

CHURCH OF ST. MARY-ST. JOSEPH

231 CHURCH STREET, POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK 12601 PARISH OFFICE: 845.452.8250 (PH), 845.452.8266 (F) RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE: 845.471.4747 (PH)



© God,
who through your Word
reconcile the human race to yourself
in a wonderful way,
grant, we pray,
that,
with prompt devotion
and eager faith,
the Christian people may hasten
toward
the solemn celebrations to come.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Opening Collect,
The Fourth Sunday of Lent

The Fourth Sunday of Lent – *Laetare Sunday*
March 11, A.D. 2018

REV. RONALD PEREZ, *Pastor*
MOST REV. PETER BYRNE, *Auxiliary Bishop of New York, Episcopal Vicar of Dutchess County*
REV. CHARLES HESTON JOSEPH, *Parochial Vicar*
REV. MSGR. JOHN BRINN, *Pastor Emeritus*

WELCOME *Bienvenido* Witamy *Benvenuto* FÁILTE

PARISH OFFICE

Telephone: 845.452.8250 Facsimile: 845.452.8266 Email: D526@archny.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

Telephone: 845.471.4747 Email: stmarypkreligious@gmail.com

WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARISHIONERS! / ¡BIENVENIDOS A NUESTROS FELIGRESES NUEVOS!

Each family should register at the Parish Office. / Cada familia debe inscribirse en la Parroquia.

STAFF

MRS. SHARINA CHINAS, *Coordinator of Religious Education*
MRS. SUSAN DEGILIO, *Administrative Assistant*
MRS. GRACE HAACK, *Music Director*
MR. THOMAS PATTI, *Facilities Manager*

HOURS

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Monday: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday: 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

THE HOLY MASS / LA SANTA MISA**Vigil/Vigilia:**

4:30 p.m. (English/Inglés)

Sunday/Domingo:

7:30 a.m. (English/Inglés)

9:30 a.m. (English/Inglés)

12:00 p.m. (Spanish/Español)

Monday – Friday/Lunes – Viernes:

8:00 a.m., 5:30 p.m. (English/Inglés)

Tuesday & Thursday/Martes y Jueves:

7:30 p.m. (Spanish/Español)

Saturday/Sábado:

8:00 a.m. (English/Inglés)

BAPTISMS / BAUTISMOS

Every Third Sunday of the Month in English/
Cada Tercer Domingo del Mes en Inglés:

2:00 p.m.

Every Third Saturday of the Month in Spanish/
Cada Tercer Sábado del Mes en Español:

2:00 p.m.

Parents need to make an appointment with the parish office.

It is recommended that preparations for Baptism begin,
while you are awaiting the birth of your baby.

Los padres deben hacer una cita en la Oficina Parroquial.

Se recomienda iniciar los trámites del Bautismo
mientras espera el nacimiento de su bebé.

CONFIRMATIONS / CONFIRMACIONES

Youth must be enrolled in our Religious Education program
in order to be confirmed in 8th Grade.

Adults must be enrolled in our Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
process (English or Spanish) in order to be confirmed at Easter.

Los jóvenes deben estar inscritos en nuestro programa
de Educación Religiosa

para ser confirmados en el 8vo Grado.

Los adultos deben estar inscritos en nuestro proceso
de Rito de Iniciación Cristiana de Adultos (inglés o español)
para ser confirmados en la Pascua.

CONFESSIONS / CONFESIONES**Thursday/Jueves:**

8:00 – 8:45 p.m.

Saturday/Sábado:

3:30 – 4:15 p.m.

Monday – Friday/Lunes – Viernes:

By Appointment / Por Cita

MARRIAGES / MATRIMONIOS

Couples need to consult one of the parish priests
at least 6 months before wedding date.

La pareja debe hacer una cita con el sacerdote
con seis meses o más de anticipación de la fecha propuesta.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK / UNCIÓN

Available by appointment to the seriously infirmed and the aged.

Disponible por cita a los seriamente infirmed y los ancianos.

