

**Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate
Conception
The Mother Church of the Faithful of the
Archdiocese of Kingston**

**The Most Reverend Brendan M. O'Brien,
Archbishop of Kingston**

279 Johnson Street, Kingston, ON K7L 1Y5
Telephone: 613-546-5521, Fax: 613-546-1947,
email: smarys@cogeco.net Web Site: stmaryscathedral.ca
Parish Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9-Noon, effective March 20th

Mass Schedule: St. James Chapel: Mon.-Sat. 7:45 am Cathedral: Mon.-Fri. 12:10 pm
Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm; Sunday Masses: 8:00 am, 10:30 am, 7:30 pm

Opportunities for Confession: One half hour prior to every Mass held in the Cathedral;
Wednesdays 1 pm – 5pm, Saturdays 4 pm – 4:50 pm

Contacts

Rector: Father Shawn Hughes,
fathershawnjhughes@gmail.com

Associate Pastor: Fr. Stéphane Pouliot, fatherstephane@gmail.com

Deacon Blaine Barclay,
blainebarclay31@gmail.com

Parish Office Administrator:
Suzanne, smarys@cogeco.net

Pastoral Caring Coordinator:
Ann Lyng, alyng@cogeco.ca

Sacristan: Leslie Darling,
lesliedarling37@gmail.com

Organist: Catherine Helferty,
catherinehelferty@hotmail.com

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Catholic Women's League:
Ellen Hawman

ellen.hawman@sympatico.ca

Knights of Columbus Council #728: Doug Snider, dj53@live.ca

Finance Committee: Chair Mark Levac, mark@levacsupply.com

University Chaplain:

Fr. R. de Souza,
chaplain@newmanhouse.ca

Billings Method Natural Family Planning: Jennifer Farah,
kingston@naturalfamilyplanning.ca

Creighton Model Fertility Care™ System: Caitlin Fitzpatrick
cjfitzpatrick@outlook.com

Serena, Sympto-Thermal Method of Family Planning:
www.serena.ca

serenakingston@gmail.com

Adoration: Karen King,
karenking333@gmail.com,
613-541-5010 ext. 2415

St. Mary's Refugee Sponsorship:
Angela Gambin
stmarysrefugee@gmail.com

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION IN

ST. JAMES' CHAPEL: You are invited to spend time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament in Eucharistic Adoration at any time Sun. 11:30 am to 9 pm, Mon. to Fri. 8:15 am-8 pm, Sat. 8:15 am to 5 pm. Hours that are required to fill urgently: Sunday, 4-5 pm, Mon 9-10 am, Tues 9-10 am, Sat 11-12 am, 1-2pm. Please contact Karen King at 613-541-5010 ext. 2415.

Fifth Sunday of Lent: March 13th

We are pleased to announce that the parish bulletin will now be available in a convenient electronic format. To receive the new bulletin weekly in your email inbox, please send an email to stmarysdispatch@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CONCERT: Sun., March 13, @ Parish Centre after the 10:30 am Sunday Mass. Traditional Irish lunch followed by a concert featuring Celtic Rumbings Tickets: \$10 for adults, children under 10 free. Tickets on sale after Sunday Masses or by contacting Ann Lyng at 613-546-5521 Ext 5 or alyng@cogeco.ca

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: will be prayed throughout Lent, Monday to Friday, after the 12:10 pm Mass & Fridays at 7 pm

BOOK CLUB: Every Wednesday during Lent in the Parish Centre: 10-11:30 am. Pope Francis' new book, 'The Name of God is Mercy'.

St. Mary's Moms and Tots: Inviting all members in the Kingston area for faith formation and fellowship. Tues., March 15th, 10-11:30 am. Babysitting provided. St. Mary's Parish Centre, 260 Brock St.

St. Mary's Catholic Women's League Meeting: Tues. Mar. 15th, 1 – 3 pm, Parish Centre.

