

*The poor you will always have with you,
and whenever you wish you can do good to
them, but you will not always have me.*

Mark 14:7 (NAB)

*Blessed Sacrament Parish
Saugus, MA*

*Saint Margaret Parish
Saugus & No. Revere, MA*

*Palm Sunday
April 5, 2009*

Blessed Sacrament Parish

14 Summer Street Saugus, MA
 Rectory Phone: 781 233 2497

Saint Margaret Parish

431 Lincoln Avenue Saugus & No. Revere, MA
 Rectory Phone: 781 233 1040

Pastoral Team

Father George E. Morin & Father Daniel P. McCoy
 frgeorge@parishmail.com frdanmccoy@yahoo.com

Mass Times

Weekend Masses:

Saturday @ 4:00 pm
 Sunday @ 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am

Weekend Masses:

Saturday @ 4:00 pm & 5:30 pm
 Sunday @ 8:30 am & 10:00 am

Daily Mass: 9:00 am Monday through Saturday

Daily Mass: 9:00 am Monday through Friday

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 3:00 pm to 3:45 pm and by request

Rev. Felix Prior, O' Carm – Sunday Assistance
 Rev. James Riley - Mid week Assistance
 Deacon Francis M. Gaffney – Permanent Deacon
 Martha G. Lecaroz – Parish Secretary
 Donna Zinna – Religious Education -781 231 3699
 Lorraine Perella – Program Coordinator
 Phyllis Bunnell - Music Director
 Debora Pillsbury - Parish Housekeeper
 Nicholas Raftelis – Buildings and Grounds

Rev. Lawrence Wetterholm – Weekend Assistance
 Rev. Vincent Cornejo – Weekend Assistance
 Rev. Donald Skerry, SVD – Mid week Assistance
 Andrea Alberti - Youth Ministry
 Ben DiScipio - Music Director

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Usually held on the second Sunday of the month.
 Please call the Rectory to schedule

Usually held on the third Sunday of the month.
 Please call the Rectory to schedule

THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Couples planning to marry are encouraged to schedule more than one year in advance.
 The Archdiocese requires at least six months notice.

Sick and Homebound

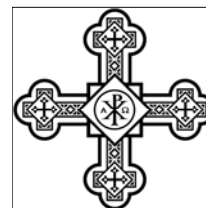
If you know someone in the parish who is sick or homebound and who would like to receive the Eucharist,
 please notify the rectory.

WELCOME! New Parishioners

Please introduce yourself to one another, as well as to the priest following Mass.
 Also, please call the rectory to register. We want to know our parishioners and to serve your needs.

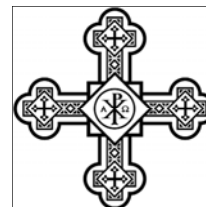
Mass Intentions at Blessed Sacrament

Carole D. Catalano	Memorial Mass	4:00 p.m. Saturday	(4/4/09)
For the People of the Parish		9:00 a.m. Sunday	(4/5/09)
Alphonse Pecz & Dotty Polyson	Memorial Mass	10:30 a.m. Sunday	(4/5/09)
Mary May Lawrence	Memorial Mass	9:00 a.m. Monday	(4/6/09)
Rose & Peter Salvo	Memorial Mass	9:00 a.m. Tuesday	(4/7/09)
All Deceased Parishioners, Friends and Relatives		9:00 a.m. Wednesday	(4/8/09)



Mass Intentions at Saint Margaret

Roy Recupero	1st Anniversary Mass	4:00 p.m. Saturday	(4/4/09)
Paul Smallcomb & Florence Nugent	Memorial Mass	5:30 p.m. Saturday	(4/4/09)
Thomas & Sophie Sullivan	Memorial Mass	10:00 a.m. Sunday	(4/5/09)
For successful surgery		9:00 a.m. Tuesday	(4/7/09)
Mary Ann Frassica	Birthday Remembrance	8:30 a.m. Sunday	(4/12/09)
Edwin & Lucian Cherubin	Memorial Mass	10:00 a.m. Sunday	(4/12/09)



Palm Sunday, April 5:

Regular Sunday Mass Schedule at both Churches with Blessing and Distribution of Palms at all the Masses.

