen M. DiGiovanni

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Andrew A. Vill

Resident Priest

Rev. Albert D. Audette, Jr.

Director of Religious Education

Rev. Andrew A. Vill

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Basilica Choir Master & Organist

David Indyk

Chairman, Parish Financial Council

John Regan (203) 324-1553 x 117

Lay Members of the Parish Corporation

John DeSoye

Annie Schreck

Photo by John Glover

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Pastor's Corner:



Today begins Holy Week, recalling Our Lord's last earthly days and His work for our salvation. *Tenebrae*, on Spy Wednesday (April 12 at 8pm) is a sung scriptural service setting the stage for the last three days of the week: Holy Thursday's evening Mass (April 13 at 8:00 p.m.) recalls the Last Supper during which Our Lord instituted the priesthood and the Eucharist, and when he was betrayed by Judas, denied by Peter and, later, arrested. It is during this most profound offering of Himself for our salvation that humanity betrayed the Son of God in the person of Judas Iscariot. Judas' betrayal of the Son of God for a mere 30 pieces of silver mirrored Lucifer's betrayal of God for power. In Dante's *Inferno*, Judas is placed in the lowest circle of Hell, named after him—*Judecca*. There, in the very heart of Hell, is Lucifer—frozen solid, raging in eternal isolation, yet unable to express his titanic hatred for God except by his bloody tears. Judas is with him. Satan, the betrayer of God the Creator and Redeemer, gnaws Judas, the betrayer of the Son of God, for all eternity.

The Gospel account tells us that Jesus knew the heart of Judas and the weakness of His other Apostles. Nevertheless, God, the Creator of the universe, who humbled Himself to be born in the flesh of the Virgin Mary, and who soon humbled Himself to feed His followers with His very Body and Blood, and who was about to sacrifice Himself on the Cross, bowed down before his Apostles to wash the feet of all Twelve, even those of His betrayer. Saint Augustine made this observation about Christ's humility and love for us: "Why wonder, since He poured water into a basin wherewith to wash His disciples' feet, who poured His blood upon the earth to wash away the filth of their sins? In order, indeed, to gird Himself with the towel, He laid aside the garments He wore; but when He emptied Himself [of His divine glory] in order to assume the form of a servant [at His birth as a man], He laid not down what He had [His divine nature] but assumed that which He had not before [our human nature]. When about to be crucified, He was indeed stripped of His garments, and when dead was wrapped in linen: and all that suffering of His is our purification. When, therefore, about to suffer the last extremities of humiliation, He illustrated beforehand its friendly compliance; not only to those for whom He was about to endure death, but to him also who had resolved on betraying Him to death. For the Son of man came to seek and to save that which was lost. And as he [Judas] was lost by imitating the pride of the deceiver [Lucifer], let mankind now, when found [by Christ], imitate the Redeemer's humility." [*Tracts on the Gospel of Saint John*, LVI, 7]

Humility is an important virtue, yet one rarely practiced or encouraged in our society. There is only one God, and it ain't us! During this Holy Week, let us meditate upon the humility of the most powerful Persons in the universe—God the Father, Son & Holy Spirit. He humbled Himself to save us from our pride, which is the heart of all our sins. Let us practice God's humility, opening ourselves up to His saving grace—and go to Confession this week. Let our pride not lead us to imitate either Lucifer in his pride, or Judas in his betrayal of Christ. If we love Our Lord, we should show that love in the way we live our daily lives. He waits to forgive us; if only we humble ourselves and go to Him in the sacrament He gave His Church. Go to Confession and prepare for a holy Easter.

Another pious preparation is by making a pilgrimage. The practice of making a pilgrimage to a shrine or church is an ancient one. Early Christians visited the sites of Our Lord's suffering, death and resurrection in Jerusalem. Pilgrimages to the tombs of Saints Peter and Paul in Rome began immediately following their martyrdom in 64 A.D. Saint Philip Neri, one of the greatest of Roman parish priests, began the practice of the Pilgrimage of the Seven Churches during Lent in the early 1550's. By the end of the decade, there were thousands who joined him, visiting the seven great basilicas of the Eternal City. The Seven Church Pilgrimage on Holy Thursday evening came to America with the Catholic immigrants, and continues to this day. In today's bulletin you will find a sheet of paper with Saint John's **Holy Week schedule**, and, on the back side, a **small map** with the addresses of churches in Stamford and the times they will remain open on Holy Thursday evening [April 13th]. Come to Saint John's for the beautiful Mass of the Lord's Supper at 8:00 p.m., and then get in your car and make the Pilgrimage to Seven of Stamford's Catholic churches.

