

**PARISH BULLETIN\***  
**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – March 26, 2023**  
**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD – April 2, 2023**

The schedule published herein continues to the weekend of April 9, 2023



**Saint John XXIII Roman Catholic Church**

**3390 Portage Avenue**

**Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3K 0Z3**

**Telephone: 204-832-7175 • Fax: 204-885-2447**

**Email: office@johnxxiii.ca • Website: www.johnxxiii.ca**

**Office Hours:** On designated afternoons 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
and at other times for pre-arranged appointments

**SACRAMENT OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST**

**SUNDAY LITURGIES (MASSES)**

Saturday 4:00 p.m., Sunday 9:00 a.m. and 11:45 a.m.

**WEEKDAY LITURGIES**

*As announced in the schedule in this bulletin.*

**ASSISTANCE TO THE SICK AND SHUT-IN**

For emergencies, you may contact the parish office

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSIONS)**

*As circumstances permit, on Friday afternoons or by appointment.  
Further opportunities for confession in the Central Winnipeg Deanery  
during Lent are listed in the parish schedule and on the website.*

Please continue to follow the rules of good hygiene including hand washing/sanitizing and cough etiquette.  
For the safety and comfort of all, please self-screen before coming to church. **Stay home if you are sick.**  
**Individuals may continue to use face masks based on their preference, personal risk, or other reasons.**

**PARISH PASTORAL TEAM**

**Pastor: Reverend Fr. Robert Polz**

204-832-7335      rpolz.johnxxiii@gmail.com

**Pastoral Assistant: Sharon Camier**

204-832-7206      sharon@johnxxiii.ca

**Trustee: Loris Vendramelli**

204-888-8200      lvendro8@gmail.com

**Trustee: William Gould**

204-832-7175      william.d.gould@gmail.com

**Custodian: José Barrera**

204-888-9340

**Music Ministry: Donna Vendramelli**

204-888-8200      d\_vendramelli@mymts.net

**Building and Maintenance Chair: Brad McKay**

204-795-6788      br.mckay@outlook.com

**Parish Pastoral Council Facilitator: Laurette Burch**

204-885-6988      burchd@mymts.net

**FAITH FORMATION:**

Contact our Pastoral Assistant (Sharon) for further information concerning catechism materials for lessons to take place in the home setting and/or at church on Sunday mornings as circumstances permit.

**SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION (BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION, EUCHARIST):** Contact our Pastoral Assistant for further information.

**SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** Contact the Pastor (Fr. Robert).

**SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:** Arrangements for preparation and celebration should be made at least six months in advance.

**CELEBRATION OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS:** Contact the parish office before finalizing arrangements with funeral directors.



The Archdiocese of Winnipeg Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry announces that the Public Way of the Cross will take place this year on **Good Friday, April 7, 2023**

**Gathering 9:00 am at Our Lady of Victory Memorial Parish**  
**249 Arnold Avenue, Winnipeg, MB**  
 You may contact Veronica at [youth@archwinnipeg.ca](mailto:youth@archwinnipeg.ca) for further information.

## 2023 SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM at Saint John XXIII Roman Catholic Church

**HOLY THURSDAY – April 6**

**Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30 p.m.**

**GOOD FRIDAY – April 7**

**Celebration of the Passion of the Lord at 3:00 p.m.**

**HOLY SATURDAY – April 8**

**Mass of the Easter Vigil at 8:30 p.m.**

**EASTER SUNDAY – April 9**

**Masses at 9:00 a.m. and 11:45 a.m.**



As circumstances permit, we plan to Livestream from Saint John XXIII Church the liturgies for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday. To access livestreaming of liturgies via YouTube and/or an archive of liturgies posted online, go to links found on the home page of our parish website [www.johnxxiii.ca](http://www.johnxxiii.ca)

## Solidarity Sunday Share Lent Collection March 26, 2023

The Fifth Sunday of Lent is a special time for Development and Peace – Caritas Canada as parishes across Canada hold a collection in support of our mission of building a world of justice. Development and Peace — Caritas Canada is beginning a new campaign cycle this year. Taking off from our Orientation Assembly in June 2022 and inspired by Pope Francis's October 2021 address to the World Meeting of Popular Movements, we have chosen Create Hope as our guiding theme for the next five years. To create hope in this first year, we will Stand for the Land in solidarity with our sisters and brothers who are defending their territories in the Global South by protecting their lands and waters, the environment and human life. Do join this Share Lent campaign! **To donate here in the parish, please use the yellow coloured "Share Lent" envelope found in your regular Sunday Offering Envelopes box and make cheques payable to the parish.** Alternatively, you may make a direct donation to Development and Peace online by going to the website [devp.org/give](http://devp.org/give). Have questions on Share Lent 2023? Do not hesitate to contact Jason Cegayle, Regional Animator for Development and Peace - Manitoba and Thunder Bay at [jcegayle@devp.org](mailto:jcegayle@devp.org) or at 204-231-2848. Or go online to [www.devp.org](http://www.devp.org)





## 2023 Chrism Mass

This year the clergy, religious and faithful of the Archdiocese will gather with Archbishop Richard Gagnon to celebrate the Chrism Mass on **Monday, April 3, 2023 at St. Mary's Cathedral, 353 St. Mary Avenue, beginning at 10:30 am.** A reception will follow at the Delta Marriott across from the Cathedral. All are welcome. *(There are tentative plans to livestream The Chrism Mass. Stay tuned for further information. If the Mass will be livestreamed, a link will be made available through the Archdiocese of Winnipeg website [www.archwinnipeg.ca](http://www.archwinnipeg.ca) )*

## CHOIR PRACTICE: N.B. Change of Date

In preparation for the Sacred Paschal Triduum at Saint John XXIII Church, a choir practice will be held on **Monday evening, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** This will be an opportunity for those wishing to assist with the singing and musical accompaniment to get together and rehearse music that will be used during the Paschal Triduum. **Current singers and anyone else interested in joining us are cordially invited to gather for a time of practice and joyful praise of God!**



## ALTAR SERVERS ARE NEEDED

to assist for the liturgies of the Paschal Triduum April 6 - 9, 2023

Current servers and others willing to serve (both youth and adults) are kindly asked to **notify Sharon Camier** and to make arrangements to participate in the various Altar Server Rehearsals as listed in the parish schedule included in this bulletin (see page 5).

