

# Lourdes Legacy

**Assumption Grotto Church**  
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## FROM THE PASTOR



In case you haven't heard, the Pope named this the Year of the Priest. I suppose that this was inspired by the sad fact that the priesthood is so little understood in our time and too little valued as a way of life, a vocation. But there may also be in this wish of the Holy Father to have the whole Church support her priests by prayer and by holding up the exemplar of selfless priesthood, Saint John Vianney.

The priesthood has suffered much since the days of Vatican Council II in many ways. The first was a seismic collapse in the clerical ranks. The overwhelming changes in the Church in the 1960s and 1970s made many priests doubt the relevance of their vocations, while the vainly hoped for relaxation in the rule of clerical celibacy brought on a great exodus from the priesthood. The changes in the liturgy, in parish life and duties, the diminishment of the priest to a mere socialite, facilitator or administrator overlooked the priest's sacred office and his fundamental distinction as one who acts in the person of Christ. The final coup in the spiraling

devaluation of the priest was the scandal regarding the misconduct of some priests in some very unbecoming behaviors. The proverbial bottom had been hit.

Pope Benedict gave us a year to rethink the place of the priest in the life of the Church and his sacred calling. It is a time to pray for good priests, for their fidelity to the pattern of life exemplified by many priest saints. This year should also mark the beginning of a recovery of priestly identity and dignity. As I mentioned to our parishioners, this Year of the Priest is not only for priests, but for all in the Church to benefit from spiritually stronger priests.

Priests themselves need to spread the word about the wholehearted goodness of being a priest. In fact, that's saying all too little. The priesthood is the very best thing a man can do with his life. Granted that it's not meant for every man and that marriage is the usual vocation for a man, yet the Church insists that it's the best of callings since there is nothing greater a man can do than to be given the divine capabilities of consecrating the Eucharist and absolving sins. Yet even these most sublime things do not tell the whole reality of what it means to be a priest. The priesthood is meant to be a way of intense union with Christ in the totality of the priest's life. That many fall short of this ideal does not mean that mediocrity in the spiritual life of a priest is right. It is not at all helpful to hear that the life of a priest has its excusing hardships; there is no life without them. The priestly life has hardships particular to it, but I would not be confident to aver that the married vocation is an easier way of life, in any case, one should not count the sacrificial costs in aiming to please God in whatever walk of life He has given us.

The *Lourdes Legacy* always refers in some way to the Mother of God, our Blessed Mother. Her connection to the priesthood may not be immediately obvious. She is the Mother of the first Priest of the New Testament, our Lord Himself. The Scripture also indicates that She's a Mother to Saint John by a spiritual maternity which embraces all Christians, but priests uniquely. A little known fact deserves to be better known: priests who have their priesthood under the care of the Blessed Mother stand apart. She's their secure means of fidelity to the Church's teaching (She's the Seat of Wisdom) and She best forms them in the priestly life, having reared Her Son, the principal Priest, Jesus.

This year our parish adapted a program for the spiritual adoption of a priest of the Archdiocese by our parishioners. You can do the same by choosing one priest you know and praying for him everyday. He need not know you are doing this. You can continue your prayer for him indefinitely or cease the practice when the Year of the Priest will have ended. Your generosity in this spiritual work will surely be richly rewarded.

God grant us better, holier priests for a better, holier Church.

Fr. Eduard Perrone

## ON THE SPIRITUAL SIDE

**ADORATION CHAPEL OUR** “*The Influence of Jesus, present in the Most Blessed Sacrament - Our Pathway to Holiness.*” Did you know that our *Eucharist Chapel* here at Assumption Grotto, in the convent of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, is open daily from 9:00 to 6:30 p.m. weekdays, 9:00 to 5:45 p.m. Saturdays. Day after day we pay reverence, adoring His divine presence in the Most Blessed Sacrament. Jesus applies grace to each of us and He causes it to increase and develop in us, so that we live continually under His influence. Just as the vine sends its sap through all its branches, so does Jesus nourish us by His *holy* presence in the Eucharist. O what riches we possess through Him in us! Christ is then in the fullest sense, in the most actual sense, the source of all our life. Christ in the Eucharist is our life. “*Come and spend one hour with Him.*” There are hours that yet need to be filled. Please call the rectory or convent to sign up for an hour.

**HOLY WEEK** Be sure to view the Holy Week Calendar that will be available in the *Grotto News*, and on the Grotto website soon. It is also on the mailing page of this issue of the *Lourdes Legacy*. Let us be spiritually prepared this year to take part in the events of Holy Week Their purpose is to better prepare the faithful for the feast of the Resurrection and dispose them for a more fruitful reception of the graces that Christ merited by his passion and death.

