CHATHAM CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISHES

BLESSED SACRAMENT	OUR LADY OF VICTORY	ST. AGNES	ST. JOSEPH	ST. URSULA
145 Victoria Ave	490 St. Clair St	52 Croydon St	180 Wellington St W	205 Tweedsmuir Ave W
Chatham, ON N7L 3A7	Chatham, ON N7L 3K8	Chatham, ON N7L 1L3	Chatham, ON	Chatham, ON N7M 5N8
bsacramentparish@dol.ca	ourladyv@dol.ca	stagnes@dol.ca	stjoseph@dol.ca	stursula@dol.ca

Website: www.ccfp.dol.ca Facebook: https://facebook.com/bssaususj

Our parish office is located at St. Agnes Church
52 Croydon Street
519-352-9483 or 519-352-8530

Our parish office is closed.
Please call and leave a message and we will return your call.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS - For children, youth and adults

Many people have used their talent and their time to create videos to help us celebrate many aspects of our faith virtually. The Stations of the Cross is no exception. We have had staff from our family of parishes create a video for Stations of the Cross for adults, as well as staff and volunteers that created a video for Stations of the Cross for children and families. These are both on our website and **new on our site is a video by students from UCC (The Pines) leading us through the stations of the Cross.**

Visit our website (www.ccfp.dol.ca) and you can find the stations by clicking the Stations of the Cross button on the Lent banner on the homepage or simply go to Children/Families or Youth or Prayer/Worship menus at the top to find the various stations. Check out all the other Lent resources available for your entire family.

PASTORAL STAFF
Pastor ~ Fr. Jim Higgins
519-352-8530 ext 222 ~ jhiggins@dol.ca
Associate Pastor ~ Fr. Jude Ogbenna, C. S. Sp.
519-352-8530 ext 223 ~ jogbenna@dol.ca
Associate Pastor - Fr. Olivet Okoro
519-352-8530 ext 224 ~ookoro@dol.ca
In Residence - Fr. Stan Izdebski
sizdebski@dol.ca
Pastoral Minister ~ Colleen Keane
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Pastoral Minister ~ Karen Robert
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Parish Catechist ~ Ali Chinnick
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Deacon Jerry Lozon ~ jlozon@dol.ca
Deacon Chris Masterson ~ cmasterson@dol.ca
Deacon Morgan Treacy ~ mtreacy@dol.ca

SUPPORT STAFF

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Blessed Sacrament Plant Supervisor
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St. Joseph Custodian
Patrick O'Malley
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St. Ursula Custodian
Dat Phan
dphan@dol.ca

Readings for April 4
Acts 10: 34a, 37-43. Colossians 3: 1-4.
John 20: 1-18.

MARCH 28, 2021
PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Palm Sunday - March 27/28
Registration for Palm Sunday will take place on March 24 & 25 between 9 am – 5 pm.
Register online at www.ccfp.dol.ca or call the parish office at 519-352-9483.
5:00 pm ~ Blessed Sacrament
8:00 am ~ St. Joseph
9:00 am ~ Blessed Sacrament (Live-streamed)
10:00 am ~ St. Ursula
11:00 am ~ St. Agnes
11:00 am ~ Our Lady of Victory (Polish)
Please note: Palms will not be distributed to the congregation.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Weekday Masses During Holy Week
Weekday Mass is on a first come, first serve basis. No pre-registration, but still limited to 30% capacity.
Monday, March 29 ~ 9:00 am ~ St. Agnes
Tuesday, March 30 ~ 9:00 am ~ St. Ursula
Wednesday, March 31 ~ 9:00 am ~ St. Joseph
7:00 pm ~ Our Lady of Victory (Polish)

Registration for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday
will take place on March 29, 30 & 31 between 9 am – 5 pm.
Register online at www.ccfp.dol.ca or call the parish office at 519-352-9483.

