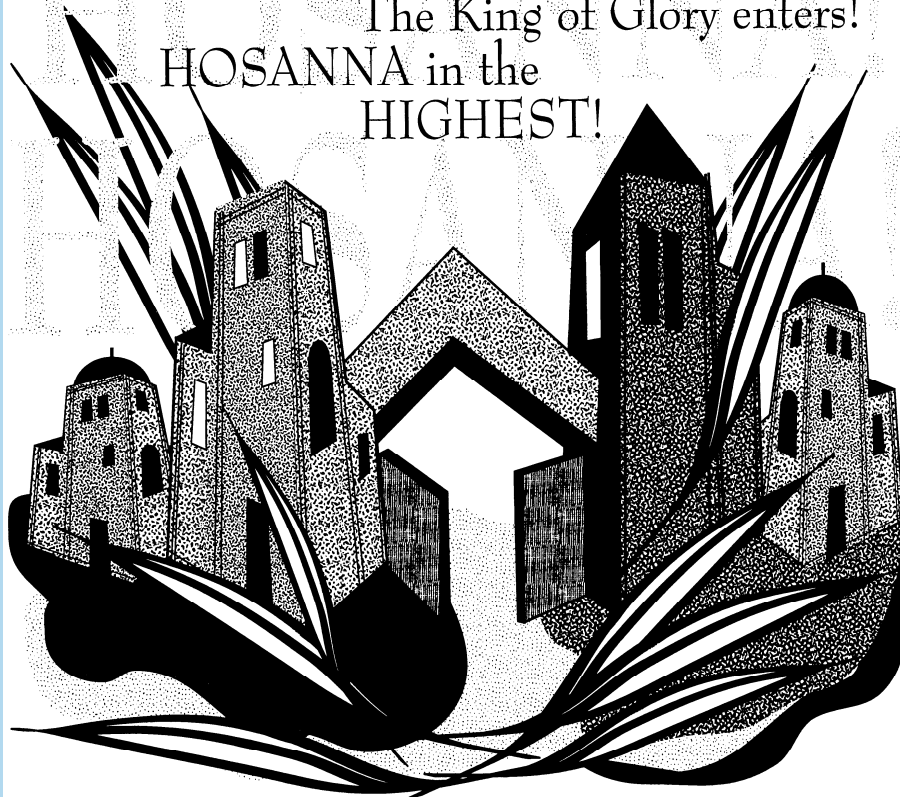


April 5, 2009  
Palm Sunday

Open wide the doors and gates.  
Lift high the ancient portals.  
The King of Glory enters!  
HOSANNA in the  
HIGHEST!



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OUR LADY OF KNOCK  
CHURCH



### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Our parishioners continue with a generous spirit as they practice almsgiving this Lenten season. You donated \$817 to Eastern Europe Churches and \$446 our sharing parish Our Lady Gate of Heaven.

I was untimely in my "thank you" notes to those who contributed at the suggested level of \$75 in the Christmas donation. And now I am asking you to consider a similarly significant gift of \$75 for Easter. Whatever you can do will be deeply appreciated. Our parish (as well all parishes) depends on a good holyday collection.

Fr. Don and I saw many of our parishioners at the Communal Penance Service at St. Victor. Our guess was over 200 at each service. For parishioners who didn't take advantage of those dates, our smaller service is this Tuesday at 7 PM.

A recent bulletin had a letter from the Cardinal regarding House Bill 2354 (Reproductive Health and Access Act). We were encouraged to call our legislators and register our opposition. If you would like to make a call, the Representative for Calumet City is Constance Howard and can be reached at (217)782-6476.

Our Finance Committee met recently to review the budget submitted for next year that would have a deficit figure again. We may have to take even stronger steps than in previous years. We are looking at rectory office hours that may end at 5 PM on weekdays and a closed office on Saturdays and Sundays. Our 2 mobiles are on a separate meter and are extremely energy inefficient. The Footsteps In Faith Office may move into the school building. The structure of prizes for the Pot of Gold may have a new format. We are taking a hard look at subscriptions and other resource materials. Before we take any of these steps, I am inviting suggestions from the parishioner for things you may consider extravagant or things that could be sacrificed. Drop a note in the suggestion box or call the rectory.

There is a full page of our Holy Week activities and extra copies are at the entrances. Please prayerfully enjoy all or as many as possible in anticipation of Christ's Resurrection.

Please pray for me, as I do you.

*Fr. Pat*



### OUR LADY OF KNOCK ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE

Our annual Palm Sunday Blood Drive is being held today, Sunday, April 5th. Registration will take place in the Religious Education Portable. A mobile unit will be located in the parking lot for the actual blood draws.

