

SOUNDS

of

Volume 40 No. 13

March 28, 2010

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SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER DAY

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MARCH 28, PALM SUNDAY

8:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist

9:00 & 11:15 a.m. - Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Communion

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MARCH 29, 30, 31, THE WEEKDAYS OF HOLY WEEK

10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist (Wednesday only)

6:00 p.m. - Holy Eucharist in the chapel

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APRIL 1, MAUNDY THURSDAY

6:30 p.m. - Parish Supper in St Francis Hall (reservations required)

7:30 p.m. - Holy Eucharist

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APRIL 2, GOOD FRIDAY

12:00 Noon to 3:00 p.m. - Liturgy for Good Friday

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APRIL 3, HOLY SATURDAY AND EASTER EVE

9:15 a.m. - Office for Holy Saturday (chapel)

4:00 p.m. - Administration of Holy Baptism

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APRIL 4, EASTER DAY

7:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist (note the hour)

9:00 & 11:15 a.m. - Festal Celebration of the Lord's Resurrection

10:30 - 11:00 am Easter Egg Hunt for the Children

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FROM THE RECTOR

Holy Week is a time like no other. The days from Palm Sunday through Holy Saturday afford the Christian the precious opportunity to put aside the routine and enter the mystery of our redemption. Even if one has let Lent slide by unobserved, the powerful call of Holy Week allows us to prepare for the joy to come.

At St Francis, we take this opportunity seriously. We suspend all routine business. The Vestry or other parish committees do not meet, and while office chores cannot be neglected (the Sunday following Holy Week is a rather busy day, after all), we do try to tailor our work for the week's priorities.

In 1882, the Rev Dr William Reed Huntington, Rector of Grace Church, New York City, published a tome on liturgical matters. The gem of that work is a prayer he authored now found as the Collect for Monday in Holy Week (BCP, p.168), and in a slightly variant form as a collect for Fridays (p.56). It sets the theme of the meaning of these days, that we not allow ourselves to approach glory without following the way of the Cross. Isn't that the temptation to which those who come only on Easter have succumbed – to come only for the celebration, while failing to “watch with him one bitter hour” from Thursday night on? And while it may be true that some are faithful in attendance where others are neglectful, we can by grace avoid censoriousness, remembering that it was for sinners that our Lord died. It was for *us* – sinners all – that these wondrous things took place.

During Holy Week, we are fed with that most precious food and drink of Holy Communion. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday there are quiet services in the chapel at 6:00pm. One of those generally follows the liturgy from one of the services of the Church of England, putting us in mind of our Anglican heritage. On Thursday, after a simple parish supper, we gather

for the Maundy Thursday commemoration of the Institution of the Lord's Supper. Because of the obvious simplicity of the liturgical décor and appointments in this parish, a “stripping of the altar” provides scant contrast to most other “regular” services. Our focus remains on what we have been given, not on how it is adorned. The simplicity of our ritual (the pattern of worship) supports that approach.

We observe Good Friday with a three-hour service from noon until 3:00pm. Following a pattern set by Jesuits in South America, we combine elements of the Prayer Book office for the day, readings from Scripture, meditations both spoken and in music, and periods of silence. Few stay for the entire three hours (although some faithfully do indeed remain the entire time), while most “come when they can and leave when they must”, as a polite adage holds. It has long been a source of joy to me that a suburban parish manages to have such good attendance at this service.

Holy Saturday we read the short office for the day in the chapel at 9:15. Those preparing the church for the next day's high feast stop their work to participate in this service, joining a handful of others who are keeping the week's schedule. Holy Saturday becomes Easter Eve late in the afternoon, when Holy Baptism is administered. Our custom here is in keeping with venerable Anglican practices. We have found this hour suits more families, so we transfer a few components of the Vigil to the first service of Easter Day.

Such is Holy Week at St Francis. Dr. Huntington's masterful prayer is both an exhortation and an invitation. Those who cannot be here in church during these occasions should find a parish somewhere, either in the city or at whatever vacation spot lures families away for Spring break. Nothing you can do will be more important, nor offer rewards more healthful.