Spend some time there during this week—**Holy Week**, meditating on Christ's generous sacrifice to save you from eternal death: repent of your sins, go to Confession, and join in the

2017 HOLY WEEK SERVICES AT THE BASILICA

Spy Wednesday, April 12th at 8 pm — *Tenebrae*, a chanted scriptural service;

Holy Thursday, April 13th at 8 pm — the Mass of the Lord's Supper and adoration;

Good Friday, April 14th at 3pm — the Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord;

Holy Saturday, April 15th at 8pm — the Easter Vigil.

Join us on these days and enter more deeply into our meditation of God's great love for you.

—**Monsignor DiGiovanni**

Please pray for the sick: Isaac Lopez, Richard Ridge, Debbie Schemmel, Ron Frasca, Lisa Giugno, Michele Giugno, Helga Pecaric, Kimberly Rice, Jimmy Berube, Maria Travino, Maria Gabriela Mossa, Anne Touhey, Bill Rice, Diane DiNapoli, Gayle Moore, Paula Bennett, Mildred Beirne, Karen Hsu, Silvana Smith, Harriet Lockhart, Joseph Kung, Jacqueline Domingue, Eilish Collins Main, Antonietta Cerone, Sylvia Iannazzi, A.J. Barr, William Byrnes, Jonathan Victor, Sophia Petrafesa, Lyn Geikie-Rice, Ruth Coyle, Elaine Shoztic.

Please pray for those who have recently died: Barbara Itri, Daniel Murphy, Bernadette Martelli, John Thompson, Francesco Russo, Lillian Jacobs, Rosalie Liguori, William DeLeo, Sylvia Ardise.

Monthly Collection: The second collection today will be the monthly collection for the parish. Your generosity is appreciated.

Statues Covered: During Holy Week, our attention is turned uniquely to Our Lord who offered Himself on the Cross for our salvation. So, statues and holy pictures of saints are covered so that we will not be distracted in our prayers from Christ Crucified—not even by the saints.

Palm Sunday: Please pick up your Palms before mass, Palms will be blessed at the beginning of all the Weekend Masses: Saturday 4pm Vigil Mass; Sunday 7:30, 10:00, 12:00Noon, & 5:00pm.

Holy Week Confessions: Monday—Friday: April 10th—14th: 11:30 am-12noon
Holy Saturday: April 15th: 11:30 am-12:30 pm

Easter Sunday Masses, April 16th: 7:30 am, 10 am, 12 noon.

REMINDER: There will be no 5 pm Mass on Easter Sunday.

Good Friday fasting and abstinence from eating meat: Catholics follow the ancient practice on Good Friday of giving up eating meat, and eating only one full meal: two smaller snacks take the place of two other full meals. If over 60 years of age, or ill, **these rules do not apply.**

The Holy Name Mens' Prayer Group: will meet on Good Friday, April 14th in the Rectory. All men of the parish are welcome to join us for coffee and prayer: 7am-7:50 am: Just walk in the Rectory.

Relic of the True Cross: Splinters of the actual Cross upon which Our Lord suffered and died are displayed on the Saint Joseph side altar. Copies of *Prayer before the Crucifix* are provided for your devotion.

THE EAGLE: IS RETURNING—sort of!! Under the direction and editorship of our own Dr. Joseph McAleer at the helm, we will soon launch our **parish blog: THE EAGLET**. This will be a new web incarnation of *The Eagle*, in the form of a weekly article in a blog format, to stimulate the mind and spirit and provoke discussion of issues pertaining to our Catholic Faith and Church. Get ready to join the conversation! Stay tuned for further details.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Saturday, May 6 at 4-7:00 pm: The Kentucky Derby fundraiser in the Rectory.

Saturday, May 13 at 5-7:00 pm: St. John's in World War I Exhibit in the parish hall.

May 13 at 7:30-9:00 pm: Solemn Rosary, Benediction and Procession marking the centenary of the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima.

June 13, July 13, August 13, September 13, & October 13: 7:30 pm: Rosary in honor of Our Lady of Fatima during this centenary year of the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima.

Weekly Sunday collection:

Not Available because of Early Bulletin Transmission Deadlines

Please increase your Sunday offering by \$5.00 each weekend. "I ask you one thing: do not tire of giving to God, but do not give your leftovers."---Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

April 16th, Sunday Readings: Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Col 3:1-4; Jn 20:1-9.

Police: As policemen and women are under attack throughout the country, we ask that you *Please* remember the members of our Stamford Police Department in your prayers. Likewise, remember in your prayers members of Stamford's EMS and Fire Department, and our military women and men who protect our nation.

