

**Dear Parishioners,**

Holy Week observances began in Jerusalem in the earliest days of the Church, when devout people traveled to Jerusalem at Passover to reenact the events of the week leading up to the Resurrection. Egeria was a Christian who traveled widely during the period of 381-385 and wrote about Christian customs and observances in Egypt, Palestine, and Asia Minor. She described how religious tourists to Jerusalem reenacted the events of Holy Week. On Palm Sunday afternoon, the crowds waved palm fronds as they made a procession from the Mount of Olives into the city. Of course, the observances must have begun quite a number of years before Egeria witnessed them, or they wouldn't have been so elaborate. It's just that Egeria's description is the earliest we still have. The tourists took the customs home with them. Holy week observances spread to Spain by the fifth century, to Gaul and England by the early seventh century. They didn't spread to Rome until the twelfth century. The purpose of Holy Week is to reenact, relive, and participate in the passion of Jesus Christ.

Our liturgical schedule for Holy Week is as follows: Holy Thursday: 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Services: 3:00 and 7:00 p.m. The Easter Vigil will begin on Saturday evening at 8:30 p.m. and our Easter Sunday masses will be at 7:30, 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Today is our Roast Beef Dinner. We will be serving from 11:30 a.m. until 6:00. Please invite your family and friends to join you in our Parish Center for a delicious meal.

Yes! I am looking for two couples who would be willing to chair and oversee the preparations for our upcoming Fall Festival. It is scheduled for the weekend of September 19/20. If you are interested in helping in this capacity, please contact me at the Parish Office or by e-mail. It is a great way to meet lots of new people and to assist in the mission of our parish!

**Blessings,  
Father John**

## **Question of the Week – How will you make preparations for the Triduum?**

**Reading 1 Isaiah 50:4-7    Reading 2 Philippians 2:6-11    Gospel Mark 15:1-39**

**Reflection:** This Palm Sunday reading of the Passion of the Lord is taken from Mark's Gospel. It was the first written account of how Jesus suffered and died. It is also the shortest version of the Passion and is written almost like a newspaper story that presents "just the facts."

The most important truth Mark wants to communicate is that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, whose suffering leads to glory. When Jesus cries out from the cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Psalm 22:1), he is praying in the words of the psalmist who continues to trust God even when all seems hopeless.

As we read or listen to the Passion, we try to unite ourselves with Jesus and all those who suffer injustice in today's world.

<b>PARISH SUPPORT</b>	<b>WEEK OF MARCH 16 – 22</b>
<b>WEEKLY REVENUE</b>	<b>\$17,600.80</b>
<b>WEEKLY EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$20,012.82</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>(\$2,412.02)</b>
<b>YEAR TO DATE REVENUE</b>	<b>\$990,354.65</b>
<b>YEAR TO DATE EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$997,725.20</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>(\$7,370.55)</b>

**DID YOU KNOW...** If you shop online at Amazon.com, you can benefit our Parish? Just go to **smile.amazon.com** and designate St. Philip Neri-Blessed Sacrament Parish as your charitable organization. A portion of every dollar you spend will go directly to our Parish. This is a great way to support our church and EVERY little bit helps. Thank you!