DIVINE MERCY IN THE GOSPELS – ARCHDIOCESAN LENTEN MISSION In this Jubilee of Mercy, Archbishop O'Brien invites you to the Archdiocese's Lenten Mission at St. Mary's Cathedral, which will be held from Monday, March 14th, to Thursday, March 17th. Fr. Ben Cameron, cpm, of the Fathers of Mercy in Auburn, Kentucky, will give talks on DIVINE MERCY IN THE GOSPELS. Each evening, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed at 6 pm & confessions will be heard before and after the Mission talk at 7 pm. Theme for each evening's talk: Monday (March 14) Ask for Mercy: The Prodigal Son; Tuesday (March 15) Be Merciful: The Good Samaritan; Wednesday (March 16) Confidence in Mercy: The Sinful Woman; Thursday (March 17) The Cross: Wellspring of Infinite Divine Mercy. Please join as us we reflect on the depths of Our Father's merciful love for us. See ad.

DVD Series: PSALMS: THE SCHOOL OF PRAYER WILL CONTINUE Thurs., April 7th, 7-9 pm in the Parish Centre. See ad on p. 4.

Message from Archbishop Brendan O'Brien: I want to express my sincere appreciation for the prayers, best wishes and cards which I received during my convalescence from the injuries I sustained in the fall several weeks ago. Your prayers and support have been a great help in my healing. I hope to return to my regular duties this week. Sincerely in Christ, +Brendan M. O'Brien, Archbishop of Kingston

Invitation to the Mass of Chrism Archbishop O'Brien and the clergy of the Archdiocese will celebrate the Mass of Chrism at St. Mary's Cathedral, on Tuesday, 22 March, 7:30 p.m. This Mass is a manifestation of the communion of the clergy with their Archbishop; and, at this celebration, all priests and deacons will renew their ordination promises. Everyone is called to pray for our clergy that they may remain faithful ministers of Christ. In addition, at this Mass, the oils used for the Sacramental life of the Church will be blessed by Archbishop O'Brien and distributed to each Parish and Institution in our Archdiocese. A reception will follow at École Cathédrale. All are warmly encouraged to participate in this special celebration. Note there will be no 12:10 pm Mass this day.

Masses

Monday March 14th

7:45 am Pat Fardella, 3rd anni.

12:10 pm Norton Collins, 14th anni.

Tuesday March 15th

7:45 am Hermina & Werenfried Van de Ven

12:10 pm Intentions of the CWL

Wednesday March 16th

7:45 am Hermina & Werenfried Van de Ven

12:10 pm Archbishop O'Brien's Intentions

Thursday March 17th

7:45 am Joseph Healy, Mary Ellen Healy, members of Kelly & Healy families

12:10 pm Living & Deceased members of the Rafter, Murphy & Smith families

Friday March 18th

7:45 am Hermina & Werenfried Van de Ven

12:10 pm Fred Darling, 5th anni.

Saturday March 19th

7:45 am Joseph Healy, Mary Ellen Healy, members of Kelly & Healy families

5 pm Eva & Philip Little

Sunday March 20th

8 am June Fox, 11th anni.

10:30 am for the people

7:30 pm Hermina & Werenfried Van de Ven

Ministries: Sat. March 19th 5 pm

Altar Servers	Elizabeth S. Peter M. Lucas M.
Lectors	Sandi W. Mark M.
EM of the Eucharist	Anne H.

Sunday March 20th 8 am

Altar Servers	Marcel R. Emily R. Betty R.
Lectors	Bill M. Elizabeth N.
EM of the Eucharist	Betty R. Marcel R.

Sunday March 20th 10:30 am

Altar Servers	Nick B. Dominic B. Bohdan Y. Simon B.
Lectors	Sr. Sheila B. Pat B.
EM of the Eucharist	Sr. Shannon Connie A. Marietta M. Betty G. Bob C. Dianne I. Jose C.

Sunday March 20th 7:30 pm

Altar Servers	Students
Lectors	Suzanne J. Taylor C.
EM of the Eucharist	Michelle S. Jacqueline O.

Share Lent Pilgrimage – Solidarity Sunday! Today is Solidarity Sunday.

Thank you for your generosity. Every gift goes far to help our sisters and brothers around the world – from Haiti to Paraguay to Bethlehem and beyond! We end our Share Lent pilgrimage with the words of our Holy Father Pope Francis in this Jubilee Year of Mercy: “Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope.” Thank you for helping to create a hopeful future!

NEW LIFE GROUP: A Catholic Ministry for the Separated & Divorced: March 15th, 7:30-9:30 pm, at Francis J. Spence Pastoral Centre, 390 Palace Rd. Kingston. Information (613) 548-4461 ext. 113. “Is This Really Happening To Me? Shock? Adjustment? Growth?”

