

From the Pastor's Desk



My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Why is the very first precept of the Catholic Church: Attending church on Sundays (Saturday Vigil counts) and on Holy Days of Obligation? This requires attending Mass, "and by resting from those works and activities which could impede such a sanctification of these days." ***Sometimes we wonder why do we go to Mass on Sunday?***

The Bible teaches us that Sabbath Day is a day for God. The Third Commandment: "Remember the Sabbath day-keep it holy. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and earth, the sea and all that is in them; but the seventh day he rested. That is why the Lord has blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy" (Ex 20:8,11).

But the ultimate reason unfolds to us in the Gospel of Mark's account of Easter. When the women visited the tomb, they found that it was empty and learned that Jesus had risen from the dead. The timing of the women's discovery at the tomb is referred to as "Day One" referencing us back to the Creation story in Genesis. The Gospel is focusing our attention that a new creation is happening and that the disciples and their followers are now the new reality.

The Resurrection is the heart of the Christian faith. Saint Paul wrote, "And if Christ has not been raised, then empty is our preaching, empty too your faith." (1 Cor 15:14). Pope Benedict wrote "If we bear in mind the immense importance attached to the Sabbath in the Old Testament tradition on the basis of the Creation account and the Decalogue, then it is clear that only an extraordinary event of extraordinary impact could have led to the abandonment of the Sabbath and its replacement by the first day of the week. Only an event that marked souls indelibly could bring about such a profound realignment in the religious culture of the week. Mere theological speculations could not have achieved this" (*Jesus of Nazareth*, Part II, p. 259).

The Day One is lived out through our Sunday attendance at Mass. We gather, ask each other for forgiveness, hear God's Word, receive grace in Communion and are sent forth all in the celebration of Mass. As Catholics we are very lucky to experience Day One every week. Misunderstanding and/or lack of appreciation hinders our ability to receive the grace that is freely given out each week. Seek to hear the Good News during the Liturgy of the Word and homily. Embrace the challenge to live life fully as the Body of Christ. Be generous with your time, talent and treasure in understanding that we are being sent to bring Christ to others. Be open to the "Real Presence" of Christ and the opportunity for life-giving and transforming encounter with Him in the Eucharist. We should seek to experience "Day One" each and every week.

Happy Easter! The Lord is Risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!
May the Risen Christ always abide within us.

Your Servant in Christ,
Fr Khanh D. Nguyen, Pastor

❖ DAILY MASS TIMES & READINGS ❖

Easter Monday, April 2, Acts 2:14, 22-33; Gosp Matthew 28:8-15 - Mass at 8:45 am

Easter Tuesday, April 3, Acts 2:36-41; Gosp John 20:11-18 - no morning Mass

Easter Wednesday, April 4, Acts 3:41-10; Gosp Luke 24:13-35 – Mass at 8:45 am

Easter Thursday, April 5, Acts 3:11-26; Gosp Luke 24:35-48 – Mass at 8:45 am

Easter Friday, April 6, Acts 4:1-12; Gosp John 21:1-14 – Mass at 8:45 am

Easter Saturday, April 7, Acts 4:13-21; Gosp Mark 16:9-15 - Mass at 8:45 am

Sunday of Divine Mercy, April 8, Acts 4:32-35; Gosp John 20:19-31 –



THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON EASTER MONDAY, APRIL 2.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO TURN IN YOUR RICE BOWLS TO THE PARISH OFFICE.

ST. MATTHEW SCHOOL STUDENT ROCK GARDEN Please take a moment to admire the new rock garden between the school and parish buildings. The Middle School Service Elective class coordinated the project to have each student in our school paint a rock for the garden to show that we are all individuals, but walking the same path at St. Matthew School.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL is in need of sturdy reusable grocery bags. Please donate your bags in the SVDP baskets located in the entrance of the church. No paper bags, please. Thank you!

THE WINE AND CHEESE SOCIAL RETURNS on Saturday, April 7 after the 5 pm Mass. Join this all-ages gathering in the Community Center Conference room directly after Mass. Come sit awhile, visit, and get to know someone new.

MARY: A BIBLICAL WALK WITH THE BLESSED MOTHER Every Wednesday, April 4 through May 23 from 10 - 11:30 am in the Parish Center Library; and from 7 - 8:30 pm in the Community Center Conference Room. Call Sara Lane at 206-334-5350 or sslane5@comcast.net. Suggested donation towards costs including Study Materials is \$30. You may register online at <http://ascensionpress.com/studies/27533/registration/new>.