### **LITURGICAL MINISTERS:**

**HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 2 7:00 P.M.**

**ALTAR SERVERS:** Izzy Braimah, Clint Dierks

**LECTOR:** Alyce Kozimor

**DEACON:** Deacon Fred Hendricks

**EMHCs:** Trudie Ahlstrom, Kelli Brock, Merl Core, Bonnie Shea

**MUSICIANS:** Bryan Kinghorn and Friends

**GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3 3:00 P.M.** Need Volunteers All Ministries

**GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3 7:00 P.M.**

**ALTAR SERVERS:** Aaliyah Green, Jerad Peck

**LECTOR:** Hugh Reilly

**DEACON:** Deacon Alan LeClair

**EMHCs:** Mary Fink, Kathy Rossitto, Diane Sullivan, Mary Todd

**MUSICIANS:** Colleen Monti and the High School Choir

**EASTER VIGIL, APRIL 4 8:30 P.M.**

**ALTAR SERVERS:** Keegan Sullivan, Jarrad Borosko

**CANDLE BEARERS: Need volunteers**

**LECTOR:** Rob Barrett

**DEACON:** Deacon Fred Hendricks

**EMHCS:** Diane Sullivan, Nancy Ryckman, Regina Cronkhite, Rich McShane

**MUSICIANS:** Joan and Todd von Kampen, Kevin Throne and Friends

**EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5**

**ALTAR SERVERS: 7:30 AM: Need volunteers**

**9:00 AM:** Tina Buller, Jackson Cramer

**10:30 AM:** Cady Bencker, Tysen Holmstedt

**CANDLE BEARERS: 7:30 AM: Need volunteers**

**9:00 AM:** Ryan Greenwood, Robert Schonberner

**10:30 AM:** Tanner Muhleck, Jacob Rankin

**LECTORS: 7:30 AM:** Bruno Kozimor

**9:00 AM:** Hank Henkenius

**10:30 AM:** Jan Sammons

**DEACON: 7:30 AM:** Deacon Alan LeClair

**10:30 AM:** Deacon Fred Hendricks

**EMHCS: 7:30 AM:** Maria Hackenberg, Dorothy Polan, Sue Schartz, Larry Ziska

**9:00 AM:** Madelaine Adler, DeLynne Clausen, Bob and Betty Jones

**10:30 AM:** Tamatha Buell, Cathy Fluckey, Bob and Marj Ryckman

**GIFT BEARERS: 7:30 AM:** Polan Family

**9:00 AM:** Schonberner Family

**10:30 AM:** Ryckman Family

**MUSICIANS: 7:30 AM:** Pat Yunker

**9:00 AM:** Bryan Kinghorn and Friends

**10:30 AM:** Colleen Monti and the High School Choir

**NO NERI DOLLAR SOLD!**

**COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND:** Bev Baer, Roy Edwards, George and Marsha Moon, Dave Parks

**COLLECTION MONEY COUNTERS:** Patty Wiederholt, Sharon Olson

**IMMANUEL EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:** Bill Cheese, Dave Parks

**USHERS: 5:00 PM:** Fred Bonacci, Dave Sedlacek, Jim Coe, Ron Allbright, Rock Cramer

**7:30 AM:** Bill Wilber, Carl Sedlacek, Chuck Holderness, Chuck Livengood

**10:30 AM:** Rick Krebs, Fred Maycock, Tim Kiuntke, Carl Cramer

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILIES OF RUBY SALERNO AND WALTER DORNER.** Ruby was a parishioner here before moving to St. Bernard's Parish. She was buried from St. Bernard's this past Monday. Walter is the husband of Judy and the father, father-in-law of Kathie and Mike McCann. He was a long time parishioner of Blessed Sacrament Parish. Walt was buried from St. Leo's Parish this past Monday.

**SPECIAL THANKS TO EACH OF YOU FOR YOUR KIND WORDS, CARDS, AND PRAYERS.** St. Philip Neri and St. Philip Neri-Blessed Sacrament Parish was very dear to our dad. Your friendship

meant a lot to him and to us. We are grateful for your kindness. Our dad lived a long, happy life and we will miss him.

~ The Moss Girls

**MARCH WINDS BLEW IN SOME GREEN FOR THESE 500 CLUB WINNERS!**

\$140.00 - Robert Marshall

\$72.00 - Chuck Holderness, \$32.00 - Randy Nekuda

\$24.00 - Jim Huber, Roy Holmgren, Fr. John

\$20.00 - Marcella Hendricks, Bill Keitges

\$15.00 - Phyllis Kubes, Carol Parks, Patricia Adams

**BE SURE TO PLAN AHEAD AND PURCHASE YOUR NERI DOLLARS THIS WEEK!** Neri Dollars will not be sold next weekend after the Easter Masses.

**PLEASE JOIN US AND BRING A FRIEND - THAT MAN IS YOU! –** The men's ministry program that has swept across our Archdiocese and the country. We meet Thursday mornings in the St. Philip Neri Parish Center from 6 – 7:30 a.m. **A Ladder to Heaven**

**Session 8: Step 7 – Blessed are the Peacemakers**

- A Foretaste of the Future Glory
- God's by Participation
- The Living Flame of Love
- The Ecstasy of Love
- The Soul Becomes a Peacemaker
- Blessed are the Peacemakers
- The Necessity of the Cross
- The Gift of Christ

**CHILDREN OF ALL AGES** - Please join us during 10:30 Mass on Sunday, March 29- Children's Liturgy of the Word – We will be viewing the 1<sup>st</sup> part of the movie - Animated Passion of Christ "Christ has Died"...and again on Easter Sunday, April 5 during 10:30 Mass – Children's Liturgy of the Word - We will view the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the Animated Passion of Christ "Christ has Risen".