Holy Thursday - April 1
7:00 pm ~ Blessed Sacrament (Live-streamed)
Please note:
Washing of feet will not take place. Adoration will not take place afterwards.

Good Friday - April 2
3:00 pm ~ St. Joseph
3:00 pm ~ St. Ursula
3:00 pm ~ Blessed Sacrament (Live-streamed)
3:00 pm ~ St. Agnes
5:00 pm ~ Our Lady of Victory (Polish)
Please note: There will be no individual veneration of the cross.

Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil - April 3
7:00 pm ~ Blessed Sacrament (Live-streamed)

Easter Sunday - April 4
7:00 am ~ Our Lady of Victory (Polish)
8:00 am ~ St. Joseph
9:00 am ~ Blessed Sacrament (Live-streamed)
10:00 am ~ St. Ursula
11:00 am ~ St. Agnes
11:00 am ~ Our Lady of Victory (Polish)

DEACON'S PEN

In today's reading of the Passion we witness the crowd at one moment proclaiming "Hosannas" to Jesus and in the next demanding his crucifixion. We noticed that Judas betrayed Jesus, Peter denied him and his closest friends and followers abandoned him.

Perhaps you have your own stories of how you felt betrayed at other people's hands, even those who have been dear to you. Maybe you might have your own examples of betraying others in some way. Maybe there have been

- times when you betrayed your ideals and abandoned your friends.
- times you joined the crowd and given to public sentiment, judging or condemning people you knew little about.
- times you found refuge by telling a lie.
- times you protected your interests by doing all in your power to put down others or put down your competition.

Through all his experience of betrayal, Jesus kept his peace and died on his cross with words of compassion and forgiveness. Jesus knows the human heart and knows that there is compassion in all of us. Compassion brings out the goodness in surprising ways. Scrooges become benefactors. Enemies become close friends. Hatred turns to love. Gossip becomes good news on our lips. When we are under attack, the worst in us usually comes out, but when we are in an atmosphere of love and acceptance, the best in us also comes out.

Compassion, not condemnation or counterattack, is what is called for, a compassion that arises from an understanding of what we are as human beings and what we are capable of, both bad and good. Compassion creates the atmosphere of love and acceptance that allows the good in us, and others, to blossom. This is the compassion that redeems fallen human nature. The compassion of Jesus far outweighed the fickleness of his friends and enemies. That is why he became our Saviour.

During this Holy Week, let us ask God for compassion and faith even when we find it difficult and demanding.

Deacon Jerry

To the parents of our young children, may we suggest…..

Rules? God put the wiggle in children. Don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome.

Sit toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to see and hear what's going on at the altar. They tire of seeing the backs of other's heads.

Quietly explain the parts of the Mass and actions of the priests, altar servers, choirs etc.

Sing the hymns, pray and voice the responses. Children learn liturgical behaviour by copying you.

If you have to leave Mass with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

Remember that the way we welcome in church directly affects the way we respond to the Church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.

To the members of our parish...

The presence of children is a gift to the Church and they are a reminder that our parish is growing.

Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

WELCOME

It is with great joy that we welcome visitors and new parishioners to our parish family!

New parishioners please visit our parish website, ccfp.dol.ca and look under the "I'm New" tab. Or call the parish office (519-352-8530 or 519-352-9483) and we can arrange for you to obtain one of our registration forms.

Remember to welcome strangers in your homes.

Hebrews 13: 2

Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes
Weekday Mass Intentions March 29 - 31

The following will be celebrated at 9 am Mass at St. Agnes:

Monday, Mar 22 – Our Lady of Victory intentions
~ People of the parish

Monday, Mar 22 – St. Agnes intentions
~ Edward Daudlin

The following will be celebrated at 9 am Mass at St. Ursula:

Tuesday, Mar 30 – St. Agnes intentions
~ Brian McMath
~ Lillian Buis
~ All souls

Tuesday, Mar 30 – St. Ursula intentions
~ Annie Beuglet & Mike Beuglet
~ Emma Matteis
~ Lionel Richie

