

NEW ULM DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

Catholic Women: Instruments of Mercy

APRIL, 2017

We are coming to the most important time of our Liturgical Year.



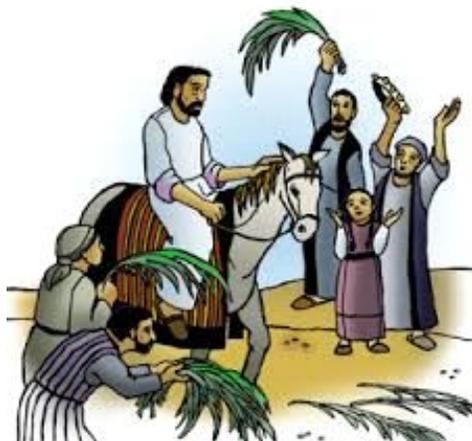
Chrism Mass

A Chrism Mass is held in every Catholic diocese and is always scheduled the Thursday evening before Palm Sunday in our diocese. This year it is being held on Thursday, April 6th at Sacred Heart Church in Murdock. Bishop John LeVoir presides, surrounded by the priests and deacons in the diocese along with the faithful of the diocese. Bishop LeVoir blesses the Oil of Catechumens, the Oil of the Sick, and the Sacred Chrism, and these holy oils are then distributed to all the parishes in the diocese for their use in administering the sacraments for the coming year.



When these oils are used to anoint people in the sacraments, they are symbolic of Bishop LeVoir's presence, even though he cannot be present at every Baptism, Confirmation or Anointing of the Sick. Every parish is acknowledged at the beginning of this Mass. A beautiful liturgy to attend.

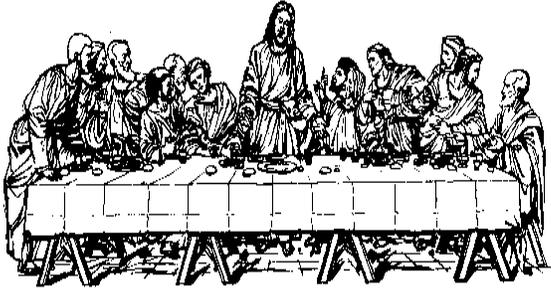
Palm Sunday



Palm Sunday is the final Sunday of Lent, the beginning of Holy Week, and commemorates the triumphant arrival of Christ in Jerusalem, days before he was crucified. Palm Sunday is known as such because palms are blessed and distributed to parishioners who carry them in a ritual procession into church. In the Gospels, Palm branches are widely recognized as a symbol of peace and victory. Jesus entered Jerusalem riding a young donkey. The use of a donkey instead of a horse is highly symbolic because it represents the humble arrival of someone in peace as opposed to arriving on a steed in war.

A week later, Christ would rise from the dead on the first Easter.

Holy Thursday



Holy Thursday is the commemoration of the Last Supper of Jesus Christ, when he established the sacrament of Holy Communion prior to his arrest and crucifixion. It also commemorates His institution of the priesthood. The holy day falls on the Thursday before Easter and is part of Holy Week. Jesus celebrated the dinner as a Passover feast. Christ would fulfill His role as the Christian victim of the Passover for all to be saved by His final sacrifice.

The Last Supper was the final meal Jesus shared with his Disciples in Jerusalem. During the meal, Jesus predicts his betrayal.

It is celebrated daily in the Catholic Church as part of every Mass for it is through Christ's sacrifice that we have been saved. On the night of Holy Thursday, the Mass Service ends with the procession carrying the Blessed Sacrament to an altar of Repose where the Eucharistic Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place where the faithful can remain in the presence of the Eucharist just as the Disciples kept a vigil with Christ where they went to the Mount of Olives where Jesus would be betrayed by Judas.

At every hour of every day, somewhere around the world, Mass is being said and Communion taken. For nearly the past two thousand years, not a single day has gone by without a Mass being celebrated in some fashion.

Therefore, anyone who celebrates the Mass participates in a daily tradition that is essentially two thousand years old.

Good Friday



Good Friday is the day on which Catholics commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Catholics are joined by almost all other Christians in solemn commemoration on this day. It is even a legal holiday around much of the world.

The liturgical observance of this day of Christ's suffering, crucifixion and death has been in existence from the earliest days of the Church. No Mass is celebrated on this day, but the service of Good Friday is called the Mass of the Presanctified because Communion (in the species of bread) which had already been consecrated on Holy Thursday is given to the people.

We can see that the parts of the Good Friday service correspond to the divisions of Mass:

Liturgy of the Word - reading of the Passion.

Intercessory prayers for the Church and the entire world, Christian and non-Christian.

Veneration of the Cross

Communion, or the 'Mass of the Pre-Sanctified.'