## Pontifical Collection for the Holy Land Good Friday, April 7, 2023



Commissariat of the  
Holy Land Canada

The Good Friday Collection is requested by the Holy See to help maintain the Church's holy places in the Holy Land, so important to the faith of Christians everywhere, and also to support the faithful who struggle to survive under political and economic oppression and persecution. This Pontifical Collection will be taken during the Good Friday celebration on April 7, 2023. **To donate here in the parish, please use the yellow coloured "Needs of the Church in the Holy Land" envelope found in your regular Sunday Offering Envelopes box and make cheques payable to the parish.** Alternatively, for those who are unable to attend the Good Friday liturgy or who prefer to make a direct donation online, you may do so by Interac e-transfer or CanadaHelps by visiting [www.commissariat.ca/supporting-us](http://www.commissariat.ca/supporting-us)



## LECTIO DIVINA

Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup> immediately following Mass

Archdiocese of Winnipeg Synod Implementation  
Global Initiative #35: "We encourage all the baptized  
to acquire familiarity with Sacred Scripture"



As part of the ongoing process of the implementation of our Archdiocesan Synod in our parish, we invite you to connect with family and friends in a very special way using **Lectio Divina** or "Breaking open the Word." This ancient method of praying with sacred texts dates to the fourth century. The four simple steps of *Lectio Divina* are READING, MEDITATION, PRAYER, and CONTEMPLATION. **During Lent here at Saint John XXIII Parish, we have been holding a Lectio Divina small group session following Mass on Wednesday evenings. Our last session during Lent will be held on March 29<sup>th</sup>.** We will listen together and reflect on the Gospel passage(s) for Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. All those interested are welcome to participate!

**"No one can make the ascent without you,  
for you are our way, our truth, our life, our strength, our confidence, our reward.  
Be the way that receives us, the truth that strengthens us, the life that invigorates us."**

— Saint Ambrose of Milan

**Come and pray the WAY OF THE CROSS in Saint John XXIII Church at 7:00 pm on Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>.**



# SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 26 – APRIL 9, 2023

*As circumstances suggest, the schedule published here may be subject to change.*

<b>Sunday, March 26</b>	<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – “SOLIDARITY SUNDAY”</b>
4:00 pm <small>Saturday</small>	MASS – John Mangin+, requested by Mangin family
9:00 am	MASS (livestreamed) – “Pro populo” / Intentions of parishioners
11:45 am	MASS – Zonia Patson (health), requested by Henrietta Zhanel
<b>Monday, March 27</b>	<b>FERIAL</b>
	Mass (offered in private) – Freddie Calilung+, requested by coworkers at Grace Hospital
<b>Tuesday, March 28</b>	<b>FERIAL</b>
12:00 pm	Praying of the Angelus
12:10 pm	MASS – Laurieta and Dominador Lopez+, requested by Marietta and Alfred Gendive
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Office Hours – call or ring door buzzer for assistance
6:00 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Eustache Church, St. Eustache
6:00 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Anthony of Padua Church, 365 Burnell Street, Winnipeg
7:30 pm	Parish Finance Council Meeting (Room 8)
<b>Wednesday, March 29</b>	<b>FERIAL</b>
11:00 am	FUNERAL MASS for William John (Bill) Camier+ Rite of Committal to follow at St. Margaret’s Cemetery, 103 Little Britain Road, West St. Paul
6:45 pm	OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS
7:00 pm	MASS – Intentions of Ray and Alice Fleury, requested by Mona Harper
7:40 pm approx.	LECTIO DIVINA or “Breaking Open the Word” (ALL WELCOME – in the Guadalupe Room)
<b>Thursday, March 30</b>	<b>FERIAL</b>
	Mass (offered in private) – In thanksgiving, requested by Tualla family
10:00 am	Fr. Robert is scheduled to participate in an archdiocesan personnel board meeting
6:00 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 95 MacDonald Avenue, Winnipeg
6:30 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Charles Church, 320 St. Charles Street, Winnipeg
<b>Friday, March 31</b>	<b>FERIAL</b>
10:45 am	<del>MASS at Sturgeon Creek II Retirement Residence, 707 Setter Street (CANCELLED due to flu)</del>
12:00 pm	Praying of the Angelus
12:10 pm	MASS – Bert and Shirley Allarie+, requested by Mona Harper
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Office Hours – call or ring door buzzer for assistance
3:00 pm	Recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy
6:30 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Edward the Confessor Church, 836 Arlington St, Winnipeg
7:00 pm	WAY OF THE CROSS at St. John XXIII Church – All welcome to take part!
<b>Saturday, April 1</b>	<b>FERIAL</b>
4:00 pm	MASS for Sunday – Marke Dally+, requested by Gaudry-Braun family
<b>Sunday, April 2</b>	<b>PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD</b>
9:00 am	MASS (livestreamed) – Alicia Ymas+, requested by Minerva family
10:15 am	Way of the Cross for children and adults (in the main worship space)
11:45 am	MASS – “Pro populo” / Intentions of parishioners
<b>Monday, April 3</b>	<b>MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK</b>
10:30 am	THE CHRISM MASS at St. Mary’s Cathedral, 353 St. Mary Avenue – ALL WELCOME!
7:00 pm	CHOIR PRACTICE at St. John XXIII Church in preparation for the Sacred Paschal Triduum
<b>Tuesday, April 4</b>	<b>TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK</b>
12:00 pm	Praying of the “Angelus”
12:10 pm	MASS – Souls in Purgatory, requested by Blaquera family
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Office Hours – call or ring door buzzer for assistance