The following will be celebrated at 9 am Mass at St. Joseph:

Wednesday, Mar 31 – Blessed Sacrament intentions
~ People of the parish

Wednesday, Mar 31 – St. Joseph intentions
~ Maria Qua Tran
~ Rita Iannicello

The following will be celebrated at 7 pm Mass at Our Lady of Victory:

Wednesday, Mar 31 – Our Lady of Victory intentions
~ People of the parish

DIOCESE OF LONDON

UPDATE FROM BISHOP FABBRO

Please note that as of January 29, Bishop Fabbro extended the dispensation from the Sunday obligation until the end of the Easter Season; that is, up to and including Pentecost Sunday (May 23).

E-BULLETIN

Are you interested in receiving the bulletin by email. If so, contact Maureen at the parish office at 519-352-8530 or 519-352-9483 or by email at mfoster@dol.ca or you can view it on the Family of Parishes website at www.ccfp.dol.ca.

To Everything there is a season…
"a time to be healed..."

Please pray for those who are currently sick in our parish family especially Roger Leclair and Pauline St. Pierre.

"a time to die…."

Please remember in your prayers all deceased relatives and parishioners especially Michael Emms.

Eternal rest grant unto thee.

DIOCESAN MINISTERS PRAYER CALENDAR

Please remember to pray for these Diocesan ministers: Rev. John Sharp; Rev. Pierre Wood, O.F.M. Cap.; Rev. Donald Pumputis; Rev. Danny Santos.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mar 29 Isaiah 42: 1-7. John 12: 1-11.
Mar 30 Isaiah 49: 1-6. John 13: 21-33, 36-38.
Mar 31 Isaiah 50: 4-9a. Matthew 26: 14-26.
Apr 1 Exodus 12: 1-8, 11-14. John 13: 1-15.
Apr 2 Isaiah 52: 13-53: 12. Hebrews 4: 14-16 5: 7-9. John 18: 1-19: 42.

PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY - Surrender to God's will

Procession Mark 11: 1-10 (entry into Jerusalem) or John 12: 12-16

Reading I Isaiah 50: 4-7 (salvation only through the Lord's servant)

Reading II Philippians 2: 6-11 (imitating Christ's humility)

Gospel Mark 14: 1-15:47 (the passion of Jesus)

Key Passage: Jesus said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." (Mark 14: 36)

Adult: When have you found it hardest to accept God's will? What enabled you to accept it?

Child: When is it hardest for you to obey?

Congratulations to Donald Smith who celebrates his 88th birthday on March 27.

MASS ON LINE

Watch Us On YouTube

If you are not comfortable returning to in person Mass, consider watching the Mass on our YouTube Channel on Sunday and Thursday at 9 am or any time after that. Simply search Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes.

BLESSED SACRAMENT CWL BURSARY

The Blessed Sacrament Catholic Women's League will be awarding a $500 Bursary to a graduating secondary student who plans on attending a post-secondary education program in September 2021. The successful candidate will be a member of either Blessed Sacrament or St. Agnes Parish. Application forms and further information are available at the guidance department at Ursuline College (The Pines), or from Colleen Koehler at koehleco@gmail.com. The application form and required documents must be submitted to Colleen Koehler at koehleco@gmail.com by May 23, 2021.

PARISHIONER DATABASE—HAVE YOU MOVED OR CHANGED YOUR PHONE NUMBER?

We are continually updating our parishioner database and often people forget to update the church when they are notifying others of their new address. Please let us know if you have moved or changed your email address or if you have cancelled your home phone and only use your cell phone. You can email Cathy Zimmer at czimmer@dol.ca or call the office at 519-352-9483 or 519-352-8530. We only send mail 2 or 3 times a year and we NEVER share information from our database. We also can't send your tax receipt without an updated address. We sometimes send email updates for important information and you can sign up for that on our website. If you are NEW to our parish, WELCOME! Kindly fill out the parish registration form found at www.ccfp.dol.ca (click on I'M NEW/Join Our Family).