MAUNDY THURSDAY DINNER - APRIL 1ST

Please come together at **6:30 pm** to enjoy a parish dinner of lamb stew in St. Francis Hall. This precedes the **celebration of Holy Eucharist at 7:30 p.m** on Thursday, 4/1/10. The cost is \$8 per person and \$25 per family. RSVP to Christine at 301-365-2055.

COME & HELP WITH THE EASTER BASKETS



Do you adore the scent of fresh-cut flowers? Do you like making arrangements—even if you don't consider yourself an “expert”?

We would LOVE your help to make the Easter Baskets which will be adorning our church on Easter Sunday. Just come to the church **Saturday morning, 4/3, at 9 am** with a pair of clippers and make an Easter Basket filled with flowers.

It really is fun and easy and people will be there to show you how and help you with your creation. Please call Christine at the office (301-365-2055) if you would like to join us.



EASTER MORNING EGG HUNT

At approximately **10:30 am on Easter Day**, we will have an Easter Egg hunt for the pre-school and elementary school children on the field behind Glenolden. It's BYOB (Bring Your Own Basket) and family and friends (especially little ones) are welcome.

Please r.s.v.p. by Wednesday, 3/31, so we know how many eggs we need to stuff!

Anyone with empty eggs or who would like to join the egg stuffing mini-party, please call Karen Schneider at 301-963-3585.

Rain Date: April 11th.

JOY AND CONCERN

Please join us in prayer for Katherine Peck who died on March 16th.

HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

The Flower Guild is looking for anyone who has forsythia and/or coral quince which will be in bloom for Easter. These flowers are an indispensable element of our Easter designs and we are very grateful to those who have donated their blooms in the past and hope that they and others will do so again this year.



If you can spare some from your garden, please call Christine in the office (301-365-2055) and let her know. Thank you for your generosity.

IS IT SEPTEMBER ALREADY?

You may remember that the **Annual Golf Tourney and All Parish Supper** was cancelled due to rain last Fall. It has now been rescheduled to **April 23, 2010**. Here is the day's schedule.

1:00 PM - The Golf Outing begins

The golfers will tee off at 1 pm at the Falls Road Golf Course. You don't need to be a parishioner OR the next Tiger Woods to play. Just come and enjoy yourself with old friends!

6:00 PM - Socializing for Non-Golfers

Join us for libations and conversation to whet your appetite for the dinner which awaits.

6:30 PM Dinner Is Served

It's time for a fantastic dinner and all the trimmings!

Watch this space for more details!

WHAT IS THE 30 HOUR FAMINE?

World Vision's 30 Hour Famine is a worldwide movement of students who are serious about serving God and fighting hunger - **all on an empty stomach**. For 30 hours, participants get a taste of hunger by not eating - something more than a billion people around the world experience every day. And by doing fundraising activities, community service projects, and learning more about the **facts of world hunger**, students are changed in amazing ways as they help others and save lives.

The St. Francis Youth group held their famine on March 26th & 27th. They were working to save children in nearly 100 countries worldwide. Below are just eight of those areas where Famine funds are providing vital services to save children's' lives. Each \$30 raised can help feed and care for a child for a month.

In **Africa**, funds are used: in **Malawi** to help orphaned and vulnerable children; in **Mozambique** where the focus is on agricultural development and food preparation training; in **Sudan** to give ongoing support to a young girl's dreams of becoming a doctor; and in **Swaziland** to develop water systems and micro-finance enterprise.

In **Asia**, funds go to **Myanmar** (formerly known as Burma), a country which is recovering after Cyclone Nargis; and to **North Korea** for a Food for Life program

In **Latin America**, World Vision works in **Peru** - improving food security and in **Haiti** - providing food in the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere even before the devastation caused by the earthquake.

Our thanks go out to all the young people who participated in the 30 Hour Famine and to all those who supported their efforts.

