



March 2013

My dear parishioners,

Behold the day of universal hope, the day on which all human sufferings, disappointments, humiliations, crosses, violated human dignity, disrespected human life, all are gathered up and associated with the Risen One, and loudly cry out, "To the Paschal Victim, let sacrifice of praise be raised today!" The Risen One does not depart from us. The Risen One returns to us.

– Blessed Pope John Paul II

With John Paul the Great, we, too, eagerly await the day of universal hope, the celebration of our Lord's Resurrection. Like Jesus in the desert, we prepare ourselves, test ourselves, purify ourselves during this holy season of Lent so that we may celebrate the renewal of our baptismal call during the Great Easter Vigil. Our liturgies for the remaining days of Lent give us ample opportunity for self-examination. During the First Scrutiny of the Elect on the Third Sunday of Lent, we prayed that these men and women will "sincerely reject everything in their lives that is displeasing and contrary to Christ." That prayer is not just for those who are about to join the Body of Christ through Baptism—it is meant for all of us. During that liturgy, we prayed with the Universal Church "that throughout the whole world, whatever is weak may be strengthened, whatever is broken restored, whatever is lost found, and what is found redeemed."

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, **March 25**, through Holy Saturday, March 30. The exception to that schedule is Tuesday of Holy Week, **March 26**, 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, 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, when 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, **March 25**. I encourage you to attend and pray for your priests. Our annual Tenebræ service will be held Wednesday of Holy Week, **March 27**, at 7:30 p.m. On Holy Thursday, **March 28**, 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 liturgy, 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, **March 29**, Rev. Thomas H. Smolich, S.J., President of the Jesuit Conference of the United States, 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, **March 30**, the greatest feast of the Church's liturgical year, the great night on which we will welcome 15 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 Lenten brochure for the complete schedule for Lent and Holy Week. View the brochure on our website front page (www.stmatthewscathedral.org) or pick up additional copies in the Cathedral. 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 preparation program for active adult Catholics who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Sessions will be held Thursdays, **April 11, 18, and 25** and **May 2** from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. with a retreat on Saturday, **May 4**. We will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on Ascension Sunday, **May 12**. 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.)

Our Dominican Brothers, Albert Duggan and Sebastian White, will present an Easter series - "On the Resurrection" - on Saturdays, **April 6, 13, 20, and 27** from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. in the North Conference Room. The topics for the series are "The Resurrection: Eyewitness Accounts," "The Fathers of the Church on the Resurrection," "The Resurrection in Art," and "The Resurrection in Poetry." Come any or all Saturdays!

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, our expenses are exceeding our income. 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 2013 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.

Please also keep in your prayers the electors at the Papal Conclave, especially our own Cardinal Wuerl, as well as our emeritus pope, Benedict XVI, and his successor, whomever that might be.

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