

A NEW AND FULLER LIFE IN JESUS' LOVE

Our readings today go straight to the heart of our Catholic Christian faith. They speak of death, and new life in Christ. In the first reading from the prophet Ezekiel we heard: Thus says the Lord God: *O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them, and bring you back to the land of Israel.*

In the Gospel reading, the stone has been rolled back from the tomb of poor Lazarus. Christ commanded that he be released from all that bound him up, and then set him free.

What does this mean for us, living our lives as we do in 2017?

It leads us to this question: What guides your approach to life – the defeats of the past or the hope of the future? For thus says the Lord through the prophet Isaiah: *Remember not the events of the past, the things of long ago, consider not. See, I am doing something new!* God wants us to see things afresh – not in our usual ways, but rather in ways that are ever-new.

How can we see things anew in our own lives? How can we look at things with a new perspective? One way to begin is to examine those elements in our lives that drag us down, that make us feel defeated.

Extreme pessimism. Endless comparison of ourselves to others. Passive resignation to our lot in life – our “fate.” These types of attitudes can dominate our thoughts and prevent us from seeing things the way God wants us to see them.

Easter, which we will celebrate in a couple of weeks, is the religious and theological statement that, for the Christian, there is no ultimate defeat. To be sure, we will suffer temporary setbacks. But defeat? No. Because of Christ’s Easter resurrection, we can never be totally defeated. All that required of us is to believe in God’s promises, and let our faith in Him replace our own lack of faith in ourselves.

Jesus offers us hope today. Christ can roll back the imprisoning stones that entomb our hearts. It’s time to let go of our doubts and defeatism and go free because God wants us, like poor Lazarus, to be free, happy and joyous. He wants us to walk in the glorious freedom of the sons and daughters of God. This Easter, let God do something new within you. The Resurrection is God’s promise that we can have a new life.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be celebrated every Friday in Lent at 6:00 p.m., in the CATHEDRAL.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

First Friday Adoration will be on April 7th from 8:30 until 9:30 a.m. in the Cathedral.

CCD CLASS INFORMATION

CCD classes are on Wednesdays, from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m., in the Sacred Heart Center.

PRAYER FOR OUR R.C.I.A. CANDIDATES

Please keep our RCIA Candidates in your prayers. If you would like further information, please contact Greg or Penny Payne 228-365-6348

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon	Apr 3	Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62, Jn 8:1-11
Tues	Apr 4	Nm 21:4-9, Jn 8:21-30
Wed	Apr 5	Dn 3:52-56, Jn 8:31-42
Thur	Apr 6	Gn 17:3-9, Jn 8:51-59
Fri	Apr 7	Jer 20:10-13, Jn 10:31-42
Sat	Apr 8	Ez 37:21-28, Jn 11:45-56
Sun	Apr 9	Mt 21:1-11, Is 50:4-7, Phil 2:6-11, Mt 26-14 – 27:66



YOUR SUNDAY TITHING AND

CONTRIBUTIONS

Regular Collections	\$	7,830.00
Nativity Maintenance	\$	718.00
Nativity Elem.	\$	35.00
Capital Improvement	\$	145.00
Miscellaneous	\$	701.75
TOTAL COLLECTION	\$	9,429.75
CASH NEEDED	\$	14,400.00

THE EPISCOPAL ORDIANTION AND INSTALLATION OF BISHOP-ELECT LOUIS F. KIHNEMAN, III.

The new date for Bishop-elect Louis F. Kihneman, III, is scheduled for April 28th, 2017, at 2:00 p.m. here at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Cathedral. Vespers will be held on Thursday, April 27th, at 7:00 p.m.

PARISH LENTEN MISSION

Nativity Cathedral’s annual Parish Lenten Mission begins this weekend; from April 1st until April 4th. Fr. Dan Estes, a priest working in the Diocese of Corpus Christi (the diocese from which our new Bishop Kihneman comes) will be leading our mission this year. Fr. Dan will introduce the Mission at all Masses on April 1st and 2nd, and follow it with two evening presentations on April 3rd and 4th at 6:00 p.m. Mark your calendars for this refreshing Lenten spiritual time with Father Dan.