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday, April 6, 7 & 8:

9:00 a.m. Mass at both Churches.

Holy Thursday, April 9: 9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer at Blessed Sacrament Church.

7:00 p.m. Mass of the Lord Supper at Blessed Sacrament Church - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament till 10:00 p.m. concluding with Night Prayer.

Good Friday, April 10: 9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer at Blessed Sacrament Church

10:30 a.m. Ecumenical Way of the Cross at Breakheart Reservation

3:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross at Blessed Sacrament Church

7:00 p.m. Solemn Good Friday Service at Saint Margaret Church.

Holy Saturday, April 11: 9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer at Blessed Sacrament Church

8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil at both Churches (**please note there is no 4:00 p.m. Masses at either Church or 5:30 p.m. Mass at Saint Margaret's.**)

Easter Sunday, April 12: 6:00 a.m. Ecumenical Sunrise Service at Saugus Iron Works with Father Dan, preaching.

Regular Sunday Mass Schedule at both Churches.



We pray for Peace in the World, an end to war and terrorism, an end to world hunger, our men & women in the Armed Services, **Patrick McMorrow, Michael McMorrow, Joseph DePietro, John Scott,**

Brian & Stephanie Howard, and Kevin Howard, Timothy Perkins, and Alison Perkins, Lt. Maxwell Palumbo, Sgt. Paul J. Eaves

The Sick: Karen Shirk, Chris McMahan, John Welsh, Lynda Mscisz, Father James Field, Father Thomas Nestor, Kayden Devine, Alexander Mosuto, Debbie Maher, Thomas Kehoe, Michael Doto, Kevin Riordan, Charlie Leonard, Gerry Bradlee, Michael McGrath. Lila June Brown, Nancy Patti, Gini Atwood

The Faithful Departed: Julia Burke, Miriam Madden, Phyllis Turcotte

The Easter Collection: At the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday Masses there is one collection taken for the benefit of the elderly, retired and medical needs of the priest of the Archdiocese of Boston. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. In the name of our brother priests, we thank you for your thoughtfulness.

Father George & Father Dan

**BLESSED SACRAMENT
FINANCIAL BLESSINGS**

Last Sunday's collection was **\$4,249.00** with **196** envelopes. An additional **\$269.00** was received from mail-in contributions. Attendance at Mass was 699 people.

SAINT MARGARET FINANCIAL BLESSINGS

Last Sunday's collection was **\$3,236.00** Attendance at Mass was 586 people. Thank you for your generosity to the needs of the Parish and to the mission of the Church.

**BLESSED SACRAMENT
SECOND COLLECTIONS**

April 4 & 5 - Renovation
April 11 & 12 - Clergy Benefit Trust

**SAINT MARGARET
SECOND COLLECTIONS**

April 4 & 5 - Parish Monthly Collection
April 11 & 12 - Clergy Benefit Trust

Grand Annual Collection: We are grateful to those who have generously contributed to this year's Grand Annual Collection. At Blessed Sacrament Parish \$45,825.00 has been received, and at Saint Margaret Parish \$28,130.00 has been received. All monies collected through the Grand Annual Collection are used entirely for the programs and property needs of each respective Parish. Thank you for your generosity. If you have not donated to the Grand Annual, may we suggest a gift to your Parish at this time. We appreciate your consideration.

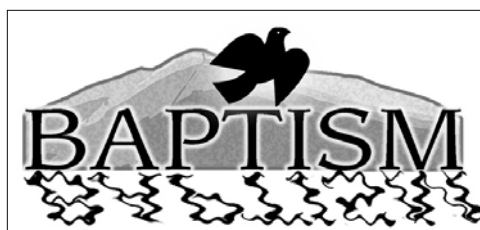
Easter Flower Memorials: Deadline for inclusion in the Easter Bulletin is Palm Sunday, April 5. Thank you for your understanding. Extra Easter Flower envelopes are at the Church doors.

