

March 25, 2018 | Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (#823)

Saint Denis Parish

85 Main Street / Ashburnham, Massachusetts 01430

HOLY WEEK 2018

The washing of the feet and the sacrament of the Eucharist: two expressions of one and the same mystery of love entrusted to the disciples, so that, Jesus says, "as I have done... so also must you do." (Jn 13: 15).

– St. John Paul II



Palm Sunday

Holy Thursday

Good Friday

Easter Sunday

LORD'S DAY MASSES

Saturday – 4:30pm
Sunday – 8:00 & 10:30am

DAILY MASSES

Monday – Wednesday 9:00am

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:30 – 4:00pm
or by appointment

ADMINISTRATOR

Fr. Guillermo "Memo" Ochoa
Fatherochoa@gmail.com

DEACON

Deacon Richard DesJardins

COORDINATOR OF REL. ED.

Kimberly Brown

SECRETARY

Deborah Harding

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday
10:00 - 3:00pm.

RECTORY

978-827-5806
StDenis@comcast.net

RELIGIOUS ED. OFFICE

978-827-4892
StDenisRE@comcast.net

SAINT VINCENT de PAUL

978-790-1923

BAPTISMS

Deacon Richard DesJardins
978-343-6367

NOTIFY THE RECTORY

Visitation of the sick & elderly
Weddings, Pastoral Care



Sat	3/24	4:30pm	
Sun	3/25	8:00am	Palm Sunday
		10:30am	Meghan Larkin by Carol & John Jones
Mon	3/26	9:00am	
Tue	3/27	9:00am	<i>No Mass</i> (Chrism Mass at St Paul's)
Wed	3/28	9:00am	

(Please see entire Holy Week and Triduum Schedule on the next page)

Sat	3/31	7:00pm	Easter Vigil
Sun	4/1	8:00am	Easter Sunday
		10:30am	

PALM SUNDAY



Partners in Charity 2018



Last weekend was our Parish Commitment Weekend for the 2018 *Partners in Charity Appeal*. Thank you to those who made a gift and a special thank you for those who gave for the first time. Your gift will help us in reaching our parish goal. We need the support of all members of Saint Denis Parish if we are to be successful in reaching our parish goal of \$27,000.00. If you have not yet completed your pledge, please prayerfully make your pledge and return it to the church office or in the collection basket. We are confident that, with God's help and yours, we will rise to it! If you have not yet made a gift or pledge, please fill out a commitment pledge envelope today in the pew today, visit www.partners-charity.net. Thank you!

Saint Denis is off to a Great Start!

<u>Amount Raised</u>	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Amount Needed</u>	<u># of Gifts</u>
\$3,685.00	\$27,000.00	-\$23,315.00	13

St. Patrick's Day Dinner- Thank you!



Thank you to all who helped make this years dinner a huge success! To all the volunteers who helped cook, serve, and clean, and to all



of those who donated items for our raffle table; please know how much your efforts were appreciated. **We raised \$1,492.00!**

Thank You For Caring

You have received an Easter envelope to cover church expenses like; flower arrangements, paschal candle, palm branches, among other expenses. I would like to thank you in advance for your Easter gift towards St. Denis Parish. Please notice that the envelope is in honor of a deceased family member and will be mentioned during the Easter Celebration as we pray together on the Resurrection of Christ.

Fr. Memo

What is Holy Week?

Holy Week is the week, which precedes the great festival of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday. We honor the pinnacle of the Catholic faith, when Jesus rose from the dead as part of God's salvific plan for humanity. This is bigger than Christmas. It's a reminder of His infinite mercy for us, and a time in which we grow closer to Him in love.

Palm Sunday

The week begins with Palm Sunday, when Jesus entered Jerusalem, the beginning of His journey to the cross and a fulfillment of the prophet Zacharias. The tradition of blessing palms at Mass stems from the New Testament account of people placing palms in Jesus' path as He arrived in Jerusalem. They sang hosannas as they expected Him as a great military leader who would conquer the Romans, but Jesus becomes the Messiah conquering our hearts for ever.

Holy Thursday – Mass of The Lord's Supper

The season of Lent ends on Holy Thursday, when we enter into the Triduum, the three days in which we relive Christ's Paschal Mystery — His suffering, death and resurrection. In a sense, we die to ourselves in order to be reborn again. "Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." (Jesus to Nicodemus; Jn 3:03)

On Holy Thursday, we celebrate the institution of the Eucharist and the institution of the Priesthood. Time to pray with Jesus in the Upper Room as he teaches us service and service by washing the feet of the disciples. Also, time to be grateful for those vocation/heroes who give everything up to follow the footstep of Jesus.

Take this, all of you, and eat it: this is my body.... Take this, all of you, and drink from it: this is the cup of my blood." Indeed, the Lord himself commanded us to do so, when he said to the apostles: "Do this in memory of me" (Lk 22:19).

Friday of the Passion of the Lord

It is the commemoration of Jesus' passion and death. It helps us to understand Christ in times of faith, suffering, loss, compassion and unconditional love. His wounds heal us. By His cruel death, we're set free. The cross is a sign of God's love for humankind and not just an emblem of Christianity or a piece of jewelry to display. The cross it isn't just a badge as if you were part of a team — a team logo — but a reminder of God's sacrifice for us giving meaning to our existence even in most difficult stages like incomprehensible death.