**GRAB YOUR CLEANING BUCKET & RAGS &** join us at 9 a.m. in Church on Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup> to clean the Church in preparation for Easter. We will be decorating for Easter on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m.

**FYI... SINCE EASTER SUNDAY IS THE FIRST SUNDAY OF APRIL,** Coffee and Rolls Reception in the Parish Center has been moved to after Mass on Sunday, April 12.

**DO YOU HAVE CLEAN, GENTLY USED CLOTHING, COATS OR HOUSEHOLD ITEMS & WANT TO FIND THEM A GOOD HOME?** You are in luck! The weekend of April 18/19, St. Vincent de Paul will have a truck in our parking lot to accept your clean, gently used donations.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION TO HELP PURCHASE FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR FOR EASTER**

'in memory of' or 'in honor of' your loved one, please place your donation in an envelope with a notation **Easter flowers for "your loved ones name"** & place it in the collection basket or mail it to the Parish Office.



**CHRISTIAN HUMOR**

*10 Reasons to be Thankful you Burnt the Turkey*

1. Salmonella won't be a concern.
2. Everyone will think your turkey is Cajun blackened.
3. Uninvited guests will think twice next year.
4. Your cheese broccoli lima bean casserole will gain newfound appreciation.
5. No one will overeat.
6. The smoke alarm was due for a test.
7. Carving the bird will provide a good cardiovascular workout.
8. You'll get to the desserts even quicker.
9. After dinner, the guys can take the bird to the yard and play football.
10. You won't have to face three weeks of turkey sandwiches.

**MASS INTENTIONS MARCH 31 – APRIL 5**

Monday	8:15 AM	Communion Service
Tuesday	8:15 AM	Deacon Chuck Int. Gary and Jackie Peck +
Wednesday	8:15 AM	Memorial Society +
Thursday	7:00 PM	Don Pulte + Lexington Family Living and Deceased
Friday		
Saturday	8:30 PM	Jensen Family Living and Deceased + Ed and Mary Spellman +
Sunday	7:30 AM	Willis R. Jones and his granddaughter Margery Jones +
	9:00 AM	Our Parish Family Int.
	10:30 AM	Francis Hoer + Jerry and Katie Zenk +

**ST. PHILIP NERI SCHOOL**

**“WE ARE CALLED TO ACT WITH JUSTICE; WE ARE CALLED TO LOVE TENDERLY, WE ARE CALLED TO SERVE ONE ANOTHER; TO WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD.”**

**NO SCHOOL - EASTER BREAK BEGINS WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup>. CLASSES RESUME WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup>.**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO CHARLOTTE REILLY!** Charlotte attained First Honors at Mercy High School for the third quarter.

**CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE DUE IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE ON FRIDAY, APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup>.**

**OUR 2<sup>ND</sup> GRADERS WILL BE CELEBRATING THEIR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AT THE 10:30 A.M. MASS ON SUNDAY, APRIL 19<sup>TH</sup>.** First Holy Communion Family Class will be Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup> From 6 – 8 p.m. in the Parish Center.

**THE LITTLE JAYS ATHLETICS YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAM** is now taking applications for its 2015 Flag and Tackle Football Teams. Flag teams: players entering 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall of 2015, all games played at Creighton Prep. Tackle teams: players entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall of 2015, limited to two teams, & competes against area Metro teams. All practices will be held at Creighton Prep. On-line registration begins March 29<sup>th</sup> at <https://little-jays-football.sportssignup.com/> Teams will be filled on a first come/first serve basis. Questions can be

directed to Mark McQueen at [mmcqueen@bairdholm.com](mailto:mmcqueen@bairdholm.com) or 402-636-8308. Andy Yost at [Ayost@prep.creighton.edu](mailto:Ayost@prep.creighton.edu)

**ATHLETICS, ART, & DANCE CAMPS OFFERED THROUGH MERCY HIGH SCHOOL. STUDENTS ENTERING 3<sup>RD</sup> – 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE IN THE 2015-16 SCHOOL YEAR ARE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE.** Camp registration forms & details may be found at [www.mercyhigh.org](http://www.mercyhigh.org) in the “Camps” tab. Junior Monarch Basketball team (5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade) info. can also be found on the website. Questions may be directed to Chelsi Dotson at [dotsonc@mercyhigh.org](mailto:dotsonc@mercyhigh.org)