HOW TO DONATE TO THE CHATHAM CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISHES

As we are all forced to slow down in our current world, unfortunately some things continue along, such as our household bills and expenses. The same goes for our parishes as well, that operate mainly on donations received at Mass. To donate, there are some options such as e-transfer, mailing or dropping off a donation, pre-authorized debit and an easy, online option. For more details, go to our parish website at ccfp.dol.ca and select the "Giving" tab and then "How to donate".

If you wish to drop off donations, please drop them into the white locked mail box at St. Agnes parish office. The mail box is checked daily.

We are so thankful for you continued support throughout these changing times.

NFORMATION ABOUT WEARING OF MASKS

We are taking every reasonable precaution to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our churches and protect parishioners. Those who attend Mass or other services without a mask and without a valid exemption are violating municipal and provincial COVID-19 restrictions and putting fellow parishioners at risk.

Per Bishop Fabbro, starting January 1, 2021, if you have a medical exemption for wearing a mask, you will be required to bring to the pastor evidence from your physician, nurse practitioner, social worker, psychologist or occupational, respiratory or physical therapist attesting to your condition. Once you do so, you will be provided a document to bring to Mass each time. When you register for Mass, please let them know you have been granted an exemption, so that you can be seated in a designated area.

Please note that face shields and/or plastic masks are not an appropriate replacement for a face mask. From the Ontario.ca website regarding face shields:

Face shields do not replace masks or face coverings.

A face shield is used to protect the eyes of the person wearing it. Using a face shield without a mask won't protect:

- *You from potentially inhaling infectious respiratory droplets exhaled by others*
- *Others from your infectious respiratory droplets, as they can escape around the face shield*

Thank you for helping to protect the safety of our parishioners, parish team and volunteers while on Church property.

CHURCH CHUCKLE

On Palm Sunday, a five-year-old boy had a sore throat and stayed home from church with a babysitter. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm branches. The boy asked them what they were.

"People held them over Jesus' head as He walked by," his father told him.

"Wouldn't you know it," the boy cried. "The one Sunday I don't go to church and Jesus shows up."

FEBRUARY FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Feb-21			
	Current Feb 2021	YTD Feb 2021	YTD Feb 2020
Blessed Sacrament			
**Operating Revenue	22,157.60	47,322.38	49,401.23
Capital Revenue	399.76	591.71	1,505.08
TOTAL INCOME	**22,557.36**	**47,914.09**	**50,906.31**
Operating Expenses	22,930.24	45,868.23	61,828.39
Capital Expenses	0.00	0.00	320.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	**22,930.24**	**45,868.23**	**62,148.39**
*** NET INCOME (LOSS)**	**-372.88**	**2,045.86**	**-11,242.08**
* Chequing & Mass Accounts			
**** incl. CEWS**		**10,572.78**	
Loan Fund Deposit		**177,680.97**	**120,514.48**
St Agnes			
**Operating Revenue (*)	15,696.55	47,822.02	91,354.20
Capital Revenue	140.12	204.64	955.80
TOTAL INCOME	**15,836.67**	**48,026.66**	**92,310.00**
Operating Expenses	25,075.70	52,606.26	56,438.98
Capital Expenses	0.00	0.00	267.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	**25,075.70**	**52,606.26**	**56,705.98**
*** NET INCOME (LOSS)**	**-9,239.03**	**-4,579.60**	**35,604.02**
* Chequing, Mass, Soup Kitchen & Refugee Accounts			
****incl CEWS**		**8,528.89**	
Loan Fund Deposit		**72,865.40**	**101,289.07**

