



April 9, 2006

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

[Christ Jesus] humbled himself,
becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
—Jeremiah 31:33



My Dear Parishioners,

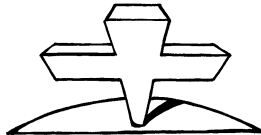
Just as for many people summer is the time for physical renewal and Christmas is the time to renew the bonds of friendship and family, in the same way Lent has been for us the time for spiritual renewal. We have had special graces poured upon us through fasting, abstinence, intensive prayer and contemplation and as we have done the Stations of the Cross, for example.

All our personal efforts have not only made us feel like better persons; they have contributed also to building up a better community. I am so grateful for that.

Now, trusting in the promise of Jesus, I believe that we are ready to pass from our sufferings and thoughts of death to the glorious mystery of the Resurrection. Easter is the highest and central focus of our Faith. We are a risen people! Let us come together and celebrate this Paschal Mystery.

Our Pastor Emeritus, Fr. Jerry, and I hope that this Easter will give us a foretaste of our resurrection at end of time.

Fr. Guillermo Rodriguez, Administrator



HOLY THURSDAY, April 13

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
6:00 p.m. Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper
10:00 p.m.-Midnight Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at the Altar of Repose

GOOD FRIDAY, April 14 (Day of Fast and Abstinence)

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
3:30 p.m. Celebration of the Lord's Passion
(Liturgy of the Word, Veneration of the Cross and Communion Service)

HOLY SATURDAY, April 15

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
7:30 p.m. Easter Vigil Service and Mass

EASTER SUNDAY, April 16
Regular Sunday Mass schedule

PARISH RENEWAL

The Easter Season this year will be the occasion for our Parish Renewal. The theme, *Sharing Our Faith*, will be the basis for reflections offered at three weekend Masses beginning on Saturday, April 22nd. Our presenters include **Ted Furlow**, Director of Planning for the San Bernardino Diocese, **Sister Kathy Bryant**, Vocation Director for the L.A. Archdiocese, and **Father Michael Harvey**, Pastor at St. Simon and Jude Parish in Huntington Beach.

ATTENTION LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Please let Sister Dolores know your May and June non-availability dates by **tomorrow, Monday, April 10th.**
barling@stmatthewlb.org / 562.439.0931 x 5

LILIES NEEDED THIS TUESDAY

As in the past, we will need calla lilies for decorating our altar for the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper (Holy Thursday). If you have callas growing in your yard, please share your beautiful flowers! You may take them to the Rectory this **Tuesday, April 11th before 5:00 p.m.**

EASTER BEAUTY

Easter Lilies will be gratefully accepted at the Rectory on Thursday, April 13th and Friday, April 14.

WE NEED YOU

Catholic Charities needs volunteers to deliver groceries and provide friendly visits to homebound, low-income senior citizens in Long Beach. A few hours each month is all it takes! For more information please contact Juliet Howlett, Gatekeeper Project Coordinator, at 562.556.5141 or gatekeeperproject@hotmail.com

PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS

Please be aware that our church parking lot is for the daytime use of those who are here on church business. For security reasons we can no longer allow cars to illegally park in our lot during the day or night.

Cars will be towed away.

THERE WILL BE NO BLOOD
PRESSURE SCREENING TODAY.

APRIL 16 — EASTER SUNDAY

First Reading: Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
Gospel: John 13:1-15