

## THE EASTER TRIDUUM: Jesus, the Face of the Father's Mercy

As we have journeyed as a parish through **Lent**, we have heard and responded to Jesus' message of mercy. On Ash Wednesday, we embraced the Lenten disciplines of **prayer, fasting, and almsgiving**. At our sessions on **Living with Limits, Living Well** and **Social Justice & Works of Charity: The Two Feet of Love in Action**, we explored the implications of Christ's message of mercy, his desire to heal our broken relationships with one another and with the earth, our common home. The Cross in the sanctuary, covered with our transformed hearts, affixed to the nails in the wood, stands as a visual reminder of our Lenten mission on the theme **Rich in Mercy: The Gift of Forgiveness**, in which Fr. Mike Shaw led us on a personal journey to the healing power of Christ in the sacrament of **Reconciliation**. Truly, we have responded to Pope Francis' call to celebrate a Jubilee Year of God's **mercy and love**!

This week, we enter into the heart of the liturgical year: the **Paschal Triduum**, a single symphony in four distinct movements, from Thursday evening to Sunday morning. **Holy Thursday** evening, we celebrate the self-gift of Christ. We imitate 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 **Sarah, Sophy, Kevin and Zoe**, 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 as much 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. Together, let us celebrate Jesus, our Crucified and Risen Lord, our source of grace and mercy. Blessed Holy Week to you all!

### "Holy Week Schedule"

March 24	Holy Thursday:	Mass of the Lord's Supper	8:00 p.m.
March 25	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.
March 26	Holy Saturday:	The Easter Vigil	8:00 p.m. (No 4:00 p.m. Mass)
March 27	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 the  
Easter weekend of March 26 & 27

## MASS INTENTIONS MARCH 19 TO 27, 2016

### **Saturday, March 19: St. Joseph Feast Day**

**4:00** Vincent Tedeschi By his Wife & Children  
Giovanni & Palma Farinelli By Family  
Angelo Caucci By Teresa Caucci

### **Sunday, March 20: Palm Sunday of The Passion of The Lord**

**8:30** Vincenzo & Antonio La Posta By Concetta La Posta  
Francesco & Iolanda Servello By Piccolino Family  
**11:00** **In Loving Memory:** Deceased Members of the Cullen Family,  
Ettore Lanni, Fioravante Rotiroti, Beatrice Gagnon.

### **Monday, March 21: Weekday Mass of Holy Week**

**8:00** Giuseppe Fiori By his Wife & Family

### **Tuesday, March 22: Weekday Mass of Holy Week**

**8:00** Special Intentions for By Glen & Mary Smith  
Jameel & Joanne Rahaman

### **Wednesday, March 23: Weekday Mass of Holy Week**

**8:00** Beata Ricci By Pia Lalli & Family

### **Thursday, March 24: MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

**8:00pm** Mass of the Lord's Supper

### **Friday, March 25: 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, 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)

#### **Your Generosity...**

**Thank you for your on-going support of our parish...** Collection for the weekend of March 12/13, 2016 totalled \$2,812.00 and the special collection for Development and Peace Totalled \$4,395.00.

### **PALM CROSS FUNDRAISER**

This weekend, March 19/20, 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.

### **WAY OF THE CROSS**

#### **Good Friday**

#### **“Way of the Cross”**

**March 25, at 8 p.m.**

Led by the youth of our parish, come join your fellow parishioners as they express Christ's last moments through drama, dance, and contemporary music in:

#### **“The Way of the Cross”**

All ages welcome - children, teens, adults - to attend this prayerful and creative liturgy.



### **ADULT FAITH ENRICHMENT**

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **Bible Study**

**The 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 6<sup>th</sup> to April 27<sup>th</sup>, from 7 to 9 p.m., in the parish hall**, for a unique journey in which we will 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.*** Please register by **April 4<sup>th</sup>**. Flyers are available at the main church entrance. Please take one and share one!

**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



**You are invited to bring from home “BELLS” to ring during the Easter Vigil Celebration on Saturday, March 26, and also on Easter Sunday at both morning masses.**



**HOLY WEEK**