

From the Pastor's Desk



My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are joyfully anticipating Easter mystery just two weeks away. The Fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally known as *Laetare* Sunday, so-called from the first word of the antiphon at the Introit. *Laetare* ("Rejoice") which is taken from the Latin translation of Isaiah 66:10. The seasonal color of Lent is usually violet/purple, so the priest vestments during the season are usually this color. However, on *Laetare* Sunday which is also known as mid-Lent Sunday and Rose Sunday, the use of rose-colored vestments is permitted, symbolizing joy or rejoicing.

This week's Gospel also gives us great joy and hope during Lent. In one of the most frequently quoted passages in the Bible, Saint John wrote: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life" (Jn 3:16). God loves us so much, he does not want us die in our sins, He sent his only Son to suffer and die for us and instead redeem our sins. In Jesus' redemption of us he gives us the greatest gift, bringing us to God to share in eternal life. God and Jesus are modeling that through action, not judgment. God gives his only Son. Jesus suffers and dies to redeem us. God's love is manifested through action. We too must consider how we manifest God's love through our actions.

Also, in this Gospel Jesus teaches us the important connection between faith and actions. These are revealed through the images of light and darkness. We learn in the beginning of John- Chapter 3, that Nicodemus came to Jesus at night. They met in secret because Nicodemus was a Pharisee and he was afraid of being found out. During the meeting between Nicodemus and Jesus, Jesus reveals how God the Father loves us so much, he sent his only Son to redeem us, not to condemn us. Tying this to the earlier Gospel of John, wherein Jesus is described as the "Light" (Jn 1:5-9), Christ is the "Light" that guides us to God. In this Gospel the light of Christ, opens Nicodemus' eyes to see how much God loves us. Jesus sheds light into the darkness.

We show our faith and love of God through our actions. Actions done in selfless reflection of Jesus are done in "Light" and are a sign of our faith. If our actions reflect our own personal pursuits, self-preservation, self-promotion or self-gain, they are being done in darkness away from the "Light".

Let us pray this Lent that our actions may reflect Jesus' Light, and that we may realize the great love God has for each of us that we can come to fully appreciate God's gift of his only Son, so that we may not perish but may have eternal life.

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

PARISH RECONCILIATION Mark your calendar for this Lenten opportunity for your Easter confession this Tuesday, March 13 at 7 pm in the Church.

❖ DAILY MASS TIMES & READINGS ❖

Monday, March 12, Isaiah 65:17-21; Gosp John 4:43-54 - Mass at 8:45 am

Tuesday, March 13, Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; Gosp John 5:1-16 - no morning Mass

Wednesday, March 14, Isaiah 49:8-15; Gosp John 11:25a, 26 – Masses at 8:45 am & 6:30 pm

Thursday, March 15, St. Louise de Marillac, Exodus 32:7- 14; Gosp John 5:31-47 – Mass at 8:45 am

Friday, March 16, St. Julian of Antioch, Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; Gosp John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30 - Mass at 8:45 am

Saturday, March 17, St. Patrick, Jeremiah 11:18-20; Gosp John 7:40-53, 11-32 - Mass at 8:45 am

4th Sunday of Lent, March 18, Jeremiah 31:31-34; Gosp John 12:20-33

HELP
Jesus
IN DISGUISE

SUPPORT THE
CATHOLIC
RELIEF SERVICES
COLLECTION

THIS WEEKEND IS THE ANNUAL CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION Envelopes are in your packets and at ends of the pews.

RICE BOWL Reflect on the role teachers have played in bringing you closer to God and your community. Visit crsricebowl.org for more suggestions. Pick up a Family's Rice Bowl in the Church entrance.

SOUP SUPPER SCHEDULE: Wednesday, March 14, 7 pm hosted by the School Commission, Parents' Club and Cub Scouts. All donations will go to our Rice Bowl Collection.

LET'S DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR PALM SUNDAY AND EASTER! Prepare for Palm Sunday on Saturday March 24, 9:30 am; and for Easter on Saturday, March 31 at 9 am. All are welcome. No experience needed. This is a fun way to meet new people and help us beautify the church. Students will receive community service and school parents volunteer hours. Learn how to make braided palms for Palm Sunday!! Lots of different tasks for every age and ability. Please consider joining us this year. "Many hands make light work."