Annual Catholic Appeal: This is the annual appeal by the Diocese of Bridgeport to fund all the charitable, educational, and faith-based works of the Diocese of Bridgeport that assist thousands of people daily throughout Fairfield County. Each parish in Fairfield County is given a goal: ours is \$110,000. We have collected to date: \$73,522.00 or 67%. Please be generous; we need everyone's help. Our parish Appeal leaders are John & Eileen Tarleton, who have led our efforts last year so successfully. Thank you for your generosity.

Project Rachel Ministry: Offers free and confidential help to those seeking healing after abortion. Come back to God's love and mercy. Call 203-416-1619 or projectrachel@diobpt.org.

Birthright: seeks volunteers: Support women to bring their babies to term, providing pregnancy tests, connecting women with medical, financial, legal and other resources. Flexible schedules; training provided. Call 203-348-4355 or www.birthright.org.

Help End Legalized Abortion: Abortions take place daily at Stamford's Planned Parenthood, 35 Sixth Street. Help us stop this. To join us, or for training as a Sidewalk Counselor, call Noelle at 857-345-0808.

New Covenant House of Hospitality: Saint John's parishioners staff the kitchens once each month to feed the homeless and less fortunate. For information, please call: 203-324-1553, ext 21.

St. Monica Latin Reading Group: Tuesdays at 12:45 in the Rectory. We are continuing our review of ecclesiastical Latin using *Second Latin* by Cora and Charles Scanlon and reading excerpts from *Ambrosi Epistulae Variae*. An intermediate reading ability in Latin is necessary.

Volunteers: *FUTURE 5* is a non-profit organization to help motivated low income high school students in Stamford to improve themselves and their future. We need volunteers to do one-on-one student work, such as college coaches, job prep coaches, and teachers. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Fanny Moran: fmoran@futurefive.org

Are you a student at UCONN Stamford? in some on campus activities. Please contact Fr. Andy Vill (frvill@diobpt.org). We are looking for some help/interest.

Latin Low Mass: In the Extraordinary Form each Friday at 2pm. Everyone is welcome.

Diocesan Wedding Jubilee Mass: Sunday, April 30th at St. Theresa Parish in Trumbull. Bishop Caggiano will offer Mass for all couples celebrating their 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, and 50th wedding anniversaries. A reception will follow in the parish hall. To register by April 24th, please visit: <http://x.co/diobpt> OR, contact Kim Quatela [203-416-1334] OR, kquatela@diobpt.org

Faith on Tap: April 18th: Young adults age 21-39 are invited to join us at Murphy's Townhouse Cafe, 97 Franklin St. in Stamford's downtown: 7pm-9pm. Fr. Vill will speak about, "Entering The Friend Zone". Bring a friend or two!

“Walking with Purpose”: A program of prayer and Bible Study for Catholic women, Tuesday mornings beginning at 9:30 am in the Monsignor Nagle Parish Hall. For more information, contact: Rosa Federici at wwptbsj@gmail.com or 203-536-5480.

Natural Family Planning & Fertility Care: Natural Family Planning / Fertility Care – Are you seeking a family planning method that is natural, effective, and morally sound? The Creighton Model System is based upon a couple’s knowledge and understanding of their naturally-occurring phases of fertility and infertility. Engaged couples preparing for marriage, as well as married couples, and couples who are experiencing infertility issues, can all benefit from using this system. The teachers of the Creighton Model System are trained allied health professionals, and specifically-trained physicians have been educated to incorporate the Creighton Model System into their medical practice. For a FREE introductory session, please contact Angela Marchetti at angelamarchettifcp@gmail.com.

Baptism/Confirmation Sponsorship Certificate: When asked to be a sponsor, a certificate is needed from your home parish. If the parish priest does not know you personally, or by sight, we can only presume you to be a practicing catholic by tracking your contributions by check or envelope. If you do not attend Mass regularly or practice your Catholic Faith, you cannot be a sponsor.

Homeplace Wisdom: Is a Catholic women’s organization promoting friendship and vocational development with monthly speakers and gatherings, play dates, and a daily email list for sharing ideas, prayer requests, parenting or home-place questions, and reading material. To join: lisakotasek@gmail.com

Catholic Young Adults of Stamford: We are Catholic young adults in our 20s and 30s, We regularly meet for social events and community service projects. Join us for our monthly Sunday dinner following 5pm Mass. Connect with us on Facebook or Meetup, or email us at catholicystamford@gmail.com.

Young Adult Mass and Holy Hour: Calling all young adults! Join us for our next monthly **Young Adult Mass and Holy Hour, Thursday, May 4th!** Holy Hour begins at 6:30pm and Mass begins at 7:30pm. We’ll see you there!

