

TheLink



The United Methodist Church of Patchogue

March 2013

Edited By George Hoag

Why Lent?

Lent was the earliest actual season to develop and be adopted by the church world-wide. It became a common Christian practice in AD 330, shortly after Christianity had been legalized in AD 313 at the Edict of Milan. The other seasons of the Church year (like Pentecost, Advent and Christmas) took shape later. By the High Middle Ages, the Church Year was fully developed, complete with special feast days for certain saints. But why? Why was this developed? Why would anyone today practice these things? To say it simply, the liturgical year was developed as a way to help the spiritual formation of Christians. How does it do that? Two main ways:

1. It Centers Us on Christ

As Christianity spread, many of the Church's members (and for a time in the early Middle Ages, many of its clergy!) were illiterate and ignorant of the Scriptures and of theology. A liturgical calendar would center them on Christ as a way of helping them, teaching them, placing them in a rhythm of living that helped them reflect on Christ.

The liturgical year follows the life of Christ. It begins with anticipating His arrival in Advent, celebrating His birth at Christmas, marveling at His reveal-

Worship In March

Mar. 3—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, *Church of the Second Chances*, Isaiah 55:1-9, Luke 13:1-9.

Mar. 10—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, *Prodigal Reconciliation*, Joshua 5:9-12, Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

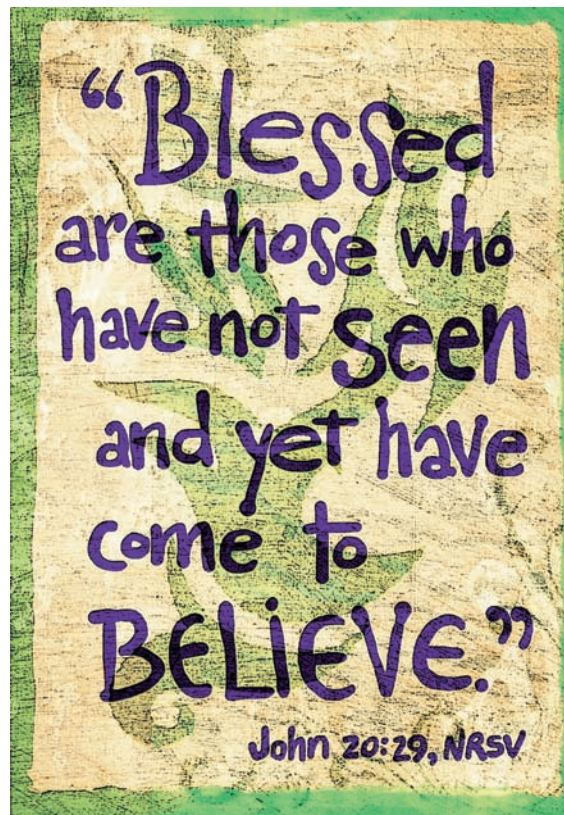
Mar. 17—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, *Holy Adoration*, Isaiah 43:16-21, John 12:1-8

Mar. 24—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, *Before the God*, Psalm 31:9-16, Luke 22:14-23,56.

Mar. 28—The Last Supper (Maundy Thursday) Service in Wesley Hall.

Mar. 29—Good Friday—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, *Put Away the Swords*, Psalm 22, John 18:1-19,42.

Mar. 31—Easter Sunday—Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, *Living Easter*, Isaiah 65:17-25, John 20:1-18



