



PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 5, 2009

40/3/50
THE PASCHAL SEASON

Philippians 2:6--11

- On this Sunday of the passion, we read St. Paul's Christ-hymn which offers a dense theology of the incarnation. Jesus emptied himself and accepted the loss of everything-- family, power, the love and respect of his own people, and finally his own life.
- Lord you ask me to have the same mind as you had. I can accept the emptying out of my attachments because you have shown me the way.



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 6TH

Wednesday	7:30 pm	Chrism Mass – Saint Joseph Cathedral
Thursday	7:00 pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper
Friday	3:00 pm	Celebration of the Lord's Passion
	7:00 pm	Reflection/Meditation
Saturday	9:00 pm	Easter Vigil
Sunday	9:00 am	June Williams by Anthony & Family
	11:00 am	The Woods Family by Gloria & Family

WEEKEND COLLECTIONS: \$2,340.80 Thank You!

Our Forty-Day Lenten Journey reaches its Goal

This coming week (on Holy Thursday evening) Lent comes to an end, or better it reaches its intended goal: the celebration of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ in the annual **Three Great Days**. The insert to the bulletin indicates the special services and the times that mark these special days. It also gives a brief description/explanation of these services.

We are not simply celebrating the Passover from death to life of Jesus Christ as a past event. Rather, we celebrate our Christian Passover, our participation in Christ's Passover as we live it daily, weekly, annually in our own lives. We bring into 'clearer focus' the basic orientation of our lives as Christians which we draw from Jesus Christ and which we celebrate starting Holy Thursday evening, leading to Good Friday liturgy, reaching its climax in the Easter Vigil.

Could we make an attempt to have life as usual arranged a little differently from Thursday evening to Easter Sunday? Could we at least try on this Good Friday and on this Holy Saturday to refrain from doing certain things we normally do on any other Friday and Saturday of the year? Just to make sure that this is not just another long weekend? Our being Christian can only benefit from it.



Share Lent Collection... Yes, there are a number of special collections in the course of the year. But, the **Share Lent** collection is unique! Ideally, it is what we have saved by our fasting during Lent that goes into this collection. So, there are still a few more days to go that we can add to that collection. If that collection comes in at Easter, there is still plenty of time.

Still two time slots for Individual Confessions... In addition to our communal **Penitential Service** of last Tuesday, we have scheduled a couple of time slots for those who want to celebrate the **Sacrament of God's Forgiveness** in **Individual Confession**, as follows:



Monday, April 6 4:30 to 5:30 pm

Tuesday, April 7 7:00 to 8:00 pm

Individual confessions are NOT scheduled during the **Three Great Days**. The reason for that is because Lent ends on **Holy Thursday** evening. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is properly a Lenten practice. In this way we keep the **Three Great Days** free for celebrating the immense mystery of our faith.

Chrism Mass: This Wednesday (April 8th at 7:30 pm) at the Cathedral

The Archbishop invites us to participate in the Chrism Mass at which he will consecrate and bless the oils used for Baptism and Confirmation and for the Anointing of the Sick. At the end of the Mass, he will distribute them to representatives from the parishes where these oils will be used in the course of the year.

The Chrism Mass is celebrated at Saint-Joseph Cathedral (245 St. Joseph Blvd in Hull sector). It would be great if we had a decent representation from our St. Mark's Parish there to honour our place in the Gatineau Diocese and our bond with our Bishop.

Washing Feet on Holy Thursday

Washing of the feet is very much part of the Holy Thursday service. In this (at first sight) embarrassing gesture, the basic thrust of what we celebrate in the **Three Great Days** is summed up: God's love for us in Jesus Christ...God's becoming the servant of us all! In Peter's estimation, that is not God-like enough, so Peter objects. But if Peter seeks salvation, he must "allow" Jesus to be his God-given servant. There is no reason why the number of persons who have their feet washed should be limited to twelve. In Jesus, God wants to be servant of us all. Hence, all should feel free to be part of this strange, but powerful gesture.