<b>Wednesday, April 5</b>		<b>WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK</b>
<b>6:45 pm</b>		<b>OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS</b>
<b>7:00 pm</b>		<b>MASS</b> – <i>Souls in Purgatory, requested by Blaquera family</i>
<b>7:30 pm</b>		Altar Server Rehearsal for Holy Thursday Evening Mass
<b>THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM</b>		
<b>Thursday, April 6</b>		<b>HOLY THURSDAY</b>
<b>7:30 pm</b>		<b>MASS OF THE LORD’S SUPPER</b>
<b>8:45 pm</b>		Solemn Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament <i>Following Mass, all are encouraged to spend time in prayer and adoration at the place of reposition. Solemn adoration will continue there until 11:00 p.m.</i>
<b>10:50 pm approx.</b>		Night Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours
<b>Friday, April 7</b>		<b>GOOD FRIDAY – UNIVERSAL DAY OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE FROM MEAT</b>
<b>12:30 pm</b>		Altar Server Rehearsal for 3:00 pm Passion Liturgy
<b>3:00 pm</b>		<b>CELEBRATION OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD</b> <i>The celebration includes the Solemn Intercessions, the Adoration of the Holy Cross, and the distribution of Holy Communion.</i>
<b>Saturday, April 8</b>		<b>HOLY SATURDAY</b>
<b>11:45 am</b>		<b>BLESSING OF EASTER FOOD BASKETS – simple form</b> <i>(in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel)</i>
<b>1:30 pm</b>		Altar Server Rehearsal for Easter Vigil Liturgy
<b>8:30 pm</b>		<b>SOLEMN EASTER VIGIL AND FIRST MASS OF EASTER</b> <i>The Easter Vigil includes the Service of Light, the Liturgy of the Word, the Blessing of Baptismal Water and the Renewal of Baptismal Promises, and the celebration of the First Solemn Eucharist of Easter.</i>
<b>Following Vigil:</b>		<b>BLESSING OF EASTER FOOD BASKETS – solemn form – will follow the Vigil</b> Easter baskets may be placed on the designated tables in the Our Lady of Guadalupe Room before the beginning of the Vigil. Immediately following the Vigil, our parish priest will bless the baskets and sprinkle them with the newly blessed Easter Holy Water.
<b>Sunday, April 9</b>		<b>EASTER SUNDAY – SOLEMNITY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD</b> <i>Easter Sunday liturgies include the renewal of baptismal promises</i>
<b>9:00 am</b>		<b>EASTER SUNDAY MASS</b> – <i>Antoine and Leanne Préfontaine+, requested by Gaudry-Braun family</i>
<b>11:45 am</b>		<b>EASTER SUNDAY MASS</b> – <i>“Pro populo” / Intentions of parishioners</i>

### ***THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM: The Celebration of the Paschal Mystery***

Some religions celebrate “high holy days.” For example, our forebears in faith, the Jewish people, observe Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Muslims mark Ramadan. Particular prayers and rituals identify these special days. Time is spent differently. The regular routine is changed. For Catholic Christians, the Sacred Paschal Triduum is the holiest time, the summit of the entire liturgical year. During these most sacred days, we observe in a solemn way the greatest mystery of our redemption: The Paschal Mystery – the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Our word “Triduum” comes from the Latin word meaning “three days”. However, in this case we should remember that the marking of an extraordinary liturgical day is different from the way we mark an ordinary day. Instead of the normal sunrise to sunset, the days of the Sacred Paschal Triduum are from sunset to sunset. Thus, the Paschal Triduum begins on Holy Thursday with the evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper, continues through to the evening of Good Friday, then to the Great Easter Vigil of Holy Saturday night through to Easter morning and day, and concludes with Evening Prayer (Vespers) on Easter Sunday evening.

Even though it takes place over three days, the Sacred Paschal Triduum should be considered a single celebration of the Paschal Mystery. On these three days, we gather a number of times and together we hear some of the Church’s most beautiful readings, prayers and music.

At the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday, the Church is drawn into the whole event of Christ’s Death and Resurrection. This Mass focuses on the institution of the Eucharist, the institution of the Priesthood, and the call to humble

service. We do in memory of Jesus and we do as Jesus did. Feet are washed by the priest who is configured to Christ in a unique way. Bread and wine are changed into the real presence of Christ, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. After Mass, we stay with Christ in adoration, called to watch in prayer like the disciples did in the Garden of Gethsemane.

The Good Friday celebration of the Lord's Passion is austere and sombre, but without a sense of defeat. The Church fasts on Good Friday because her spouse has been taken away. We proclaim the account of Christ's Passion and Death. With solemn intercessions we pray for the whole world because Christ died for all. We venerate the wood of the cross as sign of love for the instrument of death through which Christ manifested his love for us. Finally, we are nourished with the Eucharist consecrated the evening before. We leave without song or words, reflecting the solemn quiet and starkness this day demands.

