

Love More Powerful than Death and Sin



Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week and the celebration of the Paschal Mystery. In this year of mercy we want to celebrate it with a particular focus on mercy. One of the initiatives in the Diocese of Arlington is to have a Divine Mercy Icon, specially painted for and dedicated to our Diocese, embark on a pilgrimage throughout our Diocesan parishes during the Jubilee. Our parish family is especially blessed because this Icon will visit us precisely during the

days of the Divine Mercy novena, Mar. 25 through Apr. 2. In one of the bulletin inserts this week you will find more information about this initiative as well as the Divine Mercy novena.

In our presentation of St. John Paul II's encyclical *Rich in Mercy* today we comment the number 8, "Love More Powerful Than Death, More Powerful Than Sin" about the paschal mystery. It helps us to we enter the Holy Week with this perspective of mercy.

God's response to human sinfulness is Jesus' death and resurrection. Love, mercy and justice interact in a new and surprising way. "The cross of Christ, on which the Son, consubstantial with the Father, renders full justice to God, is also a radical revelation of mercy, or rather of the love that goes against what constitutes the very root of evil in the history of man: against sin and death" (RM 8). We are invited to balance love, mercy and justice in a similar way. When we contemplate Jesus' suffering, we are moved by compassion and mercy towards him. Then, after being "trained" in Jesus' school, our hearts are now capable of mercy and love for others.

In addition, Jesus' cross stands as the sign of God's mercy towards those who suffer: "The cross is the most profound condescension of God to man and to what man-especially in difficult and painful moments-looks on as his unhappy destiny. The cross is like a touch of eternal love upon the most painful wounds of man's earthly existence" (RM 8). When we suffer we can find a source of sense and strength in Jesus' cross, and thus accept that suffering, that "cross" like a "touch of eternal love".

However, God's mercy goes far beyond giving us some consolation and comfort when we experience the cross. He heals us because with Christ the cross becomes the way to the resurrection. In effect, "In His resurrection Christ has revealed the God of merciful love, precisely because He accepted the cross as the way to the resurrection" (RM 8). Mercy is God's transforming love into action: from sin to holiness through conversion, from death to life, from failure to a fruitful life. This transformation of the whole creation that is already at work will be fully disclosed when Jesus will come again in glory: "Only in the eschatological fulfillment and definitive renewal of the world will love conquer, in all the elect, the deepest sources of evil, bringing as its fully mature fruit the kingdom of life and holiness and glorious immortality" (RM 8).

Nourishing Our Souls with Holy Scripture

Readings for Next Week:

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Is 50:4-7 Phil 2:6-11 Lk 19:28-40 (37), 22:14-23:56 (38)



Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion Masses this Week

Monday of Holy Week, March 21:

6:30 am +Christina Lynem
9:00 am +Mariano Dy-Liaco, Jr.

Tuesday of Holy Week, March 22:

6:30 am +Christina Lynem
9:00 am +Edward V. Czaja

Wednesday of Holy Week, March 23:

6:30 am +Jocelyn Walter Graham
9:00 am +Adeline and Krist Milin

Holy Thursday, March 24:

7:00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper (Bilingual)

Friday of the Passion of the Lord, March 25:

3:00 pm Good Friday Service (English)
7:00 pm Good Friday Service (Spanish)

Holy Saturday, March 26:

9:00 pm Solemn Easter Vigil (Bilingual)

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord, March 27:

7:30 am +Jimmy Andrew
9:00 am +Silvia Serban
10:30 am Living and Deceased Parishioners
12:30 pm +Lauren Sutton

Holy Week Services

Holy Thursday, Mar. 24

7:00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper (bilingual)

Good Friday, Mar. 25

12:00 Noon Stations of the Cross; 3:00 pm service in English,
7:00 pm service in Spanish

Holy Saturday, Mar. 26

9:00 pm Easter Vigil (bilingual)

Easter Sunday, Mar. 27

Masses at 7:30 am/9:00 am/10:30 am/12:00 noon
Special evening Mass: 7:00 pm (Spanish)

Please consult the bulletin insert for additional information on the Holy Week Schedule.

The parish office will be closed on Mar. 25th in observance of Good Friday.

"The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious."

Docility in prayer is essential to vocation discernment. Are you open to a vocation to the priesthood, diaconate or the consecrated life? Call Father J.D. Jaffe (703) 841-2514, or write: j.jaffe@arlingtondiocese.org

Palm Sunday - March 20, 2016 For all those being called to share in the passion of Christ as priests, deacons and in the consecrated life, that they will echo His Eternal Word of mercy in their own faithfulness to the Father's will, we pray to the Lord.

Please pray for the members of our parish who are ill

Kathleen Donohoe, Clarissa Trono De Guzman, Lyda Tanco, Mark Bush, Joseph Covas, Luta "Cornie" McGrath, Margaret Peiffer, David Stemcosky, Irma Mori, Rita Sulit, Jason Banis, Emma Collins, Teresa Sabina Piecyk, Bridgetta Jenkins, Juana Mejia, Lisa Nyce, Monique Brooks, Debby Sprah, Consuelo Jocson, Cheryl McGlynn, Teresa Subalusky, Theresa Corcoran, Cordelia Carcamo, Donna Smith, Andres Encinas Fernandez.