Continued on Page 4

Relating People to Jesus Christ and God's Word

Circle of Concern

For Guidance

Barbara McAllister, Ray Clark, Cat Placement and Rescue, Michael Amarati, Philip Demacos, Joanne, Rose Conti, Lisa Prince, Joan, the Neuman family, Wilfredo Franco, Monica, Patrick Keena, Sheila Dreaper, Sofia and her family, John Casale, Our Troops and Veterans; Dean and family, Carlos Alvarado, Tim, Paul, Christine, Carol Moore, Raquel Miller, Emma Easley, Tom, Mike, Matt, Brian, Justin, Ray Anderson, Lori, Irene Catalino, Justin and Dean Angell, Pat, Lisa, Ben and baby Anna, Heather Reiss, James Wright's Grandmother, Barry Burrell, Linda, Stephen Martin, Purificato Family, Ashley Lauren, Linda Morgan, Luigi, Maureen, Tom Mansfield and friends, Emma Evelend, Lisa, Barbara Rago, Catherine Weber's aunt, Esmeralda Coppola, Carmen Marrero, Loriann, David, Kathleen Russo, Alicia Evans, Debbie Jemma, Barbara, Katie, Anna, Suzanne, Amanda Garcia, Doris May, Margaret, Lois, Laurie, Bonnie Smith, Debbie Turpeau, Julio, Lisa, Paul Walkawitz, Debbie, Tom Kerr, Laura Jacobs, Sarah and Justin Tann for a healthy pregnancy and birth of their first child; Barbara Jehle, Elise Gavrock, Steve, June Barile, Luke Gonzalez, for comfort and healing for Raymond and Randy Prince on the passing of Tina Prince, the Elam Family, Paula Rowe, Jennifer Femister and family, Joann Henn, Steve McCarthy, Bruce Kirschner, Elaine and family, Lillian Aparicio, Marge Prince, Stephen, Lisa, Rich Azzopardi, Carolyn Seus, Rosemary Swartz, Joe Tucker, Kevin Stieger, Melanie Schnieder, Connie Castogua, Marybeth Losch and family, Joan Curtis' sister, Michael Emmel, Joseph Emmel, Kim Kluge, Emily Zeh, Bruce Kirschner's mother, Jody, Victor Levine's father, Henry Prince, Caleb Edward, Ryan Cullin, Sanborn Family, Lisa Manzollilo, Donna Horoski, Mia Heyliger, Andrew, Caleb and for everyone who has been affected by the storm, and Susan.

These Who are Hospitalized:

Josh Boneventure, Frank, Nana Grace, Nancy Marshall, Bertha Smith, Lee Hollowell, Mary Payne, Debbie Fiore, Layden John Clark, Mary Zatorski, Dan, Ernest Boyd, Chris, Phil Ianello, Emily, Mike D., Joseph Hawthorne, Emma Rasley, Angelo, Kelly Seeman, Rebecca Hendersen, Gil Brown, Pat Ward, Pat, Christina Broom, Barbara Asmus, Susanna Davies-Pepper, Mike Welsh, Joyce Ferrante, Kathleen Russo, Caroline Moore, Amelia McCarthy, Ronald Mansell, Linda Carrol, Carmelo Espiritu, Doc McNight, Maureen Grippi, Debbie Turpeau, Rich Kaufold, Michael T. Battaglia, Andrew Wittman, Jr., Al Monteverdi, Henry Ohlsen, Carolyn Venator, Gladys Messias, Laura Magill, Kent Turchaniun, Erin Purce, Henry Prince, George Russler, Pasquale Arpaio, Waldon Scott, Trudy Ann Smith.

These at Home:

Joseph Weinzettle, Natalie Burnett-Lynch, Kathleen Chodorski, Kyra McCarthy, Debi DelRossi, Belle Barile, Tom Furman, Lisa Lopez, Dorotea Sanchez, Mary Jones, John Krulger, Shelly Granger, Marie Lino, Marta, Donna Herrick, Philip Rudolph, Jytte & Nils Sorensen (Geri Sheridan's relatives in

Denmark), Sandy Burrell, Lorraine Greco, Emily Navidad, the Moultrre Family, Kim Farrel's daughter, Ceil Witt, June Barile's parents, Muriel Vilar, Guillermina Alverio (Pastor Sanchez's mother,) Catherine Interrante, Arthur Rice, Glenn Hollins, Beth Widera, Marie Cirillo, Bob Ruggiero, Pat Addison, Don Wilson, Pat Q. Bayne, the McCarthy family, Mike Battaglia, Al Montverdi, Janet Monteverdi, Paula Rowe, Albert Eid, Thomas, Andrew Brand, Ted Davies, Ed and Brenda Klingel and Jean Miller.

These who are in Rehab or Nursing Care Facilities:

Alice Zahnd in Patchogue Nursing Center, 25 Schoenfeld Blvd., Patchogue, NY.

Hazel Nargi in McPeak's Adult Home, 286 N. Ocean Ave., Patchogue.

Esther Davies in Brookhaven Health Facility, 801 Gozzolla Drive, E. Patchogue, NY 11772 Room 78D 631-289-3150.