NEW WINE

For those interested in being in the New Wine Group, completed applications will be due June 30, 2017. Please contact the Cathedral Rectory for further details. 228-374-1717.

THE FOUNDATION OF ST. PATRICK

The Foundation of St. Patrick is a newly formed fund raising organization to support St. Patrick Catholic High School in education scholars, training disciples, and supporting champions. There will be an inaugural event to explain the foundation on April 9, 2017 from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. at The Dock on Seaway Road in Gulfport, Mississippi. The foundation is looking for pledged donations over a five-year period at any level. Come to this inaugural event and help support St. Patrick’s High School.

<p>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS Apr 8 4:00 pm 1. Jim Coskey 2. Kathleen Coskey 3. Gerrie Weldon 4. Kalin Lloyd 5. Helen Languirand</p> <p>PALM SUNDAY Apr 9 7:00 am 1. Marcia Mayfield 2. Dale Dorcik 3. Jim Shugart</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9:00 am</p> <p>1. Maggie Landry 2. Linda Welter 3. Barry Gilmore 4. Bobby Weaver 5. John Brauchle</p> <p style="text-align: right;">11:00 am</p> <p>1. Deacon Ben 2. Deacon Paul 3. Johnny Williams 4. Sondra Williams 5. Rocky Greathouse 6. Rhonda Clark 7. Mary Wimberly</p> <p style="text-align: right;">5:30 pm</p> <p>1. Annette Luther 2. Teresa Ballinger 3. Angela Cannon</p> <p>APR 13. .HOLY THURSDAY 6:00 PM</p> <p>1. Deacon Ben 2. Penny Payne 3. Greg Payne 4. Nanette Burke 5. Vicki Howard</p> <p>APR 15 HOLY SATURDAY 8:00 PM</p> <p>1. Penny Payne 2. Greg Payne 3. Judy Trahan 4. Kathleen Coskey</p>	<p>LECTORS Apr 8 4:00 pm Rose Kimbell Michael Bruffey</p> <p>PALM SUNDAY Apr 9 7:00 am Joe Koonce Jim Compton</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9:00 am</p> <p>Liz Wilkinson Terry Simons.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">11:00 am</p> <p>Daliance Kirkland-Ross Peter Abide</p> <p style="text-align: right;">5:30 pm</p> <p>Jim Shuggart Matthew Manint</p> <p>APR 13 HOLY THUR. 6:00 pm</p> <p>Steve Theobald</p> <p>APR 14 GOOD FRIDAY 3:00 PM</p> <p>Julie Capuano</p> <p>APR 15 HOLY SATURDAY 8:00 PM</p> <p>Steve Theobald</p> <p>CANTORS Apr 8 4:00 pm Billy Endicott</p> <p>PALM SUNDAY Apr 9 9:00 am John Welter</p> <p style="text-align: right;">11:00 am</p> <p>Choir Apr 13 HOLY THURSDAY CHOIR 6:00 PM</p> <p>Apr 14 GOOD FRIDAY 3:00 PM</p> <p>CHOIR</p>	<p>ALTAR SERVERS</p> <p>Apr 8 4:00 pm</p> <p>McKinzy Mathis Sam Burke</p> <p>PALM SUNDAY Apr 9 7:00 am Makayla Pfarrer Wyeth Stewart</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9:00 am</p> <p>Annabelle Landry Veronika Landry Julia Landry Sofia Carreont</p> <p style="text-align: right;">11:00 am</p> <p>Michael Pfarrer Aidan Tarrant Clayton Stoddard Ave Stoddard</p> <p style="text-align: right;">5:30 pm</p> <p>Samantha Sharplin Breanna Smith Taylor Yasar</p>
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Mass Intentions			
		6:30 a.m.	8:00 a.m.
Mon	Apr 3	Mary Rosella McAuliffee	Jean Kridle
Tue	Apr 4	Betty Lou Callegari	Carlis Young
Wed	Apr 5	Deceased Husband/Son	Chester Balius Fly.
Thur	Apr 6	Thomas Edward Connell	Clare Sekul Hornsby
Fri	Apr 7	Glenn/Joyce Pisarich	Stanley Dellenger
Sat	Apr 8	8 – Gary Michiel	4 Anna Jo Wentzell
Sun	Apr 9	7 – Collins-Sims Fly.	9 - For the Parishioners
		11 – Bobby Weldon	5:30 Robert Emmett McAuliffee