Trinity Catholic High School: Grades 8 thru 12 - First Friday Fest - Every First Friday of the Month - Games, Adoration, Friends, Food - 7PM - 9PM.

Sisters of Life Do you, or someone you know, have a used automobile SUV or van in good driving condition that can be donated? The Sisters of Life are in **urgent** need of reliable vehicles as they travel from all over New York to Stamford and to other locations throughout the Northeast to carry out their work. For more information, go to <http://www.sistersoflife.org/donations/donate-items-for-the-community>, or contact Sr. Mary Karen at (845) 357-3547, or email: localsuperior.annunciation@sistersoflife.org. Thank you.

Job Seekers: Led by Melanie Szlucha whose company, Red Inc., is a leader in helping find jobs. Jobseeker's Group in the Monsignor Nagle Hall the 4th Wednesday of every month from 7:30 to 9PM. Topics include Job Interviewing, Resumes, Networking and Job Search Strategies. Next meeting: April 26th. THERE IS NO CHARGE, this is free job coaching. Call Melanie Szlucha at 203-866-1606, or melanie@redinllc.com.

New Girls Catholic Academy: Pre-K-High School: The religious Sisters of the Company of The Savior hope to open a new girls’ academy in lower Fairfield County within the next few years. The priests of the Basilica parish support this project. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Sr. Maria: bridgeport@ciasalvador.org.

CEMETERY WORKER WANTED: St. John Cemetery in Darien has an FT position available, offering excellent benefits and salary. They are seeking a landscaper with a valid driver’s license to work Mondays-Fridays: 7am—3:30pm and Saturdays, 8:30am-12:30pm, as needed. Fax your resume to: 203-374-7588 or mail to Rob Hannigan at The Catholic Center, 238 Jewett Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06606.

Mass Intentions

+ Denotes Deceased

Saturday, April 8, 2017

4:00 Marion Morris - God's Blessing req. Family

Sunday, April 9, 2017

7:30 +Thomas P. Keery req. Dr. Joe McAleer

10:00 +Mary Timlin req. Sandra Ramirez

12:00 Marion Morris req. Joseph Kung

5:00 +Hope McAleer

Monday, April 10, 2017

8:00 +Tin Nguyen req. Thang Nguyen

12:10 +Josephine Henson req. John Pascale

Tuesday, April 11, 2017

8:00 +Patrick Timon req. Tom Timon

12:10 Deceased members of the Churley and Kronk families

Wednesday, April 12, 2017

8:00 Diane Strain req. Mildred and Joan Beirne

12:10 Diane Strain-God's Blessing req. Marion Morris

TRIDUUM SACRUM

HOLY THURSDAY, April 13th -The church remains open until 12 midnight for Adoration.

NO 8AM or 12:10PM Masses

8:00PM: Mass of the Lord's Supper: People of the Parish

GOOD FRIDAY, April 14th

NO 8AM or 12:10 PM Masses

3:00PM Liturgy of Lord's Passion

HOLY SATURDAY, April 15th

NO 8AM, 12:10PM or 4PM MASSES

8:00PM Easter Vigil: People of the Parish

Baptisms: Are celebrated every day of the week, according to the schedule of the parish priests and the families. Baptisms at St. John's are one-family only ceremonies: never groups. For more information, please call Cindy, (203-324-1553, ext 21). Baptisms are offered for parishioners only. Baptisms are offered in English, French, Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese.

Weddings: Couples must contact and begin meeting with one of the parish priests for at least 6 months before a hoped for wedding date at Saint John's. Please call the parish secretary, Cindy, or one of the priests for an initial discussion. Weddings are offered for parishioners only.

Holy Name Society: For men of the parish, **meets Fridays in the Rectory, 7-7:50 a.m.** for coffee, Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction. All men are welcome. We finish in time for the 8a.m. Mass.

The Legion of Mary: Wednesday Evenings: 7:30 pm 'till 9:00 pm in the Msgr. Nagle Hall.

St. Monica Latin Patristic Reading Group: Tuesdays at 12:45 in the Rectory.

Coffee Hour: After the 10a.m. Family Mass in the Monsignor Nagle Parish Hall.