On Holy Saturday, the Church waits in silence for the celebration of Christ's Resurrection. The Easter Vigil begins by creating a blazing fire from which the Paschal Candle is lit. This light illumines the night, reminding us that there is no darkness, no sin, no death that Christ cannot conquer. We listen to the words of the Easter Proclamation (the Exsultet) which remind us how special and powerful this night is. Readings from Sacred Scripture retrace salvation history and culminate with the account of the Resurrection. The Holy Spirit is called down upon the water of the baptismal font. New members of the Church are baptized and confirmed. Water from the font is sprinkled on those already baptized following the renewal of their baptismal promises. Then the Sacrifice of the Cross is offered again. Christ's Body and Blood are given to us in Holy Communion.

On Easter Sunday, church bells ring and we sing "Alleluia!" for the entire world to hear. The Easter Sunday Mass is celebrated with great joy and solemnity, for Christ has conquered sin and death! He is risen and he reigns! Again we are fed with Christ's Body and Blood, the pledge of the eternal life won for us by his Passion, Death and Resurrection.

The Sacred Paschal Triduum is much more than simply retracing our Lord's steps during his last days in Jerusalem. It is not a Passion Play in three or four acts. Rather, it is an encounter with the living Christ. During the Paschal Triduum, we not only celebrate the Paschal Mystery, we enter into this mystery through the Church's liturgy, sacraments, and sacramentals so that we express our being united to Christ in his dying and rising. Christ's mystery has become our mystery. The dying and rising of our lives, no matter how big or small, only make sense in Christ's dying and rising. As his faithful disciples, we must truly enter into and be caught up in this sacred mystery.

So how will we spend the Sacred Paschal Triduum this year? Let us make the effort to set these three days aside. Let us mark them by prayer and fervent devotion. May the ordinary give way to the extraordinary as we gather together in our churches to honour, to commemorate, and to encounter the Paschal Mystery of our crucified and risen Lord!

*– the above is adapted from an article originally written by Father Neil Sullivan of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania*

## A Blessed Martyr Amongst Us

Discover Canada's 2nd National Martyr's Shrine in Winnipeg.

**Bishop Velychkovsky National Martyr's Shrine**

a prayerful, peaceful atmosphere of holiness

**Pray** before the fully intact Holy Relics of Blessed Martyr Vasyl

**Tour** the Museum **Visit** the Gift Shop **Learn** about the life of Blessed Vasyl

**Open:** Tuesday to Friday – 10 am to 5pm Saturday – 10 am to 1 pm Sunday after Divine Liturgies

Devotional Service & Anointing every Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Located at St. Joseph's Ukrainian Catholic Church at 250 Jefferson Avenue, Winnipeg, MB

To arrange a guided group tour, call 204-338-7321 or email: [info@bvmartyrshrine.com](mailto:info@bvmartyrshrine.com)

For more information visit the website: [bvmartyrshrine.com](http://bvmartyrshrine.com)



**Our Saint John XXIII Parish confirmation candidates, parents, sponsors and families will be going on a guided pilgrim tour of the shrine, museum and church on Sunday, April 23rd from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm.**

**We need to advise shrine personnel beforehand as to the approximate number of pilgrims to expect.**

**If there are any other parishioners who wish to join us for the pilgrim tour, please contact Sharon Camier at your earliest convenience.**

**The following items are available at the parish office for a very reasonable cost as noted:**

**NRSV Bible – Catholic Edition, hardcover**

**\$20.00 per Bible**

*(\$40.00 for LARGE PRINT edition)*

**Living with Christ SUNDAY MISSAL 2022 – 2023**

**\$5.00 per copy**

*(reduced price)*

**Living with Christ Missalette – monthly edition**

**\$5.00 per copy**

**Candles blessed on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord**

**\$6.00 per box**

*(each box contains two candles)*

***Please pray for the loved ones of our community in need of healing and comfort:***

Dora Auger, Gladys Barton, Annette and Maynard Bates, Monica Bird, George Bonnefoy, Freda Broughton, Barry and Sharon Burke, Ken Burke, Donna Burns, Alan and Cathleen Critchley, René Defries, John and Marina Foucart, René Gobeil, Helen Hallack, Darryn Hellofs, Bev and Steve Hewitt, Angela Krassie, Violet Lebedeff, Marie Mangin, Norman Mangin, Tim Mangin, Frances Mijker, Zonia Patson, Shirley Payment, Owen Robertson, Carol Ann Robinson, Jerome Strachan, Joe and Maria Wallack, and Helen Yankoski.



**TABERNACLE LAMP OFFERING**

**March 26 – April 1, 2023**

***Intentions of the Camier family, requested by John and Sharon Camier***

**April 2 – 8, 2023**

***Special intention, requested by a parishioner***

*If you wish to have the Tabernacle Lamp in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of Saint John XXIII Church burn in memory of a loved one, to honour a special occasion, or for a particular intention, you may make arrangements through the Parish Office.*



**DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE RELIEF EFFORTS FOR TÜRKİYE AND SYRIA:**

On Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, a powerful 7.8 magnitude earthquake rocked southeastern Türkiye and northern Syria, toppling hundreds of buildings and killing more than 46,000 people. Another 6.4

magnitude earthquake hit the region on Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. Development and Peace is joining the Caritas Internationalis family in responding to this tragedy. Donations can be made on the Development and Peace website, by calling 1-888-664-3387, or by mailing a cheque written in favour of Development and Peace and marked "Emergency – Earthquake Türkiye/Syria".