The Annual Shepherds Walk will take place Sat. March 19 starting at Our Lady of Fatima Church at 8 am. We will be visiting the downtown parishes and there will be approx. 30 minutes of prayer time at each church. The pilgrimage will arrive at St. James Chapel at 11:30 am and St. Mary’s Cathedral at 10:45 am. Please join us. Questions? Please contact Our Lady of Fatima Parish.

Mental Health Disorders Workshop: A workshop on **An Introduction to Mental Health Disorders** will be held on **Wednesday, April 6 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm** at St. Mary’s Parish Centre. Please join us to learn about some common mental health disorders parishioners may encounter in the community and find out different ways of responding when encountering a person in crisis. RVSP Ann Lyng at 613-546-5521 Ext 5 or alyng@cogeco.ca

Empowered to Connect Conference: Equipping You to Bring Hope and Healing to Adopted and Foster Children: This is a live simulcast on April 8-9, 10 am to 6 pm, at St. Mary’s Parish Centre based upon bible and research based parenting Technics for a connected child. World renowned speakers; see the bulletin boards for more information. **Register by March 30th** at etckingston@outlook.com or call Caitlin at 613-766-1246. Cost: \$50, which includes workbook and refreshments.

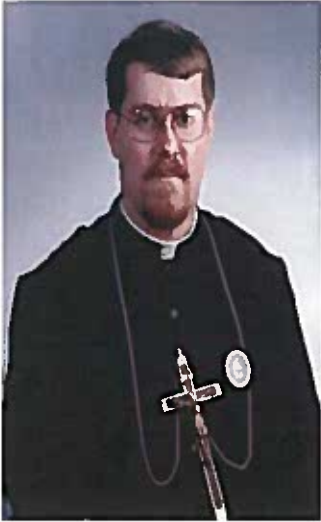
(St. Patrick’s, Napanee) Annual Pilgrimage to Our Lady of the Cape Shrine, Cap-de-la-Madeleine, Quebec (including St. Joseph’s Oratory, Montreal and the Holy Door, Notre-Dame de Québec Basilica-Cathedral, Quebec City), **Mon. June 6 to Wed. June 8, 2016.** Cost: \$365/single; \$315pp/double; \$310pp/triple. Pick-up and drop-off at specific locations between Belleville and Brockville. Includes transportation, accommodation, most meals, admissions to sites, and abundant blessings! Contact Alphonse & Laura Poitras, 613-354-7643, alphonse.poitras@gmail.com, or our Parish website for details/registration form: www.stpatricksnapanee.ca. Payment must be received by **April 1st** to reserve your spot. Reserve early as space is limited.

NeeJe Association for Women and Family: 16th Annual Spring Dinner presents: **NEXT GENERATION LEAHY.** Sat. April 16th at Rideau Acres Banquet Hall. \$50. Call Teresa: 613-546-2089 or neeje.ca .

Project Rachel Retreat: A Journey of Hope and Inner Peace. Project Rachel is a post-abortion healing and reconciliation ministry, which is sensitive, private and confidential. It lets you speak with someone who understands and cares and invites all whose lives have been affected by abortion to a journey of healing and reconciliation with God, their church community and themselves. Next retreat date for women is **May 13-15, 2016.** Take the first step call 416-629-8264 or email ProjectRachel@stmarysrefuge.or. You are not alone. Let us help. Together we can make a new beginning.

Please pray for our Sick: *Darren Black, Kevin Emend, Beverly Harris, Irene Haugh, James Horan, James Hunter, Theresa Knott, Hermina Lawlor, Janice Lumb, Earl McDonald, Archbishop O’Brien, Carmelita Orellana, Phil Rina, Connie Tan, Real Vienne au, Giordano White, Bill Warnes.*

THIS WEEK!



