

EASTER: THE TRIUMPH OF DIVINE MERCY

I was deeply inspired by this Easter message written by one of my closest friends, Donald Bolen, who is now Bishop of Saskatoon. May his words inspire us to appreciate more deeply the new life offered to us in our celebration of Christ's Resurrection. Happy Easter!

In the Liturgy of the Hours for Holy Saturday, an ancient and evocative homily asks: "What is happening? Today there is a great silence over the earth, and stillness, because the King sleeps." But while on earth he sleeps, to the underworld Jesus descends triumphant, and it trembles. He goes to seek out our first parent, Adam; he visits all those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, who had died before him, bringing his cross, by which he conquers death. He says to all who had died, "Awake, sleeper, and rise from the dead, for I have not made you to be held prisoners in the underworld. Arise, O work of my hands, let us leave this place!"

Here, in the year of our Lord 2016, we too have waited, as those Christ freed from death had waited. We have walked with the Lord through his passion and death, through violence and deceit, and now we stand waiting for the first trace of resurrection light. The image of Holy Saturday is a suggestive one for us, because our world is still, in many ways, broken, wounded, struggling, in need of redemption. And we do well to ask? What is it that we wait for? In the ministry of his Son Jesus, God undoes the power of death, enters into our human struggles, comes in compassion to bandage our wounds, heals our infirmities, sets us free from all that binds us. When Jesus' acts of mercy become threatening to others, when he is opposed, he teaches his disciples the way of self-giving, suffering love. He gives himself completely, showing us in word and deed the power of unconditional love. And he is put to death on a cross.

But death is not the end of the story. In Jesus' resurrection, God takes upon himself all the darkness we can muster, and transforms that darkness to light. We are redeemed by a boundless love. God's mercy does not end there. In the Spirit, God equips us too to be agents of transformation in our world. Entering into places of darkness, we bring light; to situations of despair, we bring hope; to places of conflict and violence, we bring dialogue and peace: bearing one another's burdens, giving of ourselves generously, and trusting always in God's love. Even now, we hear God say to us: "This is the way, walk in it!"

Years ago, I met a South African Anglican priest who came from a township outside of Durban. Apartheid had ended, but the community had been devastated by the HIV-AIDS pandemic, and half of the population was HIV-+. There were many different churches in Umlazi, but only one hospital, and one cemetery. To that cemetery, all Christians came together on the night of Holy Saturday, before processing to their respective churches, to light their Easter candles together, and proclaim, from the heart of human suffering, Christ risen from the dead.

Whenever we see hope rise from despair, death transformed to life, and hate to love, we hear anew the strains of resurrection joy. **Christ is Risen, Alleluia! Truly, he is Risen, Alleluia!**

THANKS BE TO GOD, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

On behalf of the pastoral team, I would like to extend our gratitude to all those who worked so hard to make our Holy Week and Easter services so beautiful and meaningful this year. To all those who played a visible role in the services – the readers, servers, musicians, and singers; to those who worked behind the scenes – the sacristans, altar guild, liturgy committee, and environment/décor (those beautiful Easter flowers are always a highlight!); and to those whose donations helped defray the costs: thanks, and thanks, and ever thanks! God bless you all with fifty days of Easter joy!



MASS INTENTIONS MARCH 26 TO APRIL 3, 2016

Saturday, March 26: Easter Vigil

8:00pm Easter Vigil Service

Sunday, March 27: Easter – Resurrection Of The Lord

8:30 Morning Easter Mass (Christ is Risen)

11:00 Morning Easter Mass (Christ is Risen)

Monday, March 28: Easter Octave

8:00 Carlo & Santa Fiori By Giuseppina & Family
Deceased members of By Cecilia Clarke
the Clarke Family

Tuesday, March 29: Easter Octave

8:00 Beatrice Gagnon By Cynthia Tobin

Wednesday, March 30: Easter Octave

8:00 Bill Agnew By Cynthia Tobin

Thursday, March 31: Easter Octave

8:00 Aniello D'Addio By Ernesta Ciampini

Friday, April 1: Easter Octave

8:00 Antonio Palucci By Maria Palucci

Saturday, April 2: Easter Octave

4:00 Rinaldo Caucci By Allesandrina Caucci
Desolina & Giambattista By Ida Onesi Family
Onesi
Leonardo Ricciardi Maria Carmela Ricciardi

Sunday, April 3: 2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)

8:30 In Loving Memory: Giulio Salvati, Victor Weiss,
Pietro Di Meglio.

11:00 Deceased members of By Argisa Coccia
the Sacchetti Family
Adamo Francescangeli By Filippo Pantoni & Family

Your Generosity...

Thank you for your on-going support of our parish... Collection for the weekend of March 19/20, 2016 totalled \$4,079.30.

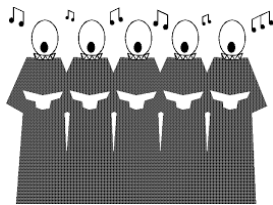
SUPPORT TWO CAUSES IN ONE **REFUGEES & BOYS CHOIR**

Support Syrian refugee families and enjoy the 100-voice St. Michael's Choir School from Toronto.

The double benefit takes place

Wednesday, April 6 at Loyola High School at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25.

Most of the proceeds will help four parishes sponsor three refugee families; the balance will help support the well-known boys choir on their Central Canada tour. Tickets can be purchased at St. Ignatius, St. John Brébeuf, St. Veronica and Resurrection parishes or at www.loyola.ca/choir.



FAITH FIRST & LITTLE GIFTS PROGRAM

Begins again next weekend April 2 & 3



CHRIST IS RISEN!

Adult Faith Enrichment Upcoming events

Bible Study

**Holy Spirit
and the Life**

**Worth Living:
The Acts of
the Apostles**



Bible Study, with Robert Assaly. Join us for four consecutive **Wednesday evenings; April 6th to April 27th, from 7 to 9 p.m., in the parish hall**, for a unique opportunity to experience how the Holy Spirit is calling us forth, showing us the way to the abundance of life! **Introduction to the Bible Study at all weekend masses of April 2nd and 3rd.** Please register by **April 4th**. Flyers are available at the main church entrance. Please take one and share one!

Coffee and Conversation

Join us on **Sunday, April 3, from 9:50 to 10:50 am**, in the rectory dining room, to view the **NOOMA** film, **"Bullhorn – Can we really love God without loving others?"**



Free babysitting is available for pre-school aged children if arranged with Anna by Friday, April 1. All are welcome.

Video Divina

Fr. Raymond's movie series, "Movies with a Mission", continues with the movie **Saint of 9/11** on **Friday, April 8 at 7 p.m.**, in the parish rectory. Free admission and popcorn, and stimulating discussion to follow! All are welcome!

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