For further information go to [www.devp.org/en/](http://www.devp.org/en/)



**2023 CARITAS AWARD DINNER**

Join the Catholic Foundation of Manitoba for their annual Caritas Award Dinner on **April 27, 2023** at Petrus Hall, 2624 Inkster Boulevard. Reception begins at 6:00 pm and dinner and

official program will begin at 7:00 pm. This year's theme is A PATH HEALING & RECONCILIATION: Creating Healthy Relationships, One Conversation at a Time. The Caritas Award recipients are Janelle Delorme & Norma McDonald, CSC. The Service Award will go to Most Reverend Murray Chatlain, Archbishop of Keewatin-The Pas. Keynote Speaker is Lisa Raven. Performer is Don Amero. The event will support this year's charity of choice: Returning to Spirit. **Tickets available for purchase online at [www.catholicfoundation.mb.ca](http://www.catholicfoundation.mb.ca).**



THE CATHOLIC  
FOUNDATION  
of MANITOBA

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МАНІТОБИ

*Supporting Catholic Values - Always*

**MIKE JANZEN IN CONCERT - April 28, 2023:** Signpost Music Presents: The Psalms Project: Mike Janzen in Concert with Erin Propp, members of the WSO String Orchestra, and the Horizon Choir. Featuring special guest Steve Bell. Tickets are available through [www.ticketmaster.ca](http://www.ticketmaster.ca).

**ST. MARY'S ACADEMY FOUNDATION MARIAN AWARDS GALA:** St. Mary's Academy Foundation is delighted to host its Marian Awards Gala on **Friday, May 5, 2023** at the RBC Convention Centre. Join them to honour the Legacy of Women at St. Mary's Academy who continue to Hold High the Torch. Funds raised will directly support school programs which open doors for young women such as the Academy's new Tartan Technology & Innovation Centre. Find out more details, purchase tickets and see **Sponsorship Opportunities** at [www.smamb.ca/events/marian-awards](http://www.smamb.ca/events/marian-awards). Anyone with questions is asked to reach out to Kaylene Kessler, Advancement Manager, at [kkessler@smamb.ca](mailto:kkessler@smamb.ca) or 204-478-6031.

**SPIRITUAL EXERCISES: Spring Preparation - Begins May 17, 2023:** The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius are a user-friendly way to understand how God works in our lives, how to make wise choices, and how to find God in the people and experiences that fill our days. While they require a time commitment and presume some prayer experience, they are open to anyone who seriously seeks to enhance the quality of their relationship with God. If you are interested in exploring the Spiritual Exercises, it is highly recommended that you attend the Spring Preparation. We are still determining whether these will be via zoom or in person; the dates are Wednesdays May 17, 24, and 31, 2023, from 7:00-8:15 PM. Contact Carmela at [adult.education@stignatius.ca](mailto:adult.education@stignatius.ca) for more information or visit <https://www.stignatius.ca/adult-education-centre/>.



For other news and events in and around the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, go to the website: [www.archwinnipeg.ca](http://www.archwinnipeg.ca)

**HARVEST MANITOBA:** If you are able to help in the ongoing food drive for Harvest Manitoba, please donate by placing food items in our parish's Harvest donation box located under the pamphlet rack at the south church entrance. Dry food donations may be deposited there when you come to church for liturgies. Please be sure to follow safe protocols. Alternatively, food donations may be placed in Harvest donation bins found at local food retailers: e.g. Save on Foods, Sobeys, and Safeway. **THANK YOU to parishioners of Saint John XXIII for your continued support of Harvest Manitoba. Your generosity is most appreciated!**

**KNITTING GROUP:** The next gathering of the Knitting/Crocheting Group will be held on **Tuesday, April 11, 2023 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm** downstairs in Room 8. Over the years we have been creating "welcome baby" layettes to support mothers and babies assisted by *Villa Rosa* or *Thrive Community Support Circle* and sometimes for other worthwhile causes. For further information, you may contact Beverly Hewitt at 204-885-1202 or [bevhe Witt@mymts.net](mailto:bevhe Witt@mymts.net)

### Saint John XXIII Parish Stewardship of Treasure

*Your assistance is very much appreciated – every gift, great or small, helps!*

**PARISH OFFERINGS:** You may place your offering envelopes in the COLLECTION BASKET passed by the ushers to those sitting in the pews during Sunday liturgies. Or you may mail your contribution to the parish via CANADA POST. Or you may leave a message with the parish office to make arrangements with one of our parish staff to drop off your offertory donations at a safe drop off location. For donations to the parish, please make cheques payable to "St. John XXIII Parish". **In this New Year 2023, please use 2023 envelopes only. Thank you.**

**PAD OPTION:** Alternatively, we encourage parishioners to consider being an "intentional giver" by registering for PRE-AUTHORIZED DEBIT. Please leave a message at the parish office and someone will contact you and assist you.

**ONLINE OPTIONS:** If you wish to donate to the parish ONLINE, a link to CanadaHelps.org can be found on our website. Go to [www.johnxxiii.ca](http://www.johnxxiii.ca) and click on the DONATE NOW tab at the top of the Links column on the home page. Alternatively, you may donate to St. John XXIII Parish via the **Archdiocese of Winnipeg Mobile APP** on your mobile device. Go to the Apple APP Store or Google Play Store to download the Archdiocese of Winnipeg Mobile APP.

**New parishioners are encouraged to contact the parish office to register with the parish and to arrange for pre-authorized debit or a box of regular offering envelopes.**

## Archdiocese of Winnipeg Mobile APP

The Archdiocese of Winnipeg has produced a mobile application that will connect you with your faith community, anytime, from anywhere, using your Apple device. The objectives of this app are to: keep the members of our parish communities connected; provide new ways of supporting the parish and the Archdiocese; and inspire the People of God toward service, through our messages of hope.