The Living Rosary Pilgrimage: Rev. Thomas S. Rafferty and the people of St. John the Evangelist Parish, Swampscott will host the April Living Rosary Pilgrimage. The time is 7:00 p.m. on April 16. The address is 178 Humphrey Street, Swampscott. The parking lot is across the street from the Church.



Please keep in your prayers this couple preparing for marriage:

#2 *David M. Hodge & Cristina Meola*



**Baptism
Preparation:**

At Blessed Sacrament Church, the Sacrament of Baptism is

usually celebrated on the second Sunday of the month. Prior to the Baptism of children Parents and God-Parents are to participate in a Baptism Preparation Program. At Blessed Sacrament, the Preparation Class is held monthly. Upcoming dates are: (no Baptisms during Lent), April 14, May 19, June 9, July 7, August 4, September 8, October 6 and November 3. Call Blessed Sacrament at 781-233-2497 to register for the above. At Saint Margaret, the Sacrament of Baptism is usually celebrated on the third Sunday of the month. The Preparation Class is held every other month, usually on the first Thursday. Upcoming dates are: June 4, August 6, October 8 and December 3. Call Saint Margaret at 781-233-1040 to register for the above. Baptism Preparation begins at 7:00 p.m. at both Churches.

Women's Guild Meeting: We are looking forward to a great evening and attendance as our special guest will be doing her presentation on the origin and history of teas. Please save the date—desserts are most welcome. See you Monday, April 6, at 7:00 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Church Hall.

The 5th Grade Mass: We would like to thank the 5th Grade Religious Education Class for their "Craft and Bake Sale" of March 22, with proceeds going to Breast Cancer Research. We also would like to thank the High School Youth of St. Margaret's who generously donated their cookie sale money to these 5th Graders, to bring their grand total raised to \$369.00. Our thanks to all of them for a job well done.

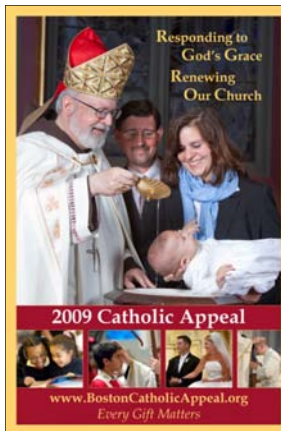
Lenten Regulations on Fast and Abstinence

- Abstinence from meat is observed on Good Friday, and all the Fridays of Lent by all Catholics 14 years of age and older.
- Fasting is observed on Good Friday by all Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59 years of age. Those bound by this rule may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted as necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.
- The special Paschal fast and abstinence are observed on Good Friday and, where possible, on Holy Saturday. On these days, Christians prepare themselves by these disciplines in anticipation of the renewal of their baptismal commitment on Easter.
- From its earliest days, the Church has urged the baptized and the catechumens to observe the threefold discipline of fasting, almsgiving, and prayer as a preparation for the celebration of Easter. Failure to observe individual days of penance is not considered serious, but failure to observe any penitential days at all or a substantial number of such days must be considered serious.
- During Lent, the Church encourages attendance at daily Mass, self-imposed times of fasting, and generosity to local, national, and worldwide programs of sharing.



Project Bread's Annual Walk for Hunger: Sunday, May 3, starting on the Boston Common, 7:00 a.m. to 9:00

a.m.: With poverty and unemployment rising at unprecedented rates and 522,000 people across the state struggling to put food on the table, this year's *Walk for Hunger* is more important than ever. Since 1969, *The Walk For Hunger* has relied on support from religious organizations. Over the years, that support has grown from 1 to more than 1,000 religious and community organizations that come out to protest the social injustice of hunger in our midst. Now is the time to step up and join Project Bread's Annual *Walk for Hunger* on Sunday, May 3. With the economy struggling, every dollar, every mile, and every volunteer-hour counts for our neighbors in need. Your pledges feed people through emergency food programs throughout the state and through many food programs in schools, after school programs, and pediatrician offices, which integrate help into the ordinary fabric of everyday life. Celebrate the spirit of giving along with over 40,000 other concerned citizens by participating in this Massachusetts family tradition. For information, visit www.projectbread.org/walk or call 617-723-5000.



