

Passion (Palm Sunday)

March 25, 2018

Isaiah 50: 4-7

Philippians 2:6-11

Mark 14.1-15.47

The Feast of Passover was a time of great anticipation for the Jews. For weeks leading up to the feast intense preparations were made. The Romans sent extra forces to Jerusalem to deal with potential disturbances and uprisings. It was Jewish belief that the Messiah would come at Passover to deliver his people from oppression. Jesus' enemies were expecting him to make his appearance in Jerusalem and they were hoping to arrest him before he had the chance to incite the crowds to make him their Messiah and King.

As Jesus makes his way towards Jerusalem for what he knows will be his last Passover with his disciples, he stops in the village of Bethany where he is invited to dinner by a well-to-do host named Simon. Matthew (26:6-13) and John (12:1-8) this story as well and Luke tells us that Simon was a Pharisee. In Luke's account (7:36-50) we are told that Simon did not treat Jesus with the normal courtesy given to guests, such as washing their feet and anointing their head before they reclined at table. Why did Simon invite him to dinner and then neglect to give him the customary signs of respect and honor? Simon was very likely a collector of celebrities. He patronized Jesus because of his popularity with the crowds. When a woman interrupts the meal to anoint Jesus's feet, she causes a scene and provokes Simon's company to criticize her action. Her action was motivated by one thing, and one thing only, namely, her love for Jesus. She was oblivious to all around her, except for Jesus. She also did something which only love can do. She took the most precious thing she had and spent it all on Jesus. Why did Simon's company view this woman's act as extravagant wastefulness? They were greedy. A person views things according to what is inside the heart or soul. Jesus remarked that this woman had done a lovely deed. We can never outmatch God in kindness and generosity. The greatest proof of his love for us is the willing offer of his only begotten Son who poured out his blood upon the cross for our sins. Are you ready to pour out your love upon the One who gave himself without reserve for your sake?

Mark immediately contrasts this lovely deed with the treacherous act of Judas. Why did Judas betray his own Master? Was his treachery motivated by greed, bitter disappointment with Jesus or hatred because of disillusionment? It may be that Judas never intended for his Master to die. Maybe he thought Jesus was proceeding too slowly and not acting aggressively enough in setting up his messianic kingdom. Perhaps Judas wanted to force Jesus' hand by compelling him to act. Nonetheless, his tragedy was his refusal to accept Jesus as he was. Aren't we tempted to use God for our own purposes? It is not God who must change, but we must be changed by him. Jesus knew beforehand what would befall him. Just as God can use any individual as his instrument, so can Satan, his arch-enemy and our adversary. We can either be an instrument of good or of evil, and a servant of God or of Satan. The choice is ours. Do you allow greed or selfishness or the extravagant love and mercy of God to rule in your heart and actions?

"Lord, your grace is sufficient for me. Fill my heart with love and gratitude for the mercy you have shown to me and give me freedom and joy to love and serve others as you have. ~Don Schwager

PARISH DIRECTORY

Fr. Francis Pudicherry - Parish Priest

Sandra Stewart - Pastoral Council Chair

Jack Mallon - Finance Council Chair

Marlaine Hagel - Liturgy Committee Chair

June Gaw - Director of the RCIA & CWL President

Bernadette Bystrican—Bookkeeper Tues. 9am-3pm

Carole Normand—Parish Secretary Thur.9am-12:30pm

Easter Triduum:

The **sacred Paschal Triduum:** through his paschal mystery, the Lord Jesus redeemed the human race and gave perfect glory to the father. By dying, Christ destroyed our death, by rising, he restored our life. For this reason, the Easter Triduum when we celebrate the suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord, is the high point of the Liturgical year. The Easter Solemnity is the year what Sunday is to the week.

Holy Thursday The Lord's Supper March 29th begins at 7 p.m. the reception of the Holy Oils and the washing of the feet, representing the service and charity of Christ will take place. Following the prayer after Communion, the Blessed Sacrament is brought in procession to the side altar. All are invited to spend some time in the presence of the Eucharist to reflect on the Passion of Christ.

Friday of the Passion of the Lord will begin at 3:00 p.m. **March 30th.** The service will include the passion narrative, veneration of the Cross and Communion. The church of God fasts today and tomorrow to honour the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and prepare to share more deeply in the joy of the Resurrection. **Good Friday is a universal day of fasting and abstinence from meat.**

Holy Saturday March 31st: On this day the people of God remain in prayer and fasting at the tomb of the Lord, meditating on his sufferings, death and descent to the dead. Throughout this day the faithful are invited to continue the solemn paschal fast which began on Good Friday. **The liturgy begins at 8:00 p.m.** St. Augustine said that the Easter Vigil, the night when Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, is to be considered the 'mother of all vigils.' During this night the people of God keep watch as they await the resurrection of the Lord and celebrate it in the Sacraments of Initiation. Hudson, Linden and Nolan Papineau will be making their profession of faith.

