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Rev. Joseph R. Upton, Ph.D.
*Administrator, Saint Alexander
 Pastor, Saint Mary of the Bay*



MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday at 9:15am
Saint Alexander
 Saturday Vigil at 4pm
 (Preceded by Confessions at 3pm)
Saint Mary of the Bay
 Sunday at 8am, 10:30am and 6pm
Saint Mary of the Bay
 Monday-Friday 8am
Saint Mary of the Bay
 Holy Days as Announced



TRUSTEES & AUDITORS

Nancy Urban, Trustee
 John Saviano, Trustee
 Patricia Dugan, Auditor
 John Flynn, Auditor

Padre's Ponderings

Dear Parishioners,

It's hard to believe that Holy Week will soon be upon us! There is no better way to prepare for the celebration of the Lord's Resurrection than to experience the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** (Confession). Confessions are typically heard at Saint Mary of the Bay at 3pm on Saturday afternoons. But I am inviting you to join us this coming Wednesday at 7pm for **ENCOUNTER**, an hour-long service of contemporary praise and worship music in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament exposed. We have this event on the last Wednesday of every month at Saint Mary of the Bay, but this month, three visiting priests (in addition to me) will be available for either face-to-face or anonymous confessions. I really hope you'll take the opportunity to prayerfully prepare for Easter. Spring cleaning is always a good thing for our homes. Confession gives us the opportunity to experience a Spring cleaning for the soul!

Another event this coming week will be held for women on Thursday at 6:30pm in the Church Hall at Saint Mary of the Bay. A local artist and speaker, Sharon Clossick, will offer a presentation: "**Finding God through Beauty.**" Sharon will share her love of art and her love of her Catholic faith. I know Sharon and her family well, and I am sure that attending this event will be well worth your time.

Please plan on joining us at Saint Mary of the Bay next Sunday (Palm Sunday) for **Soul Food**, a free soup luncheon featuring a selection of Blount's soups. There will also be a palm-cross demonstration to help us show what we can do creatively with the blessed palms we will have just received. It will be a great way to mark the beginning of Holy Week together as a Catholic community.

Please review the schedule of services for the **Sacred Triduum**, the three most sacred days of the year. You are strongly encouraged to attend the evening services at Saint Mary of the Bay. We are looking forward to hosting Stations of the Cross on Good Friday at Saint Alexander at 3pm. But each of the evening services will be held at Saint Mary of the Bay. These services are the highlight of the entire liturgical year and should only be missed for a serious reason. You won't regret participating; trust me!

Until next week,

Fr. Joe



Lent 2023

Calendar of Activities

Stations of the Cross

Tuesday Mornings following the 8am Mass, SMB

Encounter: Adoration with

Praise & Worship Music

Wednesday, March 29, 7pm, SMB

(Visiting priests will be available for Confession.)

Finding God through Beauty:

A Special Women's Event

Thursday, March 30, 6:30pm, SMB Church Hall

Soul Food

*Join us for a Blount's soup luncheon
with palm-cross demo*

Palm Sunday, April 2,

following the 10:30am Mass, SMB Church Hall

The Sacred Triduum

April 6, 2023—Maundy Thursday

7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper, SMB

April 7, 2023—Good Friday

3pm Stations of the Cross, Saint Alexander
7pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion, SMB

April 8, 2023—Holy Saturday

8pm Easter Vigil in the Holy Night, SMB

April 9, 2023—Easter Sunday

8am & 10:30am Mass, SMB

9:15am Mass, Saint Alexander

∞ MASS INTENTIONS ∞

March 26, 2023

9:15am: Herschel Price

April 2, 2023

9:15am: Mary Hoague

Requested by David & Betty Hoague

∞ LIVING THE SCRIPTURES ∞

Today's Readings:

Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (7)/

Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45

From today's First Reading:

I will put my spirit in you that you may live, and I will settle you upon your land; thus you shall know that I am the LORD. (Ez 37:14)

Consider: **God revealed to the prophet Ezekiel his divine plan for the resurrection of the dead: "I (will) open your graves and make you come up out of them, my people!" As a person of faith, how does this promise give you hope?**

From today's Second Reading:

If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit dwelling in you. (Rom 8:11)

Consider: **Paul insists that for believers, the Spirit dwelling within us gives life to our mortal bodies, raising us from the dead as Christ was raised from the dead. How does this impact your thoughts about death itself?**

From today's Gospel:

"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die." (Jn 11:25-26)

Consider: **In her grief and sadness at the death of her brother Lazarus, Martha professes her belief in Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God. As the season of Lent draws to a close, in what ways have the last 40 days strengthened your faith in Jesus as our Lord and Savior?**