**YOU ARE INVITED TO THE ARCHDIOCESE'S
LENTEN JUBILEE OF MERCY MISSION**

HERE AT ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL

DIVINE MERCY IN THE GOSPELS

With Father Ben Cameron, C.P.M., of
the Fathers of Mercy of Auburn, Kentucky
Saturday, March 12th & Sunday, March 13th,
Homilist at all the Masses

Monday evening, March 14th :

Ask for Mercy: The Prodigal Son

Tuesday evening, March 15th:

Be Merciful: The Good Samaritan

Wednesday evening, March 16th:

Confidence in Mercy: The Sinful Woman

Thursday evening, March 17th:

*The Cross: Wellspring of Infinite Divine
Mercy*

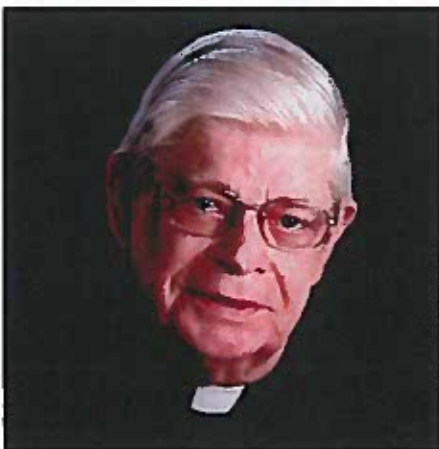
Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday Evening in the Cathedral:

6 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions

7 pm to 8 pm: Mission Talk

(Thursday Evening Holy Mass will be celebrated at 7 pm)

8:00 pm: Confessions following the Talk



Father Robert Flurey (1927 – 2016)

Father Bob has lived in St. Mary's rectory since 2005. Father died this past Thursday evening. Please pray for the repose of his soul and keep his family, especially his sister, Nora, in your prayers. At the time of the bulletin's printing final arrangements have not been made.

The funeral will more than likely be Tuesday, March 15th at 10 am with the wake in the cathedral on Monday afternoon and early evening

Requiem aeterna dona ei Domine. (Grant him eternal rest Lord.)

PLEASE BE ADVISED effective Monday, March 21 through Monday, May 2, 2016 the parish office hours will be reduced to 9 am to – 12 pm, noon. Suzanne, our office administer, will be away recuperating from major surgery. Please keep her in your prayers. If you need Mass cards etc. please do your best to do it *before* March 21st or *after* May 2nd when Suzanne returns. In that time there will be someone daily from 9 am to 12 pm noon to *answer the door and the phone* general inquiries and deliveries.

Holy Week and Easter Schedule

**Palm Sunday, March 20th: regular Mass schedule: Confessions: Sat. March 19th 4 to 5 pm,
Mass: Saturday at 5:00 pm, Sunday, 8:00 am, 10:30 am & 7:30 pm
Confessions ½ hour before all Masses in the cathedral**

**Monday, March 21st: regular Masses: 7:45 am and 12:10 pm
Confessions: 11:30 am to 12:00 noon**

**Tuesday, March 22nd: Mass at 7:45 am, No noon Mass,
& Mass of Chrism at 7:30 pm
Confessions: 6:30 pm to 7:20 pm**

**Wednesday, March 23rd: regular Masses: 7:45 am and 12:10 pm,
Confessions: 11:30 am to 12:00 noon & 1:00 pm-5:00 pm**

**Holy Thursday, March 24th: Confessions: 2:00-4:00 pm
Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7:00 pm – Adoration to 11:00 pm**

**Good Friday, March 25th: 10:00 am Confessions, 11:00 am Stations of the Cross, 2:00 pm
Confessions: 3:00 pm The Passion of the Lord, 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross**

Holy Saturday, March 26th: The Easter Vigil: 8:00 pm

Easter Sunday, March 27th: regular Sunday Mass schedule 8:00 am, 10:30 pm & 7:30 pm



DOMENICA, SANTINA AND THE ITALIAN EASTER BAKERS ARE BACK!!!

NEXT SUNDAY: PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 20th
after the 8 am and 10:30 am Sunday Masses, Domenica Bracciodietta, Santina Donini and their Italian friends are having another bake sale featuring many different kinds of homemade Italian Easter Bread. Domenica also tells me her Portuguese friends are bringing some Portuguese sweet breads as well!!! Proceeds from this fundraiser will go toward the Sanctuary Floor Restoration. Many thanks to all for their generosity to St. Mary's in doing all this wonderful baking.

Archbishop O'Brien writes to us
re Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide

The issue of physician-assisted suicide is one that is important for us to address at this time. We need to provide our parishioners with the Catholic perspective on caring for those who are seriously ill or dying. The brochure which was sent last month to each parish from the Catholic Organization for Life and Family, entitled *Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide*, (<http://www.colf.ca/index.php/en/life-issues/euthanasia-and-assisted-suicide>) presents a good summary and explains the difference between euthanasia and the withdrawing or withholding of burdensome treatment.

