

Mass Intentions ~ April 15-21, 2019

Monday @ 7:30 am — Margaret Tanner (RIP)

Tuesday @ 7:30 am — Mary Lalande Harkins (Sp Int)

Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — Francine & Bubba Gilmer (RIP)

** Holy Thursday Mass @ 7:00 pm

** Good Friday Stations @ 12:00 noon

** Good Friday Passion Service @ 7:00 pm

** Holy Saturday Easter Vigil @ 7:30 pm — The Elect (Sp Int)

** Easter Sunday @ 8:00 am — People of the Parish (Sp Int)

** Easter Sunday @ 10:30 am — People of the Parish (Sp Int)

No Sacrament of Reconciliation this Saturday.

Adoration this week: Monday—Wednesday, 8 am—12 noon;
Holy Thursday 8 pm—12 midnight; no Adoration on Good Friday

New Prayer Requests

Special Intentions:

Cherei Addkison, cousin of David Welch

Mike Brown, brother of Renee Gosselin

(full prayer list on our website & prayer board)



Our mission is to invite everyone into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

LOVE — DEATH — SINS — SCREENS

Death is not the final word. Resurrection is. Resurrection for all people! The Resurrection of Jesus from the dead, cannot be separated from the Resurrection of humanity. We are saved by Him in these actions.

Easter --- The Triduum --- is a Season of Hope, a wake-up call, an invitation to believe and have new life. In the Song of Songs (8:6 – NIV), we read, “Love is strong as death.” Easter is a celebration of the fact that love is stronger than death. Many Christian churches celebrate the Easter Triduum or Paschal Triduum --- the Three Days --- beginning with the Liturgy on Thursday evening, and officially ending the evening of the Resurrection.

In our Catholic Tradition, we see these three days as the ultimate expression of His love for us. Holy Thursday, an evening commemoration of the Lord's Supper and washing of the disciples' feet, is an expression of His love for us, and a declaration that He desires to keep us in His love --- He said, "Do this in memory of Me."

Good Friday, the Lord's Passion and death, is the full expression of His love "laying down one's life for one's friends." Holy Saturday, the observance of the Lord's Resurrection, is a declaration that He wants us to live with Him forever. It is an invitation to keep living in Hope.

The events of these Three Days provide a huge injection of hope for the human spirit, and all would-be followers. How much, indeed, that boost is needed today! There is lots of tragedy in life, many good people and good things are cut-down or cut-short. The Triduum is a reminder that Jesus Christ was cut-down, but came back to life. In that event, came the promise of Eternal Life for all believers.

(continued on next page)

JOIN US FOR OUR BEAUTIFUL & MEANINGFUL EASTER TRIDUUM SERVICES

Holy Thursday Mass, April 18th @ 7 pm, followed by Eucharistic Adoration until midnight

Adoration Schedule by last name:

8:00-9:00 pm Q-Z; 9:00-10:00 pm L-P; 10:00-11:00 pm F-K; 11:00pm-12midnight A-E

Good Friday, April 19th — Stations of the Cross @ 12 noon; Passion Service @ 7:00 pm

Easter Services — Saturday Vigil Mass, April 20th @ 7:30 pm; Sunday Masses, April 21st @ 8 am & 10:30 am

~ notes ~ dates ~ events ~

Easter Egg Hunt, April 14th after 10:30 am Mass — Meet in the Early Learning Center cafeteria.

No Youth Group on April 17th, Wednesday of Holy Week.

No CGS / Religious Ed / Nursery / Children's Liturgy on Easter Sunday, April 21st.

Holy Week Schedule — Holy Thursday Mass, April 18th @ 7 pm, followed by Eucharistic Adoration until midnight
Adoration Schedule by last name: 8:00-9:00 pm Q-Z; 9:00-10:00 pm L-P; 10:00-11:00 pm F-K; 11:00pm-12midnight A-E

Good Friday, April 19th — Stations of the Cross @ 12 noon; Passion Service @ 7:00 pm;

We will have a Collection for The Holy Land on Good Friday. Giving envelopes are available on the back counter. (please check list for names of your loved ones who have died since last Easter, fill out a card if they are not listed)

Easter Services — Saturday Vigil Mass, April 20th @ 7:30 pm;

Sunday Masses, April 21st @ 8:00 am & 10:30 am (no nursery; no Children's Liturgy)

Following Christ begins Tuesday, April 23rd — This seven-week journey is a continuing conversion of life through the ChristLife process of evangelization. We will engage in prayer, teaching and relationships that support our personal decision to become a disciple of Christ and to begin to apply the Lord's teaching to every area of life. Register on our website, or call the Church Office to register.

First Holy Communion, April 28th @ 8:00 am Mass — Family Brunch Reception follows in the Family Life Center.

The Women's Guild and Knights of Columbus will be assisting with this wonderful event. We welcome anyone else that would like to assist in decorating, serving, clean-up, or cooking for this special event. Please sign up at the information table and someone will contact you or contact Renee Borne in the office. Thank you!

Confirmation, May 8th @ 6:00 pm Mass — All are welcome to join us for this special celebration with Bishop Kopacz.

Women's Weekend Retreat, May 3-5 @ Chatawa— “Make Me A Channel of your Peace: Living with Hope and Healing”

Presented by Fran Lavelle, Director, Department of Faith Formation. Flyers and registration forms available at the exits of the Church. Cost \$150. Registration deadline in April 25th. Scholarships available. Contact Renee` Carpenter 601-214-9457 or Cheryl Marsh 860-823-7878. Hosted by St Paul Women's Guild.