Please consider "lending an arm." Your donation of blood benefits patients right here in our community.

Blood donors must be at least 17 years of age, weigh at least 110 pounds and be in good general health.

Walk-ins are welcome.



### DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR BELLS FOR EASTER!

To help us rejoice on Easter we have a special tradition here at Our Lady of Knock which involves the entire parish. It is very simple: just bring bells with you to church on Holy Saturday or Easter Sunday morning and *ring them while you sing the "Glory to God."* *Ring them with joy throughout the entire hymn!*

Any kind of bell will do. If you don't have a bell, keys work just as well. Use whatever you have to make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

You are encouraged to bring them back on Pentecost Sunday to help end the Great 50 Days of Easter.



### FOCUS ON THE POSITIVE

Our next Focus on the Positive will take place on Thursday, April 16th in the Parish Hall from 7PM-8PM.

Speaker for the evening will be our own Deacon Tom Knetl. Topic for the evening will be "Pentecost, the Breath of God."

Refreshments will be served. There is no fee. All are welcome. For more information, please call the rectory, (708) 862-3011



## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE 2009

**PALM SUNDAY:**

Saturday, April 4th, 5:30PM Mass  
Solemn Blessing of Palms  
Sunday, April 5th, 8AM & 10AM  
Blessed Palms distributed.

**MONDAY:**

Mass: 7AM; Communion Service: 8:30AM

**TUESDAY:**

Communion Service: 7:00AM; Mass: 8:30AM

**HOLY THURSDAY:**

7:30PM Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper  
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10PM

**GOOD FRIDAY:**

3:00PM Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion and Death  
with Holy Communion  
7:30PM Stations of the Cross

**HOLY SATURDAY:**

1:00PM-1:30PM Blessing of Easter Baskets  
7:30PM Solemn Easter Vigil Mass

**EASTER SUNDAY:**

Masses: 8:00AM & 10:00AM

**CONFESSION SCHEDULE:**

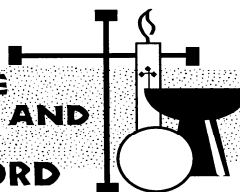
Communal Penance Service at OLK:  
7:00PM Tuesday, April 7th

After 8:30AM Mass/Service  
Monday & Tuesday of Holy Week

Good Friday: 4:15PM-5:00PM

Holy Saturday: 3:00PM-3:45PM  
(NO Confessions in the evening due to  
the Easter Vigil)

**ENTER  
INTO THE  
PASSION AND  
GLORY  
OF THE LORD**



## FOOTSTEPS IN FAITH

This Saturday our Confirmation Candidates took one more step forward in their journey to celebrate their final sacrament of Initiation when they participated in a Retreat. Gathering with the students from other Religious Education programs and Christ Our Savior School they were challenged to practice making moral decisions based on their faith by Father Terry. We ended the day with a teaching Mass and their parents and sponsors were invited to join us.

Our Candidates have prayed and worked very hard and I ask that you keep them in your prayers. Their Confirmation is on Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at St. Jude's at 7:00 PM and all are welcome.

\*\*\*\*\*

### DATES TO REMEMBER

April

- 12<sup>th</sup> - Blessed Easter  
- No classes
- 19<sup>th</sup> - Last class of the year
- 23<sup>rd</sup> - Confirmation
- 25<sup>th</sup> - First Communion Retreat
- 30<sup>th</sup> - People of the Eucharist, 9:00 AM

May

- 3<sup>rd</sup> - First Communion, 10:00 AM

Peace,

## SHEDSOMELIGHT

Christ Our Savior Catholic School

Our Lenten journey is almost complete. The school theme for our fifth week of Lent was penance. Deacon Art Nysten of St. Jude the Apostle Church led us in prayer on Monday, March 30. Our Lenten activity for the week was to say an Act of Contrition every morning in our classrooms. The students were asked to think about the words and about any ways in which they did not make a kind or loving choice in their lives.

Our Lenten prayer services will conclude with our final Monday prayer service on April 6. The service will be at 1:15 at the West Campus and 2:15 at the East Campus. We will gather for prayer on Holy Thursday at 2:15 at both the East and West Campus. As always, all are invited to attend.

Sierra Jones, sixth grade student at the East Campus, recently placed third in the Knights of Columbus Regional Spelling Bee and will proceed to the finals in Springfield on April 4. We wish her all the best of luck as she travels downstate to represent Christ Our Savior Catholic School.