Peter Moor in Veteran's Home at Stony Brook University Hospital, Stony Brook, NY.

Pray for our church and her future directions!

**Make your Prayer Request
on line at
PatchogueUMC.Org**

FORGIVEN

The deadline for contributions to the April edition of **TheLink** is March 8.

Please e-mail your copy to
gbhoag@optonline.net.

Lift up your church with your prayers, presence, gifts and service.

Why Lent? (From Page 1)

ing during Epiphany, humbling ourselves in repentance as we join His fasting in the wilderness during Lent, reflecting on His love and sacrifice during Holy Week, remembering our sin and the weight of all the world's evil that He carried on the cross on Good Friday, embracing the silent emptiness of Holy Saturday, celebrating the breaking forth of new life at Easter and Eastertide, rejoicing at His giving of the Spirit and His work in the Church during Pentecost, and trusting that His presence is with us still during Ordinary Time.

2. It Connects Us to The Body of Christ

It seems we talk all the time about wanting the Church to be in unity, but then dismiss traditions as empty ritual. But what if these sacred traditions can be a way for us to walk in unity together? The bottom line is: no, you don't need to care about the Church Calendar. You don't have to celebrate Lent or participate in Ash Wednesday. These are not requirements or laws. But then again, you don't need to have a date night with your wife; you don't need to have family vacations. But rhythms and routines are ways of reinforcing a desire. So, the liturgical year is not a requirement, but neither are they "empty rituals." They are sacred rhythms, routines that reinforce our desire to follow Christ and become like Him. SO...a few things specifically about Ash Wednesday and Lent:

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent. At our Ash Wednesday service, we will observe the "imposition of the ashes" on our foreheads this is an echo of the Scripture's injunction: "Remember that thou art dust and to

dust thou shalt return." It's a way of confessing our finiteness, admitting our limitations, and trusting Christ to break through our own "dead ends." Lent itself is a season--40 days long--of fasting. (It's technically 46 days, but the Sundays are "Feast Days").

May this Lent season be a time we humble ourselves, humbling our hearts, confessing our sins, and trusting in Christ. It is also a way of "sharing in the fellowship of Christ's sufferings." Let this Lent be about caring for the poor and the helpless (See Isaiah 58). Often, special Lenten offerings are collected by some churches each week for the poor. (Here's a thought: I encourage people to take the money they save by giving up whatever it is they're giving up—coffee, chocolate, etc—and make a sacrificial offering.)

May your journey thru this Lent Season be a true blessing to your life.

In Christ,

—**Pastor Sanchez**

Special thanks for this article by Glenn Packiam/David Powell, "2 Compelling Reasons to Observe Lent".

Easter reminds us

that each time
we deny you, Lord,
another nail is sharpened;
and each time
we defy you, Lord,
into your hand it's hammered.
When faith is weak,
temptation strong
and courage fails,
forgive us, Lord
and once again
become that risen presence
within our hearts. Amen

Some Methodist Agreement on Boy Scout Gay Ban Change

Leaders of two United Methodist agencies — United Methodist Men and United Methodist Board of Church and Society — welcomed news that the Boy Scouts of America is considering ending its decades-long ban on gay scouts and scout leaders.

The proposed change would remove a national membership requirement dealing with sexual orientation and allow local charter organizations to decide. NBC News reports that the Boy Scouts of America could announce the change next week at the national board's regularly scheduled meeting.

United Methodist Men promotes the use of scouting ministries and civic youth-serving agencies across the denomination. The Board of Church and Society advocates for the denomination's social witness.

"These proposed changes will allow local churches to reflect those tenets in their membership requirements," said a statement by Gilbert Hanke, the top executive of the Commission on United Methodist Men. "It does not force changes, but allows local churches control over these requirements based on their beliefs.

"These proposed changes are actually more consistent with the current Book of Discipline," the denomination's law book, he added.

Jim Winkler, the top executive of the United Methodist Board of Church and Society, echoed that view.

"United Methodists affirm that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God,"

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!

Winkler said. "Our local churches can now pursue an outreach unfettered by arbitrary restrictions that carry with them potential negative legal consequences or obloquy, and can instead seek to live together with all persons in Christian community, welcoming, forgiving and loving one another."

