



# Central New York Marian Center, Inc.

Promoting The Gospel Through The Marian Messages

April 2018

5180 West Taft Rd, North Syracuse NY 13212

mariancenter.cny@gmail.com

Hours: Mon.—Fri 9am– 5pm Phone (315) 452– 4698

Website: cnymariancenter.com

Currently we are blest to be celebrating our 25th year!

## The Monthly Message of Our Blessed Mother from Medjugorje: March 25, 2018

**"Dear children! I am calling you to be with me in prayer in this time of grace when darkness is fighting against the light. Pray, little children, confess and begin a new life in grace. Decide for God and He will lead you towards holiness; and the cross will be a sign of victory and hope for you. Be proud that you are baptized and grateful in your heart that you are a part of God's plan. Thank you for having responded to my call."**



**See a rose . . . . Say the Rosary!**



**Volunteers Needed, if interested call the center at 315-452-4698**

For visitors, if the CNY Marian Center is locked, you can obtain a key upstairs at the doctor's office M- F 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The CNY Marian Center is available for group Meetings. For a reservation, call the Center and leave a message. Current Prayer groups meet Mon. 7:30 PM, Tues. 7 PM, First Wed. 6:30 PM and Thur. 11:00 AM.

### HEAVEN CALLS— IS YOUR RINGER ON ?

Blessing and prayers to all our friends, supporters and newsletter subscribers of the Central NY Marian Center.

Do our hearts ring out with joy this Easter as we carry our crosses with the Lord through His Holy Week passion to Easter Sunday resurrection, opening the doors to our eternal salvation?

The month of April is dedicated to **The Holy Spirit**. The entire month falls during the **Easter** season. The liturgical color is white — the color of light, a symbol of joy, purity and innocence.

### Easter Sunday April 1, 2018

The Church commences the celebration of the great feast of Easter with **"The Sacred Paschal Triduum"** also called the Easter Triduum. The three days (triduum) commences with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday night, continues with Good Friday service and culminates with the Easter Vigil on Saturday night. **The Easter Vigil begins then the season of Easter Time.** The name Easter comes from **Eastre**, an ancient Anglo-Saxon goddess, originally of the dawn. In pagan times an annual

spring festival was held in her honor. Others come from the Passover feast of the Jews, observed in memory of their deliverance from Egypt. The resurrection of **Jesus** took place during the Passover. In the early days of Christianity Easter and the Passover were closely associated.

Prior to A.D. 325, Easter was celebrated on different days of the week, including Friday, Saturday and Sunday. In that year, the **Council of Nicaea** was convened by emperor **Constantine**. They issued the Easter Rule which places Easter on the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after the vernal equinox (first day of Spring). Therefore, Easter must be celebrated on a Sunday between the dates of March 22 and April 25.

"I rose up and am still with Thee." After His labors and His humiliations, **Christ** finds rest with His **Father**. "I am still with Thee." This is perfect beatitude. Through His cross He entered into the possession of eternal glory. **Christ** has gained the crown of victory; through **Christ** men also win their crowns of victory. Humanity was under a curse and subject to the wrath of **God**. Now that they have risen with **Christ**,

their guilt has been destroyed. "I rose up and am still with Thee." The liturgy places these words in the mouth of the Church that she may pray them with Christ.



"He is risen." The resurrection of **Christ** is a pledge of our own resurrection. It is the foundation upon which our faith rests. It



is the guarantee of our redemption and **God's** assurance that our sins are forgiven and that we are called to eternal life. "This is the day which the **Lord** hath made; let us be glad and rejoice therein. Give praise to the **Lord**, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever. Alleluia." "**Christ** our **Pasch** is sacrificed. . . . The Lamb redeems the sheep. **Christ**, the innocent One, hath reconciled sinners to the Father." Excerpted from The Light of the World by Benedict Baur, O.S.B.

