



strengthening our faith

by rebuilding our heritage

March 2018

My dear parishioners,

Lent is passing quickly; Holy Week is just a couple of weeks away. We mark so many dramatic events at this time: Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem; his poignant last meal with his friends; his trial and brutal execution. But the darkness of Good Friday leads inexorably to the glorious "Alleluia! The Lord is Risen!" of Easter Sunday. It is our annual pilgrimage into both the darkness of human existence and the life-giving light of the Resurrection.



Risen, Healing for Us All!

I wanted to share this reflection on the Resurrection:

Have you ever thought of how you might have constructed it differently, if you were Jesus and you were going to be resurrected? Certainly, if you ran a public relations firm, you might stage it a little more impressively. Sometimes I think of how I might have done it so differently, and it shows me how much God's ways are not like mine. Just as I would have been tempted to orchestrate a much more impressive birth and childhood, I might have mounted a big, Cecil B. De Mille-type cinematic presentation of the resurrection, but that's not here in the Gospel. There is no big triumphant ride on a white horse through Galilee—I thought of that, you know, like El Cid. There is no instant bi-location to Rome and to Jerusalem. I can just imagine him coming to Caesar himself and saying, "Ta-daaaah!" and converting the entire empire in the process.

But no: He's not interested in high-impact pyrotechnic activities; he's interested in relationship, especially a chance to heal relationships. And that's wonderful.

All of his early companions, their wounds healed, could then go forth and say something more wondrous than any great epiphany that might have come to Caesar. They would say, as the lovely song goes, "We have been told, we've seen his face and heard his voice alive in our hearts," and he said, "As the father has loved me, so I have loved you."

—The Way of the Lord, Fr. John Kavanaugh, S.J., Creative Communications for the Parish ©2015

My prayer for you this Easter is that the light of the Resurrection will fill you once again and remain with you throughout the year. May the Risen Lord grant peace to our world.

Holy Week Confessions and Liturgies

Holy Week at the Cathedral is marked by many special liturgies and musical events. For details see the Lenten brochure sent last month. Find copies in the Cathedral and at www.stmatthewscathedral.org.

Several priests will hear Confessions in the Cathedral from 11AM to Noon on Monday of Holy Week, **March 26** through Holy Saturday, **March 31**. The exception is Tuesday, **March 27**, the date of our **Lenten Communal Penance Service**. At 12:10 PM that day, more than fifteen priests from around the Archdiocese will gather to hear Confessions in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, French, German and American Sign—a wonderful opportunity to reconcile with the Lord and his Church in time for Easter.



Of special note is the **Chrism Mass** at 7 PM on Monday of Holy Week, **March 26**, at which the priests of the Archdiocese renew their ordination promises and the Cardinal blesses the sacred oils used to anoint the sick and dying, and

those being baptized, confirmed or ordained. I encourage you to attend and pray for your priests!



Our **Tenebrae** service is held Wednesday of Holy Week, **March 28**, at 7:30 PM.

On Holy Thursday, **March 29**, the **Mass of the Lord's Supper** is celebrated twice, at 12:10PM and at 5:30 PM. **Cardinal Wuerl** presides at the evening service with the washing of the feet, and **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** in repose is held in St. Anthony's Chapel until 10 PM.

On Good Friday, **March 30**, Benedictine Father Gabriel Myers, a regular 10 AM Latin Mass celebrant, delivers a **Reflection on the Lord's Passion** at Noon, followed by the Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at 1PM with **Cardinal Wuerl**. **Bishop Dorsonville** presides at the Spanish Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at 4 PM, and we end the evening with Stations of the Cross at 7:30 PM.



I hope many of you will attend the **Easter Vigil** on Holy Saturday, **March 31**, the greatest feast of the Church's liturgical year, the night on which we will welcome **15 new brothers and sisters** into the Catholic community—6 will be baptized and confirmed, and will celebrate their First Eucharist, 6 baptized will make their Profession of Faith, be confirmed and celebrate full communion with us, and 3 Catholics will complete the Sacraments of Initiation. **The Easter Vigil begins at 8 PM.**

Faith Formation

I look forward to seeing you at our liturgies, as well as at these **Faith Formation** events:

- *Sacred Page* led by our Cathedral seminarians provides a weekly reflection on the upcoming Sunday Mass readings, Wednesdays from 7 to 8 PM in the West Conference Room.
- Fr. Hurley continues his Saturday morning Bible Study on the Holy Week events in the Gospel of Mark on **March 9 & 17** at 10:30 AM in the East Conference Room.
- Our Tuesday evening series, *Exploring Ways of Gospel Living*, continues with experiences of the religious life on **March 13**, and on **March 20**, Fr. Conrad Murphy shares on the priestly life.

Special Easter Offering and Easter Flowers

Special Easter Offering envelopes and Easter Flowers envelopes are in the pews. You also may place your offering in a regular envelope and send it to the Rectory, or give via Faith Direct. **We really need a healthy Easter collection to meet our budget.** You may be surprised to learn that only $\frac{1}{3}$ of registered households contribute more than a penny for the entire year. If each household gave something each week, we would easily meet our budget. **I will sincerely appreciate your Easter gift this year.**

Thank You! Muchas Gracias!

I thank those who contributed so generously to the 2017 Cardinal's Appeal and those who already have made their gift to the 2018 Cardinal's Appeal. If you have not done so, I would ask you now to consider a gift to this year's appeal, which provides for the day-to-day needs of the least of our brothers and sisters. It also helps our seminarians and retired priests in the areas of retirement funding and long-term care. Please do what you can.

Finally, Happy Easter! May this season bring you much joy, love and peace. *This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

LET'S STAY CONNECTED!

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Enjoy a 360° virtual tour of the Roman Catholic Cathedral of our Nation's Capital at tour.stmatthewscathedral.org.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson, V. F.
Rector

THE MYSTERY OF REDEMPTION

SACRED MUSIC FROM EAST TO WEST

PALM SUNDAY
MARCH 25, 2018
7:15 PM

SACRED MUSIC OF HOLY WEEK
INCLUDING MUSIC OF
BACH, PERGOLESINI, HAYDN, VERDI, AND PUCCINI

*FEATURING MUSIC OF LEBANESE MARONITE
AND MELKITE GREEK CATHOLIC,
ARMENIAN AND ORTHODOX CHURCHES
INCLUDING THE WORKS OF WAKED, TAWK AND KANAAN*

*PERFORMED BY INTERNATIONALLY-ACCLAIMED VOCALISTS
CYNTHIA SAMAHA AND RAYMOND GHATTAS*

WITH CHOIR AND STRING ORCHESTRA
ORGAN, QANUN AND NAI
UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
FATHER FADI TAWK FROM BEIRUT, LEBANON

Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle

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