Feb-21			
	Current Feb 2021	**YTD Feb 2021**	**YTD Feb 2020**
St Joseph			
Operating Revenue	21,411.04	39,435.28	55,521.25
Capital Revenue	2,747.39	4,640.43	14,713.27
TOTAL INCOME	**24,158.43**	**44,075.71**	**70,234.52**
Operating Expenses	22,027.73	53,338.62	67,926.97
Capital Expenses	43.25	43.25	14,153.27
TOTAL EXPENSES	**22,070.98**	**53,381.87**	**82,080.24**
NET INCOME	**2,087.45**	**-9,306.16**	**-11,845.72**
Loan Fund Deposit		**284,092.45**	**537,561.52**
CEWS DEPOSIT	**2,715.04**	**8,218.28**	**Included in Totals**
(Emergency Wage Subsidy)			
St Ursula			
Operating Revenue	15,728.00	35,721.37	38,244.75
Capital Revenue	1,421.25	3,902.50	7,817.00
TOTAL INCOME	**17,149.25**	**39,623.87**	**46,061.75**
Operating Epenses	17,570.51	41,625.76	47,263.52
Capital Expenses	43.25	43.25	10,397.88
TOTAL EXPENSES	**17,613.76**	**41,669.01**	**57,661.40**
NET INCOME	**-464.51**	**-2,045.14**	**-11,599.65**
Loan Fund Deposit		**346,155.48**	**339,316.44**
CEWS DEPOSIT	**0**	**9576.37**	**Included in Totals**
(Emergency Wage Subsidy)			

FEBRUARY FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT CONTINUED

Feb-21			
	Current Feb 2021	YTD Feb 2021	YTD Feb 2020
Our Lady of Victory			
Operating Revenue	2,815.00	3,755.00	14,490.45
Capital Revenue	495.66	511.29	631.25
TOTAL INCOME	**3,310.66**	**4,266.29**	**15,121.70**
Operating Expenses	3,978.50	12,025.65	15,216.12
Capital Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	**3,978.50**	**12,025.65**	**15,216.12**
NET INCOME	**-667.84**	**-7,759.36**	**-94.42**
Loan Fund Deposit		**57,305.33**	**56,331.06**

Online WAY OF THE CROSS
with
Development and Peace

Date: Friday, 2 April, 2021

Time: 12 - 1:30 p.m. ET

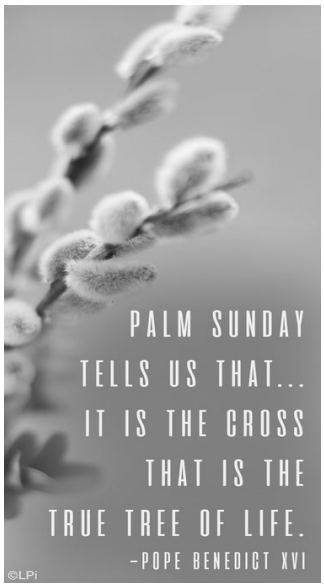
Place: Zoom

Contact:
Luke Stocking, luke.stocking@devp.org
Stefany Dupont, sdupont@devp.org

Special instructions:
This year **"The Way of the Cross"** invites us to reflect on the need to share love and to develop greater social fraternity in light of Jesus' Passion, Death and Resurrection.

Please join us for this online event to pray the stations together with staff, members and friends of **Development and Peace.**

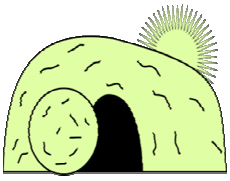
* You may also register at: www.devp.org/onlineevent



PRAYER CHAIN
We have people who want to pray for whatever request comes to them. If you need prayers, please contact Maureen at the parish office at 519-352-8530 or 519-352-9483 or by email at mfoster@dol.ca.

I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayers.
Psalm 17:6

OUR FAMILY LENTEN JOURNEY



Holy Week is the most important week in the Church year! It is a time when we remember and celebrate in a special way, the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Sometimes we may think that this only happened to Jesus. But it also continues to happen to all of us who claim to be his followers. It is a reminder of who we are and what our own lives as Christians are all about.

Our families are called to holiness in our ordinary lives!

