

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 29, 2009

40/3/50
THE PASCHAL SEASON

John 12:20--24

- What the Greeks asked of Philip is what Christians have been seeking in the Gospels and in pilgrimages for two thousand years. We wish to see Jesus. When they found him, They heard those pregnant words: A grain of wheat has to die before it bears fruit.
- Only in Jesus have we a person and a philosophy that makes sense of suffering and death, and that sees the life beyond them.



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 30TH

Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Penitential Service
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	
Friday	9:00 a.m.	
	7:00 p.m.	STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Saturday	7:00 p.m.	Gordon McFadden 13 th Anniv. by Marie Jim Kelly by Mary & Family
Sunday	9:00 a.m.	Olga Tessier by Jacques & Ann-Marie Mongrain
	11:00 a.m.	Mr. & Mrs Tom Boucher & Sons by Pearl Melissa & Rodney French by Connie

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS: \$2,392.40 Thank You!

The Holy Mountain of Easter is in sight

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; we want to be there. 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, 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.

The Season of Lent is about Conversion, Repentance, Renewal -

All this to open our hearts for the wondrous gift of God's Forgiveness

God's Mercy and Forgiveness, we cannot do without it. Until recently, we have given expression to that by going to confession. That was in fact a unique feature for us as Roman Catholics. That is no longer the case

for many of us for a variety of reasons. Still, our need for God's forgiveness is no less real. That is what we want to give expression to in the **communal Penitential Services** we have planned for this coming Thursday and for Tuesday of next week. In both services 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. It is a beautiful way of preparing for Easter.

We Celebrate it in two Penitential Services:

Thursday, March 26 - 7:00 p.m. for First Communion candidates and their families

Tuesday, March 31 - 7:00 p.m. for the Parish Community.

God's Forgiveness celebrated in the Sacrament of Reconciliation

In addition to the **Penitential Services** where we celebrate **God's Mercy**, some time slots are set aside where we may want to celebrate **God's Reconciliation** in what is popularly called

Individual Confessions:

Thursday, March 26 After Penitential Service

Tuesday, March 31 After Penitential Service

Saturday, April 4 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Monday, April 6 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 7 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.



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 is properly a Lenten practice. In this way we keep the **Three Great Days** for celebrating the immense mystery of our faith.



Sunday, April 5 (Palm Sunday), after the 11:00 Mass: The Lent Event

Remember the Advent Event in December? That was such a positive and faith-building experience for all who participated. How about doing something similar at the start of Holy Week? Let us face it: 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. After a little snack following the 11:00 a.m. Mass, we will have a number of activities 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. Participation in this sort of thing makes the parish come alive!

It starts with a potluck lunch in the hall after the 11:00 a.m. Mass. And that is followed by activities and crafts in the church until about 2:00 or 2:30 p.m. Please, bring a potluck dish or dessert to share!

Those Services on the Three Great Days:

Are you interested in knowing more about them?

Those services on the **Three Great Days** (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday) are quite different from our regular Sunday Mass. In some way, one could say they make up one Service with some lengthy intermissions. What makes them a unit is the central mystery of our Christian faith, the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, which we celebrate in those services. If you want to see the heart of the Christian faith "on display", here it is!

This Sunday evening, at 7:00 p.m., we will take some time to walk through them and explain what makes these services so special. All are welcome.

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 into 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 the various churches 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, April 8 at 7:30 p.m.** The Archbishop invites all parishioners.

May we count on a good delegation from our parish? That is the way we can honour our place in the Gatineau Diocese and our bond with the Bishop.

The Way of the Cross through Aylmer

It is such a beautiful tradition here in Aylmer! On **Good Friday** members of the different Aylmer Christian communities walk the **Way of the Cross**. We start at **St. Paul's Church at 10:45 a.m.** and it 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's 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 later in Holy Week** to bring them into the church.

And here is a 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!

Fellowship for Young Families: First Friday of the Month

Please, join us on the first Friday of every month downstairs in the church hall for some dinner, games, music and, most importantly, community for young families here at St. Mark's. The evening begins with a short **family game at 5:45 p.m.** followed by **dinner at 6:00 p.m.** which is then followed by a variety of fun, family based activities and music. The evening ends with a delicious dessert and mingling. For the purposes of planning food and drinks, please RSVP Greg and Andrea Minifie at **(819) 777-0984** before the upcoming **Friday, April 3.**



MEETINGS:

PPC: Monday, March 30th at 7:00 p.m.

Bible Study: Wednesday, April 1st at 9:30 a.m.

Baptism Preparation: Wednesday, April 1st at 7:30 p.m.

FAITH BOOK CLUB:

As a way to promote fellowship, and to broaden our horizons regarding faith and world issues, we would like to start a "faith book club" at St. Mark's. The reading material for discussion would be in the form of books or articles and would be suggested by members of the book club. Anyone interested in joining can contact Teresa Clarke at (819) 684-0990 or email teresa-clarke14@hotmail.com. Hope to hear from you!

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Kindly remember Claude Lavigne, Gilles Benoit, Hilda Preslawski and their families in your prayers.

Visit our Website: www.stmarkparish.ca