Please encourage your family members and fellow parishioners to download and install this app and ensure you engage with your community through your home parish page. With this application, you will be able to:

- conveniently make or maintain your regular Church offering to support your parish;
- contribute to Sharing God's Gifts and so support the ministries and pastoral mission of the Archdiocese of Winnipeg;
- conveniently find the Archbishop's messages of hope that inspire us;
- obtain your donation tax receipts in a more convenient manner; and
- find contact information for your parish and the Archdiocese to help you stay connected.



**FROM YOUR MOBILE DEVICE, GO TO THE APPLE APP STORE OR GOOGLE PLAY STORE  
[DOWNLOAD ON YOUR APPLE DEVICE HERE.](#) | [DOWNLOAD ON YOUR ANDROID DEVICE HERE.](#)**



## Fifth Sunday of Lent

### March 26, 2023

#### Ezekiel 37:12-14

The Lord promises that the grave  
will not possess those who are God's own.

#### Psalms 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7b-8

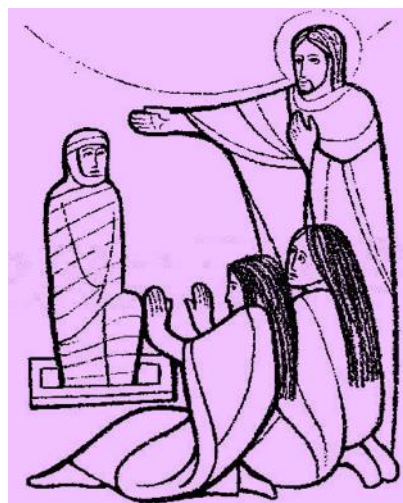
Trust in the Lord through the long dark night of the soul.

#### Romans 8:8-11

The body will surely die,  
but the living spirit of Christ will lift us up body and soul.

#### John 11:1-45

Does our faith hold true, now and at the hour of our death?



#### EXPLORING THE WORD

### Now and at the hour of our death

The conclusion to the "Hail Mary" should give us pause. We ask the Holy Mother of God to keep us sinners in her prayer at two signature moments of our lives: now and at the time of our death. What a strange request this is, at first glance. Why, of all the hours and seasons and years of life should we single out these twin moments for special consideration? "Now" is easy. Now is the moment of decision, the vital and active hour in which change is possible. We can't move the past an inch. We can't manipulate the future until it arrives. The only time under our jurisdiction when we are free to act is now. So if there is an important moment to have the prayers of the Mother of the Church, it's the one we're in presently.

The other moment when we plead for Mary's attention is the hour of our death. Ah, that is a significant time for all of us. Although we hope to enjoy many "nows," death comes only once and it is, for free human decision, the Last Chance Saloon. If we've botched many a now, or all of our nows until the last one, Christianity still holds out the possibility of the final "yes" after a lifetime of "no." So we are wise to pray that the mother of Jesus will attend us in that last hour of grace and guide us to repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

#### *Opening graves*

When we talk about heaven, we're talking in a sort of Christian code about death and what comes after. Not all of us want to spoil our benign thoughts of everlasting paradise with the somewhat distressing idea of losing our grip on everything we know and possess. But enjoying the reign of God for all eternity does come with this minor prerequisite: giving up the ghost. This is why we call the story of Jesus "Good News." Because it's the only story we know where death has a happy ending in restored life.

On the subject of new life, most Christians default to the Resurrection story on Easter morning. But little restorations played out at *pianissimo* operate as motifs across the gospels to encourage us that we're headed in the right direction. The synoptic gospels all tell the story of Jairus' daughter, who expires at the age of 12 and is tenderly restored by Jesus. Luke also relates the encounter between Jesus and the funeral procession of the son of a widow at Nain. Finally, John's gospel supplies the lengthy and glorious story of the raising of Lazarus. All of these accounts remind us that the ultimate restoration is coming. And in the case of the liberation of Lazarus, the coming of the Big One is more or less cause-and-effect. The religious authorities do not want tombs opened and the dead raised. It never serves the establishment to have fixed principles in motion. If you can't count on the dead staying dead, well, then you can't count on much. Death, like gravity, is only a useful concept if it does not relinquish its grasp.

But we Christians should remember that the opening of graves wasn't a new idea invented in the gospel era. The prophet Ezekiel uttered the prequel in his masterful oracle about the dry bones. The images capture the imagination: the opened graves, the rattling bones, the reemergence of flesh, and the restoration of divine spirit. It is that final component that makes us in the likeness of God. And that is the very element no mortal can kill.

#### *Do you believe this?*

It's helpful when reading John's gospel to be aware that he directs his questions to his audience: not simply the bystanders in the story but also those of us loitering around 20 centuries later. When Martha makes her magnificent declaration of faith on the road near Bethany, she does so at the instigation of a question: "Do you believe this?" Martha's answer becomes the gold standard for disciples: "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world." Most of us, to be honest, are only beginning to live into that response by degrees. To enter it fully, we have to be able to walk to the end of that road with Jesus and not fear the stench of the tomb.

While we're on this road—and it's a journey we'll be taking, purposefully or blindly—we can't do better than to raise a prayer for guidance concerning those two pivotal moments, now and the hour of our death. Making a declaration of faith as Martha does is important. They are the words we propose to live out. But saying them and not believing them means we will most likely fail to embody them. Those who don't put their hearts into their profession of faith may find that their treasure lies elsewhere.