The following East Campus 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in Mrs. Joy Kopercinski's class were nominated for the "Illinois Best and Brightest" sponsored by the Illinois Young Scholars: Logan Cap, Sara Daw, Aisha Linton, Douglas Roach, and Antonia Roberts. Students must hold at least a "B" average, exhibit good character, participate in extra curricular activities in school and/or church, and excel in the classroom. Well done!

Congratulations to Trent James and Kwame Watts, our alumni, who attend DeLaSalle Institute and achieved third quarter Honor Roll status.

Our teachers participated in a Professional Day at the West Campus on Friday, March 27. Mrs. Nancy Gifford, fourth grade teacher at the West Campus, presented a power point called *Using Alternative Assessment to Direct Instruction: Rubrics*. Mrs. Karen Brodzik, Reading Specialist, prepared and presented a presentation called *Differentiated Grading and Assessment-Why Fair Isn't Always Equal*.

With God's Blessings,  
*Cindy Rogers, Principal*  
*Karen Brodzik, Assistant Principal*

### WOMEN'S GUILD APRIL MEETING

On Tuesday, April 14th the Women's Guild will meet in the Parish Hall at 7PM for an evening that may prove to be the best meeting ever!! The sounds of "Harmonica Bud," entertainer and musician, will provide some good old fashioned fun for all ladies of the parish. You won't want to miss this one.

Door prizes, split-the-pot and delicious desserts will round out the evening. Please plan to attend and bring a friend for a wonderful evening of entertainment and fun. Hope to see you there!



**ON WHICH IS EASIER,  
AND THE PASSION OF OUR LORD**

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Remember that Gospel reading from several weeks ago? The one in which Jesus was preaching to the Capernaum crowd when four men, trying to get a paralytic in front of Christ, opened up the roof above him and lowered the man down? Jesus, impressed by such a display of faith, forgave the man's sins. Some of the scribes sitting nearby were disturbed by this, saying amongst themselves that only God can forgive sins, to which Jesus responded, "Why are you thinking such things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, pick up your mat, and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth" – he said to the paralytic, 'I say to you, rise, pick up your mat, and go home.'"

I think of that reading now as I consider our Lord's Passion, and I consider it in the context of two of the main players in today's reading, both of whose actions would seem to be in need of forgiveness. The first player is Peter. Jesus warns his disciples up front that all of them will soon have their faith shaken, to which Peter replies immediately, "Even though all should have their faith shaken, mine will not be." None of us can doubt that Peter meant it at the time, but we all know how it goes a few hours later. Peter denies Jesus three times, responding to the third challenge with cursing and swearing, "I do not know this man about whom you are talking."

And, of course, there's Judas. Accompanied by a crowd with swords and clubs, he arrives in the Garden where Jesus is praying, and, having arranged a signal with the mob ("The man I shall kiss is the one; arrest him and lead him away securely"), Judas approaches Jesus, greets him as "Rabbi" and kisses him, thus turning him over to the armed crowd. The Passion readings always strike me as ironic in that this classic gesture of love and compassion--a kiss--is the very gesture used to betray the Son of Man. Like Peter's story, Judas' story is well-known, too. The former breaks down and weeps at his denial of Jesus. The latter goes off and hangs himself.

Both Peter and Judas play key roles in the Passion, but one could argue that Judas plays the greater role, for without his turning Jesus over to the elders, the Scriptures are not fulfilled, and without the Scriptures being fulfilled, the salvation story comes undone. To use an old expression, Judas had a lousy job, but somebody had to do it. And now I return to the paralytic and the grumbling scribes and I imagine Jesus asking us all, "Which sin is easier to forgive, Peter's sin of denial, or Judas' sin of betrayal?" They must be equally easy to forgive from our Lord's perspective, but Judas doesn't give the forgiveness a chance. As we approach Good Friday and the Great Sunday beyond, may we be reminded that even when we betray the Christ--and surely we betray him--he extends to us his peace and forgiveness. See you at the tomb. The empty one.





## Liturgy Intentions

### SUNDAY (PALM SUNDAY)

8:00 AM—Loretta Quigg  
(Daughters) (Fr. Lyons)  
10:00 AM—Mildred & James Rommeiss  
(Henry & Jane Smigiel) (Fr. Fenske)

### MONDAY (MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK)

7:00 AM **Mass**—Kathy Kristo  
(Tom & June Todd)  
8:30 AM Service-Intentions of All Parishioners of  
Our Lady of Knock Parish

### TUESDAY (TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK)

7:00 AM Service—Purgatorial Society of  
Our Lady of Knock Parish  
8:30 AM **Mass**—Katie Yatsko  
(Carol Lembas)

### WEDNESDAY - NO LITURGIES

### HOLY THURSDAY

(NO MORNING MASS OR SERVICE)  
7:30 PM—Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

### GOOD FRIDAY

(NO MORNING MASS OR SERVICE)  
3:00 PM—Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion  
& Death/Holy Communion

### HOLY SATURDAY

(NO 5:30PM EVENING MASS)  
7:30 PM—Solemn Easter Vigil

### EASTER SUNDAY

8:00 AM—Deceased Members of Becker and  
Wills Family  
(Family) (Fr. Fenske)  
10:00AM—Deceased Members of Marlow Family  
(Family) (Fr. Lyons)



## DUSTBUSTERS

Group #3, CATHERINE OLSON, Captain,  
please be at the church on Wednesday, April 8.



