March 28, Marzec 2021

**Weekend Mass Times:** Saturday 4:00 pm. / Sunday 10:00 am.  Holy Days as announced

**Weekday Masses:** Mon., Wed., Fri. 5:30 pm.  Tues., Thurs. 9:00 am.

**Confessions**  Saturday 3:00 - 3:30 pm or by appointment

**Eucharistic Adoration**  Thursdays 9:30 am.  **Divine Mercy Devotion**  Fridays 3:00 pm.

Palm Sunday

*Niedziela Palmowa Czyli Męki Panskiej*
As we continue with our catechesis on the unique practices and devotions of our Catholic faith, today we look at religious medals. A religious medal is usually metallic, cast either in a round or oval shape, depicting the image of our Lord, the Blessed Mother, or another saint. Medals have also commemorated places (e.g. shrines), very important spiritual events in one’s life (e.g. first Communion or Ordination), or major historical events (e.g. a Holy Year, the proclamation of a dogma, or an apparition of the Blessed Mother). These medals are usually designed to be worn around the neck of the person or to be attached to a rosary or key chain.

Actually, the wearing of religious medals is a very ancient tradition in our Church. This practice may have resulted from “baptizing” what was once a pagan practice: Pliny used the word amuletum for medals worn around the neck by all classes of people as talismans (i.e. objects believed to give supernatural powers or protection to the wearer). Rather than simply eradicating a cultural practice, the Christians instead “baptized” the use, rooting it in Christian belief and removing the talisman connection.

Archaeology has discovered medals bearing the image of St. Peter and St. Paul manufactured in the second century, and of St. Lawrence the Martyr in the fourth century. St. Zeno of Verona (d. 371) recorded the custom of giving religious medals to newly baptized Christians to commemorate their baptism and reception into the Church. A fifth century story of the life of St. Genevieve recounted how St. Germain placed a medal marked with the sign of the cross around her neck to be a physical reminder of her vow of virginity. Pope St. Gregory the Great (d. 604) sent to Queen Theodolind of the Lombards two small reliquaries containing relics of the True Cross and a sentence from the gospel manuscripts to be worn around the neck as a reminder of her duty as a Christian Queen.

In the Middle Ages, medals were often distributed to pilgrims who visited sacred shrines, such as St. Peter’s, Rome; Canterbury, England; and Santiago de Compostela, Spain. During the thirteenth century, a type of medal known as the jetons became popular: On one side were the initials of the wearer or some other identifying marking, while the reverse side had a pious motto, such as “Love God and Praise Him,” “O Lord, Our God,” “Hail Mary, Mother of God,” or an inscription, such as IHS. These jetons were popular until the time of the French Revolution.

The use of religious medals as we know them today arose in the sixteenth century. Pope St. Pius V (d. 1572) began the custom of blessing religious medals and attaching an indulgence to them. For example, in 1566 he blessed medals with the image of Jesus and Mary and granted an indulgence to the faithful who wore them.

Note, however, the Christians consistently condemned the talisman effect or any connection with magic, as evidenced in St. Jerome’s early writings (d. 420). The Catechism also affirms that “all practices of magic or sorcery, by which one attempts to tame occult powers, so as to place them at one’s service and have a supernatural power over others– even if this were for the sake of restoring their health– are gravely contrary to the virtue of religion…. Wearing charms is also reprehensible” (#2117). Never should we look upon the wearing of a religious medal as a “charm,” but always as a sacred symbol of the supernatural protection offered directly by our Lord, Blessed Mother, or saint.

Technically, medals are classified as a sacramental: “These are sacred signs which bear a resemblance to the sacraments. They signify effects, particularly of a spiritual nature, which are obtained through the Church’s spiritual intercession. By them men are disposed to receive the chief effect of the sacraments, and various occasions in life are rendered holy” (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, #60). The sacramental prepares a person to receive grace and disposes him to cooperate with it; in this way, the medal reminds us of a holy person, which in turn open us to grace to follow his example. The Enchiridion of Indulgences (1969) affirms “The faithful, who devoutly use an article of devotion (crucifix or cross, rosary, scapular, or medal) properly blessed by any priest, obtain a partial indulgence” (#35).

In all, the wearing of a religious medal is a good, pious practice which keeps us mindful of the protection and love of the image it bears. Moreover, the consciousness of that image should motivate us to fulfill our religious duties and put our faith into action. Just as a blessed wedding ring is a constant physical reminder to the spouse of his or her vows of fidelity and love, so do these medals provide a constant physical reminder of the love and fidelity we share with Almighty God and the communion of saints.
Parish Staff

Rev. Eric T. Delisle  Sr. M. Thomas Lesniak
Pastor  Pastoral Assistant

Scott Bergendahl  Dan Felch
Music Director  Parish Maintenance

Ellie Felch  Parish Secretary

Parish Information

St. Hedwig Cemetery
Old Bedford, Bedford, NH 03103
Phone: 603-623-4835

Sacraments:
Baptism
Please contact the parish if you wish to have your child baptized. Baptisms are celebrated after the 10 am Mass on Sundays, except during the Lenten season.

Marriage
Marriages are booked six months in advance.

Convent
Sr. Mary Thomas Lesniak, CSSF
Sr. Jacqueline Mary Kazanowski, CSSF
147 Walnut Street, Manchester, NH 03104
603-232-3115

Weekly Giving

Donations received, Mar. 13-19, 2021
Weekly giving  $ 1,365.00
Online giving  $ 172.50  Total: $ 1,537.50

Thank You!

