

Low (Divine Mercy) Sunday

Masses and Intentions for the Week

Sunday, March 30

White

Low Sunday, *I Class*

7:30 AM Sarah Breen

10:30 AM Pro populo

This Sunday, commonly called Low Sunday, has two names assigned to it in the Liturgy: *Quasimodo*, from the first word of the Introit; and Sunday *in albis*, because this day in the early Church the newly baptized out off their white baptismal garments which they received at the Easter Vigil and assisted at the Church services in their ordinary dress.

Monday, March 31

White

Annunciation of Our Lady, *I Class* (transferred)

12:00 PM Henry and Cheryl Mersch

Nine months before Christmas, the Church celebrates the feast of her in whom the Word was made Flesh, in whom the Son of God united Himself forever to our humanity in order to enable us to share in His Divinity. Through the mystery of the Incarnation Mary obtained her most wondrous title of Mother of God and also became the Mother of Christians, for by her *fiat* she was associated with the whole redemptive work of her Son.

Tuesday, April 1

White

St. Joseph, Spouse of Our Lady, *I Class* (transferred)

7:00 PM Living and deceased of Effing family

St. Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and foster-father of our Lord, faithfully and humbly carried out the difficult and glorious mission entrusted to him by God and thus became the model of domestic virtues and humble daily toil, the guardian of chaste souls and the protector of Christian homes. Veneration of St. Joseph is of relatively recent introduction in the Church's liturgy. This feast was fixed on March 19 in the fifteenth century and added to the general calendar of the Church in 1621; his name was added to the Roman Canon in 1960 by John XXIII.

Wednesday, April 2

White

St. Francis of Paola, Confessor, *III Class*

12:00 PM Archbishop Daniel Buechlein, OSB

Thursday, April 3

White

Feria of Paschaltide, *IV Class*

7:00 AM Andrew and Ally DuBois

Friday, April 4 (First Friday)

White

St. Isidore of Seville, Bishop/Doctor, *III Class*

12:00 PM Michael Minnich +

7:00 PM Paula Lindser

Saturday, April 5 (First Saturday)

White

St. Vincent Ferrer, Confessor, *III Class*

8:30 AM Audrey Marie Farris

Sunday, April 6

White

Second Sunday after Easter, *II Class*

7:30 AM Paul Kleckner

10:30 AM Pro Populo

Easter Duty Reminder

Holy Mother Church attaches a *grave obligation* for all Catholics of age to make a confession of all mortal sins (since the last worthy confession) and receive Holy Communion at least once during the Easter season, which lasts until Trinity Sunday.

Easter Egg Hunt - Today

The annual Easter egg hunt for the children (10 and under) will take place today following the 10:30 High Mass. All are invited.

Feast of St. Joseph - Tuesday

Tuesday, April 1, is the feast of St. Joseph (the feast was transferred this year due to Holy Week). The usual 7:00 PM Mass will be a High Mass to which all are encouraged to attend in honor of the great foster-father of our Lord and spouse of our Lady.

First Friday and Saturday Reminder

This Friday and Saturday are the firsts of the month. Exposition, Rosary and Benediction follow the Friday evening Mass until around 8:45 and the Saturday 8:30 Mass until 10:15.

Mothers' Group - Saturday

The Mothers' Group will meet this Saturday for the usual 8:30 AM Mass and Benediction with special prayers and a spiritual conference followed by a pot-luck brunch in the schoolhouse.

Special Guest Lecture - April 13

We are privileged to host Michael Matt, author of the book *Gods of Wasteland* on the history and effects of rock music, who will lecture on the topic Sunday evening, April 13, at 6:00. Parents are greatly encouraged to attend and to spread the word. Because of the nature of the subject, some of the material may not be appropriate for children under 12, so parental discretion is asked.

Wedding Banns (First Announcement)

Anthony Robert Gaddini, Cincinnati, OH, and
Emily Denise Alexander, Sunman, IN

Please Keep in Your Prayers...