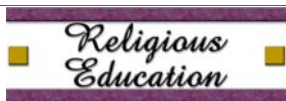
The Catholic Appeal: The results for the Catholic Appeal are updated weekly. Congratulations to the results after just three weeks.

Blessed Sacrament Parish
92 donors have contributed or pledged \$11,160.00 which is 34.3% of the Parish goal of \$32,500.00.

Saint Margaret Parish
62 donors have contributed or pledged \$9,531.00 which is 44.3% of the Parish goal of \$21,500.00.

If you have not contributed or made a pledge to the Catholic Appeal as yet, please consider a gift today. Information packets with pledge cards are available at the Church doors. Please know that every gift matters. Thank you.

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a **Cross**. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of **Jesus** every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that **Jesus Christ** is **Lord**, to the glory of God the Father. ~ Philippians 2:6-11



Blessed Sacrament

Religious Education Grades 1-8

Please note this **change in schedule** for this Sunday due to a conflict at Saugus High School.

Grades 1, 2 and 3 will meet in the lower church from 10:00-11:00AM for their Safety Program class.

NO CLASS for grades 4, 5, and 6.

Grades 7 & 8 will meet at Saugus High School as usual, from 10:15-11:15AM

A dance competition is being held at Saugus High this weekend. Please be mindful that the parking lot will be nearly full. It is for this reason that we needed to change our schedule. It would be helpful if families could plan to car pool. We apologize for the short notice regarding these changes.

This is the last class for this year. Classes will resume in September. Please watch the bulletin for registration information. Have a safe and happy vacation.

New Archdiocesan Website:

"Cardinal Seán is pleased to announce the launch of the Archdiocese of Boston's new website, designed to bring Catholics closer to their faith and to offer the wider community an expanded and more comprehensive view of the Church. This initiative represents a move of the Archdiocese's virtual headquarters to a new site that is modern and better suited to sharing the story of the Church. Cardinal Seán encourages you to visit the new website at www.BostonCatholic.org. It will be a great resource to the parishes, schools, ministries, and agencies of the Archdiocese, and anyone who wants to learn more about our Catholic faith. "

Saint Margaret

Grades 1 through 6: Religious Education Classes are complete for this this academic year. Our thanks to the teachers who gave their time so generously each week and to the parents who are responsible in getting their children to class each week. The purpose of Religious Education is that we come to know Jesus as Savior and Lord and grow in our love of God and neighbor by living God's commandments. God bless you all.

Grades 7 & 8: The next class is Friday, April 10, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Grade 9 (Confirmation Year I): Classes are scheduled on Sundays from 4:15 p.m. On Sundays, when there is Confirmation Class, there is a Mass at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend this Mass. (No class on Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday.)

Mass: On Sundays when there is Class there will be Mass at 5:30 p.m. to which all are invited

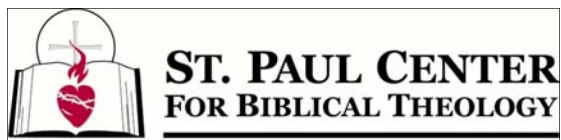
It's time for the Famine again! This weekend Saint Margaret's Youth are participating in the 30-Hour Famine, Saturday, April 4 to Sunday, April 5. They will be fasting from food while visiting with the homeless on Boston Common, visiting and working at a shelter in Lynn, hearing from guest speakers about the seriousness of hunger and praying and spending time in adoration of the Lord in the Holy Eucharist. On Palm Sunday they will participate in the 10:00 a.m. Mass at Saint Margaret's. Encourage them by joining them at 9:45 a.m. in the front yard of the Rectory for the Blessing and Procession of Palms prior to the beginning of Mass. All welcome.



