

Reasons ...

Cont'd from Page 1

Christ, and we share that light with each other and bring it into the cathedral church. Okay, maybe that's not so weird after all. Let's move on.

2. The readings and the return of the Gloria. Yeah, I have missed the Gloria too, but so what? It's in a strange place during mass, there's bells ringing, what's going on? The readings invite us to remember all of the good works God has done for us throughout history. We are reminded of the story of creation, Abraham and Issac, the crossing of the Red Sea and more. Then we respond with the Gloria—we are giving God thanks and praise for all of those good works. That Gloria is one-of-a-kind, then. We've waited seven weeks to sing it, and we get to sing it in direct response to the readings reminding us of God's infinite goodness. We sing it with true joy—it always should be sung that way, but at the vigil, even more so. I guess that makes sense. What's next?

3. Two people will be baptized. Now we're getting somewhere. First, we have to listen to the Litany of Saints. What a waste of time—asking all of those people who have gone before us, living holy lives and reaching that heavenly reward we all seek to pray for us. Then, who wants to see anyone receive the grace of adoption by God? Isaiah and Elizabeth

will have chosen to be there, and to become members of God's people, and we'll all be excited about how much this is like welcoming them into our family. And of course, we will each recall our own baptisms and revitalize our faith at the same time. Well, maybe the fourth reason is better.

4. Four more people will be welcomed into full communion with the church. More rites, this must be getting boring by now, right? So after Elizabeth is baptized, she will join Rachele, Liz, Joe, and Mike in asking for full communion with the church. A little background is in order here. These five have been meeting since September, learning about our faith, praying, asking the Holy Spirit for guidance, and waiting. They're about to be welcomed into full communion with the church and for the first time, join us in the celebration of the Eucharist. They've heard God's call and want to become a part of our faith. Wait, that's kind of cool actually.

5. The Eucharist. We do this all the time—surely there's nothing exciting about the Easter vigil. We do have to remember what's going on. We've been brought from darkness into light, we've been given new life in the waters of baptism, and we now receive the life in Christ that God has promised us. Our neophytes will join us for the first time and together, we celebrate Easter. We join together as a church at the sacrifi-

cial table that Christ prepared for us through his death and resurrection. What was my task again—reasons NOT to attend? I might have this backwards.

In all seriousness, I hope you will consider attending the vigil. We're welcoming six people into our family this year. Imagine how meaningful it will be for our new family members if the church is full as we welcome them. If you cannot make it, please pray for our new members, and when you see them, please welcome them and get to know them. We're blessed to have them joining the parish and our church.

Ministers Needed

We are in need of Eucharistic Ministers for parishioners in North Wheeling (Providence Greene). Early afternoon visits preferred. If interested call Sister Mary Bowman (304-242-4048). Thank You.

Volunteers Needed



We need help cleaning and decorating the Cathedral for Easter.

If you can make it, just show up Saturday April 15, 9:00 am

The Catholic Charities Neighborhood Center will hold its 21st Annual Spaghetti Dinner on May 7 from 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 125 18th Street in Wheeling. Take-out will be available. Join us for good food and fellowship for a worthy cause. Donations are being accepted, and volunteer opportunities are available. For more information about how you can help, call (304) 232-7157 ext. 8.

Most Rev. Michael J. Bransfield, Pastor
 Rev. Monsignor Kevin M. Quirk, J.C.D., Rector
 (304) 281-7073 (kquirk@dwc.org)
 Ms. Debora Valorie Fahey, Parish Assistant for
 Pastoral Ministries (dfahey@dwc.org)
 Sister Mary Bowman, SFCC, Pastoral Associate for
 Ministry to the Sick

Dr. Michael Match, Director of Music
 (mmatch@dwc.org)
 Mr. Tyler J. Greenwood, Associate Organist
 (tgreenwood@dwc.org)
 Mr. Martin Imbroscio, Sacristan
 Mr. Alex Nagem, CPA, CGMA, Comptroller
 (anagem@dwc.org)
 Mr. Donald Gruber, Custodian

Sunday Masses: 6:00 p.m. Saturday; 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday.

Weekday Mass: 12:05 p.m. Monday through Friday; 9:00 a.m. Saturday.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: 11:15-11:50 a.m. Friday; 5-5:45 p.m. Saturday.

Sacrament of the Sick and Communion to Homebound: Call the parish office anytime to make arrangements.

Il Corriere del Duomo

Weekly Journal for the Cathedral of St. Joseph

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

This Sunday we celebrate Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion. On this day, the Church recalls the entrance of Christ the Lord into Jerusalem to accomplish His Paschal Mystery. In memorial of this entrance, we process before the Mass. During the procession, the following Gospel passage is read. Take it home, read, pray and meditate on as we begin Holy Week, the most important season of the Church.

Jesus proceeded on his journey up to Jerusalem. As he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples.

