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**Sunday, March 27th, 2016  
 Easter Sunday**

When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. — Jn 20:6-8

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass (©2001, 1998, 1978 CCD)

Sat. March 26	9-10am	<b>Reconciliation Cancelled</b>
	Noon	<b>Blessing of Easter Baskets</b>
	8:00pm	<b>Easter Vigil</b>
Sun. March 27		Missa Pro Populo
	9:30am	✠ Ugo & Antonietta Scurci (Scurci, Devine & Gregoris Fam.)
	11:00am	✠ Gladys & Jim Dornan (Stephanie Anthony)
Mon. March 28	7:00pm	Holy Hour & Reconciliation
Tues. March 29	9:30am	✠ Jack & Anne Rosinski (Kimberley, Paul & Lauren Edwards)
Wed. March 30	9:30am	✠ Ann Rajczak (Deacon Jim & Judy McLaughlin)
Thurs. March 31	9:30am	<b>St. Ann School Easter Mass</b>
		✠ Wally & Sophie Paterak (Meyo Family)
		✠ Howard Main & Eleanor Ford (St Ann School Staff)
Fri. April 1	9:30am	✠ Bill Van Liefeland (Family)
Sat. April 2		<b>Divine Mercy Sunday</b>
	9-10am	Reconciliation
	5:00pm	Health & Happiness for James & Jennifer Douglas (John Douglas)
Sun. April 3		<b>Divine Mercy Sunday</b>
	9:30am	✠ John Vanderlee (Family)
	11:00am	Missa Pro Populo
	3:00pm	Prayers

**Reconciliation from 9-9:20am before all weekday Masses.**  
**Offertory March 19th & 20th, 2016**

Total Offertory	\$2, 321.65
Syrian Refugee Family	\$1, 020.00
Share Lent	\$ 392.00(total to date: \$2735.80)
Flowers	\$ 80.00

**Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord**

"But Peter got up and ran to the tomb." Peter was unique in this response to the news of Jesus' resurrection. The other apostles disregarded the reports from the women who had seen the empty tomb and heard the angels because "their story seemed like nonsense and they did not believe them." But Peter took action. He got up and ran to see the evidence and "went home amazed at what had happened."

On this Easter day, we have a choice to make. We too have heard a remarkable report. We have been told that two thousand years ago, a man named Jesus defeated death and rose from the grave. To many people in today's world, this sounds like nonsense, just like it did when it first happened. Some would like to dismiss the story entirely as a myth at best, or an outright lie at worst. Others try to spiritualize the miracle, suggesting that the Resurrection narrative is a story that is meant to symbolize the power of God, but whether or not Jesus actually rose from the dead is irrelevant. Finally, there are those who simply believe--those who, with Peter, make an act of faith and choose to take the Gospel literally.

This of course is the Christian way. It was not the Crucifixion that brought confidence to the early followers of Christ; it was the Resurrection. This momentous event has always made all the difference! We will only water down our faith if we reduce Easter to anything other than a true miracle. But to accept it as such will bolster our faith. As St. Paul wrote in the Epistle to the Romans, "Just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life." This Easter, may we experience the great joy of new life in the risen Christ.

**"Celebrating A Love That Cannot Wait."**

The celebration of Easter is for all Christians the highpoint of our year of faith. At Easter we celebrate the fact that Christ has risen from the dead and destroyed death for all who place their hope in Him. Easter means that, because of Christ's resurrection, we shall not die but rather we are all invited to spend eternity with our loving God in heaven. At Easter we think of our loved ones who have died and we rejoice that they have been spared death because of Christ's resurrection and are with Him in heaven for all eternity. Ultimately, at Easter we celebrate that God loves us so much that He destroyed death so that He might spend eternity with each of us. Easter is the greatest celebration of God's unconditional and undying love for each of us; a love so strong that death cannot destroy it.

**Pope's Prayer Intentions Month of April:**

**Universal:** *Small Farmers*—That small farmers may receive a just reward for their precious labour.  
**Evangelization:** *African Christians*—That Christians in Africa may give witness to love and faith in Jesus Christ amid political-religious conflicts.

**The New Evangelization Summit, Inspiring Catholics:** Live in Ottawa and webcast to host sites across North America! Streaming to Niagara Falls, April 15-16. Saint Michael Catholic High School, 866 McLeod Rd., 289-257-1086 or niagara-falls@gmail.com Tickets must be purchased in advance. For information and tickets, please visit newevangelization.ca



**Thank You:** Our Easter Celebration would not have been as successful without the assistance of our Altar Servers, Musicians, Choir, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, Lectors, Offertory Counters, Development and Peace Committee, Cleaners and Decorators. Thank you so much for giving of your time and talents.

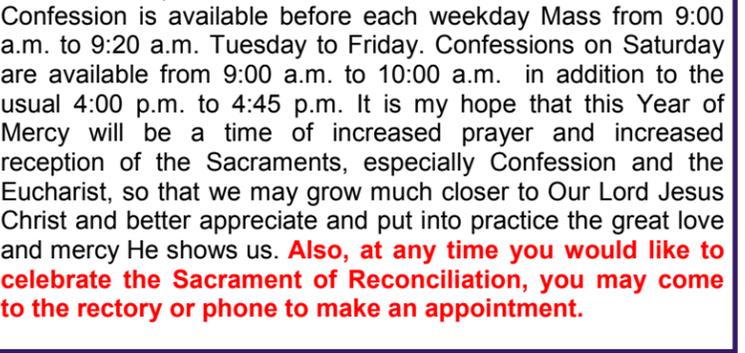
**Easter Reflection**

More than just a day, the Church gives us a seven-week Easter season to celebrate. Yet sometimes our everyday lives feel so heavy that celebration is not a part of them. Critical illness in the family, loss of a job, disappointment in a relationship and the burdens of everyday life can make it a challenge to feel particularly joyful – even in the Easter season. But the joy we are being invited into this season is beyond what we see in our everyday lives. It's true that Jesus says "Come to me and bring me your burdens" but we usually can't believe it. Maybe we don't want to believe it. If I really allow Jesus to come into my heart the way he wants to, will He ask me to change my life in ways that are too hard? How do I share the chaos of my life with Jesus? If we can overcome our fears, the real power of letting Jesus into our hearts is how free our hearts will become. Suddenly, we are not afraid, not burdened and simply ready to serve with Jesus.