## REST IN PEACE

Your prayers are requested for the souls of  
Rev. Martin J Neary (our founding pastor), Rev.  
John Ahern, Rev. Thomas Kelly, Rev. James O'Don-  
nell, Rev. Edward Barron, Rev. Michael McPartlan,  
and all of our beloved dead of past years.

## HOSANNA in the HIGHEST



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## Our Lady of Knock Parish Stewardship Report

### SUNDAY COLLECTION March 29, 2009

REQUIRED BUDGET	TOTAL ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
\$7000	\$5598	-\$1402

### Fiscal-Year-To-Date

REQUIRED BUDGET	TOTAL ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
\$273,000	\$234,790	-\$38,210

CHILDREN'S ENVELOPES	NUMBER	TOTAL
	23	\$31.00

No. Of Envelopes Used:	218
Average Donation Per Envelope	\$24.70



### A MESSAGE FROM DEACON

Palm Sunday begins the final days of the Lenten journey. Holy Week is unlike any other seven days in the year. We are haunted by the brutal events of those last days. There is one line in today’s Gospel that has peaked my imagination. “And after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him.” Imagine for a moment. See, if you can, human hands weaving sharp, jagged, razor-like thorns into a crown, and then those same hands jam that crown of thorns onto our Lord’s lovely head. His was a lonely crown of suffering and shame; a crown that only he wore for the likes of you and me. I wonder: What might this lonely crown of Christ mean for us as we begin this Holy Week journey?

Could it be that this week we call “holy” is God’s way of reminding us that even the sinless, perfect Son of God wore a lonely crown so we don’t have to. And because he took our struggles, pain, loneliness, and our death upon himself, we can trust him now and always to transform our darkness into light, our weakness into strength, our sorrow into hope, and our death into life.

This Holy Week is God’s invitation to us, broken though we are, to trust that God is the One who is the giver of life, the great Lover of our souls. And when that thorny crown of death pierces our brow and mocks our hope, we of faith can be confident that God brings life even in our most darkest hours. This is the promise of Holy Week, given us in Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Please keep us in your prayers.

Your brother in Christ,

*Deacon Tom*

## OUR LADY OF KNOCK PARISH

501—163rd Street, Calumet City, Illinois 60409

Rectory Office: (708) 862-3011

Visit our website at: [ourladyofknock.org](http://ourladyofknock.org)

**Pastor:** Rev. Patrick M. Lyons  
**Pastor Emeritus:** Rev. Donald J. Fenske  
**Deacon Couples:** Edward & Carmella Ryan  
 Tom & Cathy Knetl  
**Pastoral Associate:** Sr. Alban Hermes, O.P.  
 868-1723  
**DRE:** Mrs. Catherine Knetl  
 868-1711  
**Bulletin Editor:** Cheryl Marz-Perl  
 862-3011  
**Bookkeeper:** Kathy Becker  
 862-3011  
**Secretary:** Pat Turner  
**Weekend Masses:** Saturday, 5:30 PM  
**Sunday:** 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM  
**Weekday Services:** (M, T, TH, F) 7:00 AM & 8:30 AM  
**Holy Day Vigil:** 6:00 PM  
**Holy Day:** 7:00 AM & 8:30 AM, 7:00 PM  
**Confessions:** Saturday, 4:30-5:15 PM

**Baptisms:** Second & Fourth Sundays of the month at 1:00 PM. Preparation Class (required if 1st Child), 1st Tuesday of Month, 7:30 PM.  
**Marriages:** Call Rectory for arrangements at least 4 months prior to planned date.  
**Change of Address or New Registration:** Call Rectory during business hours Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

**Christ Our Savior Catholic School:**  
**Executive Pastor:** Rev. Patrick M. Lyons  
**Principal:** Miss Cindy Rogers  
 East Campus 708-862-4143  
 West Campus 708-333-8173  
  
[www.christoursaviorcatholicschool.org](http://www.christoursaviorcatholicschool.org)