***ST. JOHN'S IN THE ADVOCATE:
125 YEARS AGO, OR SO:***

April 9, 1892: THE CHURCHES TOMORROW. Services on Palm Sunday. Impressive Ceremonials at the Catholic Church. “The Masses at St. John’s Roman Catholic Church on Palm Sunday will be at usual hours-7:30, 9 and 10:30 A.M. At the last named hour will take place the impressive ceremony of the blessing and distribution of palms. The recital of the passion-the story from the Gospel-will take the place of the sermon. The usual vesper service will be held. There will be services at 8 a.m. every day in Holy Week, and preparation at the confessional for the Easter sacrament. On Good Friday the church will be open through the day for the veneration of the cross. On Thursday there will be a procession of children and the adoration of the sacrament. A Solemn High Mass will be celebrated on Easter Eve, when the blessing of the new fire, Easter water and incense will occur. Last night’s devotions closed the Lenten season proper at the R.C. Church. The stations of the cross and benediction were features of the service. The Rev. Father Rogers has been honored by the Bishop by being selected as one of twelve pastors in the diocese to participate in the solemn services at the Cathedral in Hartford next Monday.”

100 YEARS AGO, OR SO:

April 17, 1916: Palm Sunday Vesper Service. “A large congregation enjoyed the special program of music played and sung at St. John’s Catholic Church last night. The vesper service was celebrated by Rev. James C. O’Brien, pastor of the church, who also preached a sermon on the significance of the passion and death of Christ. The soloists were Mrs. William R. Troy, John P. Reilly and James Murray. Mr. Reilly singing, in English, “The Palms.” The chorus was trained by Miss M. Margaret Kennedy, organist of the church.”

85 YEARS AGO, OR SO:

April 12, 1930: Solemn Services Of The Holy Week Start Sunday. “Tomorrow is Palm Sunday. It will be observed in the Roman Catholic Churches with the blessing of the palms before the earliest Mass. The palms will be distributed at each Mass, at the customary hours for each church. Services at St. John’s R. C. Church will begin with the blessing of the palms at the 7 a.m. Mass, tomorrow morning. The palms will be distributed at all the Masses, tomorrow morning. Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will feature the evening service at 7:30. Thursday evening, a Holy Hour will be observed at 7:30. Wednesday afternoon, confessions will be heard, and in the evening also. Thursday at 9 a.m. there will be a Solemn High Mass with the procession of the Blessed Sacrament and the strewing of flowers by some 200 children. Friday morning at 9 the Blessed Sacrament will be carried in procession from the repository to the main altar. The Mass of the Pre-sanctified will be observed and the cross will be uncovered.”

Daily & Weekend Mass Schedule:

Monday through Saturday: 8:00a.m. & 12:10p.m.

Saturday (Sunday Vigil): 4:00p.m. (Hymns)

Sunday: 7:30 a.m. (No Music)
10:00 a.m. Family Mass
12 noon Solemn Mass (Gregorian Chant)
5:00 p.m. (No Music)

Holy Days of Obligation:

- Vigil Mass (evening before): 5:15p.m.
- Holy Day: 8:00a.m., 12:10p.m. & 5:15p.m.

Confessions: (*English, Francais, Espanol, Italiano, Portugese*).

Mon-Fri: 11:30-11:50 a.m.

First Fri: 7:30 a.m.- 7:50a.m. & 11:30a.m.- 11:50a.m.

Saturday: 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 7:00-7:25, 9:30-9:55, 11:30-11:55 a.m.

Anytime by appointment in the Rectory.

Baptism

Parents must be parishioners of St. John’s. Please call the parish office: 324-1553, ext. 21.

First Communion and Confirmation

For information on Religious Education, please e-mail religioused@stjohnsstamford.com, attention Fr. Vill. Confirmation is a two-year program.

Sacramental Records call the parish secretary, Mon-Fri: 9am - 4pm.in the rectory, 324-1553, ext. 21.

Marriage

Engaged couples [**bride or groom must be a St. John’s parishioner and attending Sunday Mass regularly**] should contact one of the St. John’s parish priests at least 6 months in advance of the wedding. Marriages are not performed on Sundays at St. John’s.

Sick Calls, First Friday Communion Calls, and the Anointing of the Sick: Our priests would be happy to bring Communion, hear Confession and administer the Sacrament of the Sick to anyone seriously ill, homebound or in the hospital. Please call the rectory: 324-1553, ext. 21.

Devotions

- Miraculous Medal Novena: Monday, following the 8:00 a.m. Mass.
- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Friday, following the 8:00 a.m. Mass until 12:00 p.m.
- Daily Rosary following the 12:10 Mass: Mon-Sat.

The Basilica of St. John Bookstore Hours

Sunday: 10:45a.m. - 12 Noon. (Closed on Easter)

Thursday: 11:30a.m. - 1:00p.m. (Closed during Mass)

Friday: 11:30a.m. - 1:00p.m. (Closed during Mass)