



strengthening our faith

by rebuilding our heritage

March 2016

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.

An Easter People

Valerie Schultz has this to say about Easter:

While Easter lasts one day in the secular world, we know that it is our mission to live as an Easter people. We know what it is to forgive and to be forgiven. Easter people know and are grateful for God's gifts of grace and salvation. We know that God is always close by with outstretched hands, to pick us up, dust us off, and give us another chance to do God's will. . .



Let us keep in mind that the glory of Easter's dawn leads us ever closer to the gifts of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit brings us hope and strength. In return, we are called to accept the responsibility we have to each other—to speak in a language that others understand, to listen with the heart, and to minister with kindness and joy.

The powerful wind and the holy breath of the first Pentecost filled the Apostles with faith and fortitude (Acts 2:1-4). The Holy Spirit breathes upon us in the same way all these centuries later, encouraging us to step out of safety and to go among the nations to build God's kingdom here and now. We may be led to places we never imagined ourselves going.

When we are mindful of God's presence, we will find that life is full of sacred surprises.

—Daily Reflections for Lent and Easter Week, by Valerie Schultz, Liguori Press

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 at the Cathedral

As always, the Cathedral will mark Holy Week with many special liturgies and musical events, described below and in the Lenten brochure sent to you last month and available in the Cathedral and on the parish website at www.stmatthewscathedral.org.

Several priests will hear Confessions in the Cathedral from 11:00 a.m. to Noon on Monday of Holy Week, **March 21**, through Holy Saturday, **March 26**. The exception is Tuesday of Holy Week, **March 22**, the date of our Lenten Communal Penance Service at 12:10 p.m., *Come Home for Easter*, at which I will preside and preach. At the end of the service, more than fifteen priests from around the Archdiocese will hear Confessions in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, French, German and American Sign. This is a wonderful opportunity to reconcile with the Lord and his Church in time for Easter.

Of special note is the annual Chrism Mass, 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, as well as those being baptized, confirmed or ordained. The Mass will be at 7:00 p.m. on Monday of Holy Week, **March 21**. I encourage you to attend and pray for your priests. Our Tenebrae service will held

Wednesday of Holy Week, **March 23**, at 7:30 p.m. On Holy Thursday, **March 24**, we will celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper twice, at 12:10 p.m. and at 5:30 p.m. Cardinal Wuerl will preside at the evening service, which will include the washing of the feet. As usual, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held that night until 10:00 p.m. On Good Friday, **March 25**, Rev. John Pavlik, OFM Cap, Executive Director of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men at the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, will deliver some Reflections on the Lord's Passion at Noon, followed by the Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at 1:00 p.m. with Cardinal Wuerl. Bishop Dorsonville will preside at the Spanish Liturgy of the Passion at 4:00 p.m. We will end the night with Stations of the Cross at 7:30 p.m.

Of course, I hope many of you will be able to attend the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday, **March 26**, the greatest feast of the Church's liturgical year, the great night on which we will welcome 24 new brothers and sisters into the Catholic community—8 will be baptized, confirmed and celebrate their First Eucharist, 11 baptized will make their Profession of Faith, be confirmed and celebrate full communion with us, and five baptized Catholics will complete their Sacraments of Initiation. Note that the Easter Vigil will begin at 8:00 p.m.

I look forward to seeing you as often as you can make the time to come.

Faith Formation

During this Jubilee Year of Mercy, we continue to provide a variety of Faith Formation programs and events. Fr. Jack Hurley continues his Bible Study on St. Paul's Letter to the Romans on Saturdays, **March 5, 12, and 19**. He also leads a book discussion on the second half of *Jesus: A Pilgrimage* by Fr. James Martin, S.J. on Monday, **March 14**. Reflection on the Sunday Scriptures continues on Wednesday evenings as *The Sacred Page - Read - Reflect and Pray*, led by our Cathedral Seminarians.

Look for materials on the Holy Year of Mercy at the entrances to the Cathedral: *Prayer Service for the Year of Mercy* (with Scripture readings, intercessions and more); a pamphlet, *Pilgrimage to the Holy Door at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle*; prayer cards for the Year of Mercy; and Our Sunday Visitor's *Year of Mercy* pamphlet. Please bring the Holy Year of Mercy home with you!

This Spring, the Faith Formation Committee will conduct a parish-wide survey focusing on your adult faith formation desires and needs. We look forward to hearing from you!

Special Easter Offering and Easter Flowers

Special Easter Offering envelopes and Easter Flowers envelopes are in the pews. You may also place your offering in a regular envelope and send it to the Cathedral Rectory. In a special way, we need your Easter Offering. **Our Christmas collections were down so we are looking for the Easter collections to exceed budget. I will really appreciate your Easter gift this year.** I thank you for your ongoing generosity to the Cathedral which makes possible all that we do here.

Thank You! Muchas Gracias!

I also thank those who contributed so generously to the Cardinal's Appeal last year, and those who already have made their gift for this year. If you have not done so, I would ask you now to consider a gift to the 2016 Cardinal's Appeal. This Appeal 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. They really need your help now.

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!

Sincerely yours in Christ,



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