And what will we do when Jesus calls out our names in eternity and invites us to "Come forth" into everlasting life? Those who have dismissed such notions as nonsense may hear nothing to disturb their slumber. Like learning to speak a foreign tongue, the language of faith is something we must attune ourselves to hear and understand. The secret that believers know is this: that if we obey the call to new life "now," nothing will bind us to the grave "at the hour of our death."

#### **APPLYING THE WORD**

##### ***Untie him and let him go***

Little by little throughout our lives, our faith teaches us how to accept the liberation of the children of God. We are called out of the grave of every sinful situation by the Lord of forgiveness. We are rescued from every wrong turn down a blind alley and restored to the way of life. Such freedom can be frightening. Many people prefer the binding chains of fundamentalism to keep them from exercising this great liberty. But a free man, a liberated woman, will know how to obey the call to walk out of the grave and leave death behind them for good.

— Alice Camille

Alice Camille is a religious educator, scripture commentator, and author of many books including **This Transforming Word** and other titles found at [alicecamille.com](http://alicecamille.com)  
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## **Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**

**April 2, 2023**

### **Matthew 21:1-11**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

### **Isaiah 50:4-7**

The just one will not yield to evil, trusting in God's help.

### **Psalms 22:7-8, 16-17, 18-19, 22-23**

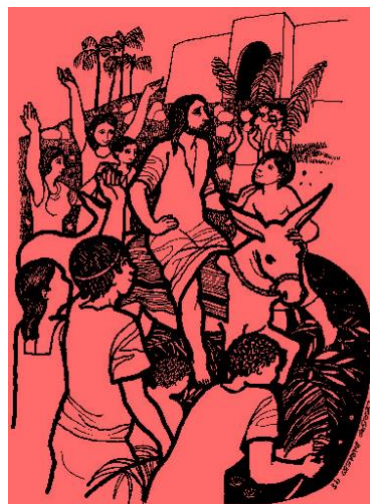
God comes to the aid of the one who relies on God's promises.

### **Philippians 2:6-11**

The humble one will go down to death and be raised to exaltation.

### **Matthew 26:14 – 27:66**

The sanctuary is exposed, the earth quakes, tombs open, and the dead are raised at the death of Jesus.



#### **EXPLORING THE WORD**

### **Matthew's Passion story**

The gospels are often described as the four biographies of Jesus in the secular media. Nothing could be further from the truth. What kind of biographer would practically disregard the first 30 years of a person's history, to concentrate one fourth to one third of his pages on the last week of his subject's life? If proportions mean anything, the gospels are more accurately the story of the death of Jesus than the saga of his life. The Passion account is clearly of great interest to the first community of faith. In those final events, early Christians found confirmation for what they believed, as well as a way to explain to others what discipleship is and is not.

Mark invented the gospel genre, so his Passion story came first. Therefore when looking at subsequent accounts, we have to view them in terms of what has been added or altered from the original. In Matthew's Passion, we see he has made so many redactions that they cannot be addressed in one essay. But let's concentrate on a few major ones: the treatment of Judas, the assignment of blame, and the use of tradition to interpret the harrowing events of these days.

#### ***Is it I, Lord?***

Who's to blame for the death of Jesus? History has been haunted by this question, and centuries of Jewish oppression and bloodshed hung on the careless treatment of this issue. The first answer Matthew offers is a surprising one: Jesus' own disciples, with Judas as the capstone. Mark has already told us that the disciples ran and Peter denied; there's nothing new in these displays of cowardice and self-interest. Judas plays a significant role in the betrayal of Jesus, as all of the gospel

accounts make clear. But in Matthew's account alone, the relationship between Judas and Jesus is portrayed as remarkably personal, almost tender, and certainly direct.

Luke will introduce the idea that the devil made Judas do it. But Matthew refuses to give Judas this kind of "out." Rather, he bolsters Mark's story of Judas going to the chief priests by having the disciple walk away 30 pieces of silver richer. The other gospels are content to leave Judas with a promise of reward. In Matthew, the deed is bought and paid for on the spot. Then at the Last Supper, when Jesus announces that someone will betray him, Matthew adds to the murmuring of "Is it I?" among the apostles a bold address by Judas to Jesus: "Surely it is not I, Rabbi?" To which Jesus replies, staring his betrayer right in the eye: "You have said so."

What an astonishing exchange! Its frankness finds a parallel in the garden scene later, after the duplicitous kiss. Mark first records the kiss; Luke adds to it a rebuke from Jesus: "Judas, would you betray the Son of man with a kiss?" But no rebuke follows in Matthew. Instead we hear an intimate address: "Friend, do what you have come for." In the NRSV, the words are almost lovely: "Friend, why are you here?"

To the Matthean reader, this address calls to mind two parables of the kingdom. In the first, a landowner who pays all his workers the same wage speaks to one of the disgruntled laborers who misinterpret his generosity with the words, "Friend, I am not cheating you." In the second parable, a king asks an inappropriately dressed wedding guest, "Friend, how is it that you came here without a wedding garment?" In each case the "friend" has no reply. Judas remains silent also. The friends of Jesus have no way to justify their betrayal of him.

The death of Judas is related only in Matthew's gospel, although Luke does offer a variant account in Acts. Matthew reveals Judas' remorse, his repentance, and his attempt to return the blood money to the religious leaders, flinging it on the temple floor. Perhaps even Judas might have found redemption if he had sought the consolation of a place near the cross, as others did. Instead, as we know, he finds his own tree and hangs himself on it. "Cursed be the one who hangs on a tree," Deuteronomy intones. The one Jesus called only friend dies in a cruel parody of the crucifixion because he could not find it in himself to believe in that friendship.