The 2009 Catholic Conferences will take place on April 18-19, 2009. The 2009 **Boston Catholic Men's Conference** will be on **Saturday April 18, 2009** from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Men's Conference theme is "*In the Footsteps of Christ.*"

The 2009 **Boston Catholic Women's Conference** will be on **Sunday April 19, 2009** from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Women's Conference theme is "*Trust in the Lord with all Your Heart.*"

The 2009 Conferences will take place again at **Conte Forum at Boston College**. For ticket information call Anna & Chuck Swain at 781-233-8442. Don't miss out! Act soon!

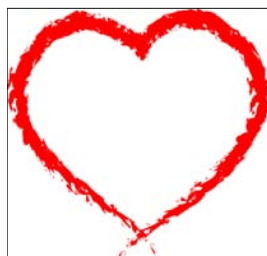


**ST. PAUL CENTER
FOR BIBLICAL THEOLOGY**

Darkness at Noon By Dr. Scott Hahn

Crowned with thorns, our Lord is lifted up on the cross, where He dies as "King of the Jews." Notice how many times He is called "king" in today's Gospel - mostly in scorn and mockery. As we hear the long accounts of His passion, at every turn we must remind ourselves - He suffered this cruel and unusual violence, for us. He is the Suffering Servant foretold by Isaiah in today's First Reading. He reenacts the agony described in today's Psalm, and even dies with the first words of that Psalm on His lips (see Psalm 22:1). Listen carefully for the echoes of this Psalm throughout today's Gospel - as Jesus is beaten, His hands and feet are pierced; as His enemies gamble for His clothes, wagging their heads, mocking His faith in God's love, His faith that God will deliver Him. Are we that much different from our Lord's tormenters? Often, don't we deny that He is king, refusing to obey His only commands that we love Him and one another? Don't we render Him mock tribute, pay Him lip-service with our half-hearted devotions? In the dark noon of Calvary, the veil in Jerusalem's temple was torn. It was a sign that by His death Jesus destroyed forever the barrier separating us from the presence of God. He was God and yet humbled himself to come among us, we're reminded in today's Epistle. And despite our repeated failures, our frailty, Jesus still humbles himself to come to us, offering us His body and blood in the Eucharist. His enemies never understood: His kingship isn't of this world (see John 18:36). He wants to write His law, His rule of life on our hearts and minds. As we enter Holy Week, let us once more resolve to give Him dominion in our lives. Let us take up the cross He gives to us - and confess with all our hearts, minds, and strength, that truly this is the Son of God.

*A service of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology
www.SalvationHistory.com*



CPR/AED COURSE Blessed Sacrament & Saint Margaret Parishes are offering a CPR/AED course for all those interested in learning this life saving technique. This training is from the American Heart Association. All who attend will

only be responsible for a twenty dollar certificate fee. Please make checks out to **Mark Gannon**, Instructor. The training will be taught by the Saugus Fire Department. Pre-registration is necessary due to having enough instructors, one for every six people being trained.

We would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Philip Duffy, Jr. for donating the AED (defibrillator) to Blessed Sacrament Church.

Training Date: Tuesday evening, April 7, 2009

Location: Public Safety Building, 27 Hamilton Street, Main entrance—2nd floor (Parking available)

Time: 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.. Please register on or before April 1. If interested, call Lorraine Perella at 781-233-2497, ext. 12.



Scripture for the week of April 5, 2009

- | | | |
|-----------|------------|---|
| 5 | SUN | Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16 (37)/Is 50:4-7/Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1—15:47 or 15:1-39 |
| 6 | Mon | Is 42:1-7/Jn 12:1-11 |
| 7 | Tue | Is 49:1-6/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38 |
| 8 | Wed | Is 50:4-9a/Mt 26:14-25 |
| 9 | Thu | Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15 |
| 10 | Fri | Is 52:13—53:12/ Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/ Jn 18:1—19:42 |
| 11 | Sat | Vigil: Gn 1:1—2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a/Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/ Ex 14:15—15:1/Is 54:5-14/ Is 55:1-11/Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4/Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28/Rom 6:3-11/Mk 16:1-7 |
| 12 | SUN | Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Mk 16:1-7 or, at an afternoon or evening Mass, Lk 24:13-35 |



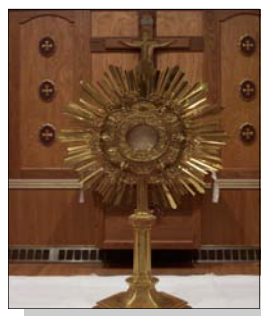
Arise Together in Christ: Arise groups have been meeting regularly and the feedback is very positive. Let us keep those involved in Arise in our prayers that

God will bless the participants with growth in grace and wisdom and build Christian Community.



