

THE GOOD NEWS

St. Francis Church, Dunlap, IL.

APRIL , 2007

St. Francis On The Move (Again!)

We plan to move to our new location at Lake of the Woods Plaza on North Knoxville (Route 40) the week of March 26. Our first service there will be on Palm Sunday, April 1.

All who have seen it are excited about the new 5300 square foot facility. With our new "temporary" home will come new opportunities, and new responsibilities. If you're asked to take on a new task for St. Francis, we hope you'll respond with the same excitement!

Work Day March 24

We will have another full work day this Saturday, March 24, starting a 9:00 AM. Everyone can help. There are many jobs to be done, large and small.

And here is a huge **THANK YOU!** to all who have worked so hard already helping get our new facility ready! What a blessing each of you is to our church family.

Holy Week At St. Francis

Holy week is the most sacred time of year for Christians around the world. This year we'll have the delight of celebrating our traditional Holy Week liturgies in a brand new church building! As always, I encourage every member of St. Francis to participate in re-living the awe and mystery of the Lord's Passion. Holy Week is a good time to bring friends to church where they can experience, perhaps for the first time, the reality of Christ's great sacrifice for our salvation!

In particular this year, if you've not taken part in the Maundy Thursday Eucharist, the Vigil at the Altar of Repose, and the moving Good Friday Liturgy, I ask that you come and take part

in these most holy times of worship that will—I promise—draw you closer to the meaning of the overwhelming Sacrifice Jesus Christ has made for you.

We will celebrate our first Great Vigil of Easter and sunrise Eucharist at 6:00 AM on Easter Day at the new St. Francis, a joy I know many are looking forward to! If you've missed this in past years you have missed a wonderful experience. Greet the Dawn in praise of the Daystar of all Creation, the Risen Christ.

Holy weeks begins Palm Sunday, April 1st.

On Easter we will begin with the Great Vigil at twilight, 6:00 AM. (Sunrise is 6:30.) I strongly encourage any of you who have not been to this beautiful and meaningful liturgy to join us Easter morning.

Note: There will be the usual 5:00 PM Mass on Palm Sunday, but there will be **NO** 5:00 PM service on Easter Day.

Holy Week Schedule at St. Francis

Palm

Sunday 8:30 AM Morning Prayer

8:45 AM Church School

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist

5:00 PM Holy Eucharist

Monday 7:30 AM Morning Prayer

5:30 PM Evening Prayer

Tuesday 11:00 AM Chrism Mass St. Paul's Cathedral

(open to all parishioners)

5:30 PM Evening Prayer

Wednesday 8:30 AM Morning Prayer

5:30 PM Evening Prayer

6:00 PM Holy Eucharist

6:30 PM Lenten supper & study

Maundy

Thursday 5:30 PM Evening Prayer

6:00 PM Maundy Thursday Eucharist
7:00 PM Vigil at the Altar of Repose

Good

Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
12:15 PM Good Friday Liturgy
7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Holy

Saturday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:30 AM Cleaning of the Church

Easter Day 6:00 AM Great Vigil & First Eucharist

10:00 AM Choral Eucharist
(NO evening Mass on Easter)

New Nursery Opens

Beginning Palm Sunday, April 1, we will offer nursery service at both the 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM services. We are asking that *all* able-bodied parishioners take a turn at staffing. Mary Kay Gamage will handle the schedule and rotation. Please speak to her if you prefer a particular time to serve. If all help, your "turn" will only come every couple of months.

It is of key importance, if we are to continue to reach families with young children, that we enthusiastically provide this service. It is a key for all growing churches. It is also important, for several reasons, that we always have two people staffing the nursery as a team. Thanks for giving of yourself to help welcome those God will send to us!

Church School Expands

April 15, the Sunday following Easter, we will begin offering an expanded Church School program for all ages, with more classes for both adults and children. Classes begin promptly at 8:45 AM each Sunday. We will run into early summer, then break until fall.

From Fr. John About The Primates Meeting

(An email sent to the Parish March 7th):

Dear parishioners, I have delayed commenting on the recent meeting of the Anglican Primates in Tanzania because I anticipated the Bishop and Standing Committee would comment as a group after our meeting on

March 1. [A joint pastoral letter was issued March 14.]

The final "Communiqué" from the Primates meeting made it absolutely clear that the Episcopal Church in the US has broken faith and trust with the larger Communion, and must turn back from its recent actions which run contrary to biblical teaching and Anglican practice. Specifically, the Primates called on the American House of Bishops to give "unequivocal" assurance that they will not consent again to the election of a homosexual person as a bishop, and would not continue to authorize blessing of homosexual "unions."

The Primates set a Sept. 30th deadline for Presiding Bishop Schori to convey those assurances to the rest of the Communion. Schori signed this agreement in Tanzania.

Sadly, even before Presiding Bishop Schori made it home, a significant number of senior American Bishops spoke out and said they will never agree to the requests of the Communion, but will continue to insist that practicing homosexuals be ordained to all orders in the Episcopal Church (a practice that has gone on for many years), and would continue to insist that homosexual couples receive the formal blessing of the Church in their dioceses.

Then PB Schori herself, in a speech to her staff just hours after her return to New York, claimed that the Primates agreed that blessing of homosexual couples could continue as "pastoral care," just that no formal "rites" would be authorized.

Archbishop Gregory Venables, Primate of the Southern Cone, has flatly contradicted Schori's claims. In a pastoral letter to his own Province (Southern Cone, South America), Venables says that Schori's attempt to twist the agreement made in Tanzania is a prime example of the whole problem the Primates spent most of their time addressing in Tanzania, that is, the Episcopal Church "agreeing" to one thing then doing the opposite.

I share this with you so that you understand that this is no longer just an "Episcopal Church problem" but a crisis of faith and order that has overtaken the whole Anglican Communion, and threatens the very life of the Communion itself.

I know for some of you, your patience has worn thin with all this. Mine, I assure you, has

worn much thinner. As soon as our pastoral letter from the Bishop and Standing Committee is released [see below], I will make copies available to you. I ask your continued prayers and support for our Bishop and Diocese, and for myself and the other members of the Standing Committee, including our own Joan Quigg. These next few months will require difficult decisions from all of us.

Pastoral Letter

On March 14, the Pastoral letter from the Bishop and Standing Committee of Quincy was sent to the Diocesan family, and read in the churches on March 18. It is available on-line on the diocesan website (home page link), www.dioceseofquincy.org, or you can get a copy at the church office.

Church Signs

(Some of these are oldies but goodies)

God answers kneemail.
Soul food served here.
In the dark? Follow the Son.
Free trip to heaven. Details inside.
Searching for a new look? Have your faith lifted here.
How will you spend eternity – Smoking or Non- smoking?
If you're headed the wrong direction, God allows U-turns.
Under the same management for over 2,000 years
Try our Sundays. They are better than Baskin-Robbins.

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