The Station is at **St. Mary Major**, the principal church of all those that are dedicated to the Mother of **God** in the holy city. This is to associate with the Paschal solemnity the memory of her, who, more than all other creatures, had merited its joys, not only because of the exceptional share she had had in all the sufferings of **Jesus**, but also because of the unshaken faith wherewith, during those long and cruel hours of his lying in the tomb, she had awaited his Resurrection.

**Many Easter symbols and customs come from the Old World.**

### The Cross

The Cross is the symbol of the crucifixion, as opposed to the Resurrection. However, at the **Council of Nicaea, In A.D. 325, Constantine** decreed that the Cross was the official symbol of Christianity. The Cross is not only a symbol of Easter, but it is more widely used, especially by the Catholic Church, as a year-round symbol of their faith.

### Easter Lily

The lily symbolizes the Resurrection. Yet, lilies have long been revered by pagans of various lands as a holy symbol associated with reproduction. It was considered a phallic symbol!

### The Easter Bunny

The Easter Bunny also originated with the pagan festival of **Eastre**. The goddess, **Eastre**, was worshipped by the Anglo-Saxons through her earthly symbol, the rabbit. The Germans brought the symbol of the Easter rabbit to America. It was widely ignored by other Christians until shortly after the **Civil War**. Easter itself was not widely celebrated in America until after that time.

## The Annunciation of the Lord April 9, 2018

The feast of the Annunciation of the Lord celebrates the angel **Gabriel's** appearance to the Virgin Mary (**Luke 1:26-38**), his announcement that the **Blessed Virgin** had been chosen to be the mother of Our Lord, and **Mary's fiat** her willing acceptance of **God's** holy plan.

Originally a feast of our Lord, but now celebrated as a Marian feast, the feast of the Annunciation dates back at least to the fifth century, and the date of the feast, which is determined by the date of **Christmas**, was set at March 25 by the seventh century.

April 9 is the **Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord** in the Roman Catholic Liturgical Calendar. The mystery of **Mary's** cooperation in **God's** plan has inspired some of the most profound reflection in the Christian tradition. As well it should.

**The Catechism of the Catholic Church** reminds us, What the Catholic faith believes about Mary is based on what it believes about **Christ**, and what it teaches about Mary illumines in turn its faith in Christ. (**CCC#487**) Years ago a reflective book entitled **The Prayer of Mary: Living the Surrendered Life**.

Mary's "Yes" is called the **Fiat**: in Latin, "**Let it be done.**" Mary's Fiat was spoken from a heart filled with love for **God**. In a Biblical context, "heart" is a word that means much more than the fleshy organ at the center of our chest cavity. It refers to our center, the core of each of us, the place where our deepest identity is rooted, and from which our fundamental choices about life are made.

This is what **Mary's Fiat** is all about. In saying Yes to **God**, as Mary did, we are able to discover the path to conversion, to holiness, to authentic spirituality. Our call to embrace the **Fiat** and to make it our own is not a formula for easy spiritual growth, nor is it the first in a series of steps that lead to solving the problems of life. The spiritual life is a path, a Way, and it involves a continuing, ongoing walk with the **Lord**.

**He** has invited each of us into an intimate, personal, exchange of love. This

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kind of intimacy with a living, loving **God** is the interior meaning of **Mary's Fiat**, her **Magnificat**, and her way of life.

When we embrace Mary's prayer and make it our own, we allow the Love that Mary bore in her body to be incarnated in and through us, too. Each of us can say "**Yes**" to **God**, right now, wherever we are. Each of us can respond with our entire being, with a Fiat of surrendered love.

## Feast of St. Mark April 25, 2018

**St. Mark**, the author of the second Gospel, was the son of Mary whose house at Jerusalem was the meeting place of Christians. He was baptized and instructed by **St. Peter**. In about the year **42 A.D.** he came to Rome with the Prince of the Apostles. There at the request of the faithful he wrote his Gospel about the year **50 A.D.** His Gospel is a record of **St. Peter's preaching about Our Lord** and pays special attention to the head of the Apostles. The Gospel was written for Roman Gentile converts. It rarely quotes the Old Testament, and is careful to explain Jewish customs, rites and words. It excels in portraying the emotions and affections of both **Christ** and His hearers. **St. Mark** preached in Egypt, especially in Alexandria and was martyred there by the heathen.