HONDURAS MISSION INFORMATION There will be a presentation on the St. Matthew Honduras Mission in the Community Center Conference room following the 8 and 10 am Masses this Sunday, March 11. This is for you if are interested in possibly joining us on a future trip or just want to hear how the parish supported the Children's Homes in Honduras this past Fall. If you are unable to attend and would like to hear more about the Parish Mission in Honduras, please contact Kevin and Colleen Flanigan, 206-362-6499. Also, save the date for our Annual Fundraiser Dinner that supports our fall projects to be held Saturday, April 28.

Sacred Story - Week 23

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

- ♦ Assess your fidelity to 15-minute prayer period/s and make adjustments necessary to be more faithful.
- ♦ Preview your week and visualize the places and time for prayer.
- ♦ Spend no more/no less than 15 minutes in formal prayer session.

Week 23

- ♦ Creation-Presence-Memory-Mercy is the theme of the Meditation for this week.
- ♦ Refresh your memory of the Preludes and Illuminative Graces, this can be helpful.
- ♦ We begin with a review of the prayer structure in Week 16, with particular attention to the methods of doing the daily prayer with the concepts. (p.129-131)
- ♦ We combine the four themes for our meditation for the remaining days of the week.

Affirmation

"Times of peace and hope always gives way to times of difficulty and stress."

Information

- ♦ Sacred Story Gathering is April 2, at 7:00pm in the Parish Office Library.
- ♦ If you wish to receive regular e-mail contact marycross@aol.com and msloane@comcast.net

PASTA, PASTA, PASTA Our St. Vincent de Paul food bank is in need of dry pasta and Chef Boyardee type canned meals. Thank you for your generosity.

THE FIRST MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT EVENING IS NEXT WEEKEND - ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

In addition to some great Irish food, we will include the DVD presentation by Les & Leslie Parrott titled "I Love You More-How Every Day Problems Can Strengthen Your Marriage". A great way to celebrate St. Paddy and your marriage! More information and online registration available @ <http://marriageenrichment.info/> or contact Mike & Maureen Sloane-msloane@comcast.net

NORTH SEATTLE CATHOLIC YOUTH There is no gathering March 11 due to the Junior High Rally/Confirmation. On Sunday, March 18, we will offer one sexual abuse prevention course. In our efforts to protect our vulnerable population, the Archdiocese has integrated this material into our faith formation and youth ministry curriculum. Visit <http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/SEP/faithformation.aspx> This course will be offered during the regular Sunday Gathering at St. Catherine's at 5 pm for Middle School and 7 pm for High School, with a meal being served at 6:15 pm. Please contact Kate Brown at kate@nseattlecatholicyouth.org for information.

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"



Stations of the Cross Please join students and staff to reflect on the Stations of the Cross during Lent each Tuesday at 8:30 am in the church.

MARY: A BIBLICAL WALK WITH 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>. See the flyer in today's bulletin.

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES ♦ Contemplative Prayer: Thursdays, March, 15, 22 & 29, 7 - 8:15 pm; and Saturday, March 17, 9 am -12 noon. ♦ "Peace Days for Women: Walking the Way of Peace" on Wednesday, March 21, 9:30 am – 2 pm. Bring a sack lunch. All events at the Peace and Spirituality Center, Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace, 1663 Killarney Way, Bellevue. To register or for more information, email peace@csjp-olp.org or call 425-635-3603.

PERSONAL HYGIENE PRODUCT COLLECTION benefitting St. Vincent de Paul. Boy Scout Troop #309 will be conducting a drive for these products from March 10 - 18. A donation box will be available in the church vestibule. A Scout will also be collecting donations after Masses on weekends and at Sunday Coffee Hours. Donated items can be any size, as long as they are brand new. Suggested items: shampoo, body wash, soap, hand sanitizers, toothbrushes, toothpaste and socks.

Sunday Env/Loose/Holy Days

	3/4/2018	YTD 3/4/2018
Budgeted	\$ 10,050	\$353,387
Collected	\$ 8,928	\$352,705
Difference	< \$ 1,122 >	< \$ 682 >



All that we have and all that we are comes from the Lord. "We are truly his handiwork," says St. Paul in the second reading, "created in Christ Jesus to lead a life of good deeds which God prepared for us in advance."