Easter Vigil

The Easter Vigil liturgy is the most beautiful liturgy in the Roman Catholic Church. Although celebrated Holy Saturday evening, it is the dramatic Easter vigil liturgy that marks the beginning of Easter. All Catholics should try to attend this beautiful service. The vigil is divided into four parts:

1. The Service of Light - The service begins in back or outside of church. A new fire is lit and blessed. The Paschal Candle symbolizing Christ, the Light of the World is lit from the fire and then the priest processes into church and all the candles that have been distributed to the people are lit and then follows the glorious Easter song of the Catholic Church: the Exultet (Easter proclamation) is sung.
2. The Liturgy of the Word: 9 Readings are provided. Not all are read but at least 3 Old Testament Readings must be read.
3. The Liturgy of Baptism: During this time the Easter water is blessed, new members are brought into the Church through baptism, part of the liturgy includes the Litany of the Saints. Afterwards the faithful are blessed with water, candles are lit again and all renew their baptismal promises.
4. Liturgy of the Eucharist - the Mass then resumes, with the special prayers inserted during the Eucharist Prayer. The whole church is called to join at the sacrificial table that Christ prepared for us through his death and resurrection. The Mass ends with the glorious Alleluia with the closing: The Mass is ended, go in peace, alleluia, alleluia and people respond: Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia!



A Convention Invitation to All Women in the Diocese-----

DO YOU NEED:

A day away from the daily routine tasks?

A day to challenge you with new information and knowledge?

A day of spiritual nourishment and even physical nourishment?

Come and join us at our 58th Annual NUDCCW Convention on Saturday, April 29, 2017 at St. Mary's in Sleepy Eye.. Experience a day of sharing and caring with women throughout the diocese!

“Proclaim the Word of God” Acts 6-7

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Cari Donaldson

For more detailed schedule and registration information go to our website, www.nudccw.org



ARE YOU WILLING TO

SERVE THE LORD?

ARE YOU READY TO

As a Catholic woman in the Diocese of New Ulm - could you give an informed response if you were asked the following question?

“Why am I or why am I not actively involved in the Council of Catholic Women(CCW) and does my parish have a women’s organization affiliated with the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women?”

Not all but many of the responses would be “I don’t have time”. I wish I had a dollar for every time I have heard that excuse from women throughout the diocese. I think I’d be rich. Everyone is busy - the busyness of our society makes everyone busy but each of us get 24 hours each day and how we use them is our choice. It is what we decide our priorities are. Even the women who are actively involved in our parish CCW’s do not have any more time than anyone else.

Many of our parish CCW groups are struggling to get women to step up to the plate and help fill some of the leadership positions. If this isn’t the time for you to serve in a leadership position but possibly you can encourage one of your friends to step forth and use the gifts that God gave to them and maybe you can come forth at a future time. We are all needed to keep our CCW’s active.

Remember - We are Catholic women, united in faith, coming together to pray, grow spiritually and dedicated to be of service to one another while serving the Lord here on earth!

**CAN WE COUNT ON YOU TO
SHARE YOUR TALENTS SO WE
CAN HAVE A FULL TEAM OF
LEADERS IN OUR PARISH
CCW GROUPS?**



**SAINT CHOSEN
FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL**



**St. Julia Billiard
Feast Day - April 8th**

Foundress of the Sisters of Notre Dame. Maria Rose Julia Billiard was born in Cuvilly, France. She took a vow of virginity while young and worked so hard for the poor that she collapsed, remaining a cripple until 1804 when she was miraculously cured. She stayed in Amiens, where the Institute of Notre Dame was founded by Julia and pious friends in 1804. In 1809 she was forced to move to Namur, and the Motherhouse was instituted there. By the time of her death, there were fifteen convents in operation. Pope Paul VI canonized her in 1969. She is the patron against poverty; bodily ills; disease.

**APRIL
PRAYER INTENTIONS**



POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL

Universal: Young People. That young people may respond generously to their vocations and seriously consider offering themselves to God in the Priesthood or consecrated life.

BISHOP'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL

General Intention: For the victims and survivors of sexual abuse by clergy and for the Diocese of New Ulm in these challenging times of financial reorganization.



Dear Sisters in Christ---

FROM YOUR EDITOR



This has been a real frustrating week for me but as Shirley Nowak, my CCW friend, tells me, it is just some of my purgatory time being spent here on earth. Just a short synopsis: I had the April e-newsletter almost to the finish and I ended up with the file getting corrupted so lost the whole thing and had to start over. I then recreated 4 pages only to find that my software program got a bug in it so I couldn't print or convert to a PDF file. This all happened on April 1st!! I have spent the last few days trying to figure out what to do. With my daughter's phone help and patience I was able to get this shortened version done on my laptop. SORRY for the tardiness!

I do hope that all of you will consider attending our DCCW convention on Saturday, April 29th. A day that is well-planned with several excellent speakers to provide education and spiritual enrichment to all who attend!

I also ask that you continue to include me in your prayers as I am still experiencing some health issues which tends to slow me down a little bit but hopefully by convention time I'll be back to good health and energy.

May God bless all of you in your CCW work.

Donna Sanders
DCCW Newsletter Editor