**THE WEEK AHEAD**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 29 – PALM SUNDAY**

**NERI DOLLARS SOLD AFTER ALL MASSES**

- 9:00 A.M. **CONFIRMATION PREP CLASS** - School
- CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD** – During 10:30 Mass – All Children Welcome!
- 11:30 A.M. **ROAST BEEF DINNER** – Parish Center

**MONDAY, MARCH 30**

- 9:00 P.M. **CLEAN THE CHURCH** – Church

**TUESDAY, MARCH 31**

- 8:15 A.M. **ALL SCHOOL MASS** – Church
- 9:00 A.M. **WOMEN'S IGNATION PRAYER/STUDY GROUP** – Parish Center
- 7:00 P.M. **SCHOOL BOARD** – Activity Center Meeting Room
- 7:00 P.M. **PSALMS – STUDY GROUP** – Parish Center

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1**

- NO SCHOOL – TEACHER IN SERVICE – EASTER BREAK BEGINS**
- 7:00 P.M. **RCIA PRACTICE** - Church

**HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 2**

- 7:00 P.M. **MASS** – Church

**GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3**

- 3:00 P.M. **GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES** - Church
- 7:00 P.M. **GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES** - Church

**HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 4**

- 9:00 A.M. **DECORATE FOR EASTER**
- 8:30 P.M. **EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT** - Church

**EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5**

- 7:30 A.M. **MASS** - Church
- 9:00 A.M. **MASS** - Church
- 10:30 A.M. **MASS** - Church
- CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD** – During 10:30 Mass – Parish Center – All Children Welcome!

**4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL TEAM "Think Pink for Paige" CHILI COOK OFF****When:** Saturday April 11 6-10PM**Where:** St. Philip Neri Parish Center**Why:** to benefit **CureSearch** for children's cancer research.**\*\* Still Needed: Raffle Items, Volunteer Workers and Judges.**

Call Mindy if interested in helping 402-658-8580 cell

**Mark your Calendar! CureSearch** Walk-Omaha June 6 at Village Pointe 8-10a.m.. To join Team **"Think Pink for Paige"** go to [www.curesearchwalk.org/omaha/thinkpinkforpaige](http://www.curesearchwalk.org/omaha/thinkpinkforpaige)**TAKE THE SUMMER OFF AND LET NICK'S YARD CARE TEND YOUR LAWN!** Also offering spring clean-up services. Call SPN Alum Nick Swoboda at 402-670-3047.**IMMANUEL FONTENELLE IS A SKILLED REHABILITATION & LONG TERM CARE FACILITY.** We have a very active group of residents who reside with us! We are currently seeking volunteers who could enhance the lives of our residents in a variety of ways. Some of our needs include: EMHC's to bring communion to our residents, escorts to Mass or Communion Services, and assistance with activities such as Bingo, games, cards, Nail Designs, one on one visits, & escorting residents on outings. Our residents are very appreciative of the time & talent our volunteers share with them. If you are interested in volunteering or have questions, please contact Mary Kelly-Johnson by calling 402-572-2964 or email at [mkelly-johnson@immanuelcarecommunities.org](mailto:mkelly-johnson@immanuelcarecommunities.org)**BE A VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS.** Join others in peaceful prayer to end abortion on Thursdays from 7:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the public right-of-way outside Planned Parenthood at 3105 N. 93<sup>rd</sup> St. or Fridays & Saturdays at the Abortion & Contraception Clinic of Nebraska at 1002 W. Mission Ave. in Bellevue. Priests lead group prayer from 11 - noon on Thursdays at Planned Parenthood & Fridays in Bellevue. Prayer volunteers are also needed on Thursdays from 3:30-5:30 p.m. in Bellevue. Prayers are offered at the Omaha Planned Parenthood on Saturday mornings from 10 -11 a.m. as well. For more information visit [www.RespectLifeOmaha.com](http://www.RespectLifeOmaha.com) or contact Elizabeth Abbott at [emabbott@archomaha.org](mailto:emabbott@archomaha.org) or 402-551-9003 ext. 1306.**LORD, YOUR WORD SAYS THAT WHOEVER GOES TO YOU FOR SAFETY,** whoever remains under the protection of the Almighty can say to you, "You are my defender and protector, you are my God; in you I trust." May my son, daughter, wife or husband, family and friends in the military, and all our troops turn to you and find rest in the shadow of your wings.