PLEASE KEEP OUR SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Tiffany Whitehead, Lena Marchioni, Kay Lawson, Jeanie Harbison, Mickey Roberts, Holly Hill, Georgia Bellais Dominick, Maxine Kiddinger, Marie Manning, Lisa Walker Kirkman, Raymond Egers, Betty Hilton, Walter Blessey, Mary Lancaster, Patsy Smolcich, Danny Boney, Sr., Kathleen Hebert, Mickey Bradley, Cheryl Terry, Gwen Gollotte and Greg Hotaling, Richard “Red” White, Jack Joachim, Jr., Eugene LaCaze and Michael Zorich.

NATIVITY BVM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*Your prayers are requested for our second through sixth graders as they participate in the Iowa Assessments this week. The annual standardized tests, given to all students in the Catholic Schools of our Diocese, are nationally normed tests and so they give us an indication of how our children perform in relation to other children of the same age/grade around the country.

*Due to a scheduling conflict, the LEGOS/Robotics Celebration will take place on Thursday, April 6th at 6:00 p.m. at the school. After a pizza supper, the children will have an opportunity to share what they learned and what they created this past year!

*This Friday’s Lenten Dinner will feature delicious shrimp spaghetti and fixins! Come and enjoy a great meal, dine in/take out, from 3:00-7:00 p.m. (or until we run out!)

*The Nativity Parent Association will again hold a Breakfast with the Bunny on Saturday, April 8th from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. at the Half Shell Oyster House/Biloxi.

We are so grateful to our friends at the Half Shell who so graciously open their restaurant to us for this event! For more information, please visit our website or call the school at 432-2269.

NATIVITY B.V.M. CATHEDRAL’S 5TH ANNUAL UNCORKED AND UNCAPPED WINE AND BEER TASTING! APRIL 29TH, 2017.

Save the date! Saturday, April 29th, 2017, Exotic Wines – Craft Beers – Gourmet Food – Silent Auction and Live Entertainment. Tickets are \$50.00 per person, \$80.00 per couple and \$350.00 for a reserved table of 10.

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS

We are looking for artsy items for our upcoming Beer and Wine Tasting Event scheduled for April 29, 2017. If you have something of interest – an antique item, artwork, crafts, jewelry – that you would like to donate, please call Fr. Dennis at (228) 374-1717. All proceeds from your donated auction item will go to the support of Nativity Cathedral Parish.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 3 - Women of Mary, 5:30 p.m.
- April 4 - Men of St. Joseph, 7:00 a.m. – SHC
Bingo Mania 5:30 p.m.
- April 5 - **Cleaning Team “A”**
Mass at Seashore Retirement Home, 3:00 p.m.
- April 6 Mass at Greenbriar Nursing Home, 10:00 a.m.
- April 7 Adoration, 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., in CATHEDRAL
Station of the Cross at 6:00 p.m., in CATHEDRAL

BINGO MANIA

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday. The following families are scheduled for April 4th. Widell (Misty Brussard), Landry (Maggie), Mathis (Bill Lawson), Mejias (Alfredo & Blanca), Miller (Glenn & Kim), Riojas (Ramon & Amy) and Sanchez-Alvarez (Edgar & Juanita.) **REMEMBER! If you are unable to attend, it is your responsibility to secure a replacement.**