Greetings on Passion (Palm) Sunday!

Be attentive to the Holy Week schedule included as an insert in today’s bulletin. Do try to participate in as many of our Holy Week Liturgies as you possibly can. Each one is rich in its own expression of the mystery of “Christ has died; Christ is Risen; Christ will come again.”

I am including in this column a writing by Fr. Ron Rolheiser that is appropriate for Holy Week—a week we call Holy…a day which we call “good”...Good Friday. It is about gratitude, a basic response to God’s overwhelming love in Jesus.

“Gratitude the basic virtue by Fr. Ron Rolheiser - Scripture makes this point. The sin of Adam and Eve was first and foremost a failure in receptivity and gratitude. God gives them life, each other and the garden and asks them only to receive it properly, in gratitude—receive and give thanks. Only after doing this, do we go on to “break and share” Before all else, we first give thanks.

To receive in gratitude, to be properly grateful, is the most primary of all religious attitudes. Proper gratitude is ultimate virtue. It defines sanctity. Saints, holy persons, are people who are grateful, people who see and receive everything as gift.

Once, as a young seminarian, I once spent a week in a hospital with a knee injury. One night a patient was brought on to our ward from the emergency room. His pain was so severe that his groans kept us awake. Several times that night, a nurse entered the room to administer to him. Despite his pain, each time she walked away from his bed, he would thank her.

Finally she said to him: "Sir, you don't need to thank me. This is my job!"

"Ma'am!" he replied, "it's nobody's job to take care of me! Nobody owes me that. I want to thank you!"

I was struck by how even in his pain, this man remained conscious of the fact that life, love, care, and everything else come to us as a gift, not as owed. He genuinely appreciated what this nurse was doing for him.

It’s our propensity to forget this that gets us into trouble. The failure to be properly grateful, to take as owed what’s offered as gift, lies at the root of many of our deepest resentments towards others—and their resentments towards us.

Continued on Page 1…

Readings for the Week of March 21st

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Is 42:1-7; Jn 12:1-11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Is 49:1-6; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Is 50:4-9a; Mt 26:14-25</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Ex 12:1-8, 11-14; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>Is 52:13 — 53:12;Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1 – 19:42</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Gn 1:1 — 2:2; Ex 14:15 — 15:1; Ex 15:1-6, 17-18; Is 55:1-11; Is 12:2-6; Rom 6:3-11;Lk 24:1-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; 1 Cor 5:6-8; Jn 20:1-9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Individual Confessions Tues., March 22-3:30 PM & Wed., March 23-10:30 AM

Holy Thursday, March 24
7:00 PM - Mass of the Lord’s Supper
*incense used
Adoration follows in Great Hall

Good Friday, March 25
12:00 PM - Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion
With veneration of the Cross & Communion
*Incense used

Holy Saturday, March 26
9:00 AM Morning Prayer *incense used

Easter Sunday, March 27
8:30 PM Easter Vigil (an Easter Mass) *incense used (No 5 PM Mass)
8:00 AM & 10:00 AM Mass
**Welcome to the Church of St. Mary**

**March 26th & 27th**

**8:30 PM Easter Vigil**
- Greeters Team See sign-up sheets
- Ushers Team See sign-up sheets
- Extraordinary Ministers See sign-up sheets
- Lector & Servers – See sign-up sheets

**8 AM Mass Easter Sunday**
- Greeters Team 8-B Marian & Jim Schoebel, Walter & Evelyn Roers, Mary & Matt Zwilling
- Ushers Team 8: Mark Maloney, Tom Herzog, Anthony Zimny, Mike Donnay, Jerry Daas, Paul Klimek, Wally Roers
- Extraordinary Ministers Team 8
- Lectors & Servers – See sign-up sheets

**10 AM Mass Easter Sunday**
- Greeters Team 12-B Becky & Dan Eckstein, Beverly & Greg Gronos, Kimberly Hilback
- Ushers Team 12: Larry Gasperlin, Raymond Steinbach, David Wosmek, Ben Zacher, Paul Maack, Mark Pederson, Steven Niblett, Brian Flatten
- Extraordinary Ministers Team 12
- Lectors & Servers – See sign-up sheets

**Drivers – March 27th**
- Bethel Manor – Pete Olmscheid
- Windmill Ponds – Randy Meyer
- Arabella Manor – Ken Wersinger
- Grand Arbor – Ron Boyden & John Hovel

**Hospital/Nursing Home – March 27th**
- Hospital – Kimberly Hilback
- Knute Nelson/Nelson Gables – Ed Desautels & Barb Nei
- Bethany – Mary Strasser