A second concern involves the need to protect the conscience rights of health care practitioners and institutions, as well as the need to safeguard vulnerable persons. In this regard, I draw your attention to the Respect for Conscience Proposal launched by the Coalition for HealthCARE and Conscience. **Information about this initiative is included in the bulletin announcement below, which I ask that you include in your parish bulletin this coming weekend, 12-13 March 2016.**

Bulletin announcement:

Assisted suicide – protect the vulnerable and those who care for them. By June 2016, the Government of Canada is expected to pass legislation to legalize assisted suicide. The Coalition for HealthCARE and Conscience is making an urgent appeal for your help. This group of like-minded partners, which includes 5,000 doctors across Canada, is committed to protecting conscience rights for health practitioners and facilities. You are invited to visit the Coalition's website, www.canadiansforconscience.ca for more information and to show your support. Through the website, you can write directly to your Member of Parliament to express your concerns. Since there is a tight timeline for the development of this legislation, you are asked to take action **no later than April 1, 2016.**

Cardinal Collins Presses for Protection of Conscience and the Vulnerable as Euthanasia/Assisted Suicide Legislation Prepared

Canadians coast to coast encouraged to take action:

TORONTO (March 2, 2016) As legislation is prepared to legalize euthanasia/assisted suicide in Canada, the Archbishop of Toronto is calling on the federal government to protect the vulnerable and those who care for them. In a statement released Wednesday, Cardinal Thomas Collins expressed shock at federal joint committee recommendations that would force health care workers and institutions to offer or refer assisted death

“Physicians across our country who have devoted their lives to healing patients will soon be asked to do the exact opposite. They will not be asked to ease their suffering by providing them with treatment and loving care, but by putting them to death.” The archbishop highlighted other committee recommendations that would profoundly impact the vulnerable, including:

- A desire to allow, in three years from now, access to euthanasia/assisted suicide for minors (those under 18).
- The ability for those suffering from conditions like dementia to pre-schedule the date of their death.
- Insistence that those with psychiatric conditions be eligible for euthanasia/assisted suicide. Cardinal Collins stated: “Once we make people’s worthiness to live dependent on how well they function, our society has crossed the boundary into dangerous territory in which people are treated as objects that can be discarded as useless.”

The archbishop has invited all those who share his concerns to visit CanadiansforConscience.ca and join the Coalition for HealthCARE and Conscience. The coalition includes more than 5,000 Canadian doctors with a common mission to respect the sanctity of human life. The CanadiansforConscience.ca portal provides numerous resources, including an opportunity for people to easily share their concerns directly with their local member of parliament.

Statements and Resources

- [Statement from Cardinal Thomas Collins concerning euthanasia/assisted suicide](#) - March 2, 2016
- [Media Release: Cardinal Collins presses for protection of conscience and the vulnerable as euthanasia/assisted suicide legislation prepared](#) - March 2, 2016
- [Cardinal Collins addresses physician- assisted dying in Ottawa \(watch video\)](#) - February 4, 2016
- [Declaration on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide](#) - January 19, 2016
- [Statement by CCCB President on Supreme Court judgment and physician-assisted suicide](#) - February 6, 2015
- [Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide: Why Not?](#) (Answers to common arguments from the Catholic Organization for Life and the Family)
www.archtoronto.org/euthanasia/Documents/colf-euthanasia-assisted-suicide-why-not.pdf

St Mary's Cathedral Newcomer Sponsorship: There's Always Room for One More



At our recent refugee sponsorship meeting, Seconde Nyanzobe, the mother of our second sponsored family from Burundi, gave a presentation about her life and the situation in Burundi. She spoke of the violence in the streets, and the death threats she and her family received simply for being willing to stand up and say 'no' to the injustice in her country. She spoke of the sadness in her family; she has 11 siblings, and

36 nieces and nephews. Once very close, the family is now scattered due to war. She expressed that she now has new hope and a restored faith: she is very grateful for the sponsorship, she thanks the parishioners of St. Mary's Cathedral.