DEVOTIONS / DEVOCIONES**First Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament/
Primera Adoración del Viernes del Santísimo Sacramento**

8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Miraculous Medal Novena/Novena Medalla Milagrosa

Mondays after Holy Mass/Lunes después de la Santa Misa

Rosary/Rosario

Weekdays at 7:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m./

Días de semana a las 7:30 a.m. y 5:00 p.m.

Saturdays at 8:30 a.m./

Sábados a las 8:30 a.m.

Chaplet of Divine Mercy/Coronilla de la Divina Misericordia

Fridays at 6:00 p.m./Viernes a las 6:00 p.m.

15TH BIRTHDAY / QUINCEAÑERAS

The birthday celebrant must make an appointment with the priest
six months or more in advance of the proposed date.

El celebrante del cumpleaños debe hacer una cita con el sacerdote
seis meses o más antes de la fecha propuesta.



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

SATURDAY, MARCH 10

8:00 Richard Paul Barboza †
4:30 The People of the Parish

SUNDAY, MARCH 11

7:30 Lillian Houghtailing †
9:30 Virginia Cervone †
12:00 Maria Altagracia Castro †

MONDAY, MARCH 12

8:00 Maria Altagracia Castro †
5:30 Agnes Burnes †

TUESDAY, MARCH 13

8:00 Edvenia Brown †
5:30 Jennifer Kitcher †
7:30 Maria Altagracia Castro †

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14

8:00 Joan Blanc †
5:30 Marion Haight †

THURSDAY, MARCH 15

8:00
5:30 Sharon Marie Kallop †
7:30 Maria Altagracia Castro †

FRIDAY, MARCH 16

8:00 Maria Altagracia Castro †
5:30 Maria Altagracia Castro †

SATURDAY, MARCH 17

8:00 Agnes Burnes †
4:30 The People of the Parish

SUNDAY, MARCH 18

7:30 Fr. Joseph D'Agostino †
9:30 Virginia Cervone †
12:00 Ofelia Ezperanza Merlin †

LIFE IN OUR PARISH

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Grades 1-6 Sundays at 10:30 a.m., St. Mary's School
Grades 7-8 Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m., St. Mary's School

BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASSES

English 1st Monday of the Month at 7:30 p.m.
St. Mary's School
Spanish 1st and 3rd Sunday of the Month at 1:00 p.m.
St. Mary's Church

BIBLE STUDY

2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m., Rectory Conference Room

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m., St. Mary's Parish Center
Fridays at 7:00 p.m., St. Mary's Church

FELIX VARELA INSTITUTE

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m., St. Mary's School

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS – FLORENTINE COUNCIL

2nd Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Rectory Basement

LEGION OF MARY

Tuesdays at 3:00 p.m., Rectory Conference Room

MUSIC MINISTRY

English/Polish Choir Mondays at 6:30 p.m., St. Mary's Church
Spanish Choir Sundays at 11:00 a.m., St. Mary's Church
Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m., Rectory Basement
Youth Choir Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m., Rectory Basement

PARKING LOT FUNDRAISER

Pancake Socials 1st Sundays from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
St. Mary's Parish Center
Food Fundraiser 2nd Sundays from 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
St. Mary's Parish Center
Saturday Suppers 3rd Saturdays from 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
St. Mary's Parish Center

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

English (RCIA) Mondays at 7:30 p.m.,
Rectory Conference Room
Spanish (RICA) Fridays at 7:30 p.m., St. Mary's School

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

1st and 3rd Thursdays at 6:00 p.m., Rectory Conference Room

YOUTH GROUP

Fridays at 7:30 p.m., St. Mary's School Gym

WEEKLY COLLECTION

“Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.” – Luke 6:38

Sunday Regular Collection

March 4, 2018	\$4860.00
March 5, 2017	\$5413.00

THANK YOU, AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU
FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH!

TODAY'S READINGS**First Reading: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23**

The people of Judah practiced many abominations, even polluting God's temple in Jerusalem. They mocked the messengers he sent among them, until he grew so angry he delivered them to the King of the Chaldeans. Those who weren't killed were exiled and became servants for seventy years. Cyrus, King of Persia, was ordered to build a temple to God in Jerusalem, and he freed the servants as God had inspired him to do.

