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**Sunday, March 20th, 2016  
 Palm Sunday of the Passion  
 Of the Lord**

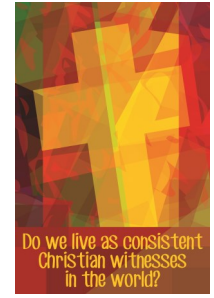
As he rode along, the people were spreading their cloaks on the road; the whole multitude of his disciples began to praise God aloud with joy for all the mighty deeds they had seen. — Lk 19:36, 37b

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 C.C.D.

Sat. March 19	9-10am 4-4:45pm 5:00pm	<b>Passion Sunday</b> Reconciliation Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation ✠ Josephine Murphy (Phyllis & George Repar)
Sun. March 20	9:30am 11:00am	<b>Passion Sunday</b> ✠ Nina & Czeslaw Aleksiejuk (Jan & Lana) Missa Pro Populo
Mon. March 21	7:00pm	Holy Hour & Reconciliation
Tues. March 22	9:30am	✠ Armand & Betty Mei (Patti & Cyril Simek)
Wed. March 23	9:30am	✠ Teresa Sporbeck (Horton Family)
Thurs. March 24	7:00pm	✠ Mary Voogt (Voogt & Green Families)
Fri. March 25	9-11am 3:00pm 7:00pm	<b>Good Friday</b> Reconciliation <b>Celebration of the Lord's Passion</b> <b>Stations of the Cross</b>
Sat. March 26	9-10am Noon 8:00pm	<b>Easter Vigil</b> Reconciliation Cancelled <b>Blessing of Easter Baskets</b> <b>Easter Vigil</b> Missa Pro Populo
Sun. March 27	9:30am 11:00am	<b>Easter Sunday</b> ✠ Ugo & Antonietta Scurci (Scurci, Devine & Gregoris Fam) ✠ Gladys & Jim Dornan (Stephanie Anthony)

 **Reconciliation from 9-9:20am before all weekday Masses.**

**Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion**  
 "Pilate addressed them a third time, 'What evil has this man done? I found him guilty of no capital crime.'" The Palm Sunday Gospel readings present a sad picture of grown-ups who succumb to peer pressure. Three times, Pilate proclaimed that Jesus was not guilty. But yet, he gave in to the mounting pressure from the crowd, whose "voices prevailed... and he handed Jesus over to them." Also, during the opening Gospel at the procession of palms, we see the adoring crowds hailing Jesus as "the king who comes in the name of the Lord," but only too soon the chorus changes as the voice of the crowd cries out, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" What happened to Jesus' loyal supporters? How did the mob mentality overtake them all? Then too, we have Peter, who in comfortable company with Jesus and his friends promised eternal faithfulness. But when others began asking uncomfortable questions, he caved: "Woman, I do not know him."



These three scenarios give us a chance to reflect on our own faithfulness as we journey into Holy Week. Like Pilate, do we know the truth but abandon it when it becomes unpopular? Public opinion these days declares much Church teaching to have fallen out of favor--will we renege like Pilate or stand fast to the faith? The fickle crowds demonstrate another kind of weakness, where instead of thinking for themselves, people just followed those around them. Are we guilty of this kind of passive intellectual laziness? How about Peter's problem: do we change our story based on current company, or do we live as consistent Christian witnesses in the world? This week, may we have the courage to accompany Jesus all the way to the cross, no matter what anyone else may do.



**Mass of Chrism:** Will be celebrated in the Cathedral Church of St. Catherine of Alexandria on **Tuesday, March 22nd, @7:30pm.** According to ancient custom, this Mass which the Bishop concelebrates with his presbyterium and at which the oils are blessed, shows forth in a powerful way, the communication that binds the priests with their bishop. In the course of this celebration, the priests will renew publicly their dedication to Christ as priests of his new servant. **All parishioners are encouraged to participate in this diocesan celebration.**

**Thank you for supporting Share Lent 2016**  
 Development and Peace wishes to thank all those who made a gift to the Share Lent campaign! Through your generosity, **2,343.80** was collected in our parish. This will serve the needs of our sisters and brothers in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. If you did not have a chance to make your donation, you can still place your Share Lent envelopes in the offertory or donate directly at [devp.org/give](http://devp.org/give).