Boston Red Sox vs. Baltimore Orioles: “Take me out to the ball game.” From Monday, June 29 to Wednesday, July 1, come see the Red Sox play the

Baltimore Orioles at Camden Yards! The cost per person is \$399.00 double occupancy (other options available). Please make checks payable to Blessed Sacrament or St. Margaret Parish. The package includes deluxe lavatory equipped motor-coach transportation. Beverages and donuts will be served upon departure. There will be 2 nights at the Maritime Conference Center, or similar, centrally located. There is reserved seating for two games at Camden Yards. Full American Breakfast included at the hotel. Admission to Camden Yards for an informative narrated stadium tour. Two-hour narrated sightseeing of Baltimore with time to browse Baltimore’s Harbor Place. Delightful harbor cruise with narration by your skipper of this beautiful and busy major port. All taxes and gratuities for included features, excluding customary gratuities to driver and escort. There will be a Celebration tours Escort throughout. For information call Anna Swain at 781-233-8442.



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: On Wednesday evenings at Saint Margaret’s from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. join us for all or part of this time of prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. At 7:00 p.m. those present participate in the recitation of the

Rosary. You deserve the peace and quiet that come from being in the presence of the Lord.

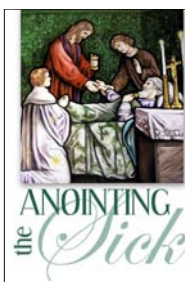
“Be still and know that I am God.”
All Welcome.



Daily Mass: On Wednesday, March 18, a group of Parishioners of both Blessed Sacrament and Saint Margaret Parishes met to prepare for the fact that beginning on Monday, April 13 there will only be one daily Mass in the community. The general consensus was that morning

Mass would continue to be at 9:00 a.m. with Mass being at Saint Margaret’s on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and at Blessed Sacrament on Thursday, Friday and Saturday; that the rosary would be recited beginning at 8:30 a.m. each morning still leaving a period of quiet time prior to the beginning of Mass; that people of both Parishes would be invited to serve as Altar Servers, Lectors and Ministers of Holy Communion at either Church; that Holy Communion would be offered under both species, namely the Eucharistic Bread and Wine; that singing hymns would be welcome; and, that we would try this new plan for six months, then see how it is working out.

Announced Masses: Both Churches have a number of announced Masses that have been “booked.” Martha at Blessed Sacrament and Carol at Saint Margaret’s are in the process of rescheduling these Masses. We ask everyone’s patience and understanding during this period of change and transition.



Anointing of the Sick: On April 25, the St. Stephen Ministry will hold it’s annual Mass of the Anointing of the Sick at 11:00 A.M in the lower level of the Blessed Sacrament Church. All parishioners over the age of 70 who wish to receive the Sacrament of the Sick because of an

illness or poor health are encouraged to attend. Lunch will be served following the Mass. Transportation will be provided for those who need it. Please call in advance to set up a ride. You **MUST** reply by calling the rectory at 781-233-2497 no later than Tuesday, April 21, if you wish to make a reservation.

Thank you
St. Stephen Ministry



Operation Troop Support

Operation Troop Support 3rd Annual Giant Yard Sale!

