

Central New York Marian Center, Inc.

Promoting The Gospel Through The Marian Messages

March 2023

5180 West Taft Rd, North Syracuse NY 13212

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Currently we are blest to be celebrating our 30th year!

The Monthly Message of Our Blessed Mother from Medjugorje: January 25, 2023

“Dear children! Pray with me for peace, because Satan wants war and hatred in hearts and peoples. Therefore, pray and sacrifice your days by fasting and penance, that God may give you peace. The future is at a crossroads, because modern man does not want God. That is why mankind is heading to perdition. You, little children, are my hope. Pray with me, that what I began in Fatima and here may be realised. Be prayer and witness peace in your surroundings, and be people of peace. Thank you for having responded to my call. ”

See a rose Pray a Rosary!



BISHOP LUCIA NOVENA PRAYER FOR AN END TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC www.syrdio.org:

O Mary, full of grace, Patroness of this nation and Mother of the Church, in this time of illness and worldwide need we seek your intercession for the human family before your Son’s throne of grace and mercy. We ask for strength in adversity, health in weakness, and comfort in sorrow. Help us, O Blessed Mother, to be filled with confidence and trust in the tender compassion of our God. Let us not be afraid, like our own Saint Marianne Cope, who entrusted her life and ministry among the outcasts of society into the care of our Divine Physician. Continue to watch over all who are sick as well as those who care for them and give wisdom to all who are seeking a cure. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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 great love and hope as we continue through the season of **Lent**, on our journey to Easter morning and the fulfillment of the message of “Eternal Salvation”!!!

The month of March is dedicated to **St. Joseph**. The entire month falls during the liturgical season of **Lent** which is represented by the liturgical color **purple**, a symbol of penance, mortification and the sorrow of a contrite heart.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

Feast Day of St. Patrick March 17, 2023

We are now in the beginning of three feasts of March (almost always in Lent) that are not part of the **Lenten Season**. Two are included in the Sanctoral (saint) Calendar, and only one is integral to the **Temporal Calendar** (following the life of

Christ). These are stand-alone feasts that provide a little refreshment and celebration in Lent: **March 17 St. Patrick**, **March 19 St. Joseph**, and **March 25 The Annunciation**.

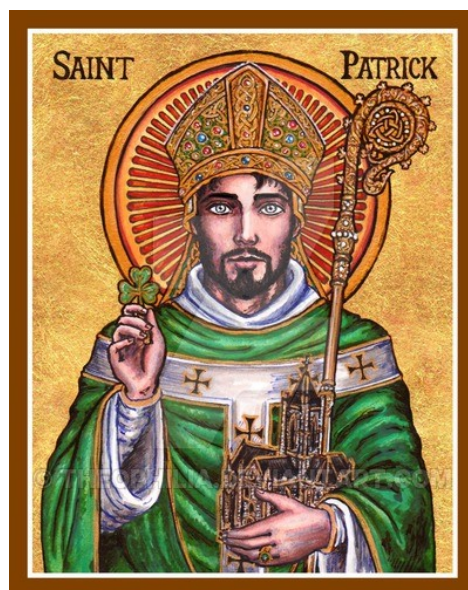
For Catholics who follow the Liturgical Calendar closely, deciding how to celebrate these days in Lent can be as controversial as **Sundays** in **Lent**. Do we stick to the austerity of Lent and change the way a solemnity is celebrated? Do we forego family cele-

brations or special patronal feasts (like **St. Patrick**) because they fall into Lent? Or do we accept the spirit of the day? How does the Church celebrate these feasts?

St. Patrick of Ireland is one of the world's most popular saints. He was born in **Roman Britain** and when he was fourteen or so, he was captured by Irish pirates during a raiding party and taken to **Ireland** as a slave to herd and tend sheep. At the time, **Ireland was a land of Druids and pagans but Patrick turned to God** and wrote his memoir, *The Confession*. In *The Confession*, he wrote:

"The love of **God** and his fear grew in me more and more, as did the faith, and my soul was roused, so that, in a single day, I have said as many as a hundred prayers and in the night, nearly the same. I prayed in the woods and on the mountain, even before dawn. I felt no hurt from the snow or ice or rain."

Patrick's captivity lasted until he was twenty, when he escaped after having a dream from God in which he was told to leave Ireland by going to the coast. There he found some sailors who took him back to Britain and was reunited with his family.





He was ordained by **St. Germanus**, the **Bishop of Auxerre**, whom he had studied under for years, and was later ordained a bishop and sent to take the Gospel to **Ireland**. **Patrick** was able to convert the chieftain and preach the Gospel throughout Ireland.