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10

Paul declares that God brought us to life in Jesus, though we had been dead from our sins. He reminds us that it was not a reward for our good service so no one should take credit. Instead, we must remember that it was not our doing, but a sign of God's mercy and love for us.

Gospel: John 3:14-21

God so loved the world, he sent us his only Son so that all who believed would have eternal life in him. The light came into the world, but those who were wicked avoided it, for fear that their evil deeds would be exposed. But those who believed were unafraid of the light, where it would be clear that their deeds were done in God.

HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William Reilly

"God who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ – by grace you have been saved, raised us up with him and seated us with him...for by grace you have been saved, and this is not from you it is the gift of God."

Perhaps a great difficulty for us, is to appreciate the need we had for Jesus' saving work. Because we have been redeemed by Him, and experience His presence and love, we forget the great need which existed for all time for a Savior. Maybe we should change the words of St. Paul, and write 'the great love He has for us.'

We might place on a back burner, the effects of Superstorm Sandy, the earthquake in Mexico, the hurricanes of last fall, the California wild fires, while the devastating effects are still being felt. So too our sinfulness and need for redemption today.

Our Lenten practices call us to acknowledge our need today and through prayer, good works, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharist, we are to move ourselves closer to the Lord. Remember, it is God's gift to us and we open our hearts today to receive it. May we seek forgiveness and grace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, making it to confession before Easter.

LECTURAS DE HOY**Primera Lectura: 2 Crónicas 36:14-16, 19-23**

La gente de Judá practicaba abominaciones, aún contaminaban el templo de Dios en Jerusalén. Se burlaban de los mensajeros que El enviaba, hasta que se enojó tanto que los entregó al Rey de los Caldeos. Los que no murieron fueron exilados y se convirtieron en esclavos por setenta años. Se le ordenó a Ciro, Rey de Persia, construir un templo a Dios en Jerusalén, y Ciro liberó a los esclavos como Dios se lo inspiró.

Segunda Lectura: Efesios 2:4-10

Pablo declara que Dios nos trajo a la vida en Jesús, a pesar de que habíamos estado muertos por nuestros pecados. Nos recuerda que no fué una recompensa por nuestro buen servicio y que nadie debe darse crédito. En vez, debemos recordar que no lo hicimos nosotros, sino fué una señal de la bondad y amor de Dios por nosotros.

Evangelio: San Juan 3:14-21

Dios amó tanto al mundo que nos envió a su único Hijo para que creyéramos que tendríamos vida eterna en El. La luz vino al mundo, pero aquellos que eran malvados la evitaron, por miedo de que sus maldades fueran reveladas. Pero aquellos que creían no tuvieron miedo de la luz, pues era claro que sus acciones fueron hechas en Dios.

SU PALABRA HOY por el Rev. William Reilly

"Dios, que es rico en misericordia, por el gran amor con que nos amó aún cuando estábamos muertos a causa de nuestros pecados, nos hizo revivir con Cristo – y con Cristo Jesús nos resucitó y nos hizo reinar con él en el cielo... ustedes han sido salvados por su gracia. Esto no proviene de ustedes, sino que es un don de Dios."

Quizá sea muy difícil para nosotros apreciar la necesidad que tenemos del trabajo Salvador de Jesús. Ya que hemos sido redimidos por El, y experimentamos Su presencia y amor, olvidamos la gran necesidad que existió siempre de un Salvador. Tal vez deberíamos cambiar las palabras de San Pablo y escribir 'el gran amor con que nos ama'.

Puede que olvidemos los efectos de la gran tormenta Sandy, el terremoto en México, los huracanes del pasado otoño, los fuegos forestales de California, mientras los efectos devastadores aún se sienten. De la misma forma que nuestros pecados y necesidad de redención hoy.

Nuestras prácticas de Cuaresma nos llaman a admitir nuestra necesidad hoy y a través de la oración, obras de Misericordia y los Sacramentos de la Reconciliación y Eucaristía, nos movemos más cerca al Señor. Recuerde, es el don de Dios para nosotros y abrimos nuestros corazones hoy para recibirlo. Que podamos buscar perdón y gracia en el Sacramento de Reconciliación, yendo a confesión antes del Domingo de Pascua.

