



*I got me flowers to strew thy way
I got me boughs off many a tree
But Thou wast up by break of day
And brought'st Thy sweets along with Thee*

George Herbert. The Temple (1633). Easter, st. 4

As we approach Easter, so we wind up an active season of Lent. Lent began at the end of February with Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday. This season has included a number of renewing activities for each of us as individuals, and for the parish as a whole. As individuals, personal devotions, and acts of self-discipline and care for others. In the Parish, our Solemn Evensong and Benediction, our use of the laying on of hands at the Sunday services, the IPC event addressed by Prof Gary Dorrien, and all the events of Holy Week up to our traditional Good Friday 3 hour service.

Lent is a time of preparation for baptism. Life, or Christian life, is not as simple a journey as crossing a field, says a Russian proverb. So our Parish life has been a conglomerate kind of journey. Some of us are grieving lost ones, some going through personal struggles, and some, with thanksgiving, recovering from illness.

After Jesus' passion and agony, Easter itself is a glorious celebration of his resurrection of Jesus. The wonder of the moment is at least in part reflected in the children's song: "He lives!...He walks with me, and he talks with me, along life's narrow way!...You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart."

Easter is a specially favored time for baptisms and receptions. We are delighted to have had the reception of Katy O'Hara. We look forward to the baptism of Christopher Sorrentino on April 19th. Soon after Easter, we also look forward to a visit from Pat Mitchell from the Diocesan offices, who is responsible for Christian Education, and coming to see us at our invitation. Pat will discuss what we can do to enhance this aspect of our Parish life in the months or years ahead.

In the year ahead, we will continue to face challenges and struggles, laced with joyful moments. So many people have suffered grievously, and still continue to do so. (In this regard, please do read through the Pastoral Letter to us all from the House of Bishops, in *The Episcopal New Yorker*.) Through all this, we can still look forward with hope. In all things, sorrow or joy, we can anticipate our own ultimate resurrection as believers because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. More broadly, it appears that we can hope for the resurrection of the economy itself. That, evidently, is likely to take time. It is likely to involve reordering many aspects of finance, business, and international relations.

The churchwardens, vestry, clergy and I all wish you a blessed Easter, the encouragement and aid of the Holy Spirit in all things, and God's peace and protection in your home and your life.

With love

Fr John Stubbs

April Calendar: (See other side for Holy Week Service Schedule)

Seder, Tuesday, April 7 at 7:00 p.m. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the parish house, or call the parish office to reserve your seat.

Good Friday Children's Service at Christ Church , 4:00 p.m. (76 Franklin Place)

Dyeing of Easter Eggs, Saturday, April 11 at 10:00 a.m. Sunday school and Acolyte Guild

Staten Island Community Days 2009 (S.I. Council of Churches) April 23rd to April 26th.

Faith Grannis and other members of St. Mary's are planning a social event for the resident of Verrazano Nursing home on Saturday, April 25th. Please speak with Faith if you would like to help out.

Fundraising meeting, Sunday, April 26 following the 10:00 a.m. service



Easter Offering Envelopes - For your convenience an Easter Offering Envelope has been included with this mailing. Your offering may be returned by placing it in the Alms Bag on Sundays or by mailing your offering to the Parish Office. Thank you for supporting our parish.

EASTER FLOWER envelopes can be found in the pews or the back of the church. Your generosity and loving memorials will help beautify our church throughout Eastertide. Please print your loved ones names as you would like them to appear and return your envelope to the parish office, or place in the Alms Bag. You may also call the Parish Office at 718-442-1527 with your information and mail your donation to the church.



If you know of anyone who is feeling poorly, or is a shut-in and would like a pastoral visit, please contact one of the Wardens (phone numbers on back page) or the parish office.

Celebrate



April Birthdays

April 10 – Emily Davis; 14 – Lee Davis; 24 – Anthony Ventrone Jr. ;
 25 – Gabrielle Lamarche and Cathy Carlson; 27 – Edie Kuffner

If your special day is not in our records, call the Parish Office at 718-442-1527, or send an E-mail to administrator@stmarysi.com so it can be added.

If you have any news to share, please send a note or e-mail to the parish office; attention Cloister Newsletter.

Palm Sunday

Blessing of the Palms

8:00 & 10:00 am

Maundy Thursday

*Holy Eucharist including observance of,
the ceremony of the washing of the feet*

7:00 pm

Good Friday

12:00 – 3:00 pm Meditations

2:15 pm Mass of the Pre-sanctified

7:00 pm Evening Prayer

Easter Vigil

Lighting of the new fire

Saturday, 7:00 pm

Easter Day

8:00 am Low Mass with Hymns

10:00 am Festival Eucharist

*The Clergy, Wardens and Vestry of Saint Mary's Church
wish you and your family a blessed Eastertide.*

Saint Mary's Church, Castleton

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