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Sunday, April 14th, 2019

PALM SUNDAY

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

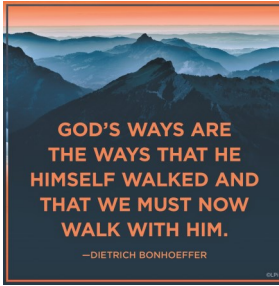
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Palm Sunday is a strange day in our liturgical calendar. We begin by waving palms, but somewhere in the middle, we call for Jesus to be crucified. We celebrate today an equally paradoxical God, one who comes to save through suffering.

"I tell you, if they keep silent, the stones will cry out!" Jesus, who so often in the Gospels tries to hide his true identity, speaks thunderously to the Pharisees who would still the rejoicing crowd. At the Last Supper, Jesus confirms the Messianic promise to his disciples, saying "I confer a kingdom on you, just as my Father has conferred one on me." Yet, before the night is over, Jesus has been betrayed.



We hear the tragedy unfold in Luke's Passion narrative. Jesus is abused by the council of elders, denied by Peter, whipped by Roman soldiers, and condemned to death by Pilate. But what else do we see? Jesus heals someone who came to arrest him, forgives his torturers, promises a repentant man paradise, and - by his loving endurance - converts a centurion at the foot of the cross. Jesus is both Redeemer of the World and Suffering Servant. In taking on the mantle of Messiah, Jesus does not only receive our praise and our accolades, but he bears our burdens and sins and does so with the deepest love. He may go about our salvation in a paradoxical way, but he is dearer to our own suffering hearts for it. This week, we remember that no sorrow of our own is beyond the reach of the compassion of God.



Mass of Christm: Will be celebrated at **St. Alfred's Parish, Vine St., St. Catharines** on **Tuesday, April 16th @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. **All parishioners are encouraged to participate in this diocesan celebration.**

The Stillness of Holy Saturday: Holy Thursday brings us the Last Supper. On Good Friday, we exalt the cross and commemorate the death of Jesus. On Easter Sunday, we celebrate! But what about the day in between? Between death and life, the time holds its breath. For the first disciples, Holy Saturday was a day of silence, sorrow, and waiting. But redemption is already beginning! Jesus descends to the dead and frees righteous souls awaiting eternal life. On our own Holy Saturdays, we too wait in silence. But it is not the silence of disappointment and confusion. It is the silence of anticipation. Soon and very soon, dawn will alight on the horizon, and the stone will be rolled back. Until then, we wait in stillness.

Offertory April 6th & 7th, 2019

83 Envelopes	\$2, 011.60
Loose Collection	\$ 83.75
Total Offertory	\$2, 095.35
Share Lent	\$2, 043.85
Flowers	\$ 50.00

Strawberry Fair Volunteer Committee Needed. For details, phone the office soon.

Commissariat of the Holy Land in Canada Pontifical Collection of Good Friday on April 19, 2019 for the benefit of the Holy Land : The Pontifical Collection for the benefit of the Holy Places is scheduled this year on Good Friday April 19, 2019. Each year on Good Friday, our parish is called to support Christians in the Holy Land. Many Christians in the Holy Land depend on the collection for their lives. As a Pontifical collection requested by Pope Francis, the annual Good Friday Collection helps to maintain not only the Holy Places above all, but also the pastoral, welfare, educational and social works that the Church carries out to the benefit of the Christian brothers and sisters and the local population. *With gratitude, Father Gilles Bourdeau, ofm Commissary of the Holy Land in Canada* **Envelopes are in your offertory boxes and at the back of the church.**

Invest ONE HOUR to save a Lifetime! 40Days for Life – Be an active participant in this peaceful campaign through prayer and fasting during Lent, March 6th – April 14th. We ask each church to adopt **ONE DAY (For our Parish – Saturday, April 13th) from 8 am – 8 pm**, with two or more people to give public witness for one or two hours standing on Portage Street at the Niagara Falls General Hospital, holding a sign "Pray to end Abortion." This is a prayerful, silent **VIGIL**. To sign up for **Saturday, April 13th** please register at the [sign up table](#) at the back of the church or contact Karen Jankovich: kjankovich@sympatico.ca For general inquiries and to sign up for other days during Lent, please contact Annette: loeffenlife@gmail.com, **905-325-1251**, or Angela: angelabraun@live.com **Defend the Sanctity of Life! Petition of One Million** – Please sign the petition at the back of the church to protect the unborn. For further information: www.petitionofonemillion.ca



Thank you for your generous support of the 2019 Share Lent campaign!
 Development and Peace – Caritas Canada thanks you for your Share Lent donation. Thanks to your generosity, \$2,095.35 was collected in our parish. This sum will help support the actions of our sisters and brothers in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East. If you have not had a chance to donate, there is still time to place your Share Lent envelope in the Offertory. We will accept donations for the next couple of weeks. Thank you for continuing to pray for all those who are working to build a world of peace and justice.

Holy Cross Cemetery's ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN UP, will begin on Tuesday April 23, 2019. All wreaths, tin cans, glass jars, flower pots, and similar articles not removed, will be disposed of on April 26, 2019. If anyone is unable to pick up their wreaths etc. by that date they can call the cemetery at 905 734-4172 and make arrangements for the staff to hold the articles for a short period of time.