PRAY FOR THE INFIRMED / OREMOS POR LOS ENFERMOS

Watch, O Lord, with those who wake, or watch, or weep tonight, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend your sick ones, O Lord Christ. Rest your weary ones. Bless your dying ones. Soothe your suffering ones. Pity your afflicted ones. Shield your joyous ones. And for all your love's sake. Amen.

- Saint Augustine



Miguel De La Llana, Elijah Espina, Anthony Imperatrice, Tracy Kirkpatrick, Thomas Kirkpatrick, Gerard Mulcahy, Jolanta Niec, Angela Patti, Donna Patti, Gloria Patti, Jose Quezada, Rev. Phil Tran, Oscar Valencia, Paul E. Williams, Gertrude Wtulich, Suzette Bulay, John Anderson, V.A.L., Stephen McDonald, Patrick Neville, Jenny Barbagallo, Thomasina Henry, Daniel Hines, William Holland, Christina Mulligan, Santamae Theyson, Gary Fister, Robert Lamberti, Barbara Mayorhofer, Edmond Modugno, Betty Salerno, Jackie Schoenbacher, and William Strubing, Dorothy Antonano, Robert Brunell, James Carlon, Ellen Davis, Lidia Paulino, David Quetglas, Rafael Robles, Anna Sylvester, Howard Kraemer, and Dorothy Russell, Roberto Morelli, John Darcy, Anthony Fahy, Stephen Gleason, Cecile Merto, Patrick Sheehy, Rose Capozzi, Rev. Thomas D'Angelo, and Sebastiana U.

Lent and Easter at the Church of St. Mary-St. Joseph

FASTING AND ABSTINENCE DURING LENT

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence.

Fasting

For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal.

Abstinence

The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

Members of the Eastern Catholic Churches are to observe the particular law of their own *sui iuris* Church.

If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily his Resurrection.

- USCCB, *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*

ASH WEDNESDAY

Holy Mass and Distribution of Ashes

February 14, 2018

8:00 a.m., 12:10 p.m., and 5:30 p.m. (English/Polish)
7:30 p.m. (English, Spanish)

Stations of the Cross

Every Friday

6:00 p.m. (English), 6:30 p.m. (Spanish),
7:00 p.m. (Polish)
Good Friday
10:00 a.m. (Spanish)

Lamentations in Polish

Every Sunday Before the 9:30 a.m. Mass (English)

Lenten Bible Study by Fr. Charles

Every Wednesday, Rectory Conference Room
7:00 p.m.

40-Hour Devotion

March 24 (8:00 a.m.) – 26 (7:00 a.m.), 2018

Divine Mercy Novena

March 30 – April 8, 2018

Good Friday: 4:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday: 3:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday: 10:30 a.m.

Easter Monday – Easter Friday: 6:00 p.m.

Easter Saturday: 5:30 p.m.

AYUNO Y ABSTINENCIA DURANTE LA CUARESMA

El Miércoles de Ceniza y el Viernes Santo son días obligatorios de ayuno y abstinencia para los Católicos. Además, los Viernes durante la Cuaresma son días obligatorios de abstinencia.

Ayuno

Ayuno para los miembros de la Iglesia Católica Latina, las normas sobre el ayuno son obligatorias desde los 18 años hasta los 59 años. En ayunas se permite comer una comida completa y dos comidas más pequeñas que no equivalen a una comida completa.

Abstinencia

Las normas relativas a la abstinencia de la carne son vinculantes para los miembros de la Iglesia Católica Latina a partir de los 14 años.

Los miembros de las Iglesias Católicas Orientales deben observar la ley particular de su propia Iglesia *sui iuris*.

Si es posible, el ayuno del Viernes Santo continúa hasta la Vigilia Pascual (el sábado santo) como "ayuno pascual" para honrar el sufrimiento y la muerte del Señor Jesús, y prepararnos para compartir más plenamente y celebrar más fácilmente Su Resurrección.