**"Rogation Days are the four days set apart to bless the fields, and invoke God's mercy on all of creation.** The 4 days are April 25, which is called the Major Rogation (and is only coincidentally the same day as the Feast of St. Mark); and the three days preceding Ascension Thursday, which are called the Minor Rogations. Traditionally, on these days, the congregation marches the boundaries of the parish, blessing every tree and stone, while chanting or reciting a **Litany of Mercy, usually a Litany of the Saints.**"

John Mark, later known simply as Mark, was a Jew by birth. He was the son of that Mary who was proprietress of the Cenacle or "upper room" which served as the meeting place for the first Christians in Jerusalem (**Acts 12:12**). He was still a youth at the time of the Savior's death. In



his description of the young man who was present when **Jesus** was seized and who fled from the rabble leaving behind his "linen cloth," the second Evangelist might possibly have stamped the mark of his own identity.

During the years that followed, the rapidly maturing youth witnessed the growth of the infant Church in his mother's Upper Room and became acquainted with its traditions. This knowledge he put to excellent use when compiling his Gospel. Later, we find Mark acting as a companion to his cousin Barnabas and Saul on their return journey to Antioch and on their first missionary journey. But Mark was too immature for the hardships of this type of work and therefore left them at Perge in Pamphylia to return home.

As the two apostles were preparing for their second missionary journey, Barnabas wanted to take his cousin with him. Paul, however, objected. Thereupon the two cousins undertook a missionary journey to Cyprus. Time healed the strained relations between Paul and Mark, and during the former's first Roman captivity (61-63), Mark rendered Paul valuable service (**Col. 4:10; Philem. 24**), and the Apostle learned to appreciate him. When in chains the second time Paul requested Mark's presence (**2 Tim. 4:11**).

An intimate friendship existed between Mark and Peter; he played the role of Peter's companion, disciple, and interpreter. According to the common patristic opinion, Mark was present at Peter's preaching in Rome and wrote his Gospel under the influence of the prince of the apostles. This explains why incidents which involve Peter are described with telling detail (e.g., **the great day at Capharnaum, 1:14f**). Little is known of Mark's later life. It is certain that he died a martyr's death as **bishop of Alexandria in Egypt**. His relics were transferred from Alexandria to Venice, where a worthy tomb was erected in **St. Mark's Cathedral**.

**The Gospel of St. Mark**, the shortest of the four, is, above all, a Roman Gospel. It originated in Rome and is addressed to Roman, or shall we say, to Western

Christianity. Another high merit is its chronological presentation of the life of **Christ**. For we should be deeply interested in the historical sequence of the events in our blessed Savior's life.

Furthermore, Mark was a skilled painter of word pictures. With one stroke he frequently enhances a familiar scene, shedding upon it new light. **His Gospel is the "Gospel of Peter,"** for he wrote it under the direction and with the aid of the prince of the apostles. "The Evangelist Mark is represented as a lion because he begins his Gospel in the wilderness, 'The voice of one crying in the desert: Make ready the way of the **Lord**,' or because he presents the **Lord** as the unconquered King."

Excerpted from The Church's Year of Grace, Pius Parsch

**Patron:** Against impenitence; attorneys; barristers; captives; Egypt; glaziers; imprisoned people; insect bites; lions; notaries; prisoners; scrofulous diseases; stained glass workers; struma; Diocese of Venice, Florida; Venice, Italy.

**Symbols:** Winged lion; fig tree; pen; book and scroll; club; barren fig tree; scroll with words Pax Tibi; winged and nimbed lion; lion.

Often Pictured as: Man writing or holding his gospel; man with a halter around his neck; lion in the desert; man with a book or scroll accompanied by a winged lion; holding a palm and book; holding a book with pax tibi Marce written on it; bishop on a throne decorated with lions; helping Venetian sailors; rescuing Christian slaves from Saracens.