Saturday, April 25, 2009 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Holten-Richmond Middle School, 55 Conant Street, Danvers, MA. Operation Troop Support is now Accepting Donations. **Collection dates:** Every Saturday morning from 9:00 a.m. to Noon from April 11 to April 18, at **eAsi-Self Storage** located on Swampscott Road, Salem, MA. For information contact Linda at 781-944-6143. For 'Small' Pick-ups please contact Arlen at arlendevos@aol.com Pick-Up of All 'BIG' Items will be Scheduled for Saturday, March 28. For 'BIG' Pick-ups, contact Dick at 978-836-2395. Operation Troop Support appreciates all donations, but due to space constraints the following items WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED: Broken or Badly Soiled Furniture, Exercise Equipment, Large Appliances - Washer/Dryers, Refrigerators, Dish Washers, Stoves, etc. Pianos, Organs, Lawn Mowers and Snow Blowers, Tires, Computers, Air Conditioners, TV's and Telephones, Mattresses, Stuffed Animals, Swimsuits and Badly Worn Clothes, Artificial Christmas Trees and Used Christmas String Lights. Thank You for Your Continued Support! Help Us Help Them! To Learn More About Operation Troop Support and What You Can Do To Support Our Heroes Serving Overseas, Please Visit Our Website: www.operationtroopsupport.org

Consider doing something special for yourself - Consider living a Cursillo Weekend:

Cursillo at the Marist House, Framingham

Women: April 30 to May 3, 2 009

Tel: 1-617-779-3648 for information

Cursillo at the Salvatorian Center (Saint Basil's) in Methuen

Women: April 30 to May 3, or June 4 to 7, or November 5 to 8.

Men: October 1 to 4. (Father George is scheduled to be the Spiritual Director of this Cursillo weekend and he doesn't want to go alone!

St. Basil.org Link: Ministry Info

If you are unable to make contact for either site, call Sr. Mary at 781-233-1046.

The mounting campaign to silence the Pope: The lords of the mass media are spouting their outrage at the Pope—again. This time the Pontiff's alleged offense is his failure to believe that condoms provide the world's best hope against the AIDS epidemic. Pope Benedict dared to voice a few simple truths—that chastity is foolproof, and that people can control their own sexual behavior—and the guardians of secular wisdom are rending their garments and howling their outrage. The Pope is simply wrong about the facts, dozens of headlines proclaim. The stories don't support those headlines, because of course the Pope is *right* about the facts. But the popular media no longer engage the argument. The object here is to shout down an opponent of conventional liberal ideology. Respectable journalists do not intentionally publish inaccurate reports. So once editors proclaim that the Pope is wrong about the facts, it is only a short step to the decision that the Pope's arguments should not be given any publicity. Thus the voice of the Church would be stilled. Already the public pressure is mounting against the Pope— and by extension, against anyone else who proclaims the truth as the Church has always known it. A former prime minister of France announces that the Successor to Peter has "become a problem." AIDS activists label the Pontiff as an enemy of their cause, an enemy of the people. That sort of rhetoric suggests more than disagreement; it suggests a campaign to punish someone for his public statements. The chorus of outrage against the Pope has been swelling in recent weeks, and it's difficult to avoid the sense that this is becoming an orchestrated campaign. Arrogant editorial writers are writing about the Pope's "mistakes" in reaching out to traditionalists, naming a conservative Austrian priest to become a bishop, and now discouraging reliance on condoms to fight AIDS. A large and growing group of journalists seems determined to spread the word that the Pope is making grievous blunders, and to suppress any evidence to the contrary. To make matters worse, some of the Pope's angriest critics claim to be Catholics, and draw their support from Catholic colleges and universities and/or Catholic religious orders. Waving the banners of their Church affiliations, they are working to still the voice of traditional Catholicism. If ever there was a time to speak out in defense of the Church, and to support those who give voice to Catholic teaching, this is that time. If there was ever a time to pray for the Holy Father, this is it.

Phil Lawler, March 19, 2009



QUIZ Can you choose the correct endings?

- God had given Isaiah a well-trained: (a) tongue (b) guard dog (c) servant?
- The Son of God emptied himself, taking the form of a: (a) worm (b) earthly ruler (c) slave?
- Pilate asked Jesus if he was king of: (a) mankind (b) the Jews (c) the Romans?
- The soldiers placed on Jesus a crown of: (a) reeds (b) gold (c) thorns?
- Darkness came over the land from noon until: (a) an hour later (b) three in the afternoon (c) that night?