Jesus loves us - right now. At this moment, Jesus holds each one of us in his warm and loving gaze and loves us so freely at a depth that our human minds can't take in. Whether we comprehend this or not, Jesus loves us endlessly and waits for us with his arms open, ready to hold and support us. As we receive His embrace and feel the peace and joy of Easter wash over us, we can look over His shoulder, and see beyond to those in need who now wait for us. That's when we realize that the real joy in our lives is putting aside our own faults, challenges and difficulties for a while and entering into the lives of others. Pope Francis said at Easter, we leave ourselves behind and encounter others by "being close to those crushed by life's troubles, sharing with the needy, standing at the side of the sick, elderly and the outcast." We are being missioned as Easter People. We find peace in Jesus' love for us and now we share it with others. We find ourselves standing side by side with Jesus, looking together at those we are being sent to love. That is where the real joy of Easter waits for us.

**The Jubilee Year of Mercy: In response to our Bishop's request, St. Ann's has a Prayer Hour for Mercy with Eucharistic Adoration every Monday evening at 7:00 p.m.** The Sacrament of Confession is available during that time until 7:55 p.m. when we will have Benediction. In addition, Confession is available before each weekday Mass from 9:00 a.m. to 9:20 a.m. Tuesday to Friday. Confessions on Saturday are available from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in addition to the usual 4:00 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. It is my hope that this Year of Mercy will be a time of increased prayer and increased reception of the Sacraments, especially Confession and the Eucharist, so that we may grow much closer to Our Lord Jesus Christ and better appreciate and put into practice the great love and mercy He shows us. **Also, at any time you would like to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, you may come to the rectory or phone to make an appointment.**



**[Diocese of St. Catharines Responsible Faith Ministry: Our parish needs to establish a team to oversee this ministry.]** Responsibilities for these positions are outlined in the RFM manual. If you are interested, please phone the office. We can assist you with an outline and if you'd like, you can borrow one of the manuals to see if this is a volunteer position you would like to pursue.

**Parish Calendar**

**March.....**

<b>March 26th....</b>	Holy Saturday/Easter Vigil
<b>March 27th....</b>	Easter Sunday
<b>March 31st...</b>	St. Ann School Easter Mass 9:30am

**April.....April 1st.....** Visitation of the sick and homebound. Phone the office to arrange.

<b>April 3rd....</b>	Divine Mercy Prayers
<b>April 4th....</b>	Holy Hour Cancelled
<b>April 16th/17th ...</b>	Youth Ministry fundraiser
<b>April 20th....</b>	Finance Meeting 7pm
<b>April 21st.....</b>	CWL meeting 7pm. Guest speaker Lorrie Hulley

**Syrian Refugee Sponsorship Committee & Fundraising:**

Our financial goal is to raise \$30,000 to sponsor a family with 5-7 members. **To date, a total of \$19, 170 has been donated.** We thank you for your tremendous support! We will continue to accept donations. Please use a separate envelope labelled "Syrian Refugee Family" with your name and address on it. If donating by cheque, please make it payable to "St. Ann Parish". There are many details involved with this initiative. As time progresses, the committee will keep you informed and up to date about these decisions and other ways you may assist. Once again, we are thankful and very grateful for the interest shown in re-locating a refugee family and assisting them to re-locate in our community.

**ANNUAL DIOCESAN RESPECT FOR LIFE MASS**

Celebrated by Bishop Gerard Paul Bergie, The Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria, **Monday, April 4th, 2016 7pm.** RECEPTION TO FOLLOW IN THE PARISH HALL. Hosted by the Cathedral CWL. Information: William and Elise Mathie, 905-684-7569 -Diocesan Respect Life Committee. **HOLY HOUR IS CANCELLED FOR APRIL 4TH.**

**Catholic Women's League News**

Our next CWL meeting will be **Thursday, April 21st at 7PM.** The guest speaker will be Lorrie Hulley who will speak to us on the topic of Advanced Directives. This will be an extension of last year's presentation on How to talk to your doctor. All ladies are welcome. The CWL Annual Diocesan Convention will be held on May 24/25th. Numbers need to be in before our next meeting so please consider attending and we will collect numbers after Easter. **Other dates to note....** Respect for Life Mass at the Cathedral, April 4th at 7PM. Feast of Our Lady of Food Counsel - Pilgrimage to the Holy door at the Cathedral April 25th at 6:30. Welland Evening of Reflection at St. Therese of Liseux April 27th at 6:30.



**Divine Mercy Sunday, April 3rd: Our Lord said to Saint Faustina:**

*Encourage souls to say the Chaplet which I have given to you. Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death....When they say this chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying person, not as the sinner as their last hope of salvation. Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if he were to recite this chaplet only once, he would receive grace from My infinite mercy. I desire to grant unimaginable graces to those souls who trust in My mercy... Through the Chaplet you will obtain everything, if what you ask for is compatible with My will. **Please join us on April 3rd @ at 3:00pm for prayers.***