Are you new to the parish?
We are glad you can worship with us at St. Hedwig Parish. Please register at the rectory or in the Sacristy after Mass. If you haven't already, please take a parish registration form at the entrance of the Church and fill it out. On the reverse side of the form, you can make a choice of joining any of the Parish Ministries available at St. Hedwig. When complete, please drop the form in the collection basket or mail it to the parish office at:

147 Walnut Street, Manchester, NH 03104

Pray for the Sick

Please pray for the sick and homebound of our parish:

Shirley Stemska, Rita Haskins,
Emily Menczywor, Walter Gorski

If you know of any other members of St. Hedwig's who are homebound and could be added to this list, please let Fr. Eric know or leave a message on the parish voice mail.

A Prayer for the Sick of our Parish

May you be wrapped up in God's love found deep in His everlasting wings. Carried and kept, safe and cherished. May the healing power of Christ breath across your being now.

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.
Palm Sunday is the last Sunday before Easter and commemorates Christ’s triumphal entry to Jerusalem. It marks the end of Lent and the beginning of Holy Week, during which time the faithful prepare themselves to celebrate Easter.

As Christ rode into Jerusalem, palm branches were tossed onto the ground before him. To mark Palm Sunday in Poland, the faithful bring to churches their own “palms” generally made from willow branches decorated with evergreen plants. Luckily, some unique and captivating Palm Sunday traditions were preserved and are still cultivated in Poland.

In the Łyse and Lipniki parishes in the Kurpie region, palm processions are a common sight on Palm Sunday. Some of the paraded pine branch contraptions exceed 6 meters (20 ft.) and catch the eye with colorful and vibrant crepe paper flowers and green bilberry or juniper bushes affixed to the top.

In another part of Poland, typically Polish folk custom celebrates the Palm Sunday. Every year the market square of Lipnica Murowana hosts a competition for the tallest plaited palm. These constructions can reach an astonishing height of 20 meters (65 ft.). Palms that tall are carefully lifted upright and securely tied to nearby trees and buildings. The palms of Lipnica Murowana are made of willow canes and decorated with bulrush, juniper, and lingonberry branches. The tops are crowned with a crest of colorful crepe paper flowers, ribbons, and strips.

According to tradition, it is believed that the height of the palm reflects the size and wealth of its owner’s estate. A person who fails to prepare a palm is likely to suffer from bad luck and misfortune.
Readings of the Week

Monday: Is 42:1-7; Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14; Jn 12:1-11
Tuesday: Is 49:1-6; Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a; Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34; Mt 26:14-25
Friday: Is 52:13 — 53:12; Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1 — 19:42
Saturday: a) Gn 1:1 — 2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a; Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35; or Ps 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20, 22;
b) Gn 22:1-18 or Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18, Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11;
c) Ex 14:15 — 15:1; Ex 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18;
d) Is 54:5-14; Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13;
e) Is 55:1-11; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6;
f) Bar 3:9-15, 32 — 4:4; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11;
g) Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28; Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3-4 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 or Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19;
h) Rom 6:3-11) Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Mk 16:1-7
Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8; Jn 20:1-9 or Mk 16:1-7

Sunday Readings

Reading I: Isaiah 50: 4-7
Like the prophets before him, Isaiah is mistreated and ignored, to the point of having spittle on his face. But his face is strong like flint. A direct reference to Christ’s treatment.

Reading II: Philippians 2: 6-11
St. Paul exhorts his readers to selflessness. He quotes from an extant and beautiful hymn of the early Church. It poignantly describes both the abasement and the exaltation of Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Gospel of Mark has been described by scholars as “A Passion Narrative with a long introduction.” Be that as it may, this latter part is key to the rest of the gospel.
Guidelines to follow as we return to the public celebration of Mass.

For your safety:

Please Use Hand Sanitizer when entering the church.

Masks are strongly required. They are to be removed when receiving Holy Communion and replaced afterwards. If you don’t have one, spare masks are available at the entrance of the church. Please discard after use.

Maintain 6 Feet Social Distancing In Line and in the pews.

Congregational singing is discouraged at this time. There is no Exchange of Peace. When exiting the church after Mass, please leave your kneeler down so we know where to clean and disinfect the pews. We can only hope and pray that this will be for only a little while longer and return to some sense of normalcy.

“Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil; May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; And do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who prowl through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.”

Humor

We will be having the traditional blessing of the Easter Baskets this year!

Saturday, April 3, 2021

10:00 am, 11:00 am., & 12 noon.

St. Hedwig Parish Hall
147 Walnut St., Manchester, NH 03104
603-623-4835

Bring your baskets filled with the traditional goodies that will grace our Easter tables this year as we celebrate with our families. Be sure the children bring their baskets as well for a blessing!

Spread the word!
Holy Week 2021 at St. Hedwig

Saturday, March 27, 2021
Anticipated Mass of Palm Sunday 4:00 pm.

Sunday, March 28, 2021
Palm Sunday Mass 10:00 am.

Monday, March 29, 2021
Mass 5:30 pm.

Tuesday, March 30, 2021
Mass 9:00 am.

Wednesday, March 31, 2021
Mass 5:30 pm.

All services are live streamed at sainthedwignh.org

Thursday, April 1, 2021  Holy Thursday
Mass 7:00 pm. (no 9:00 am. Mass or Adoration)

Friday, April 2, 2021  Good Friday
Service of the Lord’s Passion 3:00 pm.
Stations of the Cross 6:00 pm.
(no Divine Mercy or 5:30 pm. Mass)

Saturday, April 3, 2021  Holy Saturday
Easter Vigil Mass 7:30 pm.

Sunday, April 4, 2021  Easter Sunday
Masses 8:00 am & 10:00 am. to accommodate safe distancing for anticipated larger attendance.

0985hedwig

March 28, 2021