### ***Bloodguilt and the severed ear***

Matthew reinforces the idea that the friends of Jesus, now and always, shoulder some of the blame in the Passion narrative. But the general population also takes on its share of guilt. Pilate the Roman washes his hands of the deed—a Jewish ritual, not a Roman one, as if Matthew himself is washing Rome clean of responsibility. Meanwhile the crowds call for the blood of Jesus three times instead of the normative synoptic gospel two, finally insisting that the blood be on their heads and upon their children. This attitude sharply contrasts the meaning Jesus assigns to his own blood, "shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins." These details, all unique to Matthew, demonstrate how deeply enmeshed in bloodguilt the nation is, and how ill prepared they are to embrace the radical theology of divine forgiveness.

If the disciples of Jesus and the nation as a whole bear responsibility for Jesus' death, then the religious leadership must assume a premiere place in that assembly of shame. Matthew is careful to indict only the chief priests and the elders in his many references to those involved in the proceedings. The Pharisees have mysteriously been absolved. Yet Caiaphas is named as if to give a face to the authority. In the ensuing trial of the Sanhedrin, the guards are eliminated so that the Sanhedrin members appear to mock and strike Jesus themselves and not abuse him by proxy.

This intense focus on the priesthood's culpability is no surprise. When the high priest's servant loses an ear in the garden struggle, this disfigurement disqualifies him from the priesthood. Symbolically, this scene suggests that the priesthood of Aaron is hereby cut off. In Matthew's story, the ear is not restored. The implications for the Sanhedrin are so dire that Joseph of Arimathea, a card-carrying member in the rest of the synoptic gospels, is introduced discreetly as a disciple of Jesus here.

## **APPLYING THE WORD**

### ***Trust in the covenant cup***

Today, we claim to be among the friends of Jesus. We are also citizens of a nation that by every poll sees itself as deeply invested in religious belief. And some of us also manage to be priests, scholars, and elders—religious leaders both ordained and lay. In terms of Matthew's Passion, we therefore share in the betrayal of Jesus in all the ways we fail to stand up for the innocent sufferer. To be both a believer and a traitor is a potentially tormenting identity, as Judas knew intimately. But we believe that the blood of Jesus is not our condemnation. It is the cup of our salvation. And so we confidently take our place at the foot of the cross, now and always.

— Alice Camille

Alice Camille is a religious educator, scripture commentator, and author of many books including **This Transforming Word** and other titles found at [alicecamille.com](http://alicecamille.com)  
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***"Palm Sunday tells us that it is the cross that is the true tree of life."***

— Pope Benedict XVI



**CALLING VOLUNTEERS TO SERVICE:** Every baptized person is endowed with indispensable gifts for the service of the Church and the world. Especially as we emerge from the COVID-19 Pandemic, it is time for us to rebuild participation in the liturgical and other ministries of Saint John XXIII Parish. As described in detail in previous recent bulletins, this includes Altar Servers, Communion Ministers, Hospitality Ministers (Ushers), Music Ministers, Readers (Lectors), Sacristans and others who assist in liturgical art and environment. Please prayerfully consider your participation as a full member in the life of our parish. **If you are willing to help in any of the liturgical or other ministries of the parish, please contact our pastor, Father Robert Polz, and/or our parish pastoral assistant, Sharon Camier, or any other member of our parish pastoral team.**



## St. Charles Catholic School Spring Fundraiser

**PLACE YOUR ORDER ONLINE UNTIL APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup>**  
Shop early to avoid disappointment at [www.glenleagreenhouses.com](http://www.glenleagreenhouses.com)

**\$25 Plant Cards** also available! It's a perfect gift for any plant enthusiast!

Gift Cards are a physical card that can be used in store or at our booth at any of the markets we attend. They are not accepted as payment for wholesale or fundraiser purchases.



Hello Everyone,

This year's spring fundraising campaign will be a sale of excellent quality and competitively priced bedding plants, perennials, hanging baskets, vegetables, herbs, succulents, and container gardens. Fall Garden Mums can be easily ordered now in the spring for delivery shortly after Labor Day in the early Fall. Gift Cards are also available.

You as the customer can **follow these simple steps** to shop and pay online at Glenlea Greenhouses website at [www.glenleagreenhouses.com](http://www.glenleagreenhouses.com).

1. On their homepage select **Spring Fundraiser**.
2. Once you are finished shopping, **go to the cart page** and select **"to support & pick up at a fundraiser group"**. Afterwards, **three fields** will appear.
3. Please select from the dropdown **St. Charles Catholic School**
4. Under **Name of Seller** (the name of the individual you are supporting with this fundraiser's name) **input Name of Seller Info Here\*optional field, state "leave empty" if your group does not need this field as it will still appear on our website as a field.**
5. Lastly, **check the Checkbox** to confirm all the information in the above fields are correct and click **check out & pay**.
6. Input your email and personal information and click Continue.
7. Select **"Fundraiser - To Support and Pickup at the Fundraiser Group I selected on CART page** then click Continue to payment method.
8. Once on the payment method screen, payment can be completed with VISA, MASTERCARD, and AMERICAN EXPRESS credit cards or INTERAC e-transfer to the Greenhouse.

Shortly after completion of the order, an email confirmation is sent to the email address provided confirming delivery location and date, along with the products ordered. **Online orders will be accepted until 11:59 pm on April 15th.**

The plants will be delivered to **St. Charles Catholic School on Tuesday, May 23, 2023** and we will need all orders to be picked up by **2:00-6:00 pm.**

All the proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards **St. Charles Catholic School.**

We thank you for your support!

Top: Impatiens Beacon, Middle: Calibrachoa Cabaret, Bottom: Proven Winners Vegetable & Herb Raised Planter.