There, he converted many people eventually thousands and he began building churches across the country. He often used **shamrocks** to explain the **Holy Trinity** and entire kingdoms were eventually converted to Christianity after hearing Patrick's message.

It is believed that **Patrick** may have introduced the **Celtic cross**, which combined a native sun-worshipping symbology with that of the Christian cross.

Patrick preached and converted all of Ireland for 40 years. He worked many miracles and wrote of his love for **God** in Confessions. After years of living in poverty, traveling and enduring much suffering he died March 17, 461.

He died at **Saul**, where he had built the first Irish church. He is believed to be buried in **Down Cathedral, Downpatrick**. His grave was marked in 1990 with a granite stone.

Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated in more countries than any other **national festival**.

Feast Day of St. Joseph March 19, 2023

St. Joseph, the spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the foster-father of Jesus, was probably born in Bethlehem and probably died in Nazareth. His important mission in God's plan of salvation was "to legally insert **Jesus Christ into the line of David from whom, according to the prophets, the Messiah would be born, and to act as his father and guardian**" (*Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy*). Most of our information about **St. Joseph** comes from the opening two chapters of St. Matthew's Gospel. No words of his are recorded in the Gospels; he was the "silent" man. We find no devotion to **St. Joseph** in the early Church. It was the will of God that the Virgin Birth of Our Lord be first firmly impressed upon the minds of the faithful. He was later venerated by the great saints of the Middle Ages. **Pius IX** (1870) declared him patron and protector of the universal family of the Church. March is the month of devotion to **St. Jo-**

seph, whose feast falls on March 19th. The date of the solemnity of **St. Joseph** dates to the end of the 15th century; within the next few centuries, the entire month as a time for devotion to **St. Joseph** became part of tradition.

St. Joseph was an ordinary manual laborer although descended from the royal house of David. In the designs of Providence he was destined to become the spouse of the Mother of God. His high privilege is expressed in a single phrase, "**Foster-father of Jesus.**" About him Sacred Scripture has little more to say than that he was a just man-an expression which indicates how faithfully he fulfilled his high trust of protecting and guarding God's greatest treasures upon earth, Jesus and Mary.

The darkest hours of his life may well have been those when he first learned of Mary's pregnancy; but precisely in this time of trial Joseph showed himself great. His suffering, which likewise formed a part of the work of the redemption, was not without great providential import: **Joseph** was to be, for all times, the trustworthy witness of the Messiah's virgin birth. After this, he modestly retires into the background of holy Scripture.



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Of **St. Joseph's** death the Bible tells us nothing. There are indications, however, that he died before the beginning of Christ's public life. His was the most beautiful death that one could have, in the arms of Jesus and Mary. Humbly and unknown, he passed his years at Nazareth, silent and almost forgotten he remained in the background through centuries of Church history. Only in more recent times has he been accorded greater honor. Liturgical veneration of **St. Joseph** began in the fifteenth century, fostered by Sts. Brigid of Sweden and Bernadine of Siena. St. Teresa, too, did much to further his prominence.

At present there are two major feasts in his honor. On March 19 our veneration is directed to him personally and to his part in the work of redemption, while on May 1 we honor him as the patron of workmen throughout the world and as our guide in the difficult matter of establishing equitable norms regarding obligations and rights in the social order. Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch

St. Joseph is invoked as patron for many causes. He is the patron of the Universal Church. He is the patron of the dying because Jesus and Mary were at his deathbed. He is also the patron of fathers, of carpenters, and of social justice. Many religious orders and communities are placed under his patronage.

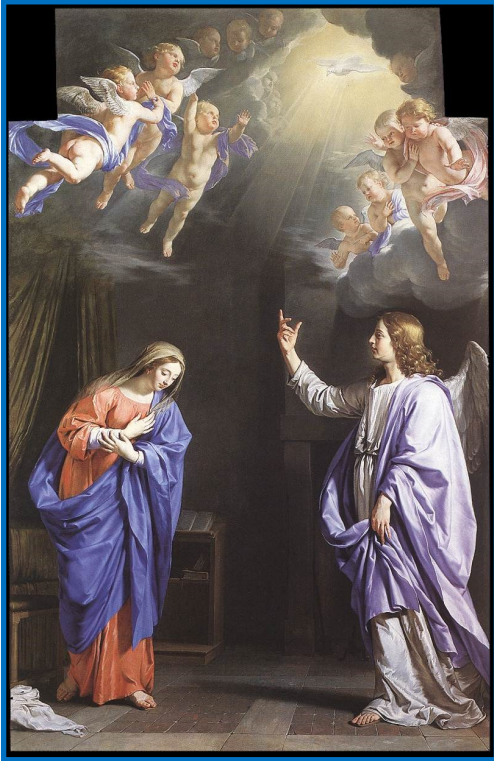
The Annunciation of the Lord March 25, 2023

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.