We are pleased also to announce that we will additionally be sponsoring one of Seconde's nephews. He is 22 years old and an orphan. He is a refugee in Kampala, Uganda, and was recently attacked with a blow to the head, from Burundi militia forces. He is currently recovering in hospital. We will be able to add him to the family application. His name is Arsene, he is pictured on the right, above.

We do not yet know the date of arrival for the family – now is the time to wait. If you wish to be involved in refugee sponsorship at St Mary's, contact Angela Gambin: stmarysrefugee@gmail.com

Easter Flower Offerings: Easter is approaching and as always, we seek your support in purchasing the Easter flowers for the Cathedral. You are invited to make a donation in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving for graces received. Please fill out the form immediately below and enclose it with your donation in an envelope and place it in the collection basket or drop it off at the parish office. Your offering to make our Church festive and beautiful for the Easter season is deeply appreciated.

Easter Flowers

IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN THANKSGIVING FOR: _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ Your Name(s): _____



THIS SUNDAY



ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL
ST. PATRICK'S DAY
CONCERT


ENTERTAINMENT BY
CELTIC RUMBLINGS

SUNDAY MARCH 13, 2016

ST. MARY'S PARISH CENTRE
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 10:30 am
SUNDAY MASS

TICKETS \$10 (INCLUDES LUNCH AND CONCERT)
CHILDREN UNDER 10 ADMITTED FREE

FOR TICKETS CONTACT:
Ann Lyng at 613-546-5521 Ext. 5
OR alyng@cogeco.ca



The Ninth
ST. JOHN FISHER DINNER
Thursday, March 31, 2016

HOSTED BY
SMAROSLAV SHVACHUK
PARISH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
ORTHODOX CATHOLIC CHURCH

AND
BORIS GLEBYAK
PARISH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
CATHOLIC CHURCH


UKRAINE. CHURCH OF THE NEW MARTYRS

AMMANN HOTEL
AND CONFERENCE CENTRE
1190 PRINCE STREET
KINGSTON, ON

For Tickets Visit
www.9th.com

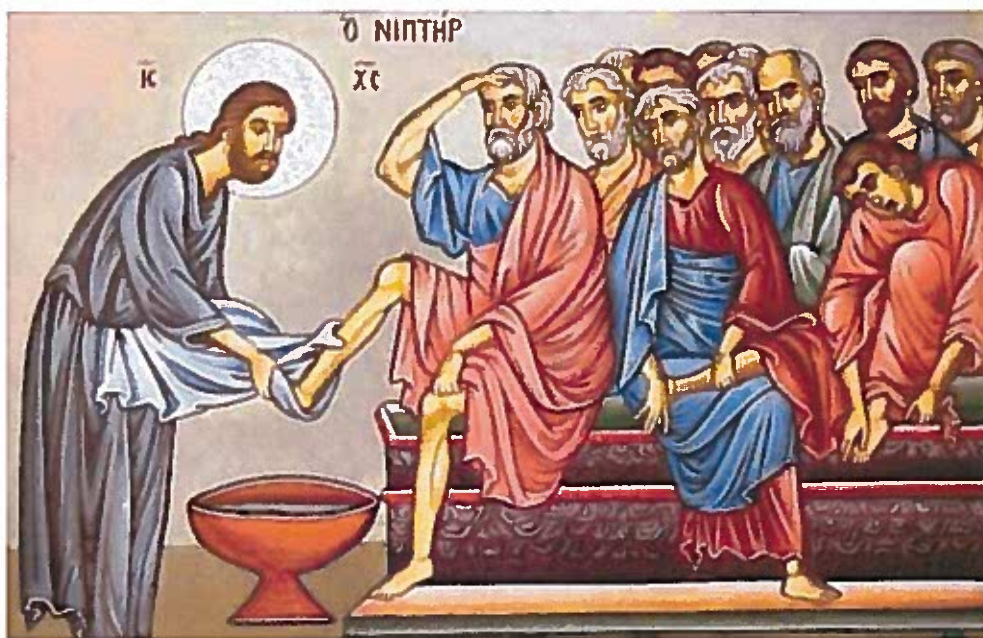
RECEPTION AT 6:00 PM
DINNER AT 7:00 PM

400 PR. PERSON
5700 TABLE OF 10



Tax receipts will be issued for a portion of the purchase price. For information call (613) 217-2819 or email don@newmartyrs.ca