ANSWERS

The correct answers are: 1(a); 2(c); 3(b); 4(c); 5(b)

WORDSEARCH

Can you find and circle the words listed below?

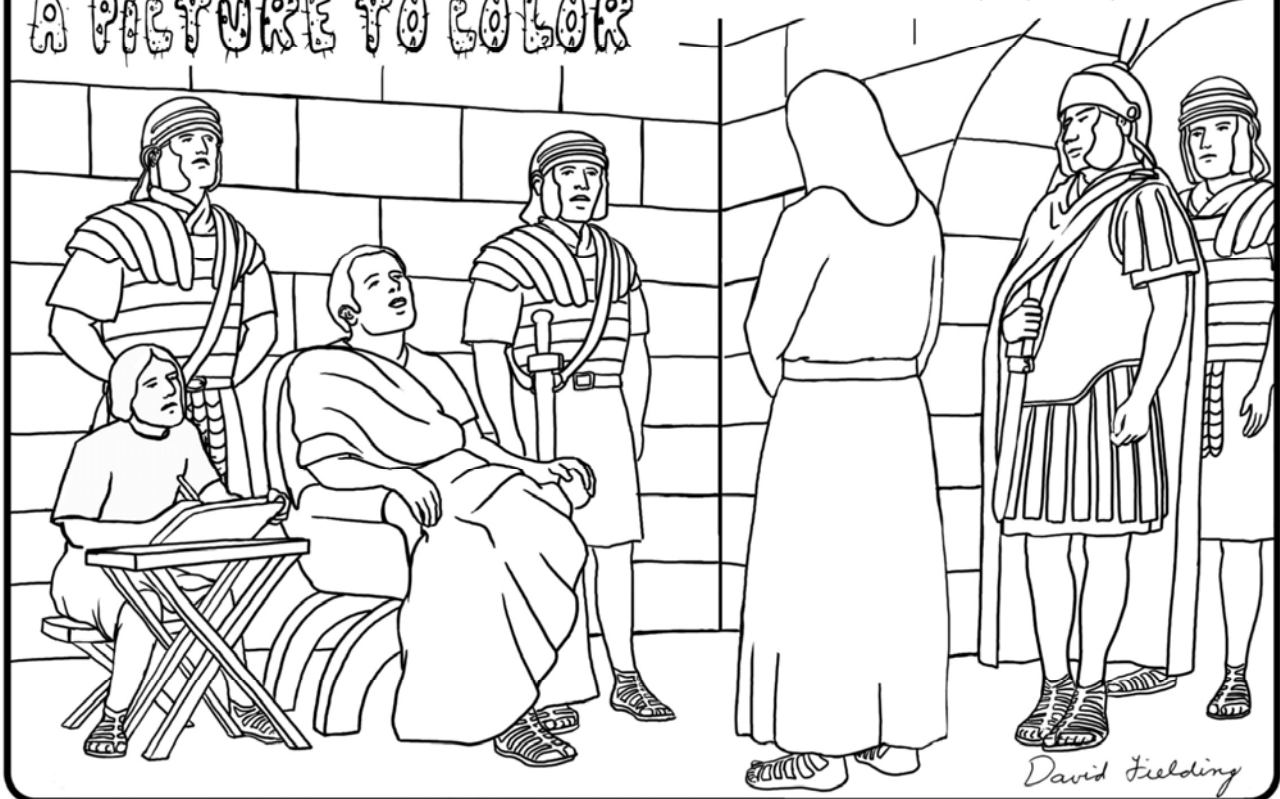
- SPEAK SCOFF DEATH
 WEARY WAG CROSS
 BEARD DOGS TONGUE
 BEAT BONES SLAVE
 FACE COUNT PROCLAIM

Solution to last week's crossword



A PICTURE TO COLOR

GOSPEL READING: Mk 14, 1-15, 47 or 15, 1-39



David Fielding

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