**Women’s Bible Study**: Please join us as we continue on an exciting adventure in discovering who we are in the eyes of God and what God’s mission and purpose is for each of us. Each week for five weeks we will be viewing one segment of the DVD “Making Our Way to God: The Spiritual Journey” and follow with discussion. There is no homework or charge for this spring session. This study will be offered at two different times—Beginning Sat. April 16th from 8-10 a.m. or Sunday April 17th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. To enroll or receive more information call Lori 320-808-1145 or Tammy 320-808-6404 or email biblestudywomen@gmail.com

**Also View Website**: www.biblestudywomen.com

**Men’s Bible Study** - meets on Thursday mornings at 6:00 AM in the Commons Area of the church. Call Mike at 320-759-1911 or email: sponslermc@gmail.com or call Jerry at 320-491-9169 for more information.

**Mom’s Study Group** meets on Friday mornings from 9:30 – 11:30 AM in the school. Child care is provided. For more information contact Briana Weber at 970-380-9595 or Religious Education Office at 763-9202.

**ST. MARY’S PRAYER LINK**: If you have a prayer request, please send to Wosepkak@aol.com or phone Kelly Wosepka at 320-815-4655. You may also call Julie Desautels at 846-1842. All prayer requests will be kept confidential.

**The Ministry of Spiritual Direction** is offered by Craig Hamilton, an experienced, certified spiritual director and parishioner. Meeting locations are available at St. Mary’s Parish Office or Spirit Cove in Garfield. This is a fee-based ministry handled by Craig. For an appointment or more information call 612-237-3463 or email craighamilton@careofsouls.org.

**Eucharistic Adoration** - Sharing One Hour with the Lord. Please consider being a regular adorer for our chapel. For more information, please contact Sue McCulloch at 320-491-7006; tscamcculloch@charter.net.

**Banns of Marriage**
- I Mark Jennissen & Sharlene Scheller

Fr. Steve’s article continued… Invariably when we are angry at someone, especially at those closest to us, it is precisely because we are not being appreciated (that is, thanked) properly. Conversely, I suspect, more than a few people harbor resentments towards us because we (consciously or unconsciously) think that it is their job to take care of us.

**Like Adam and Eve we take, as if it is ours by right, what can only be received gratefully as gift. This goes against the very contours of love. It is the original sin.”**

Anyone who wishes to send my mother a card here is her name and address:
Jeanette Binsfeld, 1325 Summit Ave. N., Sauk Rapids, MN 56379.

A Blessed Holy Week as we celebrate the one who gave us everything!
Fr. Steve

**Prayer Corner**

If you or someone you know in our parish community is sick or ill or has a family member who could use our prayers, please call our Parish Nurse, Kathy Fischer, at 762-2320. Please remember the following people in your prayers: Lori Thorson, Kurt Strand, Ed Silver, Michael Stark, Henry J. Powlish, Oliver Nelson, Andrea Malm, Richard Stark, Marie Lanigan, Janet Huver, Al Suter, Betty Schlosser, Jimmy & Janine Clayton, Mabel Mrnak, Mark Mrnak, Ruth Partington, Dennis Menk, Stephen Bartos, DeWayne Brever, Jeanne Jepsen, Becky Menk, Jim Nanik, Jenny Kack, Henry Kluver and Ron Hoffman.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
COMMUNITY NEWS

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BINGO will be held on Sunday, March 20th at 7:00 PM and on Wednesday, March 23rd at 2:00 PM at the KC Hall on 6th Ave. & Nokomis. Team 5 Don Thoennes, Al Hansen, James Nanik, Dustin Thoenes and Bill Flaig will be in charge.

PLEASE NOTE: A family of our parish is in need of help with an occasional meal brought to their home. Please call Kathy at 762-2320 to volunteer and for more information.

LOST AND FOUND Are you missing a glove(s), glasses, keys, jewelry or other miscellaneous items? The “Lost and Found” Drawers which are located in the Hospitality Desk are full of “found” items. Please check with the Hospitality Desk Greeter if you are missing something. Items not claimed by March 20th will be “recycled” to make room for future “finds”.

THE CARING AND SHARING ROOM is in immediate need of basic kitchen items. If you have extra items in your cupboards that you are not using, consider donating them to the Caring & Sharing Room. Needed items include: pots & pans, bake ware, toasters, mixers, smaller microwaves, coffee makers, crock pots, plastic storage containers, casseroles, serving & mixing bowls. Call 320-760-8094 to donate. Thanks to all who generously share in this ministry to those in need.