- USCCB, *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*

MIÉRCOLES DE CENIZA

Santa Misa y Distribución de las Cenizas

14 de febrero de 2018

8:00 a.m., 12:10 p.m. y 5:30 p.m. (Inglés, Polaco)
7:30 p.m. (Inglés, Español)

Estaciones de la Cruz

Cada viernes

6:00 p.m. (Inglés), 6:30 p.m. (Español),
7:00 p.m. (Polaco)
Viernes Santo
10:00 a.m. (Español)

Lamentaciones en Polaco

Todos los domingos antes de la misa
de las 9:30 a.m. (Inglés)

Cuaresma Estudio Bíblico del P. Charles

Cada miércoles, Sala de Conferencias de la Rectoría
7:00 p.m.

Devoción de 40 Horas

24 (8:00 a.m.) - 26 (7:00 a.m.) de marzo, 2018

Novena Divina Misericordia

30 de marzo – 8 de abril, 2018

Viernes Santo: 4:00 p.m.

Sábado Santo: 3:00 p.m.

Domingo de Pascua: 10:30 a.m.

Lunes de Pascua - Viernes de Pascua: 6:00 p.m.

Sábado de Pascua: 5:30 p.m.

Lent and Easter at the Church of St. Mary-St. Joseph

HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

March 25, 2018

4:30 p.m. Vigil, 7:30 a.m., and 9:30 a.m. (English/Polish)
12:00 p.m. (Spanish)

HOLY MONDAY

Lenten Confessions

March 26, 2018

3:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (English, Spanish, Polish)

HOLY THURSDAY

March 29, 2018

Tenebrae: Liturgy of the Hours

8:00 a.m.

Mass of the Lord's Supper

7:30 p.m. (English, Spanish, Polish)

GOOD FRIDAY

March 30, 2018

Tenebrae: Liturgy of the Hours

8:00 a.m.

Living Stations of the Cross (Youth Group)

10:00 a.m. (Spanish)

Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

12:00 p.m. (Spanish), 3:00 p.m. (English/Polish)

HOLY SATURDAY

March 31, 2018

Tenebrae: Liturgy of the Hours

8:00 a.m.

Blessing of the Food

12:00 p.m.

Confessions

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

EASTER:

THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

March 31 – April 1, 2018

7:30 p.m. Vigil (English, Spanish, Polish)

6:00 a.m. (Polish, preceded by Procession)

7:30 a.m. (English)

9:30 a.m. (English)

12:00 p.m. (Spanish)

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

April 8, 2018

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

SOLEMNITY OF ST. JOSEPH

Novena: March 11 – 19, 2018

Dinner: March 18, 2018, St. Joseph's Hall
4:00 p.m.

Adoration: March 19, 2018, St. Joseph's Church
12:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.
8:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Mass: March 19, 2018, St. Joseph's Church
7:30 p.m.

SEMANA SANTA

PALMA DOMINGO DE LA PASIÓN DEL SEÑOR

25 de marzo de 2018

4:30 p.m. Vigilia, 7:30 a.m. y 9:30 a.m. (Inglés/Polaco)
12:00 p.m. (Español)

LUNES SANTO

Cuaresma Confesiones

26 de marzo de 2018

3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (Inglés, Español, Polaco)

JUEVES SANTO

29 de marzo de 2018

Tenebrae: Liturgia de las Horas

8:00 a.m.

Misa de la Cena del Señor

7:30 p.m. (Inglés, Español, Polaco)

VIERNES SANTO

30 de marzo de 2018

Tenebrae: Liturgia de las Horas

8:00 a.m.

Estaciones de la Cruz (Grupo de Jóvenes)

10:00 a.m. (Español)

Liturgia de la Pasión del Señor

12:00 p.m. (Español), 3:00 p.m. (Inglés/Polaco)

SÁBADO GLORIA

31 de marzo de 2018

Tenebrae: Liturgia de las Horas

8:00 a.m.

Bendición de la Comida

12:00 p.m.

