

THE EASTER TRIDUUM: *Walking with Jesus from Death into Life*

As we have journeyed as a parish through **Lent**, we have responded to Jesus' call. On Ash Wednesday, we embraced the Lenten disciplines of **prayer, fasting, and almsgiving**. At our Faith-CAFÉ on the theme of **personal vocation**, we reflected on the reality that each one of us is called by name by our loving God, and respond to that call by embracing and living out the "name of grace" Christ has given us. Although our Lenten mission was cancelled because of Fr. Mike Shaw's illness, through our viewing of the film *Philomena* and in our communal penitential service, we experienced the healing power of **Reconciliation** to transform our relationship not only with God, but with ourselves, our neighbours, with all of God's creation. We responded joyfully to Pope Francis' announcement of a Holy Year in 2016 to be dedicated to the theme of God's unconditional **mercy** and love.

As a community, we now embark upon the greatest journey of the liturgical year: the **Paschal Triduum**, a single symphony in three distinct movements, from Thursday evening to Sunday morning. **Holy Thursday** evening, we celebrate the self-gift of Christ, imitating Jesus' gesture of humble, foot-washing service; "in memory of Him", we celebrate the Eucharist, sharing the bread and wine which become his Body and Blood, keeping vigil with him in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. On **Good Friday**, we reflect on Christ's Passion and Death: venerating the Cross in the solemn afternoon liturgy, re-enacting the Way of his Cross in the evening service led by the youth of our parish. Saturday is spent in the tomb with Jesus – in prayer and fasting, in anticipation of the **Easter Vigil**: the "Night of all Nights", in which the new fire is blessed, the Paschal Candle raised up to the chant of the Exsultet, and fragrant flowers fill the sanctuary to the return of the Gloria and Alleluia chants. Along with our RCIA candidates Tanya, Iain, Ji, Brent and Cindy, we will renew the vows of our own Baptism and Confirmation, celebrating with them the gift of the Holy Spirit and the call to the Eucharist. The joy of the Resurrection carries over onto **Easter Sunday** morning, continuing with special solemnity for a week, and through the fifty days of the Easter season, culminating with the Feast of Pentecost.

The Easter Triduum is the high point of the whole liturgical year. It is indeed the "greatest show on earth": please take part in as much of it as you possibly can. Invite a friend or family member, especially one who does not come to church regularly, to share this special time with us, as we celebrate the Paschal Mystery, the revelation of our identity in the Crucified and Risen Lord. Blessed Holy Week to you all!

"Holy Week Schedule"

April 2	Holy Thursday:	Mass of the Lord's Supper	8:00 p.m.
April 3	Good Friday:	Confessions	1:30 - 2:45 p.m.
		The Passion of Our Lord	3:00 p.m.
		The Way of the Cross	8:00 p.m.
April 4	Holy Saturday:	The Easter Vigil	8:00 p.m. (No 4:00 p.m. Mass)
April 5	Easter Sunday:	Morning Masses	8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

HOLY THURSDAY COLLECTION

Over the past few years, the **Holy Thursday Collection** has gone to support our Food Pantry project. There are envelopes for this collection in your envelope boxes. If you do not have a box, please place any donation you wish to make in the St. Vincent de Paul envelopes available around the church entrances. This month, we are expecting to feed between 180-200 people, so any donation you care to give will be very helpful. If it is inconvenient for you to make a contribution on Holy Thursday, you can donate to the Food Pantry any time during the Easter season. **Also, as a sign of sharing, please bring a food donation for St. Monica's Food Pantry to mass on Holy Thursday. These food donations will be brought up during the offertory procession. Thank you for your generosity!**

Faith First & Little Gifts

There are no Faith First Classes or Little Gifts program during Easter weekend of April 4 & 5.

MASS INTENTIONS MARCH 28 TO APRIL 5, 2015

Saturday, March 28: Our Lady's Mass

4:00 Antonietta, Vincenzo & Stephen Iorio By Eliza Iorio
Leonardo Ricciardi By Maria Carmela Ricciardi

Sunday, March 29: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

8:30 Doreen Pagnuelo By the Family
Velma Valleau By Cara Silvestri
Vincenzo & Marianne La Posta By Concetta La Posta
11:00 Odelie McIntyre By Louise & Valentino & Family

Monday, March 30: Holy Week

8:00 Winnifred Newman By her Husband

Tuesday, March 31: Holy Week

8:00 Aniello D'Addio By Ernesta Ciampini

Wednesday, April 1: Holy Week

8:00 Vincenzo, Angela, Luigi & Joseph Di Lalla By Alda Di Lalla

Thursday, April 2: Mass of the Lord's Supper

8:00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Friday, April 3: The Passion of the Lord

3:00pm The Passion of Our Lord (1:30 to 2:45 p.m. Confessions)

8:00pm The Way of the Cross

Saturday, April 4: Easter Vigil

8:00pm The Easter Vigil Service

Sunday, April 5: Easter – Resurrection of the Lord

8:30 Morning Easter Mass (Christ is Risen)

11:00 Morning Easter Mass (Christ is Risen)

Your Generosity...

Thank you for your on-going support of our parish...Collection for the weekend of March 21/22, 2015 totalled \$2,042.13. The special collection for Development and Peace Totalled \$4,705.00

PALM CROSS FUNDRAISER

This weekend, March 28/29, we are having our annual Palm Cross Fundraiser in support of the Jason Fund. All donations welcome. The Jason Fund is a non-profit organization which was established in 2006 to help young adults battling cancer and promote the advancement of treatments for them.

You are invited to bring from home "BELLS" to ring during the Easter Vigil Celebration on Saturday, April 4, and also on Easter Sunday at both morning masses.

ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT UPCOMING EVENTS

"Come and See"

Introductory Evening to the Marriage Course

Please join **The Marriage Course** leaders, **Nathalie & John Bondyra** on **Wednesday, April 8 from 7 to 9 p.m.** in the parish hall to learn about key elements that must be nurtured in a committed relationship in order for it grow in love, appreciation and understanding. With the help of a DVD featuring the creators of the program, Nicky and Sila Lee, they will introduce us to the course and to concepts such as "The Five Love Languages". We encourage everyone, not just couples, to "come and see" how applying these love languages can enhance all our relationships! Free babysitting is available upon request at registration. Please register by **April 6**. The 7-week **Marriage Course** will begin

on Wednesday, April 22. More details about the course to follow in the coming weeks.

Video Divina

Fr. Raymond's movie series "Looking at Life through the Lens of the Sacraments" continues with the sacrament of Holy Orders /Consecrated Life. We will view two episodes of the **Nothing Sacred** series on **Friday, April 10 at 7 p.m.** in the parish rectory. Free admission and popcorn, and stimulating discussion to follow! All are welcome!

Taken, Blessed, Broken, Shared: Living the Eucharist

What are some of the ways in which the Eucharist can help you to become the person that God created you to be? How can it be a touchstone for encountering community, bringing peace, enabling forgiveness, finding wholeness and discovering God's love for us? Join **Elizabeth Koessler** on **Wednesday, April 15 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.** in the parish hall for an opportunity to discover how the Eucharist gives us meaning in our everyday life. Free babysitting is available upon request at registration. Please register by **April 13**.

Please refer to our website and the posters at the Church entrances for additional information. If registration is required, kindly use the appropriate sign-up sheets at the main church entrance or contact Anna at the office.

**Blessed is the one
who comes in the
name of the Lord!**

Matthew 21:9, NRSV

