



strengthening our faith

by rebuilding our heritage

March 2012

My dear parishioners,



Lent is passing quickly; Holy Week is just a couple of weeks away. Each year we mark so many dramatic events at this time: Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem; his poignant last meal with his friends; his trial and brutal execution. But the darkness of Good Friday leads inexorably to the glorious "Alleluia! The Lord is Risen!" of Easter Sunday. It is our annual pilgrimage into both the darkness of human existence and the life-giving light of the Resurrection.

Resurrection in Christ Jesus

Fr. Ron Rolheiser reminds us that "the Resurrection is something that buoys up every moment of life and every aspect of reality." In his article, "Resurrection Power," he has this to say about Easter:

The Resurrection is not just something that happened to Jesus 2,000 years ago and will happen to each of us some time in the future after we die when our own bodies will be raised to new life. It is that, but much more.

The Resurrection is something that buoys up every moment of life and every aspect of reality. God is always making new life and undergirding it with a goodness, graciousness, mercy and love that, in the end, heals all wounds, forgives all sins and brings deadness of all kinds to new life.

We feel this resurrecting power in the most ordinary moments of our lives. A sense of the Resurrection, understood in its deepest sense, manifests itself unconsciously in our vitality, in what we call health; the feeling, however dimly it is sensed, that it is good to be alive. The very atomic structure of the cosmos feels and knows that resurrecting power. That is why it (like us, when we are healthy) pushes forward blindly, buoyed up by a hope that it cannot understand.

A friend of mine once sent me an Easter card that ended with the challenge: "May you leave behind you a string of empty tombs!" That is both my Easter wish and my Easter challenge for all of us. Let our wounded, muted voices begin to sing again: "Christ is risen! Life is very, very good! Happy Easter!"

—Daily Reflections for Lent and Easter Week, by Fr. Ron Rolheiser, Liguori Press

My prayer for you this Easter is that the light of the Resurrection will fill you once again and remain with you throughout the year. May the Risen Lord grant peace to our world.

Holy Week at the Cathedral

As always, the Cathedral will mark Holy Week with many special liturgies and musical events, described below and in the Lenten brochure that I sent you last month.

First, note that several priests will be available for Confessions in the Cathedral from 11:00 a.m. until Noon on Monday of Holy Week, April 2, through Holy Saturday, April 7. The exception to that schedule is **Tuesday of Holy Week**, April 3, which is the date of our Lenten Communal Penance Service at 12:10 p.m., *Come Home for Easter*. On that date I will preside and preach, after which more than fifteen priests from around the Archdiocese will be available for Confessions in English, Spanish, Italian, German and American Sign. This is a wonderful opportunity to reconcile with the Lord and his Church in time for Easter.

Of special note during Holy Week is the annual Chrism Mass. Each year at this Mass, the priests of the Archdiocese renew their ordination promises and the Cardinal blesses the three sacred oils that will be used to anoint the sick and dying, as well as those being baptized, confirmed or ordained. The Mass will be celebrated

at 7:00 p.m. on **Monday of Holy Week**, April 2. I encourage you to attend and pray for your priests. Our annual Tenebræ service will be held **Wednesday of Holy Week**, April 4, at 7:30 p.m. On **Holy Thursday** we will celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper twice, at 12:10 p.m. and at 5:30 p.m. Cardinal Wuerl will preside at the evening service, which will include the washing of the feet. As usual, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held that night until 10:00 p.m. On **Good Friday**, Rev. Msgr. Stephen Rossetti, D.Min., Ph.D., Associate Professor of Pastoral Studies and Associate Dean for Seminary and Ministerial Programs at the Catholic University of America, will deliver some Reflections on the Lord's Passion at Noon, followed by the Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at 1:00 p.m. with Cardinal Wuerl. Bishop González will preside at the Spanish Liturgy of the Passion at 4:00 p.m. We will end the night with Stations of the Cross at 7:30 p.m.

Of course, I hope many of you will be able to attend the Easter Vigil on **Holy Saturday**, April 7, the greatest feast of the Church's liturgical year, the great night on which we will welcome 26 new brothers and sisters into the Catholic community. Note that the Easter Vigil will begin at 8:00 p.m.

Again, please refer to the brochure I sent you before Lent which contains the complete schedule for Lent and Holy Week. If you have misplaced your copy, you can still pick one up in the Cathedral or view it using a link on the front page of our website at www.stmatthewscathedral.org. I look forward to seeing you as often as you can make the time to come.

Upcoming Faith Formation Opportunities

There is still time to register for St. Matthew's five-week preparation for active adult Catholics who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Preparation sessions will be held on Thursdays, **April 19 and 26**, and **May 3, 10 and 17** from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. with a retreat on Saturday, **May 19**. We will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday, **May 27** (Memorial Day weekend). For more information or to register, please contact Heather Kinney at hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org. (*This preparation is only for those baptized Catholics who have already celebrated their First Eucharist. For others, please contact Heather Kinney to discuss the RCIA process.*)

Special Easter Offering and Easter Flowers

Special Easter Offering envelopes and Easter Flowers envelopes are in the pews. We need your donations, but you can also simply place your offering in a regular envelope and send it to the Cathedral Rectory. We want the Cathedral to reflect the joy and beauty of Easter with plants and other flowers. We are always grateful for your contributions.

In a special way, we need your Easter Offering. At the present time, we are negotiating with two contractors to replace the sidewalk in front of the Cathedral. As you can see, it is in terrible shape and is a real liability. I will really appreciate your Easter gift this year. I thank you for your ongoing generosity to the Cathedral which makes possible all that we do here.

Thank You! Muchas Gracias!

I also thank those who contributed so generously to the Cardinal's Appeal last year, and those who already have made their gift for this year. If you have not done so, I would ask you now to consider a gift to the 2012 Cardinal's Appeal. This Appeal provides for the day-to-day needs of the least of our brothers and sisters. It also helps our seminarians and retired priests in the areas of retirement funding and long-term care. Please do what you can. They really need your help now.

Finally, Happy Easter! May this season bring you much joy, love and peace. This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson
Rector