Confesiones

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

PASCUA DE RESURRECCIÓN:

LA RESURRECCIÓN DE SEÑOR JESUCRISTO

31 de marzo - 1 de abril de 2018

7:30 pm Vigil (Inglés, Español, Polaco)

6:00 a.m. (Polaco, precedido por Procesión)

7:30 a.m. (Inglés)

9:30 a.m. (Inglés)

12:00 p.m. (Español)

DOMINGO DE MISERICORDIA DIVINA

8 de abril de 2018

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

SOLEMNIDAD DE SAN JOSÉ

Novena: Del 11 al 19 de marzo de 2018

Cena: 18 de marzo de 2018, Sala de Iglesia de St. Joseph
4:00 p.m.

Adoración: 19 de marzo de 2018, Iglesia de St. Joseph
12:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.
8:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Misa: 19 de marzo de 2018, Iglesia de St. Joseph
7:30 p.m.

Laetare Sunday: Rejoice!

The fourth Sunday of Lent is rather unique; like the third Sunday of Advent ("Gaudete Sunday"), the fourth Sunday of Lent is a break in an otherwise penitential season. The vestments for this day will be rose, as they are on Gaudete Sunday in Advent, and flowers may adorn the Altar. This day is called "Laetare Sunday" (also "Rose Sunday"), and takes its name from the opening words of the Mass, the Introit's "Laetare, Jerusalem":

Laetare Jerusalem: et conventum facite omnes qui diligitis eam: gaudete cum laetitia, qui in tristitia fuistis: ut exsultetis, et satiemini ab uberibus consolationis vestrae. (Psalm) Laetatus sum in his, quae dicta sunt mihi: in domum Domini ibimus. Gloria Patri.

Rejoice, O Jerusalem: and come together all you that love her: rejoice with joy, you that have been in sorrow: that you may exult, and be filled from the breasts of your consolation. (Psalm) I rejoiced at the things that were said to me: we shall go into the house of the Lord. Glory be to the Father.

THE GOLDEN ROSE

The rose vestments on Laetare Sunday is a custom originating in the fact that, as a symbol of joy and hope in the middle of this somber Season, popes used to carry a golden rose in their right hand when returning from the celebration of Mass on this day (way back in 1051, Pope Leo IX called this custom an "ancient institution.")

Originally it was natural rose, then a single golden rose of natural size, but since the fifteenth century it has consisted of a cluster or branch of roses wrought of pure gold in brilliant workmanship by famous artists. The popes bless at least one every year, and often confer it upon churches, shrines, cities, or distinguished persons as a token of esteem and paternal affection. (The Golden Rose at right was given to the Shrine at Knock, Ireland.)

The golden rose represents Christ in the shining splendor of His majesty, the "flower sprung from the root of Jesse," and it is blessed with these words:

O God! by Whose word and power all things have been created, by Whose will all things are directed, we humbly beseech Thy Majesty, Who art the joy and gladness of all the faithful, that Thou wouldst deign in Thy fatherly love to bless and sanctify this rose, most delightful in odor and appearance, which we this day carry in sign of spiritual joy, in order that the people consecrated by Thee and delivered from the yoke of Babylonian slavery through the favor of Thine only-begotten Son, Who is the glory and exultation of the people of Israel and of that Jerusalem which is our Heavenly mother, may with sincere hearts show forth their joy. Wherefore, O Lord, on this day, when the Church exults in Thy name and manifests her joy by this sign, confer upon us through her true and perfect joy and accepting her devotion of today; do Thou remit sin, strengthen faith, increase piety, protect her in Thy mercy, drive away all things adverse to her and make her ways safe and prosperous, so that Thy Church, as the fruit of good works, may unite in giving forth the perfume of the ointment of that flower sprung from the root of Jesse and which is the mystical flower of the field and lily of the valleys, and remain happy without end in eternal glory together with all the saints.

After the rose is blessed, the Pope incenses musk and balsam and then places them inside the cup of the largest rose. Then the entire rose is incensed and sprinkled with holy water.

Note: you can remember to differentiate between Advent's Gaudete Sunday and Lent's Laetare Sunday -- the two "rose vestment" Sundays -- by remembering that Laetare Sunday comes in Lent, both of which begin with the letter "L."

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