**MARY’S MONTH** The month of May is dedicated to honor our Blessed Mother. Each year we decorate the side altar of Mary with flowers. It is a beautiful time to spend in prayer; a few moments kneeling and praying to our Most Holy Mother. Please feel free to bring a bouquet of flowers to her, and to pray for your intentions.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION/MAY CROWNING** On Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup> the First Communicants will participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at 12:00 noon, followed by the outdoor May Crowning, weather permitting.

**TRIDUUM OF MASSES FOR EASTER** Remember your loved ones and friends this year with the beautiful Easter Mass Cards. There will be a Mass offered on three consecutive Sundays: Divine Mercy Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup> April 18<sup>th</sup>, and April 25<sup>th</sup>. For information or to order these Mass cards call the Rectory Office.

## ON THE TEMPORAL SIDE

**ST. JOSEPH DINNER**, Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> The Romano family will again host the annual dinner to honor the foster father of our Lord, good St. Joseph, as is their Italian custom. The dinner, which consists of fish, spaghetti, vegetables, breads and pastries, will be held after the noon Mass in the gym. Reservations for the dinner are not necessary; everyone is welcome. While there will be no dinner tickets sold, everyone is asked to be generous in giving a donation for the dinner. Proceeds will be given to Assumption Grotto Church for upkeep of the parish. If you would like to donate food items or can volunteer to help, please call the rectory and ask for Phyllis (313) 372-0762.

**USHERS’ PANCAKE BREAKFAST** Sunday April 11<sup>TH</sup>, the ushers will host their annual Pancake Breakfast after the 9:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon Mass. All are welcome. Come and enjoy the *scrumptious* pancakes.

**MEMORIAL DAY** The Catholic War Veterans, Andrew R. Strable, Post No 318, invites everyone to attend a commemorative Mass for all veterans on Monday, 31<sup>st</sup> at 9:15 a.m. The flag raising ceremony will precede the Mass. Following the Mass (outside weather permitting) there will be a short service in the cemetery which will include taps and a gun salute. At the conclusion, the Post will provide refreshments in the Shrine Lounge.

**THE GIFT SHOP** now has a new phone number (313-332-4432). The new gift shop hours are Monday-Friday 8:30-10:30, Saturday by request, Sunday after all the Masses. Our e-mail address is [shrinegiftshop@hotmail.com](mailto:shrinegiftshop@hotmail.com). You may place orders by phone, e-mail, or on line through the Assumption Grotto website. Extra charges may apply for shipping.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** will hold their annual *Fish Fry* every Fridays during Lent from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Come for a delicious fish dinner!

**COFFEE HOUSE** Musical entertainment will “*spring*” your way on Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup> Lots of fun and music will entertain you. More information will follow in our Grotto News.

\*Remember All Masses for Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup> are for Divine Mercy. Confessions will be heard a half hour before the 9:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon Mass, and will resume after the 12:00 noon Mass until 3:00 p.m. Divine Mercy prayers will be said with the closing Benediction at 3:00 p.m.

\*Remember your loved ones and friends this Easter with a Triduum of (3) Masses offered at Assumption Grotto during the Easter season. On the front of the card is a full color photo of the Risen Christ statue placed in the church.

\*Reminder If there is a change in your address, please send it to the Assumption Grotto Rectory, attention Phyllis.