SACRIFICIAL LOVE

"Father, I put my life in your hands"

As we celebrate the mystery of Jesus passing from death to new life, we actually celebrate the same passing over in our own lives. Jesus' **'self-sacrifice'** opened the way for us to share in new life. But this calls us to cooperate in God's divine plan . We must 'pass over' our own lives into God's hands and imitate the self-giving of God's Son. This is the way of life we are called to live.

"It is the PASSOVER of the Lord."

TO BE HOLY IS TO ALLOW THE SACRED TO SHINE THROUGH IN WHAT WE SAY AND WHAT WE DO.
THINK ABOUT THE WAYS IN WHICH THIS COULD BE A 'HOLY WEEK' FOR EACH OF YOU.

PALM SUNDAY

Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem with cheers and palm branches like a king. There are two gospel stories on Palm Sunday. In one, we hear how Jesus is hailed 'king' but we also hear about his passion and death. We cannot separate the two…they are the same story. As we begin Holy Week, take some time to ponder how you are connected to Jesus' story.

During this past year of pandemic, how have you experienced good times and difficult times?
Tell Jesus about them.

HOSANNA!

HOLY THURSDAY

On this special night, we are reminded that God wanted to be so close to us, he wanted to nourish and feed us with His own Son. On Holy Thursday we hear how Jesus gave us the words of the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper:

'Take and eat, this is my Body'
'Take and drink, this is my blood'
Do this in remembrance of me.

The good news is that God continues to nourish us with his real presence both in his Word and the Holy Eucharist.

When supper was finished, Jesus taught his disciples to be servants of others by washing their feet. He taught them to be humble.

How have you experienced the real presence of Jesus in your life?
Tell each other about it.
Haw have you helped others without expecting rewards?

GOOD FRIDAY

On Good Friday, the whole Church mourns the death of our loving Saviour, Jesus. It is a day of quiet prayer and fasting. On this day, there is no Mass but instead we gather to venerate the Cross. We remember the great sacrifice Jesus made to give his life for all our sins so we might have eternal life with him some day.

We often pray the Stations of the Cross and think about how Jesus suffered without complaining because he knew this was what God wanted him to do.

You can watch Stations of the Cross on our website at www.ccfp.dol.ca

If you were standing at the foot of the Cross on which Jesus was hanging, what would you say to him? What would you say to his mother, Mary? Spend some quiet time in front of a crucifix today.

EASTER VIGIL

Holy Saturday night is the holiest night of the year. Our journey through Lent is all finished and we light a special Easter fire outside of the Church. From this fire we will light the Paschal Candle. It is a symbol that Jesus is the light of the world. Sometimes new members of our Catholic faith are baptized during Mass. We are finally able to sing

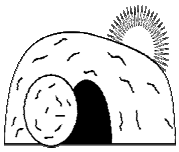
'Alleluia, Christ is Risen!'

It is the greatest celebration of our faith. It is a celebration of

HOPE

Jesus always spoke about hope. He promised his disciples that he would conquer death. He told them God would stay with us at all times, in all places because God is the God of life!

Imagine the shock and surprise when Mary Magdelene went to the tomb and found it empty. How would you feel if you saw that empty tomb? What are your hopes and dreams?



FAMILY LENTEN ACTION: THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS…WHILE IN YOUR HOUSE

A Catholic tradition, particularly during Holy Week, is to ponder the Passion and Death of Jesus on the way to Calvary.

We invite you to ponder and pray each station and give thanks for the blessings you have been given during this pandemic.

1st Station: Jesus is Condemned

When you look at yourself and your Lenten journey, how did you and your family pray, give and fast?
In what ways did your family grow?
In what ways do you still need to improve?

2nd Station: Jesus Takes Up His Cross

Both parents and children have had to work and learn at home. Some parents lost their jobs. Money is tight. What crosses has your family had to bear during the past year?