The agencies' agreement on the proposal marks a stark change from 2000 when they were on opposite sides of a U.S. Supreme Court case that dealt with whether Boy Scouts could bar gays from leadership positions.

The nation's top court, in a 5-4 decision, agreed with the Scouts' legal position that forcing the organization to accept gay troop leaders would violate its constitutional rights to free expression and free association.

United Methodists and scouting

Both Hanke and Winkler stressed the importance of scouting as a ministry of The United Methodist Church.

Boy Scouts of America leaders consulted with Hanke and Larry Coppock, national director of scouting ministries, before proposing to change membership requirements.

As of 2012, 6,700 United Methodist congregations served 363,876 young people through 10,868 Cub Scout packs, Boy Scout troops and Venturing crews. The United Methodist Church is second only to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (commonly known as Mormons) in the number of congregations that host Boy Scouts of America groups.

What The United Methodist Church teaches about:

Homosexuality & Scouting ministries

The United Methodist Church hosts more Cub Scout packs than any other religious group.

Hanke noted that the United Methodist Book of Discipline supports "the rights and liberties for all persons, regardless of sexual orientation."

The Book of Discipline also identifies the practice of homosexuality as "incompatible with Christian teaching." Church law prohibits "self-avowed practicing" gays and lesbians from serving as clergy, but the book is silent about whether they can serve as lay leaders in other roles in the church.

Winkler also pointed out that the Social Principles in the Book of Discipline "implore us not to reject or condemn homosexual members and friends, and instead commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons."

"For that reason, this decision by the Boy Scouts of America alleviates a conflict between their discriminatory rules and our denomination's guidance on faithful social witness," he said.

Scout leaders' reactions

Individual Scout leaders have varied views on the proposed changes.

The Rev. Greg Godwin, who leads a Cub Scout pack at Concord United Methodist Church in Athens, W. Va., favors the proposal because it gives more control to local organizations. Like Hanke and Winkler, he sees the increase in local authority as more in keeping with United Methodist policies.

He said that he expects some United Methodist congregations to welcome gay leaders and members,

Continued On Page 7

Glorification Singers



The Glorification Singers, a four man

group based at Westhampton UMC, will join our Sunday service on April 28. They will sing and conduct the bulk of the service.

These Christian recording artists have been performing together for 23 years. They write their own original music and use contemporary Christian songs to enhance individual testimonies. You can hear their great sound at www.glorificationsingers.com.

Make Plans

Saturday, March 16—St. Patrick's Dinner, 5:30–7:30 PM.

Corned Beef or
Irish Roasted Chicken
Music by Hill & Warp
Adults: \$12. Seniors: \$10
Children under 12: \$6
Family Plans available, Meals To Go

Sunday, March 24—UM Men Sponsored 21st Annual Palm Sunday Breakfast, 8:00–9:30 AM.

Scrambled Eggs, Pancakes, Bacon,
Sausage, Juice, Coffee, Tea, Milk
All You Can Eat
Adults: \$6, Children: \$4, Under 3 Free

