

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 9, 2008

40/3/50
THE PASCHAL SEASON

John 11:32-37

“Jesus wept.” Lord, you are not a cold icon. You are as vulnerable as we are to sadness, loss and grief. Remember me by name. Keep me a place in your heart as you had a place for Lazarus.



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 10TH

Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Reconciliation Service for children & their families
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Reconciliation for Parish Community
Friday	9:00 a.m.	
	7:00 p.m.	STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Saturday	7:00 p.m.	Don Barrett by Fran & Family In Thanksgiving to Blessed Virgin by Pearl
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	June Williams by Anthony & Family
	11:00 a.m.	Blais Boulanger by Bertha Mrs. Nantel-Tessier by Francine

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS: \$2,348.25 Thank you!

THE HOLY MOUNTAIN OF EASTER IS IN SIGHT

Easter is so very early this year. We are getting things in place to celebrate the great event that the season of Lent aims at: the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. That is the source of our Christian identity. The Christian life is unrecognizable without it. Yes, these coming two weeks are very intense. Our participation in what we do as a Church is not optional or desirable, but is a must. At least it is hoped that we can find a way to set other things aside and to give priority to what marks us as Christians.

We keep our focus on the upcoming **Three Great Days**, starting on Holy Thursday evening, including Good Friday and Holy Saturday and concluding on Easter Sunday. Wherever possible, let us observe these important days of our Christian faith. Just this one weekend of the year - doing other things than we normally do on weekends - just because we are Christians. The Muslims can do it, the Jews can do it. Surely, as Christians we can do it too!

Holy Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Mass of the Lord's Supper
Good Friday	3:00 p.m.	Celebration of the Lord's Passion
	7:00 p.m.	Reflection/Meditation
Holy Saturday	9:00 p.m.	Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Eucharist
	11:00 a.m.	Eucharist

Let us make sure to be part of these services, because they concern the very meaning and purpose of life as we Christians see it.

AS PART OF PREPARATION FOR EASTER: CELEBRATING GOD'S FORGIVENESS

a. **PENITENTIAL SERVICE/COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION**

- Tuesday, March 11 at 7:00 p.m.** For children who are “making their First Confession” and their families
Thursday, March 13 at 7:00 p.m. For the parish community

We reflect together on how we as individuals, but also as a faith community, stand in need of God’s mercy and forgiveness. And as a community we celebrate, in thanksgiving, God’s unmerited grace and forgiveness.

b. **INDIVIDUAL CONFESSIONS**

- Thursday, March 13 at 7:00 p.m.** after the Penitential Service
Saturday, March 15 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Monday, March 17 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 18 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

It is understood that anyone can approach a priest at any time for the sacrament of God’s Forgiveness.

Please note: No individual confessions are scheduled during the **Three Great Days**. The reason for that is that Lent ends on Holy Thursday evening. The Sacrament of Reconciliation, whether celebrated individually or communally, is properly a Lenten practice. In this way we keep the **Three Great Days** for celebrating the immense mystery of our faith.



- March 10:** Liturgy Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
March 12: Baptism Preparation, 7:30 p.m.

THE ARCHBISHOP INVITES US TO THE CHRISM MASS

The holy oil, used for Baptism and Confirmation, and the holy oil, used for the anointing of the sick, are consecrated and blessed at the Chrism Mass over which the Bishop presides. It puts in focus that as baptized-confirmed people we have become a consecrated people filled with the Spirit of God’s holiness.

Once the oils are consecrated and blessed, they are distributed to representatives from the parishes where these oils are brought in procession into our church at the Holy Thursday celebration.

The **Chrism Mass** is celebrated at Saint-Joseph Cathedral (245, boul. St-Joseph, Hull sector) on **Wednesday of Holy Week, March 19 at 7:30 p.m.** The Archbishop invites all parishioners. It would be good if we had a decent representation from our parish to honour our place in the Gatineau Diocese and our bond with the Bishop.