# LOURDES LEGACY CALENDAR OF EVENTS FEBRUARY – AUGUST, 2010

- Mar. 10-18 (Tuesday) Novena to St. Joseph after all Masses  
Mar. 14 (Sunday) A Night at the Opera –Opera House –Enjoy the voices of professional singers an evening at the opera in the school gym at 4:00 p.m.  
Mar. 19 (Friday) Feast of St. Joseph  
Mar. 21 (Sunday) Annual Dinner in Honor of St. Joseph follows the Noon Mass in the gym.  
March 28 (Sunday) Palm Sunday. Holy week begins. *See schedule on back of this issue.*
- Apr. 1 (Thursday) Holy Thursday  
Apr. 2 (Friday) Good Friday; Novena to the Divine Mercy begins. Books for private prayer are available in church & gift shop.  
Apr. 3 (Saturday) Holy Saturday – *See Holy Week schedule on the back of this issue.*  
Apr. 4 (Sunday) Easter Sunday – Orchestral Mass *Puccini's Massa di Gloria.*  
Apr. 11 (Sunday) Easter Triduum Mass. Three Masses, April 11<sup>th</sup> April 18<sup>th</sup> April 25<sup>th</sup> to be offered. Easter cards are available at the rectory.  
Apr. 11 (Sunday) Ushers Pancake Breakfast after the 9:30 a.m. and 12:00 Noon Masses. All are welcome to attend.
- May 1-31 (Friday) Mary's Altar flowers may be brought to Our Blessed Mother's Altar throughout the month of May.  
May 1 (Saturday) Ethnic Dinner –Foods from around the world will be served. Come and enjoy the meals.  
May 9 (Sunday) First Holy Communion – Mass at 12:00 Noon preceded by May Crowning at 11:30, weather permitting.  
May 15 (Saturday) Coffee House – Live entertainment and superb talent. Come and enjoy the show.  
May 23 (Sunday) Feast of Pentecost. Orchestral Mass at 9:30 a.m.  
May 31 (Monday) Memorial Day Service. Flag raising on Gratiot at 9:00 a.m.; (Outdoor) Mass at 9:15. Short service in the cemetery after Mass. Refreshments in the Shrine Lounge following.
- June 2 (Wednesday) Novena to the Sacred Heart  
June 6 (Sunday) Feast of Corpus Christi  
June 11 (Friday) Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.  
June 20 (Sunday) Fathers Day
- July 17-25 (Tuesday) Novena to Saints, Joachim & Ann  
July 26 (Sunday) Prayer Service at the grave site of Monsignor Sawher following the 12:00 Noon Mass.



\*Mark your calendars for our special *Feast Day, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, and a tentative date, Saturday, September 25, 2010 for our *Annual Wine Tasting and Italian Dinner*,

\*Listing of all the Orchestral Masses may be found on the Assumption Grotto web site [www.assumptiongrotto.com](http://www.assumptiongrotto.com). One may also call the parish office for this information (313) 372-0762

## LENTEN & HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONS

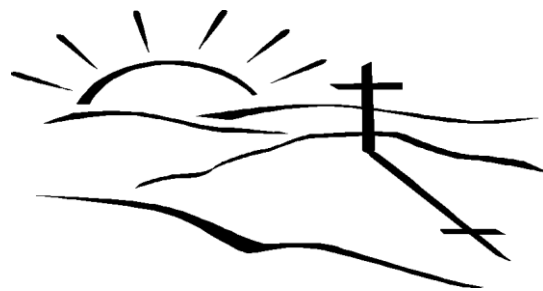
- February 17 Ash Wednesday - Distribution of ashes at all the Masses and at Noon.  
\*Ash Wednesday & Good Friday are days of fast and complete abstinence. Lenten Fridays are days of obligatory abstinence also.  
Stations of the Cross every Friday after the 7:00 p.m. Mass
- April 1 Holy Thursday: 7:00 p.m. Mass (No morning Masses are permitted.)  
Confessions: 10:30-11:30 a.m.; 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
- April 2 Good Friday: Services from Noon until 3:00 p.m.  
Confessions: 10:30-11:30 a.m.; 3:30- 4:30 & 7:30-8:30 p.m.
- April 3 Holy Saturday: Blessing of food at 1:00 p.m. (No morning Masses are permitted.)  
Confessions: 10:30-11:30 a.m.; 3:30- 4:30 p.m.  
Easter Vigil Mass: 8:00 p.m. (Note: There is no Mass at 4:00 p.m.)
- April 4 Easter Sunday Masses: 6:30, 9:30 a.m. 12:00 Noon Mass (No confessions)



## OUR REGULAR PARISH SCHEDULE

### MASSES

- Weekdays:** 7:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.  
**Saturdays:** 7:30 a.m. & 4:00 p.m.  
**Sundays:** 6:30, 9:30 a.m. (Latin) and Noon  
**Holy Days:** 6:30, 9:30 a.m., Noon & 7:00 p.m.  
**First Fridays:** March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4, July 2, Aug 6  
**First Saturdays:** March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, July 3, Aug. 7  
**Petition Masses:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month for living & dead



**Tridentine Masses are weekdays at 7:30 a.m. and on Sunday at the 9:30 Mass**

### CONFESSIONS

- Saturdays:** 2:30 - 3:30  
**Sundays:** 45 minutes before all Masses, until the Gospel

- See inside for Lenten Confession times and Holy Week Devotion
- Stations of the Cross every Friday after the 7:00 p.m. Mass during Lent
- Ash Wednesday & Good Friday are days of fast and complete abstinence
- Lenten Fridays are days of obligatory abstinence