Friday March 29, Saturday, March 30—Easter Plant Sale, 8:00 AM–4:00 PM

Lenten Season Schedule

Palm Sunday—March 24

Maundy Thursday—March 28

Good Friday—March 29

Easter Sunday—March 31

United Methodist Church of Patchogue

March 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<i>1</i> 11 a.m.—Small Group Devotional 7:00 p.m.—N/A	<i>2</i>
<i>3</i> UMW Soup Sunday 9:00 a.m.—Adult Study 10 a.m.—Communion Worship/Sunday School	<i>4</i> 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7 p.m.—AA	<i>5</i> 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>6</i> 7:30 p.m.—Adult Lenten Study	<i>7</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>8</i> 10:00 a.m.—Parkinson’s Support Group 11 a.m.—Small Group Devotional 7:00 p.m.—N/A	<i>9</i>
<i>10</i> UMW Soup Sunday 9:00 a.m.—Adult Study 10 a.m.—Worship/Sunday School 11:30 a.m.—Confirmation Class 11:30 a.m.—Finance	<i>11</i> 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7 p.m.—AA	<i>12</i> 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>13</i> 7:30 p.m.—Adult Lenten Study	<i>14</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>15</i> 11 a.m.—Small Group Devotional 7:00 p.m.—N/A	<i>16</i> 9 :30 a.m.—UMW 5 :30 p.m.—St. Patrick’s Dinner
<i>17</i> 9:00 a.m.—Adult Study 10 a.m.—Worship/Sunday School 11:30 a.m.—Confirmation Class	<i>18</i> 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7 p.m.—AA	<i>19</i> 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>20</i> 7:30 p.m.—Adult Lenten Study	<i>21</i> 7:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal	<i>22</i> 11 a.m.—Small Group Devotional 7:00 p.m.—N/A	<i>23</i>
<i>24</i> 8:00 a.m.—Palm Sunday Breakfast 10 a.m.—Worship/Sunday School 11:30 a.m.—Trustees	<i>25</i> 7 p.m.—Prayer Ministry 7 p.m.—AA	<i>26</i> 10 a.m.—Noon—Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.—ESL 7:00 p.m.—AA	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i> 7:30 p.m.—Maundy Thursday Service	<i>29</i> 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.—Easter Plant Sale 7:00 p.m.—N/A 7:30 p.m.—Good Friday Service	<i>30</i> 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.—Easter Plant Sale
<i>31</i> 10 a.m.—Easter Sunday Worship						

ASSOCIATE'S GOURMET MARKET
Experienced Butchers & Caterers for over 20 years

Also providing Groceries, Dairy & Produce

1699J Rt. 112 (Olympic Plaza), Medford, NY 11763

Phone: (631) 475-1749

Fax (631) 447-5086



www.associatemarketli.

Ruland
FUNERAL HOME, INC.

500 N. Ocean Ave.,
Patchogue, NY 11772
(631) 475-0098

GMS DYNAMICS

**PUBLIC RELATIONS CONSULTANTS
SPECIAL EVENTS PLANNERS**

GERALDINE M. SHERIDAN

96 EVERGREEN LANE

EAST PATCHOGUE, NEW YORK 11772

PHONE/FAX (631) 475-1164

E-mail: sheridan.r.a@worldnet.att.net

CBC
CUE BROKERAGE CORP.

**THE PROPERTY &
CASUALTY INSURANCE
SPECIALISTS**

Sandra Morrissey

Office Manager

Sandram@CueBrokerage.com

180 East Main Street, Suite 205

Patchogue, New York 11772

Phone: 631-475-6000 Ext. 139

Toll Free: 800-233-8283

Fax: 631-475-0030

www.CueBrokerage.com

TEL. (631) 475-5734
FAX (631) 758-2568

OFFICE HOURS
BY APPOINTMENT

PATCHOGUE FAMILY MEDICAL CARE, P.C.

CHRISTINE M. DOUCET, MD

ANDREW S. WANG, DO

LAURA E. GIL, RPA-C

LYNDIE A. HUGHES, RPA-C

FAMILY PRACTICE

130 MEDFORD AVE., (ROUTE 112) PATCHOGUE, NY 11772

CAI Insurance Solutions

Are you looking for affordable HEALTH INSURANCE? Call for a no obligation policy review or a quote!!

Health – Dental – Disability – Home – Auto –
Senior Care & Medicare Supplements available!

Email – Debbieg@conferenceny.com
www.ConferenceNY.com

Debbie Guerin
631-294-5770

Tax Preparation by Bill Loris

Reasonable Rates

Home Service

**One Half of the Fee You Pay is
Donated to the Church**

286-2695



Extravagant
GENEROSITY
The Heart of Giving

Boy Scouts (from Page 5)

while others maintain a local ban. He and other United Methodist leaders said they have already heard from some in their communities who absolutely do not want to permit gay leaders.

Godwin, a member of the Commission on United Methodist Men board, also stressed that church leaders should focus on what is and what is not appropriate behavior when choosing who can participate in their scouting ministries. Generally, he said, that has nothing to do with an individual's sexual orientation.

Alan Lish is hopeful the change — if fully approved — will make a big difference in the Pacific Northwest Annual (regional) Conference, where he is coordinator of civic youth-serving agencies and scouting ministries. He said some congregations in his conference have declined to sponsor troops because they disagree with the Boy Scouts of America's current ban.

The leader of Nashville (Tenn.) Troop 3, which East End United Methodist Church has sponsored for 102 years, expressed mixed feelings about the change.