Please remember in your prayers: the children preparing for the sacraments of:

First Communion: Logan Etienne, Braxton Lovis, Liam Eade, Lux-Leigh Harty, Nathaniel Smith, Taurin Syrek, Mathew Wong & Hudson Papineau

Confirmation: Austin Michael Pelletier, Samuel Purdon & Taylor Syrek

CWL Corner:

A special thank you to Fr. Francis for contributing a very tasty cream soup, to all who worked to ensure another successful event and to everyone who came out to truly enjoy the soups and sandwiches provided. A total of \$375.00 was realized for Development & Peace.

Mom's Pantry orders were received and have all been given out. Thank you to everyone who helped support this fundraising endeavor for a new dishwasher for the kitchen. We realized a profit of \$700.36.

The CWL will hold a Member Appreciation Wine & Cheese Evening on Tuesday, April 10th beginning at 7:00 p.m. with a special guest presenter. Please plan to come out for some fun and time of socializing.

The Elevator :

The Elevator (lift) in the parish is well used by many and it's great to see some who cannot be in the church without it are now worshipping with the community! The elevator project was achieved with the support of many in the faith community. The parish debt on the elevator is gradually coming down. Under \$140,000 is still owed on the project.

Thank you for your continued support towards it.

For your information and suggestions:

As some of you may know the **east-side wall of the parish hall** has been affected by the moisture and is now causing some problems. Exploration is taking place to resolve the issue. To fix it properly and eliminate the problem, funding is required (under \$15,000). Your comments and suggestions can be given to Joe Kuper, Tony DeProphetis, Father Francis or anyone on the Parish Council—Sandra Stewart, June Gaw, Jim Fitzgerald, Lindsay Gaw -Martin, Geraldine Hacquoil or Don Lees.

Dates to remember:

Sunday, May 27th—Confirmation
Sunday, June 3rd—First Communion
Sunday, June 24th—Parish Picnic



Thank you note:

To our parish staff—Bernadette Bystrican, Carole Normand & Geraldine Hacquoil who work behind the scenes and make things happen in the parish!

Catholic Education—Did you know?

Did you know Catholic Education has been in Ontario for over 175 years, originally started in 1841 and then with the Scott Act of 1863 granting Catholic communities the right to establish and operate publicly funded Catholic schools.



Donations towards flowers in memory of loved ones:

can be placed in the collection plate any time before Easter. The 'IN MEMORY OF' envelopes) are located at the church entrance. All 'In Memory of' names will be incorporated in the Easter display.

Meditation Prayer Group

Mondays: 7:00 PM– 8:00 PM

Sacrament of Baptism

By Appointment

Sacrament of Marriage

Please notify the parish at least 1 year in advance

Visits to the Sick

Please call the parish office for visit or communion to the sick

Reconciliation

Is offered at Our Lady of Loretto 30 minutes before each weekday Mass, 4:00-4:30 pm on Saturday or by appointment

The Knights of Columbus, Leo Council 1130,

will be holding it's Monthly General Meeting on **Tuesday, March 27th, at 7:00 pm** at St. Andrews Church, Father Baxter Hall.

We encourage all members to make a effort to attend

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

The Sick and the Shut Ins:

Mary Bilyk	Sandy Boucher
David Elliott	Garrett Galvin
Roger Gaw	Bas Gionet
Paul Gollat	Frieda Kreutz
Beatrice Lyrette	Doug Malcolm
Murray McCuaig	Kathy Sporic
Stella Stakiw	

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF March 27/18—April 1/18

Tues. Mar 27/18	9:00 a.m.—+The holy souls in purgatory (Rita)
Wed. Mar 28/18	9:00 a.m.—+John Lysak (daughter Gail)
Thur. Mar 29/18 Holy Thursday	7:00 p.m.—In thanksgiving (Rita)
Fri. Mar 30/18 Good Friday	3:00 p.m.—Friday of the Passion of the Lord
Sat Mar 31/18 OLOL Easter Vigil	8:00 p.m.—+Donna & Special Intention of Anthony Sdao (Rita)
Sun Apr 1/18 OLOL The Resurrection of the Lord	10:00 a.m.—+Barbara & Anton Kolic (The Kolic Family)
St. Mark's	12:00 p.m.—For the intentions of all parishioners.