ST. MARY’S SPRING RUMMAGE SALE will be held on Saturday, April 16th from 8 AM – Noon. Items may be dropped off on Friday, April 15th from 3:30 – 6:30 PM.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY
The Parish Life Committee will be hosting a reception after the Easter Vigil Mass on Saturday, March 26. We are looking for a few volunteers, (teens and adults) to help in the following areas; food preparation 1:00 PM on Friday, March 25th. Set-up and decorate on Saturday morning, March 26th or help with the reception on Saturday, evening after the 8:30 PM Mass. If you would like to assist with any of these areas please contact Carol Rajdl at 762-0139 for more details.

MISSION QUILTERS will be meeting on April 4th at 12:30 PM in the Great Hall. Please note the date change.

GRIEF SEMINAR
Anderson Funeral Home is sponsoring a grief seminar to be held Monday evenings at 6 PM from April 4th thru May 9. In order to meet the needs of people who find it difficult to go out in the evening, we are offering a morning grief seminar on Tuesdays at 10 AM from April 5th thru May 10th. The seminar will be held at Anderson’s on Broadway in Alexandria. There is no charge for the grief support class. Anyone who would like help in the grief healing process is welcome to attend. Please call Anderson’s on Broadway 320-219-6278 for more information and registration.

HUNGERING TO BUILD A COMMUNITY - We follow Jesus this week on our Lenten journey as he enters Jerusalem, a community he knew well. CRS Rice Bowl asks us to prayerfully enter into our own communities, to find those who are hungry and thirsty, those who need our help. How does our Lenten journey motivate us to serve those we encounter in our daily lives? Visit crsricebowl.org for more.

DAY OF CARING May 13th the Discovery Middle School 8th grade class will be volunteering to provide help with community and individual outdoor service projects. Do you need help with raking, washing window, cleaning up your garden? These are some examples of what they are willing to help with. You must register by April 15th to be considered for this project. Forms are available at the hospitality desk.

JPIC Table Talk 
Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation

MINNESOTA FOODSHARE: MARCH CAMPAIGN
“If someone who has worldly means sees a brother in need and refuses him compassion, how can the love of God remain in him? Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth”. 1 John 3: 17-18

Thank you for your generous donation of food items and dollars this past week, our parish’s “Pack-the-Pews” promotion week. Have you been following the great progress our parish has done in donating food items and dollars on our “thermometers” on the display table?

Our St. Mary’s faith community plays a large part in ensuring that our local food shelf has the supplies and resources they need to serve those who experience hunger in our county. It is through your dedication and support that our “Outreach Food Shelf” is able to raise the funds and food needed to keep the doors open and the lights on year after year.

We continue to share facts about our local food shelf:

- Any adult member of a registered family can pick up their monthly food allotment but an appointment is needed to do so.
- A good choice for donations is Kleenex, toilet paper, laundry, dish and personal soap.
- The “Outreach Food Shelf” is currently raising funds for a capital expansion, but the first consideration in using donated dollars is ALWAYS the purchase of food.

Thank you for your generous response to our March Minnesota FoodShare Campaign.

STEWARDSHIP

God First in Living and in Giving

SERVANTHOOD
How would you like to be remembered? We would hope that they could honestly say that we lived out the teachings of Jesus Christ to the best of our abilities. This Jesus who, on the night before he died, washed the feet of his apostles. He, the master, became the servant. He calls us to do the same: become the servant.

Servant? No one aspires to be a servant. We strive for success so others can serve us. Servanthood is for those who...
did not quite make it. It is for those on the bottom rung of the ladder. Jesus changes that mindset. “Whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave” (Matthew 20:26-27).

Being a slave does not mean being under chains or bondage. Nor does it mean we allow ourselves to be stepped on. Living this life for others in the spirit of servanthood is to live beyond ourselves. Think of others first.

The only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve. These words are true. The unhappiness, the restless spirit, the underlying dissatisfaction with our lives is not quelled by a bigger paycheck, but by giving of self in service.

Where is your place? Match your interests with an opportunity to serve. You don’t need to be highly skilled, just very willing to be used by God. It may not be glamorous or gather recognition, but the good Lord will notice. “Just as you did it to one of the least of these, so you did it to me” (Matthew 25:40). Pray about where you believe God can use you and then donate your services to that cause.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

email: stmreled@stmaryalexandria.org
Phone: 763-9202

**SUNDAY SCHOOL VOICES**

Today is Palm Sunday. Even though the Sunday school does not meet, we encourage parents to go through the Holy Week calendar we sent home. The events this week are so beautiful, and the sights, sounds, and smells of the rituals help the children understand what is happening in a very real way. Have a blessed Easter!

**JR/SR HIGH FAITH FORMATION**

No Class March 23.

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**Passion (Palm) Sunday**

**Love and betrayal**

**Reading I:** Isaiah 50:4–7

**Reading II:** Philippians 2:6–11


**Key Passage:**

The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, “Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times.” Luke 22:61

**Adults:**

When have you felt that you betrayed the confidence of another, as Peter did when he denied Jesus? How do you forgive yourself?