Holy Saturday & The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

Christians are called to live Holy Saturday as a day of silence, "like it was that very day, which was the day of God's silence," Pope Francis said last year.

Then after sunset, the joyful songs of the Easter Vigil — the Exultet and the Great Alleluia — proclaim Christ's victory over sin and death. The Easter Vigil marks the culmination of RCIA, a process of conversion and studies in the Catholic faith for those who have never been baptized and want to receive the sacraments of initiation. The paschal candle is blessed at the Easter Vigil and serves as a symbol of Christ, light of the world that conquers over any death or darkness.

Easter is more than just a day. What happens when we think of it as a verb? Then the resurrection becomes a spiritual practice in daily life.

Special Highlights | Offertory Update | Upcoming Events



GOOD FRIDAY



Simple Supper

March 30th - 5:30-6:30pm

Fr. Lacey Hall

Soups, breads and beverages

The dinner will be held on Good Friday, just before our 7pm Liturgy.

Tickets on sale now: \$5.00

CALLING ALL COOKS

Looking for donations of your favorite meatless soups! What a humble way to come together as a church community during the Holy Triduum.

For more info contact Deb Mercier @ 978-827-5393



**89.3 WQPH
and St. Bernard's Parish
Present...
Sacred Relics of
The Saints**

Treasures Of The Church

Wednesday, April 4th, 6:00pm - St. Bernard's - Fitchburg

St. Bernard Parish at St. Camillus Church 333 Mechanic St. in Fitchburg presents both a teaching lecture and exposition of Sacred Relics on Wednesday April 4 at 6:00 pm. Father Carlos Martins of the Companions of the Cross in Corpus Christi will be here with his special ministry providing instruction about these holy objects. 150 relics, some as old as 2000 years will be displayed for veneration. Among the treasures will be relics of St. Bernard, St. Maria Goretti, St. Therese of Lisieux (the "Little Flower"), St. Francis of Assisi, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Thomas Aquinas, and St. Faustina Kowalska. There will be part of Our Lady's veil and one of the largest remaining pieces of the True Cross in the world. Attendees can examine and venerate each relic. Throughout history, many miracles and healings have been worked in the presence of relics. Many have been healed through this ministry. Do not miss this opportunity. Father Martins encourages you to bring your articles of devotion (such as rosaries, holy cards, etc.) and pictures of ill friends/family members which you will be able to touch to the reliquaries as a means of intercession.

Lenten Deanery Pilgrimage

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April 8 - Divine Mercy Sunday
Holy Rosary / Gardner
Exposition and confessions at 2pm.
Chaplet and Benediction at 3pm.

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Weekend Mass Collections

3/18/18 Sunday Offertory: \$ 2,023.00
Fuel / Needs: \$ 81.00
Easter Flowers: \$ 255.00
Catholic Relief Services: \$ 183.00



CHURCH EVENT SCHEDULE



Fri	3/23	6:30pm	Stations of the Cross
			 HOLY WEEK
Mon	3/26	9:00am	Weekday Mass
Tue	3/27	9:00am	NO MASS
Wed	3/28	9:00am	Weekday Mass
		9:30am	Ladies Spiritual Enrichment Group
Thu	3/29	9:00am	Prayer Service (<i>The Institution of the Eucharist and the Priesthood</i>)
		7:00pm	Holy Thursday – The Lord's Supper (Adoration until Midnight)
Fri	3/30	9:00am	Prayer Service (<i>The Sacrifice of Christ on the Cross</i>)
		4:00pm	Stations of the Cross
		5:30pm	Simple Supper
		7:00pm	Good Friday – <i>Friday of the Passion of the Lord</i>
Sat	3/31	9:00am	Prayer Service (<i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i>)
		4:30pm	NO MASS
		7:00pm	Easter Vigil – Mass
Sun	4/1	8:00am	Easter Sunday – Mass

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sun	3/25	8:30-11:30pm	First Communion Prep.
Mon	3/26	3:00-4:30pm	Grades 3-5
		6:45-8:00pm	Grades 6-8
Tue	3/27	3:00-4:30pm	Grades 1-2
Mon	4/2	3:00-4:30pm	Grades 3-5
		6:45-8:00pm	Grades 6-8
Tue	4/3	3:00-4:30pm	Grades 1-2
Sun	4/8	10:30-1:30pm	Confirmation
		6:00-9:00pm	Grade 9



Religious Education - Service Project for the Month

Care for the Feet of Jesus



On Holy Thursday, we recall how Jesus washed the feet of His disciples at the Last Supper, indicating that they are to serve and care for one another. In remembrance of this, we will "care for the feet of Jesus" by collecting new socks that will be donated to the homeless served by Our Father's House. There will be baskets in the church and in Fr. Lacey Hall to collect the new socks.



If you are aware of an incident of sexual misconduct and the suspected offender is a priest, deacon, candidate, seminarian, religious, lay minister, employee or volunteer, you are encouraged to report the matter to the Diocese of Worcester. The report can be made by phone by contacting the Director of the Office for Healing and Prevention, 508-929-4363, or in writing sent to the Office for Healing and Prevention, 49 Elm Street, Worcester, MA 01609.