**Decorating Assistance Needed:** As we await the most holy season in our liturgical year, we are making plans to prepare for the decorating of our church. If you can help, please meet at the church on Saturday, March 26th, at 9am.

**Offertory March 12th & 13th, 2016**

Total Offertory	\$1,684.25
Syrian Refugee Family	\$3,750.00
Share Lent	\$2,343.80
Flowers	\$ 227.00

**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.**

**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 \$18,150 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-settling a refugee family and assisting them to re-locate in our community.

**Diocese of St. Catharines Responsible Faith Ministry:** We have an obligation to protect everyone with whom we deal. Therefore all ministries, whether run by staff or volunteers that provide programs to children, youth and other vulnerable persons, have a responsibility to appropriately screen those in leadership. Parishes need a process in place to ensure that those who volunteer or participate within their ministries are protected. This process must follow diocesan policy. **Responsible Faith Ministry (RFM)** is the policy developed by the Diocese of St. Catharines to help guide parishes in this endeavour. Each parish requires a RFM team with a coordinator to help the pastor administer the diocesan policy. **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.

**Bicycles needed!** As many of you are aware, many migrant workers pursue employment opportunities in our area during the warm weather months and sometimes beyond. Transportation opportunities are very limited however, many are more than happy to use bicycles for this purpose. If you have a used bicycle in good operating condition that is not being used and you would be willing to donate it, please let us know.

**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 [niagarafalls@gmail.com](mailto:niagarafalls@gmail.com) Tickets much be purchased in advance. For information and tickets, please visit [newevangelization.ca](http://newevangelization.ca)

**Parish Calendar**

March.....	
March 20th...	Palm Sunday
March 22nd....	Chrism Mass, Cathedral (St. Catharines) 7:30pm
March 22nd....	<b>Bingo cancelled</b>
March 24th....	Holy Thursday, Mass 7pm
March 25th....	Good Friday — <b>Confessions 9-11am; Celebration of the Lord's Passion, 3pm; Way of the Cross 7pm</b>
March 26th....	Holy Saturday/Easter Vigil, Mass 8pm
March 27th....	Easter Sunday
March 31st...	St. Ann School Easter Mass 9:30am

**St. Ann Youth Ministry**

**YOUTH MINISTRY**

This weekend our Youth Ministry members participated in an overnight parish Lock-In! Through interactive presentations, games, and activities, they were challenged to grow deeper in their relationship with Jesus Christ as they learned about the Easter Triduum: Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. These three days are essential to the entire liturgical year of the Catholic Church: "Christ redeemed us all and gave perfect glory to God principally through his paschal mystery: **dying he destroyed our death and rising he restored our life.** Therefore the Easter Triduum of the passion and resurrection of Christ is the culmination of the entire liturgical year" (The General Norms for the Liturgical Year and the Calendar, 18).  
*Please continuously pray for our young people, that they grow deeper in their relationship with Christ, and that they spread that joy to family, friends, and ultimately to the world.*

**Youth Ministry this Week:** Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30pm-8:30pm, St. Ann Parish Hall TOPIC: Cheaters Never Prosper *All young people Grades 5-12 are welcome!*

**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.**

**The Annual National Catholic TV Mission 2016, "Merciful Like the Father,"** with Fr. Thomas Rosica, CSB will be broadcast during Holy Week on the following dates/times: **Salt + Light TV:** Part 1: Tuesday, March 22 and Part 2: Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8pm & Midnight. **Vision TV:** Part 1: Monday, March 21 and Part 2 on Tuesday, March 22 at 6pm & 10pm. To support the Mission or to get more information please call the National Catholic Broadcasting Council's toll-free number: 1-888- 383-627

**The Serra Club of St. Catharines presents TRIVIA NIGHT.....**promoting vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life. Friday, April 8, 2016. Guest of Honour: Most Reverend Bishop Bergie .St. Ann's Parish, Niagara Falls. Ticket \$20.00/person or \$160.00/table of 8. For tickets, contact: Caroline Matovic [cmatovic@outlook.com](mailto:cmatovic@outlook.com) or (289)271-8954

**Blessed are they who come in the Name of the Lord! Am I being called to proclaim Jesus as a priest, deacon, religious brother or sister?** If you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon, **contact Fr. Michael Basque, Vocation Director, Diocese of St. Catharines, (905) 684-0154**  
 Email: [vocations@saintcd.com](mailto:vocations@saintcd.com)