The New Evangelization Summit Inspiring Catholics. May 4th, 2019 Live in Ottawa– Streaming to Niagara Falls, Ont., St. Michael Catholic High School, 8699 McLeod Rd.. Webcast to host sites around the world. For more info contact familyandyouth@saintcd.com 905-684-0154. To save your seat, register at newevangelization.ca

Migrant Ministry: The Society of St. Vincent de Paul will be collecting items for the men as they begin to arrive. Items most in need are socks, work gloves and toiletries, warm sweaters, jeans and T-shirts. Thank you for your continued support.

Parish Calendar

- April Palm Sunday
- April 14th..... Crism Mass, 7:30pm St. Alfred's Parish
- April 16th..... Holy Thursday—Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm (Bingo cancelled)
- April 18th..... Good Friday
- April 19th..... Holy Saturday
- April 20th..... Easter Sunday
- April 21st.... CWL meeting 7pm
- April 23rd... Confirmation meeting 5:30pm
- April 24th..... St. Ann School Easter Mass 9:30am
- April 24th..... Youth Ministry cancelled
- April 28th..... St. V. de Paul Meeting following 11am Mass
- April 28th..... Divine Mercy Sunday

Confirmation Meeting

As we approach the end of the school year, we are looking ahead to the fall of this year when the Sacrament of Confirmation will be offered to our Grade 7 students who will begin Grade 8 in September. A registration meeting will take place in the parish hall on **Wednesday, April 24th at 5:30pm for parents/guardians and students.** The school and parish will be using the Chosen preparation program which is comprised of 24 lessons that provide everything the student needs, both intellectually and spiritually to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and to become lifelong disciples of Christ. The program is relevant and interactive, using videos, student workbooks, small group discussions and independent activities to make the journey personal and meaningful. **Registration forms and a letter were given to the Grade 7 students at St. Ann School on April 10th. Please bring the completed registration form and fee (to cover cost of books) with you for the meeting. If your child does not attend St. Ann School and will be receiving the Sacrament, please phone the office as soon as possible. Thank you.**

SEPARATED AND DIVORCED HEALING MINISTRY. April topics are "Who Am I Now" (April 22). Meetings are 7 to 9 pm at Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre, 7020 Stanley Ave, Niagara Falls. Pre-registration is not required. For information call 905-356-4113 or 905-684-0154, or email separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com

Celebrate Holy Week and Easter with S+L TV : Free Preview - April 14 – May 12, 2019, Salt + Light TV is available on a free preview from participating cable and satellite providers across Canada, from April 14 - May 12, 2019. Join us starting Palm Sunday for live Papal events and our line-up of Catholic programming to grow in the knowledge of our faith and Catholic tradition in its many expressions. Be sure to check out S+L's new documentary, *The Francis Impact*, premiering May 5, 2019, 8pm EST/5pm PST. Check your local provider or visit www.saltandlighttv.org/subscribe for more details. Sharing the joys and hopes of the Gospel through television, radio, print, and online media. During this month long free-preview, in addition to Holy Week and Easter live Vatican events, Salt and Light Catholic Media Foundation is pleased to announce the premiere of their new documentary *The Francis Impact* on May 5, 2019, 8pm EST/5pm PST. Please see this link for more details. <https://saltandlighttv.org/blogfeed/getpost.php?id=90258>

Welland Port Colborne ProLife Annual General Meeting and Dinner : Saturday, April 27th, 2019. St. Anthony's Hall, 360 River Rd., Welland. Doors open at 6pm, Dinner 6:30pm. Tickets: Adults \$30, Students \$25. 12 & under \$15. Guest speaker Angelina Steenstra—Silent No More— 50 years of legalized abortion, the impact. Tickets 905-714-0547, www.wpcprolife.com

- Sat. April 13
 - 9-10am **Palm Sunday Confession**
 - 4 -4:45pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confession
 - 5:00pm † Brigid & Mary Atkins (Wendy Atkins)
 - Sun. April 14
 - 9:30am † Maria Zaraza (Dayna Young)
 - 11:00am Missa Pro Populo
 - Mon. April 15
 - 9:30am † Dave Battersby (Janet Battersby)
 - 7-8pm **Holy Hour & Confessions**
 - Tues. April 16
 - 9:30am † Christopher Stanclik (Kennedy Family)
 - Wed. April 17
 - 9:30am † Souls of the Faithful Departed (Rob Novak)
 - Thurs. April 18
 - Mass of the Lord's Supper**
 - 7:00pm † Isaiah (Magazzeni Family)
 - Fri. April 19
 - Good Friday**
 - 9-11am **Confessions**
 - 3:00 pm **Celebration of the Lord's Passion**
 - 7:00pm **Stations of the Cross**
 - Sat. April 20
 - Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil)**
 - 9-10am **Confessions**
 - Noon **Blessing of Easter Baskets**
 - 4-5pm **Confessions**
 - Easter Vigil**
 - 8:30pm † Gerry Berkhout (Karen & Michael Buckley)
 - Sun. April 21
 - Easter Sunday**
 - 9:30am Missa Pro Populo
 - 11:00am † Anthony Filbert (Lynda Filbert & Family)
- Reconciliation from 9-9:20am before all weekday Masses.**