3rd Station: Jesus Falls the First Time

We are so lucky that most of us have enough to eat. But some families in our community and in the world are hungry. How have you shared with others in your community during this time of lockdown? Could you do more?

4th Station: Jesus Meets His Mother

Moms and Dads have made many sacrifices especially if they are essential workers. How have you found ways to say thank you to the people who are taking care of you and others?
Have you thanked an essential worker?

5th Station: Simon Helps Jesus

We've all had to live in isolation and learn to do things more for each other. Sometimes we haven't wanted to..
What new skills have you learned this past

6th Station: Veronica Wipes Jesus' Face

There are times when we get so used to each other in our family, we don't notice when someone is having a bad day.
How has someone cheered you up lately?
Have you said thanks to anyone in your family lately?

7th Station: Jesus Falls The Second Time

Many of us have spent more time outside in our backyard or on a trail. But, we often fail to notice the miracle of creation.
Has your family ever prayed to God while you take a walk?

8th Station : Jesus Meets the Women & Children

It's been such a long time since we've been able to see faces without masks and hug others. We've had to show love in other ways. I wonder if your family has found ways to get messages of hope to family and friends in new ways?

9th Station Jesus Falls The Third Time

Have you ever found yourself in your bedroom just before you go to sleep thinking about how lucky your are?
How are some new ways this Lent that you and your family have thanked God?
Did you have a GRATITUDE jar?

10th Station: Jesus Is Stripped of Garments

It's been a very cold winter. Most of us are so lucky to have warm homes and comfy clothes to wear.
Has your family noticed some of our friends who are homeless? Has anyone in your family bought them a meal or given them gloves or even said 'hello' to them?

11th Station: Jesus is Nailed To the Cross

When we have to live together day in and day out, there's bound to be a few arguments and irritations.
Do you need to forgive anyone?
Has someone said they are sorry to you?

12th Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross

Jesus died on a cross…for each one of us. He chose to make this sacrifice so we could have life everlasting when we die some day. I wonder what you have been willing to do for someone without expecting anything in return? Say thank you to Jesus for his love.

13th Station: Jesus Is Taken Down

This pandemic has forced us to be away from our parish family and the table of the Lord. Now, your dinner table is the altar you pray at. Does your family pray together? If not, how do you think you can start?

14th Station: Jesus is Placed in the Tomb

Some families have had to say good-bye to relatives and friends who have died. We haven't been able to celebrate their lives like usual. Take out your photo albums and videos and look at their pictures. Share memories of better times…especially Easter memories!

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Check out our www.ccfp.dol.ca for more lent resources!

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PICK OF THE WEEK

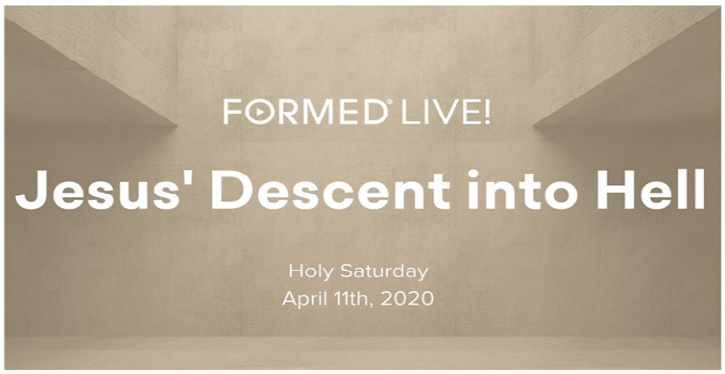
March 28, 2021

WATCH

TRIDUUM: A SPIRITUAL PILGRIMAGE

In Triduum: A Spiritual Pilgrimage, the viewer is brought deeper into the story, landscape, and reality of Holy Week. It draws those with open hearts and minds toward a deeper understanding of Christ's victory while offering rich meditations for the pilgrimage of daily life.

