

March 17, 2010



ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY PARISH

FIAT PARENT NEWS

Passion (Palm) Sunday

Dear Parents,

At the center of our Christian faith is the Paschal Mystery - the Passion, Death, Resurrection and Ascension into Spirit-filled Glory of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The sixth Sunday of Lent - Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion - we commemorate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem to accomplish this. At Mass on this Sunday we receive palm branches which are blessed with holy water. At the procession with palms or the solemn entrance, we will hear one of the Gospel accounts of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. During the Liturgy of the Word, we will hear the Passion of Christ proclaimed. From early on in our Church's liturgy we have used palm branches to commemorate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, where he would fulfill his mission for the salvation of the world! Please join us at Mass on Sunday, March 28th (5:00 p.m. Saturday, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Sunday) to celebrate Passion (Palm) Sunday!



Take your Blessed Palm branches home and place them in a place of prayer in your home until next year on Shrove Tuesday, when you will bring them back to church to be burned and used as the Ashes next year on Ash Wednesday.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sandi Chakeres
Director of Faith Formation



St. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary



This Friday, March 19th, is the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary. St. Joseph is patron many people and causes. For example, he is the patron saint of fathers, of a happy death, and of the Universal Church. He is also one of the patron saints of our second grade class here at Annunciation School.

Please join our parish and school community at 8:00 a.m. Friday, March 19th as we celebrate Mass on Joseph's Feast Day!

FIAT: Faith In Action Today
Annunciation Parish & School
Religious Education/Faith Formation News
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Special points of interest:

- *Our Scholastic Book Fair begins this Sunday, March 21st, from 10:00-11:00 a.m. (between our Sunday Masses). Please stop by the gym and visit the fair. All proceeds benefit our school library.*
- *Hopefully all parish and school families are immersing themselves in our Annunciation Parish and School Lenten Outreach: Operation Rice Bowl. Our Rice Bowl collections will be returned to Annunciation April 1st.*

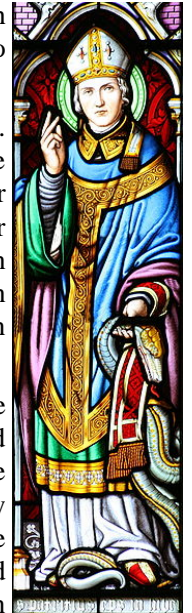
**Icon at top left of page: Archangel Gabriel (Annunciation), 16th Century, Russian Heritage, Location: Andrei Rublev Museum in Moscow. Used with permission of St. Isaac of Syria Skete (Orthodox Byzantine Icons, Inc.); 25266 Pilgrims Way, Boscobel, WI 53805 www.skete.com

Saint Patrick and the Easter Fire

March 17th on the Church's Calendar is the Optional Memorial of Saint Patrick. But the manner in which many people, especially here in our country, celebrate Saint Patrick's Day has little, or nothing at all, to do with Saint Patrick, himself.

Saint Patrick was born in the latter part of the 4th century and lived through the first half of the 5th century. He brought the message of Christianity to Ireland. One tradition we have in our Church which can be traced back to Saint Patrick is our Easter Fire. Each year at the Easter Vigil (April 3rd this year) we gather outside of church in the darkness around the new Easter Fire, which is blessed on this night. Our Easter (Paschal) Candle is lighted from this newly blessed Easter Fire, and all the baptized then light their own candles from the light of the Paschal Candle, and carry this light into our church, which until that point in the evening is in darkness. Christ, the Light of the World, has overcome the darkness of death and risen from the dead!

On Easter's Eve in the year 433 Saint Patrick defied the orders of the king, who had decreed that no fire be lit in all lands of his kingdom until he lit his own fire in Tara for a pagan festival of light. Even household fires had to be extinguished. Saint Patrick, however, lighted the Easter fire on the hill of Slane. Patrick's fire could be seen by the king on the next hill. The king attempted to have the fire quenched and Patrick killed, but the fire did not die out and Patrick's faith and courage prevailed. Many, including many in the king's own court, were converted to Christianity.



Please join us for the Easter Vigil here at Annunciation Parish at 9:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 3rd, as we light our Easter Fire proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World!

Saint Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland, but did you know he is also the patron saint of the African country of Nigeria? Do some research as to why!

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Thursday, March 18th, 9:30-10:15 a.m.: Morning Prayer & Liturgical Catechesis
- ◆ Friday, March 19th, 8:00 a.m.: Annunciation School students & faculty join Parish community for Mass celebrating the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary. (Second Grade Feast Day)
- ◆ Wednesday, March 23rd, 2:45-4:00 p.m.: School Faculty Faith Formation Meeting
- ◆ Thursday, March 25th, 9:30-10:15 a.m.: Morning Prayer & Liturgical Catechesis
- ◆ Thursday, March 25th.: Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord (Parish & School Feast Day). Mass at 7:00 p.m., followed by a social.
- ◆ Sunday, March 28th: Passion (Palm) Sunday. Procession with Palms at 11:00 a.m. Mass. Gather outside on front esplanade of church prior to start of Mass. (Blessed Palm distributed at all Sunday Masses this weekend.)

*It's Happening at
Annunciation!*

Our Parish & School Feast Day



Thursday, March 25th is the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, our Parish and School Patronal Feast Day. The word "annunciation" comes from the Latin word *annuntiare*, and it means the announcing,

or announcement. What we are celebrating is the announcement of the conception and impending birth of Jesus. You can find the story of the Annunciation in the Bible in Luke's Gospel. It is in Luke 1:26-38.

Please join us here at Annunciation Parish on Thursday evening, March 25th, when our Parish and School community come together to celebrate our Patronal Feast Day with Mass at 7:00 p.m., followed by a catered Feast Day Social. All are welcome, so invite your friends and neighbors to join us. Our second annual Annunciation Parishioner Scholarship for a full year's tuition at Annunciation School will also be awarded that evening.