Archbishop Buechlein; Patricia Wycislo; Ted Knight; Bridgette Schutzman; Neal Miller Family; Bischel Family; Tom Peter; Joseph Shake; Rosie Rolfes; Virginia Mendel; closure of Planned Parenthood in Bloomington; Don Farwick +; James Peter +; Ed Lachman +; Shirley Heppner +; Martha Deller +;

Mary Deegan +; Msgr. Bernard Schmitz +

Contributions – Thank You!

March 23	\$3040.00	
Holy Land	\$1155.00	
Window Fund	\$34751.24	(75%)

Calendar of Events

March 30	First Communion Class
March 30	Easter Egg Hunt
April 1	Feast of St. Joseph (High Mass)
April 2	Choir/Girls' & Boys' Groups
April 4	First Friday/High School Classes
April 5	First Saturday/Mothers' Solidarity
April 13	Special Guest Lecture

A Final Thought...

The kind of Christ the world needs today is the Virile Christ, who can unfurl to an evil world the pledge of victory in His own Body, offered in bloody sacrifice for salvation. No false gods who are immune from pain and sorrow can solace us in these tragic days. Take out of our lives the Christ of the Scars, Who is the Son of the living God, Who rose from the dead by the power of God, and what assurance have we that evil shall not triumph over the good? If He Who came to this earth to teach the dignity of the human soul, Who could challenge a sinful world to convict Him of sin, had no other issue or destiny than to hang on a common tree with common criminals and thieves to make a Roman holiday, then each of us may say: "If this is what happens to a good man, then why should I lead a good life?" What motivation is there for virtue if the greatest of all injustices can go unredressed, and the noblest of all lives can go unvindicated?

What am I to think of a God who would look down unmoved on this spectacle of Innocence going to the gallows and would not pull out the nails and put a scepter there; or would not even send an angel to snatch a crown of thorns and place a garland there? What am I to think of human nature if this white flower of blameless life is trampled under the hobnailed boots of Roman executioners and then is destined to rot in the earth like all crushed flowers rot? Would it not send forth the greater stench because of its primal sweetness and make us hate not only the God Who had no care for truth and love, but even our fellowman for being party to His death? If this is the end of goodness, then why be good at all? If this is what happens to justice, then let anarchy reign.

But if He is not only a man but God, a Redeemer; if He can take the worst the world has to offer and then by the power of God rise above it, then who shall be without hope as the Risen Christ shows us His hands and side?

What do the scars of Christ teach us? They teach us that life is a struggle: that our condition of a final resurrection is exactly the same as His; that unless there is a cross in our lives, there will never be an empty tomb; unless there is a Good Friday, there will never be an Easter Sunday; unless there is a crown of thorns, there will never be a halo of light; and unless we suffer with Him, we shall not rise with Him. The Christ of the Scars gave us no peace which banishes strife, for God hates peace in those that are destined for war against evil.

The scars are not only reminders that life is a warfare, but they are also pledges of victory in that war. Our Blessed Lord said: *I have overcome the world*. By this He means that He has overcome evil in principle. The victory is assured, only the good news has not yet leaked out. Evil will never be able to be stronger than it was on that particular day, for the worst thing evil can do is not to ruin cities and to wage war and to drop atomic bombs on the good and the living. The worst thing evil can do is to kill God. Having been defeated in that, in its strongest moment, when evil wore its greatest armor, it can never be victorious again.

Think not, then, that the Jesus of the Scars and His victory over evil give us immunity from evil and woe, pain and sorrow, crucifixion and death. What He offers is not immunity from evil in the physical world, but a chance for forgiveness of sin in our souls. The final conquest of physical evil will come in the resurrection of the just. But He does teach a noble army of the world's sufferers to bear the worst this life has to offer with courage and serenity, to regard all of its trials as "the shade of His hand outstretched caressingly," and to transfigure some of life's greatest pains into the richest gains of the spiritual life.

Archbishop Fulton Sheen, *Characters of the Passion*, ch. 7