LEARN



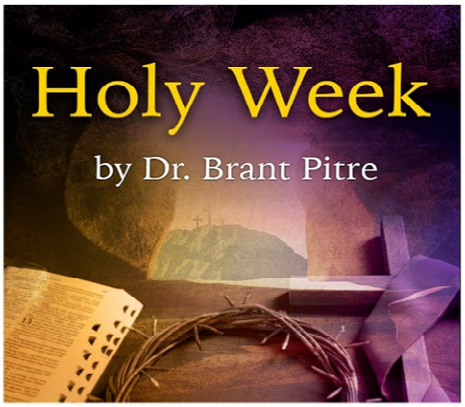
FORMED NOW! HOLY SATURDAY— JESUS' DESCENT INTO HELL

What do we mean when we profess that Jesus descended into Hell? Join Drs. Tim Gray and Michael Barber as they discuss this mysterious event of Holy Saturday.

LISTEN

HOLY WEEK BY DR. BRANT PITRE

Join Dr. Brant Pitre, author and Scripture scholar, as he walks us through the events of Holy Week. Pitre's insights and clarity allow the listener to enter into a deeper appreciation of the most important events of Christ's earthly ministry.



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WEEK SIX:

NEW LIFE IS ON THE HORIZON!

A Happy Ending Isn't the Whole Story

"Is there a happy ending?"

When my kids were young, we never made it past the first whiff of any narrative tension before I got this question. As soon as whatever princess or furry woodland animal who was the hero of the story got into any small scrape, they wanted that reassurance, "Is there a happy ending?"

I can't say I blame them. Don't we all feel that way sometimes? We enter into a relationship with someone or some situation, and we just want to protect ourselves. We want to know it's not going to go badly — or, if it does, that we will be able to come back from it. It's a human instinct, a reflex. Our inclination to protect ourselves makes it so that we sometimes want to press fast-forward on the bad stuff and skip straight ahead to the happily-ever-after.

Easter is the ultimate happy ending. It's the day of miracles. The day when all the stones roll away and all the sins are forgiven. It's the day that puts everything right.

But if we learned anything from this week — from the Passion and death of the Lord — it's that we can't press fast-forward on the hardships of life. That tension, that loss, that fear — it's crucial, isn't it? As Catholics, we are who we are because of Easter. But Easter doesn't happen without Good Friday.

So, does the story of salvation have a happy ending? We know it does. But we also remember that the ending isn't all that matters.

Walk Every Step with Christ

Holy Week is a week for being mindful. We must set loose the baggage of Lent, and not be deterred by the dazzling sunrise of Easter morning beckoning in the distance.

It's okay for us to be excited for Easter. We've waited so long, after all. In my opinion it's one of the best feelings there is: the yearning we have in our hearts for the Resurrection as we embark on Palm Sunday. And in a purely logical sense, many of us have Easter celebrations for which we are preparing, and practical considerations to contend with. It's going to be a busy week, one likely full of happy distractions.

But my friends, we simply must keep our feet on the ground. Let's not "skip" Holy Week. Resist the urge to flip to the last page of the book, to fast-forward to the final scene of the movie. Don't rob yourself of the journey. This week is a blessed opportunity. It is this week that teaches us who we are. In the span of the Triduum, we have the birthday of the priesthood, the institution of the Eucharist, the sacrifice on Calvary and so many other vivid and meaningful scenes.

It may sound strange, to advise someone to savor the moments of Holy Week. There are so many violent and heartrending moments, after all. But this is the valley of tears, remember — we are not in Heaven yet. And here, in our fallen, sin-filled world, it is the heartrending moments that seem to matter the most.

These are the moments that define us as Catholics. Live them. Cherish them. Be present for each one.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

Almighty Father,
who sent your only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sin, show me how I can honor you and bring glory to your name, by walking in the way of Jesus. Give me grace and mercy as I try and fail, guidance when I'm not sure which way to go, and wisdom to trust you in all things. For your love brings light and life to all who seek it. May I seek you evermore as I walk with you through this Holy Week and beyond. Amen.

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