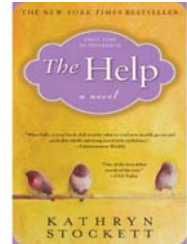
APRIL BOOK OF THE MONTH

In April, we look forward to reading *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett. Here are one reviewer's thoughts.

"Stockett's many gifts - a keen eye for character, a wicked sense of humor, the perfect timing of a natural born storyteller - shine... Her characters, both white and black, are so fully fleshed they practically breathe - no stock villains or pious heroines here. ... Don't miss this wise and astonishing debut."

-Joshilyn Jackson, Bestselling author of *Gods in Alabama*

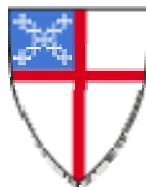
Read a few pages on Amazon.com. If you aren't hooked by those few pages, we'll be very surprised. Join us April 22nd at 7:30 pm and discuss it. Newcomers always welcome!



BISHOP SEARCH, TRANSITION COMMITTEE APPLICATIONS INVITED

Following Bishop John Bryson Chane's Jan. 30 announcement of his plans to retire, the diocese's Standing Committee has started the process leading to the election and consecration of the ninth Bishop of Washington.

The committee's first task is to select a Search Committee and Transition Committee, and applicants interested in serving on either committee are invited to apply.



Job descriptions for both committees and an application form are available at <http://search.edow.org> The deadline for applications is MARCH 26, and parishes are asked to communicate this news as widely as possible.



EASTER SUNDAY MEMORIALS



You are invited to make a donation towards decorating St. Francis this Easter and making possible the lovely flowers which make our church so beautiful. Your donation may be in memory or in honor of a loved one, in thanksgiving, in celebration of any event during the past year or simply to the glory of God.

Please complete this form and return it to the church office with a check made out to **St. Francis Church**. Please note on the check that it is for **Easter Flowers**. Donations need to be received **no later than March 31st** to ensure entry in the Dedications list. You may call the church office directly and then mail in your check if time is running short. The suggested donation is \$30.

A contribution of \$_____ is enclosed.

Name of Donor(s) _____
As you wish to be listed in the Dedications

Please give us your phone numbers, should we have a question:

PLEASE MAKE MY DEDICATION TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Thanksgiving for: _____

In Celebration of: _____

COMING UP AT SAINT FRANCIS CHURCH

For more information, please visit our website at www.stfrancispotomac.org

SUNDAY, MARCH 28

PALM SUNDAY

8:00am Holy Eucharist
9:00am Holy Eucharist
Sunday School and Adult Education Hour
11:15 am Holy Eucharist
5:00 pm Parents' Seminar in the Library
5:00 pm Sanctuary in Glenolden House

MONDAY MARCH 29

6:00 pm Holy Eucharist in the Chapel

TUESDAY, MARCH 30

5:30 pm St. Nicholas Training Choir
5:30 pm St. Clare Girl Choir
6:00 pm Holy Eucharist in the Chapel
7:00 pm Centering Prayer—Undercroft

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31

10:00 am Holy Eucharist
11:00 am Rector's Bible Study
5:30 pm Jr. High Bible Study
6:00 pm Holy Eucharist in the Chapel

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 1

5:00 pm *Sounds* Deadline for 4/11/10
5:30 pm Sr. High Bible Study
6:30 Parish Supper in the Hall
7:30 pm Holy Eucharist

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2

7:00 am Men's Bible Study
12:00 - 3:00 pm Good Friday Liturgy
12:00 Noon Office Closes

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 3

9:15 am Holy Saturday Office
9:45 am All Choir Rehearsal
4:00 pm Administration of Holy Baptism

EASTER DAY, APRIL 4

FEAST OF THE RESURRECTION

7:30 am Holy Eucharist (note the hour)
9:00 am Holy Eucharist
10:30 am Easter Egg Hunt
11:15 am Holy Eucharist

The Scripture appointed for Easter Day:

Acts 10:34-43, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, 1 Corinthians 15:19-26, John 20:1-18

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