Preparing for Holy Week: Part one: HOLY THURSDAY: March 24, 2016 7 pm



Entrance Antiphon for Holy Thursday: We should glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, for he is our salvation, our life and our resurrection; through Him we are saved and made free. (cf. Galations 6:14)

HOLY THURSDAY is the most complex and profound of all religious observances, saving only the Easter Vigil. It celebrates both the institution by Christ himself of the Eucharist and of the institution of the sacerdotal priesthood (as distinct from the 'priesthood of all believers') for in this, His last supper with the disciples, a

celebration of Passover, He is the self-offered Passover Victim, and every ordained priest to this day presents this same sacrifice, by Christ's authority and command, in exactly the same way. The Last Supper was also Christ's farewell to His assembled disciples, some of whom would betray, desert or deny Him before the sun rose again.

Traditionally on Holy Thursday there is a special Mass in the morning in Cathedral Churches, attended by as many priests of the diocese as can attend, because it is a solemn observance of Christ's institution of the priesthood. At this 'Chrism Mass' the bishop blesses the Oil of Chrism used for Baptism and Confirmation. This Mass is held on Tuesday, March 22nd, so that all the priests and many parishioners of the Archdiocese can travel to the cathedral and gather around Archbishop O'Brien as he celebrates Mass.

The Holy Thursday liturgy, (March 24th) celebrated in the evening because Passover began at sundown, also shows both the worth God ascribes to the humility of service, and the need for cleansing with water (a symbol of baptism) in the Mandatum, or washing in Jesus' washing the feet of His disciples, and in the priest's stripping and washing of the altar. Cleansing, in fact, gave this day of Holy Week the name Maundy Thursday.

The action of the Church on this night also witnesses to the Church's esteem for Christ's Body present in the consecrated Host in the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, carried in solemn procession to the flower-bedecked Altar of Repose, where it will remain 'entombed' until the communion service on Good Friday. No Mass will be celebrated again in the Church until the Easter Vigil proclaims the Resurrection.

And finally, there is the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament by the people during the night, just as the disciples stayed with the Lord during His agony on the Mount of Olives before the betrayal by Judas.

There is such an abundance of symbolism in the solemn celebration of the events of Holy Thursday layer upon layer, in fact that we can no more than hint at it in these few words. For many centuries, the Last Supper of Our Lord has inspired great works of art and literature, such as the glorious stained glass window in Chartres cathedral, Leonardo's ever popular (and much imitated) Last Supper in the 16th century, and the reminiscence called Holy Thursday, by the French novelist, Francois Mauriac, written in the 1930s. (A chapter of Mauriac's meditation was reprinted in *Voices*, Lent-Easter 2002, with permission from Sophia Institute Press).

Taken from Catholic Online <http://www.catholic.org/clife/lent/thurs.php>

Preparing for Holy Week: Part Two: Good Friday: March 25, 2016, 3 pm

Good Friday is the day on which Catholics commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Catholics are joined by almost all other Christians in solemn commemoration on this day. It is also a legal holiday around much of the world.

According to the gospels, Jesus was betrayed by Judas on the night of the Last Supper, commemorated on Holy Thursday. The morning following Christ's arrest, he was brought before Annas, a powerful Jewish cleric. Annas condemned Jesus for blasphemy for refusing to repudiate Annas' words that He was the Son of God. From there, Jesus was sent to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of the province.

Pontius Pilate questioned Jesus but found no reason to condemn Him. Instead, he suggested Jewish leaders deal with Jesus according to their own law. But under Roman law, they could not execute Jesus, so they appealed to Pilate to issue the order to kill Jesus.

Pilate appealed to King Herod, who found no guilt in Jesus and sent Him back to Pilate once again. Pilate declared Jesus to be innocent, and washed his hands to show that he wanted nothing to do with Jesus, but the crowds were enraged. To prevent a riot and to protect his station, Pilate reluctantly agreed to execute Jesus and sentenced him to crucifixion. Jesus was convicted of proclaiming himself to be the King of the Jews.

Before his execution, Jesus was flogged, which was a customary practice intended to weaken a victim before crucifixion. Crucifixion was an especially painful method of execution and was perfected by the Romans as such. It was reserved for the worst criminals, and generally Roman citizens, women, and soldiers were not executed in most cases.