After Holy Thursday's Mass... Please observe a Prayerful Silence!

It is nice to see people mingle and chat after Sunday Mass. The one time we should refrain from that is after Holy Thursday's Mass. On Holy Thursday, we keep some consecrated bread and wine on the altar... they contain for us the self-giving of Jesus, his Body and Blood. It is good to take some extra time to sit/kneel/stand in awe and adoration of that. This is what the period of adoration (after Holy Thursday's service) is all about. We want to make that possible for each other by observing a prayerful silence.



The Way of the Cross through Aylmer...

On Good Friday, once again we will 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 am** and ends at St. Mark's Church where a "Hunger Lunch" will be served by our CWG. Some of our parishioners hand in their **Share Lent** contribution at that event. Very appropriate!

Fasting on Good Friday and - if possible - on Holy Saturday! Observing a fast on Good Friday and on Holy Saturday makes a lot of sense. It is a fasting in anticipation of the *Feast of Easter* and so is different from a fast we may be observing during *Lent*. Eating less is one form of fasting. But, a very appropriate form of fasting is to abstain from going out/from watching a movie/from shopping or other distractions that often fill our lives. The challenge is to keep these days special, to keep them indeed holy and to keep ourselves focused on the Lord Jesus and on what we are given in Him. Let us give it a try!

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 6 pm on Good Friday until 6 am on Holy Saturday). It is important that all these time-slots be filled. There are some parishioners for whom it is impossible to come to church during the night so they may wish to spend some time in prayer at home during the night. What a beautiful idea!!

Easter Vigil: Participation is MORE THAN desirable...

If there is one service (together with the service on Good Friday) at which you would like to see the church packed, it is the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday. It is a strange thing that many Catholics have never participated in it. Some say: "It is too long!" Really? A hockey game easily takes much longer... plus... there is so much less at stake!! At the Easter Vigil, we gather around the primary symbols of our faith: our assembling, the Cross, the Easter Candle, the Scriptures, the baptismal water, and the bread and wine of the Eucharist. All this... to celebrate the new light and life with which God graces us in the Crucified and Risen Lord Jesus! NOT TO BE MISSED!



Easter Lilies

Especially when we celebrate Christ's victory of life over death, we want to remember our deceased relatives. This is the significance of purchasing and bringing Easter lilies to church... to have them be part of the Easter decorations. 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!

At the Easter Vigil and at the Easter Masses: Our Baptism Renewed

Baptism inserts us into Christ's victory over death and sin. But, it takes a lifetime for baptism "to take". Easter is the best time to have it renewed so that... the new life that Jesus won for us in the Death and Resurrection may progressively grow on us.

Maintaining Easter for 50 Days: a Major Challenge!

Let two great masters lead us...

The Church celebrates Easter for 50 days until the feast of Pentecost. It is a major challenge to keep the *Easter* flavour alive for 50 days. But, here is something that may help... We all know of Jean Vanier. There are 6 DVDs with 9 hours of reflections by him on the Gospel of St. John. That promises to be a treat. We plan to view those DVDs on the 7 Wednesdays in Easter Time (starting Wednesday, April 15 at 7:30 pm). Come and join us. If there are parishioners that would like to do the same during the day some time, please, let us know and we will make room for it.

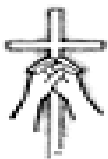
Looking Ahead...

English Zone Pastoral Council, Saturday, April 18:

This is especially for PPC members and Wardens (and all who have a leadership in our parishes) but also /anyone else interested in the wellbeing of the English parishes in our Diocese... we welcome your presence everyone on Saturday, April 18 at **Our Lady of the Annunciation Church** (Hull sector) **from 9:00 am until Noon!**

FAITH BOOK CLUB...

How do we, as people of faith, put our faith into action, and respond? Well, 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 soon!



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

Visit our Website: www.stmarkparish.ca

Bulletin design & Website content/design by: Catherine LeGuerrier