He said, "Go into the village opposite you, and as you enter it you will find a colt tethered on which no one has ever sat.

Untie it and bring it here.

And if anyone should ask you, 'Why are you untying it?' you will answer, 'The Master has need of it.'"

So those who had been sent went off and found everything just as he had told them.

And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying this colt?"

They answered, "The Master has need of it."

So they brought it to Jesus,



threw their cloaks over the colt, and helped Jesus to mount.

As he rode along, the people were spreading their cloaks on the road; and now as he was approaching the slope of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of his disciples began to praise God aloud with joy for all the mighty deeds they had seen.

They proclaimed: "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest."

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples."

He said in reply, "I tell you, if they keep silent, the stones will cry out!" (Luke 19: 28-40)

Top Five Reasons NOT to Attend the Easter Vigil Mass

As Lent quickens to a close and I begin to think about arriving early to save my seat at the Easter Vigil mass, I thought this a good time to explore all of the reasons why one should choose not to attend the Easter Vigil mass. Since I

like lists, I have put these reasons into a Top Ten list. Then, with some deference to the Editor and his tolerance for rambling, I narrowed it to a Top Five. So without further ado, here are the top five reasons you, dear reader, should

NOT attend the Easter Vigil mass:

1. It involves fire. I know what you are thinking—what could fire possibly have to do with the Easter vigil? The vigil begins in darkness outside; the cathedral church will

be dark. It's much like our lives without Christ. How could we better symbolize what we're anticipating through the vigil, then, with the introduction of fire? We receive the light of

See "Reasons" on Page 4

Christian Awareness

By Alex J. Nagem

During the summer of 1966, I spent my vacation time from school in Lebanon with my mom, brother and sister. My time was filled visiting family, sightseeing, and just being a kid. I liked spending time in my mom's home town of Roumieh. It is a small metropolitan in the mountains with a beautiful view of Beirut and the Mediterranean coast. My brother, cousins and I would play soccer and explore the paths that veined the mountain-side from one terrace to another. Roumieh is a mixture of old and new. You could see and hear sports cars speeding up and down the windy roads on a sunny day, and a donkey tide outside the grocery store waiting to give the owner a ride home. On several occasions I enjoyed the back of a donkey as he carried me down the roads or one of the paths. My cousins would walk beside me laughing and patting the donkey to keep him moving. My uncle George told me the donkey was the ride of kings. I didn't understand at the time. I thought he was making a joke about me riding the donkey which always brought smiles and friendly greetings from all who we passed. I thought the ride of kings would be a large, beautiful, and muscular horse. I did not know my uncle was giving me a lesson in religious symbolism. The use of animals for daily transportation has diminished in our modern times. Without understanding the meaning behind a leader or king riding a donkey, we

would not understand why Jesus chose a donkey colt to ride. In Middle Eastern countries during the time of Christ, riding a donkey meant you were coming in peace. Riding a horse meant you were coming for battle. The donkey is a gentle and patient animal that can carry a heavy load easily. The donkey is a loyal animal known to run to his master even in a crowd of people. It is the ideal animal for Jesus to ride to symbolize He is the Prince of Peace on his journey into Jerusalem to save our souls and free us from the holds of sin.

Some symbol meanings have been lost with passing years like the riding of a donkey by a king. Another symbol not used much in modern times or which meaning is not understood is the waving or the laying of palm leaves on the ground to be walked on by someone of importance or authority. During the time of Christ, palm leaves were a symbol of victory, peace, and eternal life. The display of palm leaves and the laying of the leaves on the ground for Jesus to pass over was a way the Israelites showed their hope for victory over the Romans through Jesus Christ. He was the one to lead them to victory. This is known today as laying out the red carpet for someone of importance to walk on. At my home, we just sweep off the all weather runner on the porch every few days. All are always welcome. Anyway, Palm leaves have become a symbol of resurrection, and a victory over death through the union of Christ. "The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree," Psalm 92:12. The palm tree is a fruit bearing tree. In the Middle East

Not Just a Donkey Ride

the fruit from the palm tree is the date, one of my favorites. The date is a fruit that is believed to be nourishing enough to sustain life without other food. This is a symbol of a righteous man is it not? He is one who possesses love for his neighbor, provides peace, and comforts those who are filled with sorry or ill, and does not blame or condemn others. The righteous man is a symbol of the teachings of Jesus Christ. "The palm tree grows straight and upright toward Heaven. Unlike some trees that bend, twist and droop. The good man is well figured here. He is the man who does not stoop, who does not bend and bow earthward, who stands erect, who moves in one heavenward direction, who is governed constantly by true and abiding principles. These he gains from God and by following the word of God." (The Pulpit Commentary) (Ezekiel 41:18-20, 25)