NEW TO THE PARISH? INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR COMMUNITY? Please call the parish office at 363-6767 and we will mail you a registration packet.

Sacred Story - Week 26

Choose the time and place for your 15-minute prayer time.

- ♦ We personalize all five meditations this week.
- ♦ Review our commitment to develop a rhythm of prayer that will carry us for the rest of our life.
- ♦ Preview our week and visualize the places and time for prayer.

Spend no more/no less than 15 minutes in formal prayer session.

Week 26

- ♦ The themes of Creation, Presence, Memory, Mercy and Eternity are the meditations for this week.
- ♦ This week we personalize, using our own words, the five meditations of Sacred Story.
- ♦ We engage the other disciplines associated with Sacred Story prayer. (*On Waking; During the Day Consciousness exercises; Journal; On Retiring Exercise*)
- ♦ We will enter our prayer time at least once daily.

Affirmation

"The urge to stop Sacred Story practice always comes before my greatest breakthroughs."

Information

- ♦ The next Sacred Story Gathering is April 2 at 7 pm in the Parish Library. All are welcome. We share our experience, support of prayer and plan for the next steps with Sacred Story.
- ♦ If you wish to receive regular e-mail contact marycross@aol.com and msloane@comcast.net

FUNERAL MINISTRY We would like your help in looking for people to provide cookies and/or salads for funeral receptions. The families who use our service are very appreciative. If you can help or if you know someone(s) who can help, we would love to hear from you or from them. Please call Jean Cooney at 206-363-6767 & let her know. Thank you.

SAVE THE DATE The 27th Annual Rainbow Heritage Festival will be on Saturday, May 19, from 12:30 to 4:30 pm. We welcome your ideas for entertainment, food donations, and crafts. Email Elaine Abarientos at eabarientos@hotmail.com with questions or to volunteer. Thank you.

UNITED WAY FREE TAX PREPARATION Households making under \$66,000 can have their taxes prepared by a certified tax preparer. Online, file your taxes free with www.MyFreeTaxes.com. In person, 30 locations have convenient hours; no appointments are needed. To find a location near you, languages available, a list of what to bring, and other details, visit United Way's website at www.FreeTaxExperts.org or call 2-1-1.

LARGE PRINT VERSIONS of this bulletin are available on the table at the church main entrance.

St. Matthew School News

Karen Herlihy, Principal, 206-362-2785 ext. 102, kherlihy@stmattschool.org

Andy Hews, Administrative Assistant, 206-362-2785, ext. 101, ahews@stmattschool.org

"Excellence – Diversity – Community"



Now Enrolling for 2018 - 2019 St. Matthew School is now enrolling for Pre-K, Kindergarten, elementary school and middle school for the 2018-2019 school year. St. Matthew School provides academic excellence and diversity in a community of faith. Come see what we have to offer! Tours available weekly; contact Stacy Pretti at spretti@stmattschool.org or (206) 362-2785, ext. 103.

HAPPY EASTER FROM NORTH SEATTLE CATHOLIC YOUTH! We are breaking for Easter from our Sunday Gatherings and will return on April 15. Our theme will be "Mary as a Disciple of Christ." We will be praying for you! Spring Calendar:

April 1	Easter: <i>no Sunday gathering</i>
April 8	Divine Mercy: <i>no Sunday gathering</i>
April 15	Series 4 begins – Mary as a Disciple of Christ
April 22	Series 4 – Mary as a Disciple of Christ
April 29	Series 4 – Mary as a Disciple of Christ
May 6	Series 4 -- Mary as a Disciple of Christ
May 13	Mother's Day: <i>no Sunday gathering</i>
May 20	Celebration!



Sunday Env/Loose/Holy Days

	<u>3/25/2018</u>	<u>YTD 3/25/2018</u>
Budgeted	\$ 10,050	\$405,304
Collected (basket)	\$ 6,079	\$381,916
Collected (online)	\$ 2,485	↓
Difference	<\$ 1,486>	<\$ 23,388>



Alleluia! Christ is risen and is victorious over sin and death! We are good stewards of our faith if, like St. Paul, we share this good news whenever and wherever we can.