INRI which is depicted on many crucifixes is the abbreviation for the Latin translation of Pilate's charge:
Iesus Nazarenus, Rex Iudaeorum (Jesus the Nazarene, King of the Jews)

Office phone: 601-992-9547 Hours: Tuesday - Friday, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

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In Thornton Wilder's play, *Our Town*, the monologue at the beginning of Act III says:

“We all know that something is eternal. And it ain't houses, and it ain't names, and it ain't even the stars ---- everybody knows in their bones that something is eternal, and that something has to do with human beings. All the greatest people ever lived have been telling us that for five thousand years, and yet you'd be surprised how many people are always losing hold of it. There's something way down deep that's eternal about every human being.”

Thornton Wilder puts it this way, “....you'd be surprised how many people are always losing hold of it.” Perhaps at first it is a surprise, but upon more reflection it is not so surprising at all. The real mystery of The Triduum and the Easter Event is that they are about Hope and Humility. And, in our world, these two virtues are not easily attained, nor readily visible.

It is about Hope --- Trusting that His Resurrection extends to each one of us! It is about Humility --- Jesus did not come back to the Temple in Jerusalem humiliating those who humiliated Him, nor did He permit such triumphalism among His followers!

Hopefully, we have increased our “Screen Size” this Lenten Season through reflecting on our “Respectable Sins” — the sins we tolerate. For most of us, we were not even aware that we had become tolerant of some of these sins explored in our study book:

***ungoldliness unthankfulness anxiety frustration discontentment pride
selfishness impatience irritability anger judgmentalism sins of the tongue
lack of self-control envy jealousy worldliness***

Our world, our nation, our media, our very selves, have blurred the lines and we've just become de-sensitized to some of these things. They have become “acceptable” — in that we are no longer shocked by them. We've “lowered the bar” so to speak — we've narrowed/reduced our “life screen” to classify only the big ones (rape, murder, stealing, etc) as sinful. We say, “Well, at least I'm not doing that!”

This is what happened to Jesus. He became the scapegoat. They said, “Let's all point our fingers at him, then maybe they won't notice me and the things I've done.” We read in the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles (1:6), “While they were with Him they asked, 'Lord, are You going to restore the rule to Israel now?' ” --- It is clear that the disciples did not understand the whole nature of the Easter message, either. But, Jesus opens the screen beyond our imagining. His Love is stronger than death. His mercy cannot be outdone.

Our world struggles with the magnitude of such a message, and at the same time we never cease to be humbled when we see it in action. When we see a person turn the other cheek --- maybe, silently, we Hope to one day be that Humble. I believe we are getting there now, as a family at St. Paul. How much our study this Lenten Season has helped us!

Hopefully, we have a renewed appreciation for others and for ourselves, and we will intentionally strive to be more aware of His presence in our daily lives, to be more thankful, more attentive to temptations, and more loving & forgiving of others and ourselves! Let us build up rather than cut down. This Easter may each one of us know: Love is Stronger than Death!

As I was preparing and praying this week, so many writings from that great Lenten Pilgrimage, *Holy Island*, by James Kennedy which we reflected on last year resonated with our current journey. In the Fifth Week of Lent, Kennedy writes:

HOLY ISLAND

For most Christians the Kingdom is advanced or retarded by how they act as members of parish groups, how they serve on committees and arrange programs; whether when they speak the truth they do so in love, and when they disagree they do so in the spirit of Christ, and when trying situations arise they do not lose control but exercise patience. Whatever Christians do and the way they do it reveals their concept of the ministry placed in their hands by Christ; and so they are His witnesses, or they are not.

Yes, most of us believe in God. But it is of the utmost importance for us to believe in God as he really is, rather than in a distortion of Him. It is important for us to realize that Jesus Christ is like God, is God; that He is the only true and complete picture of the Eternal God; that He is the Mind, the Spirit, back of the universe. He tells us that love is what God wants us to choose, not hate; that humility is God's way instead of arrogance; and that magnanimity is better than pettiness. These are eternal values, established by God and taught by His Son. Whether we like them or not, there they stand.

Questions that our Lenten Study raises —

I received an email from LeighAnn Mangum with questions regarding our study: *Respectable Sins* *Confronting the Sins we Tolerate*, and the author's view of predestination. Leigh Ann wrote, “While I don't believe we are predestined, because that would remove our free will, I do believe God has a plan and knows every detail of our lives before it happens. I found it hard understanding him (the author) saying God allows bad things to happen to us and uses them for good. I also have a hard time believing that God would 'intentionally allow' something bad for us to learn.” Leigh Ann wrestles with the idea of understanding God doesn't necessarily prevent bad things happening because it removes our free will, yet we see evidence of God intervening when miracles occur after praying for a good outcome.

She asks, “Does God intervene or not? I know God works in mysterious ways. But, when does He choose to take action?”

Thank you, Leigh Ann! I have encountered similar questions from other individuals, and from some of the groups I have had the opportunity to visit. During the course of this week, I invite you all to reflect on these questions, plus others that have surfaced from your study of “Respectable Sins,” and bring them into your prayer time during this most Holy Week. Feel free to reach out and share them. Write in and let me know what you are questioning and learning; how He is growing you and leading you in this experience. We will plan to discuss them, and deal with the deep waters of our Catholic Faith and our relationship with Jesus Christ.

— Fr. Gerry