It is easy to forget that during the time of Christ, the Israelites were under the rule of the Romans. They wanted freedom from this rule. Did they know that Jesus would bring victory and freedom to all from sin and not just against those who oppress, or would it take another event in the life of Jesus? It was through the teachings of the Apostles, the chosen twelve followers of Jesus, and later the chosen successors in the priests today, that we learn the victory and freedom Jesus gave us was not from the Romans but from our sins, our lack of love for God and fellow man. He showed us through words and actions our need to be righteous and nourishing to others. Just as symbols from the ancient Middle

East are forgotten, so can the meaning of our time until we return to face our judgment. As we hold the palm leaves in our hand on Palm Sunday let us think of the ride Jesus made into Jerusalem the week before the fateful day of his crucifixion. Do you truly believe Jesus is the Son of God? Do you believe that he sacrificed himself through crucifixion to allow our souls to one day be with God? Do you believe that through the practice of the teachings of Jesus we can all be made righteous? Then as you hold the palm leaves, know that you are holding a symbol of victory over death. The palm fruit provides nourishment alone to sustain life. For me, the palm is another symbol, another reminder, of the promise Jesus made to all of his return to lead us to the Father. The palm is a yet another symbol of our faith in our Triune God. There is always much to think about with our faith. A nice ride on the back of a donkey on a sunny day in the country would help us to focus on the ride Jesus made into Jerusalem and its meaning for all. Well, maybe it would be for me as I remember the summer of 1966. Since the donkey ride is not possible for most, spending time thinking of teachings, belief in, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus Christ is our sign of hope for victory over sin.

"Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song."
Pope John Paul II

"*Vocatus Atque non Vocatus, Deus Aderit*"

Alex J. Nagem

April 9, 2017

April 9, 2017

The Cathedral Courier 3

Mass Intentions and Readings

Sunday—April 9th—PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Station Church of Rome: Saint John Lateran (Part 2)

Sat 6:00p Mass for Leonard Romanek
8:00a Mass for the Parishioners
9:15a RCIA, Rectory
10:30a Mass for Joey Allen
RDGS: Mt 21:1-11 (procession)
Is 50:4-7 Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24
Phil 2:6-11 Mt 26:14—27:66

Monday—April 10th

Station Church of Rome: Santa Prassede

12:05p Mass for Jean Huff
RDGS: Is 42:1-7 Ps 27:1-3, 13-14 Jn 12:1-11

Tuesday—April 11th

Station Church of Rome: Santa Prisca

12:05p Mass for Mary Drosieko
4:00p Chrism Mass
RDGS: Is 49:1-6 Ps 71:1-4a, 5-6ab, 15, 17
Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
6:30p Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday—April 12th

Station Church of Rome: Saint Mary Major

12:05p Mass for Betty Naeglele
RDGS: Is 50:4-9a Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34
Mt 26:14-25

Thursday—April 13th—HOLY THURSDAY OF THE LORDS SUPPER

Station Church of Rome: Saint John Lateran

6:30p Mass of the Lord's Supper
RDGS: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14
Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18 1Cor 11:23-26
Jn 13:1-15

Friday—April 14th—FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Station Church of Rome: Santa Croce in Gerusalemme

12:00p Stations of the Cross
3:00p Celebration of the Lord's Passion
RDGS: Is 52:13—53:12 Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-17, 25
Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9 Jn 18:1—19:42

Saturday—April 15th—HOLY SATURDAY

Station Church of Rome: Saint John Lateran

9:00a Church Decorating
8:00p Easter Vigil
RDGS: (1) Gn 1:1—2:2 Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12-14, 24, 35
(2) Gn 22:1-18 Ps 16:5, 8-11
(3) Ex 14:15—15:1 (Ps) Ex 15:1-6, 17-28
(4) Is 54:5-14 Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13
(5) Is 55:1-11 (Ps) Is 12:2-3, 4-6
(6) Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4 Ps 19:8-11

(7) Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28 Pss 42:3, 5; 43:3-4
(8) Rom 6:3-11 Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23
(9) Lk 24:1-12

Sunday—April 16th—EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESSURECTION OF THE LORD

Station Church of Rome: Saint Mary Major

8:00a Mass for the Parishioners
10:30a Mass for the Parishioners
RDGS: Acts 10:34a, 37-43 Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23
Col 3:1-4 Jn 20:1-9



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday—April 9

10:30 a.m. Palm Sunday Procession

Monday of Holy Week—April 10

12:05 p.m. Mass

Tuesday of Holy Week—April 11

12:05 p.m. Mass
4:00 p.m. Chrism Mass

Wednesday of Holy Week—April 12

12:05 p.m. Mass

Holy Thursday—April 13

6:30 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday—April 14

12:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross
3:00 p.m. Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday—April 15

9:00 a.m. Decorating Cathedral for Easter
8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord—April 16

8:00 a.m. Mass
10:30 a.m. Mass
Easter Egg Hunt following Mass