Libor Koudelka, who stressed he was speaking for himself and not his troop, said he's happy people are talking about the inclusion of gay leaders and members. "It's a dialogue that it's time to have," he said.

However, he also said he regards the Boy Scouts of America's proposal to "offload" the authority to the local level "almost cowardly."

"I understand that the BSA does not want to lose its old-time sponsors," he said. "So they've decided to make

both sides happy."

He would much prefer the Boy Scouts was "open to everybody" regardless of sexual orientation or the location of the local charter.

Change from 2000

The court case dealing with Boy Scout leadership was one of the rare instances when churchwide agencies found themselves on opposing sides in a legal argument.

In 2000, the Commission on United Methodist Men filed an amicus brief that argued that the Boy Scouts, as a nonprofit, should have the right to set its own course without interference from the government. Joining the brief were the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The Rev. Joseph Harris, who led United Methodist Men at the time, said the commission's decision to join its amicus brief "was never a comment on (the Boy Scouts of America's) judgment about homosexuality."

The Board of Church and Society took the other side of the question in an amicus brief filed with the Episcopal Church, United Church of Christ and leaders of Reform Judaism. The agency argued that the Boy Scout policy of denying membership based entirely on sexual orientation conflicts with the Social Principles of the denomination.

Harris, who now is the communications director and assistant to the bishop in the Oklahoma Annual (regional) Conference, said he thinks it's healthy that the proposed changes come from the scouting governing body rather than the U.S. government.

He added that he hopes churches see the proposed increase in local control as an opportunity to strengthen scouting ministries.

"The more doors that are open in our churches to any person wishing to participate in any of our ministries, the more opportunity we have to reach the hand of God out to a hurting world," he said. "We do not have to compromise our understandings of Scripture to be open to seeing that those who want to participate in any of our ministries are able to do so. Our witness can be as strong as ever because it lies not in fear of those whose lifestyles may be different than ours but in hope that our ability to 'welcome' anyone will serve as our pointing toward the kingdom."

—Heather Hahn, UMNS

Grant For Cupola Repair

We have received a \$5,000 check from The New York Landmarks Conservancy Sacred Sites Program to cover nearly all of the cost of repairing the cupola over the Cloud Room that was damaged in Hurricane Sandy. We expect the work to be done soon.

The Conservancy, which helps to preserve historic buildings in the state, has also given us a \$25,000 matching grant for repairs to our belfry. We are still soliciting funds toward that match but expect to complete funding and have that work done this spring.

**Hear Our Sermons and
Watch Our Services Online**

Click on the Links at
www.PatchogueUMC.org

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!

Rev. Ernesto Sanchez, Pastoral Minister
Christine Saas, Office Assistant
Office Phone: 631-475-0381 | Fax: 631-363-2163

Worship Video Live Streaming at PatchogueUMC.org

Sunday Worship—10 AM — Sunday School—10 AM
Fellowship Coffee Hour—11 AM
Supervised Nursery during worship
Hearing assistance provided

Address Service Requested

MARCH

We would like to reduce our mailings. If you can use an e-mail copy (it's in color that way), instead of mailed, please call the office.



Rejoice!

The stone is rolled away,
grave clothes neatly folded,
no more the smell of death,
behold the empty tomb!
Halleluia! (He is risen!)

Rejoice!

Scripture has been fulfilled,
the sting of death is gone,
the victory has been won,
behold the risen Christ!
Halleluia! (He is risen!)

Rejoice!

The curtain's torn in two,
our God invites us in,
Christ's sacrifice enough
to wash away our sins!



THIS MONTH'S
birthdays

- Mar. 1** Erin Bohenek
- Mar. 5** Jessica Forsys
- Mar. 6** Matthew Lambruschi
John Rogers
- Mar. 7** Courtney Shadbolt
- Mar. 9** Kyle Jacobsen
- Mar. 10** Thomas Wassmer
- Mar. 11** Leanna Stone
- Mar. 12** Isabel Chae
- Mar. 14** Jack Rya
- Mar. 19** Marguerite Abate
Joseph Brewer
- Mar. 23** Jacob Zelenka
- Mar. 27** Matthew Zotos
Michael Check Jr.
- Mar. 28** Nicholas Okun