

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

THE LORD GOD IS MY HELP, THEREFORE I AM NOT DISGRACED.

Isaiah 50:7a

March 24, 2013

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

My Dear Parishioners, Our long journey of Lent is coming to an end and our weak and fragile humanity moves eagerly toward new life in the Risen Lord.

Please plan to attend our Easter Triduum liturgies.

HOLY WEEK

MONDAY, TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY

March 25, 26, 27

8:00 a.m. Mass

TRIDUUM

HOLY THURSDAY, March 28

6:00 p.m. Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

9:30 p.m.-midnight—Prayer at the Altar of Repose
in the parish hall.

GOOD FRIDAY, March 29

3:30 p.m. Celebration of the Lord's Passion

(Liturgy of the Word, Veneration of the Cross and Communion Service)

HOLY SATURDAY, March 30

7:30 p.m. Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY, March 31

7:00 and 10:30 a.m. Masses

YOUR LENTEN JOURNEY... REFLECTION ON THE SEVEN WORDS OF JESUS (PART VII)

Please take time this week to meditate on the 'word' of Jesus (below). You are encouraged to compare your personal experiences with those of Jesus and to utilize the question as a guide to enter his experience.

"IT IS ACCOMPLISHED." John 29:29

My life is my life's work. If it were to end this day, in my epitaph, what would I have to say about it?

How do I respond to the great work of Jesus? Am I able to express gratitude that Jesus accomplished what was asked of Him so that all humanity would benefit?

OUR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

FULL ARTICLE AVAILABLE IN THIS WEEK'S TIDINGS

Five members of the House of Representatives March 5 introduced a bill to protect conscience rights for both workers in the health care industry and for employers in light of the federal mandate requiring employers to cover contraceptives, sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs.

The Health Care Conscience Rights Act would offer a full exemption from the U.S. Department Health and Human Services' mandate for individuals and health care entities that refuse to provide, pay for, or refer patients to abortion providers because of their religious beliefs. The bill had attracted 50 co-sponsors by the time of its introduction.

On Feb. 1, HHS issued proposed new rules on the mandate aimed at accommodating objections raised by Catholic institutions that, among others, the exemption for religious employers was too narrow and that most would be forced to stop providing employee health insurance because they object on moral grounds to the requirement they cover contraception, sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs.

HHS removed three conditions that defined religious employers — as groups whose purpose is the inculcation of religious values, who primarily employ persons of the same faith and who serve those of the same faith. The fourth criterion remains: what is a nonprofit organization under specific sections of the Internal Revenue Code. No exemption, however, will be given to "for-profit, secular employers" whose owners have moral objections to providing the coverage. Catholic leaders are studying the new proposed rules, but many have said they do not go far enough. HHS is accepting comment on the new proposed rules until April. Final rules are expected by summer.