This Week in Our Parish

Sunday, March 20:

School 9:00–10:15 am Religious Education
Hannan Hall 2:00–5:30 pm Ghana Group
Adoration Chapel 6:00–8:00 pm Prayer Group

Monday, March 21:

Parish Office 7:00–8:00 pm RCIA

Tuesday, March 22:

Hannan Hall 10:00–11:30 am Bible Study
Parish Office 6:30–8:00 pm Legion of Mary
Hannan Hall 7:30–9:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 23:

Hannan Hall 7:00–9:00 pm Ghana Prayer Group
Parish Office 8:00–9:30 pm St. Joseph's Men's Group

Thursday, March 24:

Hannan Hall 9:00 am–12:00 Noon Craft Group

Friday, March 25:

The Passion of the Lord

Saturday, March 26:

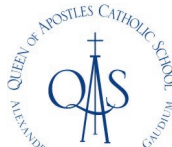
School 4:00–6:30 pm Spanish Prayer Group
Church 8:15–9:00 pm Easter Vigil Rehearsal

Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord, March 27:

Hannan Hall 2:00–5:30 pm Ghana Group

We wish our parish family a blessed and holy Easter.
May the Peace of the Risen Lord be with you always.

Queen of Apostles School is now enrolling for the 2016-2017 school year. The kindergarten class is filling up quickly, so don't delay registering your child. Application packets are available at the school and online at www.queenofapostlesschool.org. Tours are given daily from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm or upon request. You can arrange a tour through the school's website or by calling (703) 354-0714.



Living Stations of the Cross All are welcome to the Living Stations of the Cross on Tuesday, **Mar. 22** at 2:00 pm.



Pilgrims Now in Rome We pray for Fr. Juan and our youth pilgrims as they travel to the Eternal City. Your prayer petitions will remembered throughout the pilgrimage. You can accompany our pilgrims throughout Holy Week by visiting www.twitter.com/QofAYouth. You do not need to create a Twitter account to be able to view their pictures and updates.

Join 10:30 am Palm Sunday Mass Procession This Sunday RCIA and RE students and families are invited to participate in the Palm Sunday Procession preceding the 10:30 am Mass this Sunday. Meet outside by 10:25 am, receive a palm, process into the church and sit in a pew.

No RE Classes Easter Sunday Religious Education classes are not meeting on Easter Sunday, Mar. 27. Thanks to our parents and catechists who are teaching the children about the Catholic faith.

Please pray for our Elect, RCIA and Religious Education students, as they continue to desire and learn about the Sacraments of Initiation.

Divine Mercy Icon Coming to Queen of Apostles

During the Jubilee of Mercy, a special Divine Mercy Icon, painted in Poland by Anna Sekowska and blessed by our Bishop in 2007, has been traveling throughout the Diocese, and Queen of Apostles is blessed to host this Icon during the Novena of the Divine Mercy, Mar. 25 through Apr. 2. The Icon can be venerated in the Adoration Chapel Mar. 24-25, and then in the Church from Mar. 26-Apr. 2. There will also be 3 replicas that will be traveling to parishioners' homes during the Novena, to heal suffering and illness in those homes. For more information about the Icon and Novena, please see the insert in this week's bulletin.

Bible Study—Classes Begin April 19 Would you like to deepen your faith and give new life to your understanding of the Mass? Join us for a 5-week study presented by Dr. Edward Sri on DVD, *A Biblical Walk through the Mass*. Classes begin Tuesday, **Apr. 19** in Hannan Hall from 10 to 11:30 am. Student workbooks are available for \$20. For more information or to register, please contact Mary O'Donohue at (703) 379-0255 or daodonohue@aol.com. Please register before **Mar. 31** so materials can be ordered.

Car Raffle Has Raised \$8,000 To Date There are only a few weeks left in the All Saints Car Raffle. Thanks to the participation of many parishioners thus far, we have raised over \$8,000 for our school and youth ministries! Please know that there is much luck (providence) that follows this parish... several parishioners have won cars and cash prizes in the past. Get in your tickets today, and come to the parish office for more!

Bishop Loverde to Celebrate Respect Life Mass at QofA, April 30 Save the date of Saturday, Apr. 30, when Bishop Loverde will celebrate the monthly Diocesan Respect Life Mass at our parish. Mass will be at 8 am. Immediately following Mass, the Bishop will proceed to 101 S. Whiting Street to lead the Rosary, at around 8:45 am. Please join us for the Mass and Rosary. Did you know that there were 1,613 abortions at the clinic at 101 S. Whiting St. in 2014? Did you also know that 368 babies have been saved nationwide during the Lent's 40 Days for Life initiative? Help our parish do our part in putting an end to abortion by joining in prayer with our Bishop on Apr. 30.

Seeking Host Families for Summer Exchange 2016

Thanks to parishioners who have expressed interest in hosting a student or teacher from Spain this summer (approximate dates: **Jun. 30–Jul. 24**). We seek more parish families to host for either two- or four-week periods. To learn more, please contact Susan Gray at (703) 354-8711 or s.gray@queenofapostles.org. Also, if you are interested in sending your student to Spain, please call the parish office or email Susan to arrange a meeting with Fr. Leopoldo.



International Visitors Program, Spring 2016

Queen of Apostles School will soon welcome two students, Zaira and Laura, from the Disciples' Stella Maris School in Madrid, Spain. We are grateful to our school host families for providing homes for our international visitors.

Thank you for your generous contribution to the Poor Box. This weekend the collection will go toward **Christ House**. Next weekend the collection will go toward the **Poor Sisters of St. Joseph**.