

From the Pastor's Desk



My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I visit people in care homes and sometimes in hospitals to hear confessions, do anointings and give blessings. One of these visits was with a woman in a hospital; she told me "I am ready to go home" meaning she was ready to go to heaven. I saw her face - instead of pain or fear was excitement, because she was excited to see God in heaven. This women's faith was rare. For most of us, the prospect of death certainly evokes fear and dread. As much as possible we wish to postpone death indefinitely. The Gospel gives us wisdom and hope to face the reality of our own mortality and encourages us to embrace the gift of our faith.

In the Gospel we learn that "the hour" of Jesus' death is near. He had to go to Jerusalem and face reality. The mortal part of Jesus confesses to God his weakness. Jesus admits that in his heart he is troubled and afraid. Even though he is the Son of God and God has "glorified it and will glorify it again", Jesus is still scared. He knows of the unfairness of the circumstances of his conviction, the beatings he will receive, and his eventual violent death.

Despite his personal fear, Jesus still comforts, teaches and inspires his disciples by sharing with them that his suffering and death have a purpose. He declares: "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it just remains a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit" (John 12: 24). Jesus' dying and rising from the dead bears the fruit of our salvation. Not only does Jesus give us a message about his resurrection; he is teaching us that our role as faithful Christians is to sacrifice ourselves for others. Later in the Gospel of John, Jesus explains and defines "Fruit" as the growth of the Christian community of faith. (John 15: 1-8)

As Lent is winding to a close with Palm Sunday next week, we should reflect: This Lenten season, by our personal actions and words, have we given witness to our Faith? Have we sacrificed ourselves for others?

Through the history of our church we have many examples of saints and heroes, who through their struggles against temptation and evil forces have been redeemed; their lives have produced much "fruit" for God. For each of us our "hour" of giving will come, where our faith will be challenged, or we suffer because of our public witness to our faith. In those moments we must be ready to sacrifice and "die". Like the brave faithful woman I met in the hospital, we should not fear, because Jesus has redeemed us. Our sacrifice will bear fruit; because of our faith, we will be with our God in Heaven.

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

Lenten-Easter Schedule



Palm Sunday:

Saturday, March 24, 5 pm

Sunday, March 25, 7:45 am & 10 am

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

Holy Thursday – March 22 at 7 pm

Good Friday – March 23 at 7 pm

Easter Vigil – Saturday, March 24, 8 pm

Easter Sunday – March 25, 8 am & 10 am

❖ DAILY MASS TIMES & READINGS ❖

Monday, March 19, St. Joseph, 2 Samuel 7:45a, 12-14a, 16; Gosp Matthew 1:16, 18-20, 24a - Mass at 8:45 am

Tuesday, March 20, Numbers 21:4-9, 12; Gosp John 8:21-30 - no morning Mass

Wednesday, March 21, Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Gosp John 8:31-42 – Masses at 8:45 am & 6:30 pm

Thursday, March 22, Genesis 17:3-9; Gosp John 8:51-59 – Mass at 8:45 am

Friday, March 23, Jeremiah 20:10-13; Gosp John 10:31-42 - Mass at 8:45 am

Saturday, March 24, St. Catherine of Sweden, Ezekiel 37:21-28; Gosp John 11:45-56 - Mass at 8:45 am

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, March 25, Mark 11:1-10; Gosp Mark 14:1---15:47

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."

SOUP SUPPER SCHEDULE Our final Soup Supper for Lent is on Wednesday, March 21 at 7 pm in the Community Center, hosted by the Knights of Columbus All donations will go to our Rice Bowl Collection.

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>.

Sacred Story - Week 24

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

- ♦ Review our commitment to develop a rhythm of prayer that will carry me for the rest of my life.
- ♦ Preview your week and visualize the places and time for prayer.
- ♦ Spend no more/no less than 15 minutes in formal prayer session.

Week 24

- ♦ **Eternity** is the theme of the Meditation for this week.
- ♦ We begin with a review of the prayer structure in Week ♦16.
- ♦ I will enter my prayer time at least once daily.
- ♦ We remember that our broken hearts, lost innocence and even our sin, has been begun the great work of Reconciliation that is the path to Salvation.

Affirmation

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

Information

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

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES ♦ *"Contemplative Prayer"* on Thursdays, March 22 & 29 from 7 - 8:15 pm. ♦ *"Peace Days for Women: "Walking the Way of Peace"* on Wednesday, March 21, 9:30 am – 2 pm. Bring a sack lunch. All events held 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.

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 and let her know. Thank you much.

NORTH SEATTLE CATHOLIC YOUTH On Sunday, March 18, we will offer a sexual abuse prevention course. To protect our vulnerable population, the Archdiocese has integrated this material into our faith formation and youth ministry curriculum. 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 served at 6:15 pm. For additional information please visit <http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/SEP/fithformation.aspx>. If you have any questions, please contact Kate Brown at kate@nseattlecatholicityouth.org

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.

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.

Auction Thank You to all of you who attended, donated, supported and volunteered at our Monopoly Gala Auction. We raised funds to support our students and staff and raised over \$33,000 for new iPads and devices for our students. Thank you for a great event!

SUPPORT GROUP FOR YOUNGER ONSET EARLY STAGE MEMORY LOSS This refers to people with mild memory loss and related changes. This program is for those diagnosed before age 65. Memory loss support groups are regularly scheduled meetings to provide emotional, educational, and social support. Pre-registration is s required. Contact kelittle@alz.org, 206-529-3868.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER Let the Holy Spirit acknowledge and increase our love for our spouses while we participate in a Marriage Encounter weekend at the Sheraton Hotel, Bellevue on May 18-20. Apply at www.wwme.org; more information at 206-772-2344.

Come to us, God, and bring us peace.
Psalm 106:4

Sunday Env/Loose/Holy Days

	3/11/2018	YTD 3/11/2018
Budgeted	\$ 10,050	\$353,387
Collected (basket)	\$ 21,794	\$386,925
Collected (online)	\$ 320	↓
Difference	\$ 11,424	\$ 33,538

†♥†♥†♥†♥†♥†♥†♥†♥†♥†♥†♥†♥

If anyone would serve me," says Jesus in today's Gospel, "let him follow me; where I am, there will my servant be."
 In what way is Jesus inviting me to follow Him? What service is He asking of me?