**Youth:**

What does it feel like to have betrayed the confidence of another or to have been betrayed by another? How would you forgive that person?

**PALM SUNDAY**

**Gospel reflections**

Who was there at the end? The friends of Jesus: from a distance, but still around. They stayed near, not wanting to leave. Did they all stand around for a while? Wanting to go and not wanting to go, like mourners at a graveside – confused, sad and discouraged – silent in the moments of violent death. Were they afraid that this might happen to them too? The friends and acquaintances of Jesus, the one who promised much and said he would rise again… Did any of them remember this promise? Did they whisper it to each other as they closed the stone at the tomb? Did they wonder if more was yet to come? For there was always more with Jesus. We are that ‘more’!

There also was the centurion: the good man who said, ‘he was a Son of God’. The one from Rome saw through the many from Jerusalem. He was a strange type of guy at the cross – the Roman who had been told to get these crucifixions done, with the least amount of trouble and publicity. Away from home and his own people, he would find a new God in the home of his heart and would be linked forever to a new people.

Something about this man gave a scent of love, and an authority that came from somewhere far away – further than an emperor or a political power. He knew that this man was a Son of God; may we know this too of Jesus.

Lord by your cross and resurrection, you have set us free. You are the savior of the world.

Donal Neary S.J. www.columbia.ie
Casino Night is quickly approaching… April 8th, 2016 at the Broadway Ballroom! Putting the Fun in Fundraising!

We invite you to attend St. Mary’s School Casino Night – an annual event that includes great food, gourmet desserts, socializing, casino-style games, silent and live auctions, raffles and drawings, plus much more. There is something for everyone! Come to have fun while supporting our school!

Please log onto our event website www.bidpal.net/casinonight2016 to view items that you will be able to bid on!

Take a look at our fabulous silent auction items plus plan a group to go in on some unique live auction items.

Event tickets are available after Mass, at school, and online at the above address.

### SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

*St. Mary’s School will not be in session March 24-29 for Easter break.*

### CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS

**MARCH 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Prize</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 13</td>
<td>Chad Perry, Garfield</td>
<td>$35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 14</td>
<td>Tom Lenertz, Alexandria</td>
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<td>March 15</td>
<td>Chad Thornberg, Evansville</td>
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<td>March 16</td>
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<td>Ellie Panther, Alexandria</td>
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<td>March 18</td>
<td>Randy Hammer, Alexandria</td>
<td>$20</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 19</td>
<td>Keri Wimmer, Osakis</td>
<td>$20</td>
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You may feel you deserve applause when you get out of bed or off the couch and go to church. After all, many Catholics don’t even do that much. You do. During Holy Week, however, going to church is not enough. Just when you think you can settle into your favorite pew, you will be asked to stand up, leave your place, and walk. Many Catholics resist. They become pew potatoes. But those who join the processions of Holy Week will find their faith and charity rewarded.

On Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, for example, the Mass may begin outdoors. Instead of going directly into the church as usual, you may gather in another area – indoors or out. The priest will bless the palm branches, he or the deacon will proclaim the Gospel, and then all process into the church acclaiming Christ.

On Thursday of the Lord’s Supper, the evening Mass does not conclude in the usual way. Instead, a procession forms right after communion. The Blessed Sacrament is brought to a special chapel or tabernacle. You may be invited to join this procession, singing hymns of praise and moving to a place where you may pray privately in the course of the night.

During the Good Friday liturgy, you will be invited forward to adore the cross.

At the Easter Vigil, as on Palm Sunday, you may be invited to start Mass outside the church. There a fire may be burning, signifying the resurrection of Christ, the light that shatters darkness. Carrying candles, you enter the church following a pillar of fire, as our ancestors marched from slavery to freedom.

The processions of Holy Week drew us into the mystery of the death and resurrection of Christ. It is worthwhile to get up out of the pew.

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Reflection
THE CROSS
The cross is the hope of Christians
the cross is the resurrection of the dead
the cross is the way of the lost
the cross is the savior of the lost
the cross is the staff of the lame
the cross is the guide of the blind
the cross is the strength of the weak
the cross is the doctor of the sick
the cross is the aim of the priests
the cross is the hope of the hopeless
the cross is the freedom of the slaves
the cross is the power of the kings
the cross is the water of the seeds
the cross is the consolation of the bondmen
the cross is the source of those who seek water
the cross is the cloth of the naked.
We thank you, Father, for the cross.

FINANCIAL GIFTS

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<tr>
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<th>Actual</th>
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<td>Loose</td>
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A more detailed monthly report may be viewed at the Parish Office.