THE LENT EVENT : Palm Sunday (March 16) after 11 AM Mass

Holy Week is precious for us as Christians because of what we celebrate at the end of that week, during those **Three Great Days**. Let us do something extra to get us in the right frame of mind: **The Lent Event**. A number of activities are being planned that adults, youth, and children can take part in. In other words, this is not something for children only. We would like it to be intergenerational. We could all benefit from it, and it could serve as a good example of ongoing faith formation.

It starts with a potluck lunch after the 11:00 Mass in the basement. And that is followed by activities and crafts in the church from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Please bring a potluck dish or dessert to share!

Interested in learning more about the Services of the Three Great Days? (Why the fuss?)

Next Sunday evening the Confirmation candidates have one of their meetings, starting at 7:00 p.m. A good part of the evening is meant to serve as an introduction to the services of the **Three Great Days**. It would be great if more Catholics were familiar with the make-up, the rationale and the basic thrust of these three services that make up the so-called **Triduum**. Actually, these three services (starting on Holy Thursday evening and concluding on Easter Sunday morning) are one service with some lengthy intermissions. In other words, they really belong together.

If you are interested in joining our Confirmation candidates for this project, please come and join us. In fact, that would make it into a good parish activity.



THE WAY OF THE CROSS THROUGH AYLMEER

On Good Friday, we will again join the Aylmer Christian communities for the annual **Way of the Cross**. We are all invited to participate. It starts at **St. Paul's Church at 10:45 a.m.** and ends at St. Mark's Church where a "Hunger Lunch" will be served by our CWG.

KEEPING VIGIL: FROM GOOD FRIDAY EVENING UNTIL DAWN OF HOLY SATURDAY

Keeping Vigil through the night of Good Friday is a beautiful way of entering into the Mystery of the **Three Great Days**. It is a very effective way of making this weekend different: spending an hour or so in church during the night reflecting, meditating, and praying on the central mystery of our faith.

You will find sign-up sheets at the entrances of the church divided into one-hour time slots, from 8:00 p.m. on Good Friday until 6:00 a.m. on Holy Saturday. It is important that all time slots are filled.

There are some parishioners for whom it is impossible to come to church during the night. They may want to spend some time in prayer at home during the night. A beautiful idea!

EASTER LILIES: Especially when we celebrate Christ & victory of life over death we want to remember our deceased relatives, that is the significance of bringing our Easter lilies to church and to have them be part of the Easter decorations.

But please **hold off until the week of March 17** to bring them into the Church. TIP: When buying your Easter lily, look for plants that have both tight buds and "not quite" but "almost open" flowers - they will last longer. Thank You!



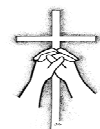
EASTER COMES EARLY THIS YEAR: MARCH 23. NOT TO HAPPEN AGAIN UNTIL 2160!

So, how do we get to the changing date for Easter? Easter is always the *1st Sunday* after the *1st full moon* after the *Spring Equinox* (which is March 20). This dating of Easter we have inherited from the Hebrew people who used the lunar calendar to identify Passover. The earliest Easter can be is March 22; the next time that happens will be in the year 2285. An early Easter is extremely rare on the Christian calendar. Only five times in the past 300 years has Easter fallen on March 23 -- 1704, 1788, 1845, 1856 and 1913. The next time won't be until 2160: none of us will be around then! After that, the next March 23 observance won't be until 2228!



KEYS FOUND: A set of keys (including a KIA car key + elevator and house keys) was found at the church following 9:00 a.m. Mass last Sunday. If you think these keys are yours, please drop by the Parish Office to identify/claim them.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Kindly remember Dave McCormick, Patrick Murphy, Wandaw Bobrowski, Hilda Preslawski and their families in your prayers.



Visit our Website: www.stmarkparish.ca

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Need a website or flyer? Visit www.catleg.ca or e-mail: catleg@catleg.ca