March 25 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





Palm Sunday The Passion of The Lord March 28, 2023

Holy Week begins with **Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**. It is a dual feast. It has traditionally been known as **Palm Sunday** because the Mass begins with a gospel text that recounts how palm branches were used to welcome Jesus into Jerusalem. It has also traditionally been known as **Passion Sunday** because the Passion Narrative is proclaimed during the Liturgy of the Word.

So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" And **Jesus** found a young ass and sat upon it; as it is written, "**Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on an ass's colt (Jn 12:13-15)!**"

Today we commemorate **Christ's** entry into Jerusalem for the completion of the Paschal Mystery.

The **Palm Sunday** procession is formed of Christians who, in the "**fullness of faith,**" make their own gesture of the Jews and endow it with its full significance. Following the Jews' example we proclaim **Christ** as a Victor... Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord. But by our faith we know, as they did not, all that His triumph stands for. He is the Messiah, the Son of David and the Son of God. He is the sign of contradiction, acclaimed by some and reviled by others. Sent into this world to wrest us from sin and the power of Satan, He underwent **His Passion**, the punishment for our sins, but



issues forth triumphant from the tomb, the victor over death, making our peace with **God** and taking us with Him into the kingdom of His Father in heaven.

The pilgrim **Egeria** attests to a **Palm Sunday** procession taking place in the Jerusalem Church at the end of the 4th century. In the **Gallican Bobbio Missal of the 8th century** we find a reference to blessing of the palms, which symbolize the victory of **Christ**.

In most churches, the ashes for **Ash Wednesday** are derived from burned palms, left over from **Palm Sunday** liturgies.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Did you know that we make and give rosaries to hospitals, nursing homes, parishes, groups, individuals? We recently heard from a chaplain at one of the hospitals who told us he brought a rosary into a patient who had not been able to attend Mass for a long period of time. When he gave her the rosary, she looked like he had just given her the world.

He also told us that a man picked up a rosary at his place of employment, a nursing home, and brought it to his wife, a patient in the hospital. The husband was not Catholic but he knew the cross on the rosary had some special significance. The chaplain prayed the rosary with the man's wife and gave him several more rosaries to take home for family members. The rosaries at the hospital and nursing home both came from the CNY Marian Center.

The rosary is a powerful form of prayer that tells the life of Jesus, through the Gospels in four Mysteries. Please contact us if you need rosaries or would like to make them with the Alice and Nelson Kirkpatrick Rosary Makers. 315-452-4698.

Message from Medjugorje December 25, 2022:

"Dear children! Today I am carrying my Son Jesus to you, that you may be His peace and a reflection of the serenity and joy of Heaven. Pray, little children, to be open to receive peace because many hearts are closed to the call of the light which changes hearts. I am with you and I pray for you to open yourselves to receive the King of Peace, Who fills your hearts with warmth and blessing. Thank you for having responded to my call."

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**.



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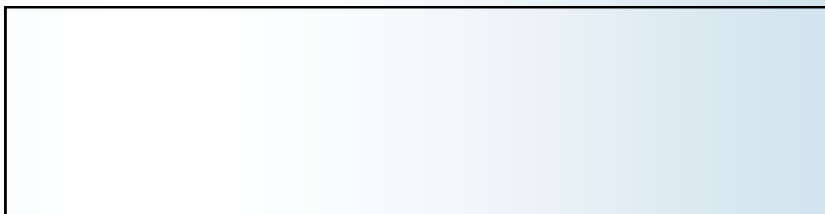
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CNY Marian Center is Pleased to Present

We continue to make and provide rosaries to parishes, hospitals, nursing homes, small groups and individuals. Please keep our ministry in prayer.

Go to our website, www.cnymariancenter.com and fill out the popup to get a short weekly email on new events. On the inside of this month's newsletter, read some Holy Spirit filled true stories about the rosary.

We ask for your prayers for the Marian Center: *Holy Mary, "chosen to be the Mother of God and your mother";* Jesus gave you to us at the Cross. We pray for your intercession that the mission given by God to the Central New York Marian Center will be fulfilled. May we, your children, give our Fiat for His Will to be done. Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, pray for us. Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us. Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us. Queen of Peace, Queen of Divine Mercy,** pray for us. Amen.* *spoken by Our Lady in her February 2, 2020 message **From 12/31/19 homily of Archbishop Luigi Pezzuti.

For more information: Email: cnymariancenter@gmail.com; www.cnymariancenter.com; Call 315-452-4698; Central New York Marian Center, 5180 West Taft Road, North Syracuse 13212

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**

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