It is recorded that St. Mark is the founder of Coptic Church or the Church of Alexandria is called "**Sees of St. Mark**"; one of the earliest four sees: Jerusalem, Antioch, Alexandria, and Rome. **St. Mark**; one of the seventy Apostles (**Mk 10:10**), and one of the four Evangelists. He is regarded by the Coptic hierarchy as the first of their unbroken 117 patriarchs, and also the first of a stream of Egyptian martyrs.

**Bud O'Brien, Chairman of the Board**

## Pilgrimage to the National Shrine Basilica of Our Lady of Fatima Lewiston, NY Monday May 21, 2018



Since 1954, **Our Lady of Fatima Shrine** has become a place of natural beauty, art, communal prayer, and renewal to thousands who visit the unique buildings and grounds each year. The magnificence and natural beauty of the Shrine is highlighted by an awe-inspiring Dome. The impressive approach to the Basilica is down the Avenue of the Saints (over one hundred life-size marble statues represent Saints from every race and walk of life) and around the serenity of the Rosary Pool. Two flights of stairs, with 63 steps, lead to the top of the Dome, where, in graceful majesty, stands a huge statue of **Our Lady of Fatima**. The statue, carved from Vermont granite, is 13 feet high and weighs ten tons. From the top of the Dome, visitors can view the entire Shrine grounds and surrounding countryside.

**7am Depart Salina Town Hall (School Rd. Liverpool)**

**10:30am Arrive at the Shrine**

**11:30am Mass**

**4pm Depart to Liverpool, on-own meal stop, on way home**

**7:30pm arrive Salina Town Hall**

**Cost \$55 per person; Contact Mary Scarsciotti at 315-437-2360 to reserve and for more information**

**During Holy week we share in the passion and suffering of Christ on His way to the cross at Calvary. On Easter Sunday we share in His resurrection as He opens the heavenly doors for our eternal salvation! Bud O'Brien, Chairman of the Board**



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**5180 West Taft Road**

**North Syracuse, NY 13212**

**Phone: (315)452-4698**

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## **CNY Marian Center is Pleased to Present**

**Feast of St. Vincent Ferrer** Thursday April 5, 2018 11-1pm; **Feast of St. Catherine of Siena** Sunday April 29, 2018 12-4pm ;  
**Feast of St. Anthony** Wednesday June 13, 2018 2-6pm

Come celebrate with the CNY Marian Center and The Catholic Shop of Syracuse for the 101st Anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima, Sunday, May 13th, time tba. There will be a talk and recitation of 15 decades of the Rosary at the Catholic Shop. Call or pledge online to pray 15 decades on May 13th to receive an iridescent rosary.

[cnymariancenter.com](http://cnymariancenter.com) (315-452-4698) <https://www.buyagreatgift.com> (315-475-9332)

**New Evangelization Summit simulcast at Holy Cross Church in Dewitt, NY** Friday, April 27, – Saturday, April 28, 2018

**Mercy and Mary Retreat with Father Michael Gaitley at Holy Trinity in Fulton, NY** Friday, April 27, – Saturday, April 28, 2018

For more information: [www.cnymariancenter.com](http://www.cnymariancenter.com); Call 315-453-4698; or Email: [mariancenter.cny@gmail.com](mailto:mariancenter.cny@gmail.com).  
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### **Important Notice to Our Readers**

**With rising postal and printing cost we need to revise our mailing list. If you have email, please send us your email to the address below. Please respond by phone call, postal mail, or email!!** We are trying to continue to spread Mary's messages and need your support too. If you would like to be a regular sponsor or provide a donation towards our many Marian Center Projects throughout the diocese, please fill out the form & mail it with your donation to the **CNY Marian Center, 5180 W. Taft Road, North Syracuse, NY 13212**

Newsletter sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ Donation \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Renewal

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