Keep them safe from all hidden dangers and all deadly diseases. Shield and shelter them with your wings, and let your faithful promises be their armor and protection.

May they not be afraid of the terrors of the night, nor fear the dangers of the day or the disaster that strikes at mid-day. Though a thousand other people may fall at their side, though thousand are dying around them, protect our soldiers from harm. As they make you, the Lord, their refuge and shelter, let no evil conquer them, no plague come near their tent or dwelling. Order your angels to protect them wherever they go. Amen

*Please continue to pray for our service men and women, our veterans and their families.***CATHOLIC CEMETERIES OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF OMAHA** would like to invite you to Good Friday Stations of the Cross at Calvary Cemetery. It has been a Catholic Tradition to keep vigil with Jesus Christ at different times & ways during HolyWeek. Walking & praying the Stations of the Cross is one way we can keep vigil with Christ & those who have gone before us as we wait in great hope of the Easter Resurrection promised by our Lord. Come & keep vigil with us at Calvary Cemetery in this ancient prayer from 12:30 - 2 pm. Walking, praying & singing in our faith as we remember those who kept the vigil before us. For further info, please contact Deacon Jim Tardy at 402-391-3711 or [jtardy@catholiccem.com](mailto:jtardy@catholiccem.com)**"The Way of the Cross"** at Knowles Mercy Spirituality Center on Wed., April 1 at 10 a.m. Join facilitator Sr. Colette Baldwin, RSM outdoors in the Peace Forest on a spiritual pilgrimage of prayer & meditation as we reflect on the suffering & death of Jesus Christ. Be sure to come dressed to go outdoors. Coffee & rolls will be served indoors immediately following. Reserve by calling 402-359-4288. All are welcome! Free Will Offering. The Center is 1 mile west of 264<sup>th</sup> & W. Center Rd.**JOIN COMMUNION AND LIBERATION FOR THE GOOD FRIDAY WAY OF THE CROSS** on Friday, April 3, 9-11 a.m. The route for the Way of the Cross will begin & end at St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church (6116 Dodge St.) & will include several stops throughout Memorial Park.**UPCOMING RETREATS AT THE ST. BENEDICT CENTER, SCHUYLER NE.** For more information or to register, call 402-352-8819.*"On the Third Day He Rose Again."* (Apostolic Creed) Retreat with Fr. Volker Wed., April 1- Sun, April 5 at the St. Benedict Center in Schuyler Times of silence, meditation, & talks will lead us into the mystery of Christ's Passion & Resurrection. We invite you to join the Benedictine monks in their prayer & worship during the 'Three Holy Days.' Times of silence, meditation, & talks will help us focus on the mystery of Christ's passion & resurrection & on how it informs & forms our lives.*Tapping the Source of Married Love: Exploring Ways of Praying Together* Retreat, Sat/Sun, April 11 & 12 with Laura Baum-Parr, John Parr, Mary Jo Pedersen Spend time with your loved one exploring the many ways prayer can accompany you in married life. This relaxing retreat for couples includes presentations regarding possibilities for prayer within the Catholic Christian tradition. You will have the opportunity to pray individually & as a couple in those ways to which you feel drawn. The retreat includes a candlelight dinner on Saturday & ends Sunday with an opportunity for Reconciliation & Eucharist.*"Have I Been with You ..."* Prayer That Heals Modern Hearts Sat., April 25 with Fr. Paul Hoelsing The current American culture can affect our beliefs about prayer. Individualism, Consumerism, Pragmatism, & Materialism are a few of the infectious elements that can hinder a real relationship with God. Take a day to learn about Jesus' longing to be with you – in everything, & receive healing around the attitudes that can seriously falsify our life of prayer. Learn the questions Jesus asks to free us for more of his abundant & consoling Risen Life.

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**"My wish is that all of us, after these days of grace, will have the courage, yes, the courage, to walk in the presence of the Lord, with the Lord's Cross; to build the Church on the Lord's blood which was poured out on the Cross; and to profess the one glory: Christ crucified."** - Pope Francis