During his flogging, the soldiers tormented Jesus, crowning Him with thorns and ridicule.

Following his flogging, Jesus was compelled to carry his cross to the place of His execution, at Calvary. During his walk to the site of His execution, Jesus fell three times and the Roman guards randomly selected Simon, from Cyrene, to help Jesus.

After arrival at Calvary, Jesus was nailed to the cross and crucified between two thieves. One of the thieves repented of his sins and accepted Christ while on the cross beside Him. A titulus, or sign, was posted above Christ to indicate His supposed crime. The titulus read, "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews." It is commonly abbreviated in Latin as "INRI" (Jesus Nazarenus, Rex Iudaeorum).

During Christ's last few hours on the cross, darkness fell over the whole land. Jesus was given a sponge with sour wine mixed with gall, a weak, bitter painkiller often given to crucified victims.

Prior to death, Jesus spoke His last words, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" This line is the opening of Psalm 22, and it may have been common practice to recite lines of songs to deliver a greater message. Properly understood, the last words of Christ were triumphant. Guards then lanced Jesus' side to ensure He was dead.

At the moment of Christ's death, an earthquake occurred, powerful enough to open tombs. The long, thick curtain at the Temple was said to have torn from top to bottom.

Following the incredible events of the day, the body of Christ was removed from the cross and laid in a donated tomb, buried according to custom.

The events of Good Friday are commemorated in the Stations of the Cross. Good Friday is a day of fasting within the Church. Traditionally, there is no Mass and no celebration of the Eucharist on Good Friday. A liturgy may still

be performed and communion, if taken, comes from hosts consecrated on Holy Thursday. Baptism, penance, and anointing of the sick may be performed, but only in unusual circumstances. Church bells are silent. Altars are left bare.

The solemn, muted atmosphere is preserved until the Easter Vigil.

The Veneration of the Cross

In the seventh century, the Church in Rome adopted the practice of Adoration of the Cross from the Church in Jerusalem, where a fragment of wood believed to be the Lord's cross had been venerated every year on Good Friday since the fourth century. According to tradition, a part of the Holy Cross was discovered by the mother of the emperor Constantine, St. Helen, on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem in 326. A fifth century account describes this service in Jerusalem. A coffer of gold-plated silver containing the wood of the cross was brought forward. The bishop placed the relic on the table in the chapel of the Crucifixion and the faithful approached it, touching brow and eyes and lips to the wood as the priest said (as every priest has done ever since): 'Behold, the Wood of the Cross.'

Adoration or veneration of an image or representation of Christ's cross does not mean that we are actually adoring the material image, of course, but rather what it represents. In kneeling before the crucifix and kissing it we are paying the highest honor to our Lord's cross as the instrument of our salvation. Because the Cross is inseparable from His sacrifice, in reverencing His Cross we are, in effect, adoring Christ. Thus we affirm: 'We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee because by Thy Holy Cross Thou has Redeemed the World.'

The Reproaches and the Reading of the Passion

The Reproaches (Improperia), are often chanted by a priest (by one of our choir members here at St. Mary's) during the Good Friday service as the people are venerating the Cross. In this haunting and poignant poem-like chant of very ancient origin, Christ himself 'reproaches' us, making us more deeply aware of how our sinfulness and hardness of heart caused such agony for our sinless and loving Savior. A modern translation of the some of the Reproaches, originally in Latin follows:

My people, What have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me!
I led you out of Egypt; but you led your Savior to the Cross.
For forty years I led you safely through the desert,
I fed you with manna from heaven,
and brought you to the land of plenty; But you led your Savior to the Cross.
O, My people! What have I done to you that you should testify against me?

Holy God. Holy God. Holy Mighty One. Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us.

Three times during Holy Week the Passion is read - on Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, and Good Friday. By very ancient tradition, three clergy read the three principal parts from the sanctuary: Jesus (always read by a priest), Narrator, (read by one of our lectors here at St. Mary's) and all the other individual parts (read by one of our lectors here at St. Mary's). The people also have a role in this - we are those who condemn the Lord to death. Hearing our own voices say 'Away with Him! Crucify him!' heightens our consciousness of our complicity by our personal sinfulness in causing His death.

Taken from Catholic Online <http://www.catholic.org/clife/lent/friday.php>



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