

JMJ

Dear Parishioners,

The Evangelists tell us that in Jesus' trial false witnesses were produced who asserted that Jesus had said: "I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days". In front of Christ hanging on the Cross some people, taunting Him, referred to these same words: "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself!". The correct version of these words as Jesus spoke them has been passed on to us by Saint John in his account of the purification of the temple. In response to the request for a sign by which Jesus could justify Himself for such an action, the Lord replied: "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up". Saint John adds that, thinking back to this event of the Resurrection, the disciples realized that Jesus had been referring to the Temple of His Body. It is not Jesus who destroys the temple; it is left to destruction by the attitude of those who transformed it from being a place for the encounter of all peoples with God into a "den of robbers", a haven for their dealings. But as always, beginning with Adam's fall, human failure becomes the opportunity for us to be even more committed to love of God. The time of the temple built of stone, the time of animal sacrifices, is now passed: the fact that the Lord now expels the merchants does not only prevent an abuse but points to God's new way of acting. The new Temple is formed: Jesus Christ Himself, in whom God's love descends upon human beings. He, by His life, is the new and living Temple. He who passed through the Cross and was raised is the living space of spirit and life in which the correct form of worship is made. Thus, the purification of the temple, as the culmination of Jesus' solemn entry into Jerusalem, is at the same time the sign of the impending ruin of the edifice and the promise of the new Temple; a promise of the kingdom of reconciliation and love which, in communion with Christ, is established beyond any boundary.

Saint Matthew, whose Gospel we are hearing this year, mentions at the end of the account of Palm Sunday, after the purification of the temple, two further, small events that once again have a prophetic character and once again make clear to us Jesus' true will. Immediately after Jesus' words on the house of prayer for all the people, the Evangelist continues: "And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them". In addition, Saint Matthew tells us that children cried out in the temple the acclamation of the pilgrims at the city gates: "Hosanna to the Son of David". Jesus counters the animal trade and fiscal affairs with His healing goodness. This is the temple's true purification. He does not come as a destroyer; He does not come with the revolutionary's sword. He comes with the gift of healing. He dedicates himself to those who, because of their ailments, were driven to the end of their life and to the margins of society.

Jesus shows God as the One who loves and his power as the power of love. Thus, he tells us what will always be part of the correct worship of God: healing, serving and the goodness that cures.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Newcomb



Next week is Easter Sunday. Though we cannot celebrate Masses at our Church, St. Patrick's Cathedral will be streaming a Mass live. Timothy Cardinal Dolan Archbishop of New York will celebrate Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, although without a congregation present, due to the coronavirus outbreak. Mass will be broadcast

beginning at 10 a.m. on PIX11.

Church will be open every Saturday from noon until 5pm and Sundays from 8am until 3pm with Adoration from 9am until noon.

Confessions will continue Saturdays from 3pm until 3:45 and on Sundays from 9am until noon.

The Church will be open for those who would like to pray the Stations of the Cross privately on Fridays starting at 3pm until 8pm.

Fr. Newcomb will still say a private Mass on Holy Thursday. The Church will be open on all Sundays from 7:30am– 3pm

S.M.A.R.T. Will be selling Palm Crosses for \$10 in the Narthex this weekend.

Boyscout's Annual Car Wash & Clothing Drive will be on May 2nd, 9am-2pm, Car Wash is \$5 and collect all clothing, shoes, hats, scarves, gloves, handbags, backpacks, belts, toys and games, all bedding and towel items, draperies and curtains, stuffed animals and dolls, Kindly bag like items together.

We are in need of 3 people to step up to be on the Parish Advisory Council for a 3 year term. We thank previous members Steve Riordan, Cheryl Lovelace, and Janet Smith for their 3 years of service. Please call the parish office to submit your name by Friday, May 22nd. Names will be picked on Sunday, May 31st-Pentecost Sunday.

Blessed Sunday
Few reminders and suggestions:

1. 6pm pray the Rosary together with your family and our parish family from our homes.
2. If you haven't already set up an altar or place of prayer in your homes. Have a Crucifix, image of Our Lady, your favorite Saints etc.
3. If you view Mass online or on Television; try to take the normal postures you would in Church. (We won't be filming Mass online, because we do not have the proper technology to do so worthily) ewtn and our Cathedral do a wonderful job.
4. Next weekend we will have Blessed Palms in the Church that you may take with you.
5. Continue to pray:
for those that are sick and suffering from the Coronavirus, those that will die, the nurses, assistants, orderlies, maintenance staff and doctors who are putting their lives on the line for all of us, our EMTs, police officers, firefighters, soldiers, and scientists who are all assisting us at this time.

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, pray for us who have recourse to you.



Announced Masses

Monday, 9:00am	April 6 Joseph Kucher, by the Prager family Michael McCarthy, by Rich and Diane Quick
Tuesday, 9:00am	April 7 Intentions of Rayola McLaughlin, by Kevin and Linda Birmingham
Wednesday, 9:00am	April 8 Bryan DiGiantommaso, by Lefty and Marie
Thursday,	April 9 (Holy Thursday) Joseph Kucher, by mom and family Thomas Osowick, by Kathleen Osowick and family
Friday,	April 10 Passion of the Lord
Saturday,	April 11 For our parishioners, living and deceased
Sunday, 8:30am	April 12 (Easter Sunday) All affected by the Coronavirus and All Healthcare workers
11:30am	Intentions of Rayola McLaughlin, by Dr. and Mrs. Craig Onofry

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Donald Wolff, Carol Gomillion, David Lisker, Nancy Parsons, Debi Cotugno, Michael Bello, Michael Barnes, William Lincoln, Jeannine Lincoln, James Lincoln, Charles Hildebrandt, Maureen Hildebrandt, Walter Szpakowicz, Carmella Balsamello, Aedan Roach, Robin Radzikowski, James Roach, Catherine Simons, Brendan Carmody, Nico Nicolette, Jaryd Viserta, Steven Gaesser, Kacey Warner, Sandra Ramsey, Lorraine Mannarino, Elizabeth Startup Jones, Mary Lynn Beam, Jose Ramos, Carmen Ramos, Mercedes Rodriguez, Jose Brito, Michael Medaglia, Barbara Straub, Tress Loughrey, Sal Careri, Cody Bain, Robert Witherow, Susan Upton, Theresa Fuller, Allen Lynch, Enid Decker, Jackie Mundy, Chris Marion, III, Barbara Lindsay, Robert Ackerman, Wayne DeMarco, Ryan O'Connor, Elizabeth Brennan, Jerri Kavanaugh, Allan Garcia, Christine Haberzettl, Eric Hildebrandt, Rose Gotthardt, Georgia Gotthardt, John Olenick, John Hendrix, Stephen A. Odrechowski and fam., Scott Robertson, Eva Scopino, Jan Kaminski, Ana Anaya, Glenn Lagatol, Ellen Pentland, Shirley Simeone, and Belinda Vazquez.

The Cardinal's Appeal has begun. Our goal is \$34,500. We have received pledges totaling \$8,190 from 40 donors. You can visit Cardinalsappeal.org. All Donations can be mailed directly to :
The Cardinal's Appeal PO Box 4020 NY, NY 10261.
Our Parish number is **518**.

The collection for March 28th/29th was \$2,670.
We appreciate your continued contributions.