

From the Pastors Desk:

On this Easter Sunday we hear the great and glorious news that our Saviour has risen! The pain of the passion, cross and death of Jesus, while not forgotten, has now been overwhelmed with an unbelievable outpouring of God's love for all humanity made visible through the gift of his Son. The resurrection now becomes reality. The hope and promise of everlasting life with God has been given to us. We are now a new creation, called to go forth and proclaim the truth of the resurrection.

How did we arrive at this point in our liturgical journey of faith? It began for us on March 6th with Ash Wednesday. On this day we were invited to begin the journey towards the fulfillment of the Paschal Mystery, to turn from sin and be faithful to the gospel. With the onset of Lent we were reminded by the Ash Wednesday gospel reading that this liturgical season called us to prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

The Sunday's of Lent set not only the tone of our Lenten journey, but made clear what God expects of us as people of faith. On the first Sunday of Lent the gospel reading called us to reject the power and influence of Satan, to find inspiration in the confrontation between Jesus and Satan during his forty days in the wilderness. On the second Sunday of Lent the gospel account of the Transfiguration called us to embrace the truth that Jesus is the beloved Son of God. On the third Sunday we were invited to repent from sin, from those things that create a distance between God and ourselves. Jesus reminds us that conversion can take time and care, just like the fig tree that requires great care in order to bear fruit. On the fourth Sunday of Lent we heard the amazing parable of forgiveness and love as we reflected upon the story of the prodigal son. This parable revealed to us the depth of the Father's love for all who seek mercy and forgiveness. On the fifth Sunday of Lent we heard the story of the woman caught in adultery, the woman Jesus forgave. This story called us to be, like Jesus, a forgiving community of faith. On Passion Sunday we heard the account of the passion and death of Jesus calling us to move beyond seeing the cross as an instrument of death and seeing it as an instrument of life and hope.

This scriptural journey of faith during Lent brought us to the most important week of our church year, holy week. The call of holy week for all people of faith is even more intense, even more demanding than the call of Lent. On Holy Thursday we were called to be people of the *Mandatum*, the washing of feet. This call demands that we be people of service, to be of service to all people even if it demands we do so as a humble follower of Christ on our knees washing the feet of another. Jesus makes clear that there is no greater gift to give another than the gift of our very selves. Yet, Holy Thursday also makes clear

that God gives us an incredible gift in order to have the strength and courage to be people of faith, to be people of service – the Eucharist. On Good Friday we returned to the passion account of Jesus. This day calls us to be struck dumb, to be unable to articulate, to be unable to fully comprehend the depth of God's love for us. God gave us his only Son! God gave **ME**, each of us, his only Son! To just give thanks to God does not seem sufficient, and it is not. We are called to put our words into action, to live what we believe as disciples of Christ. On Holy Saturday our hope becomes reality, the truth of the Resurrection is revealed. While there are many ritual actions during the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday, one action in particular highlights our call as people of faith. The service begins outside around a fire. The fire is blessed and from that blessed fire our new Easter Candle is lit. From the newly lit and blessed Easter candle everyone present lights a small candle. Then, in the most sacred act that any person of faith can do, they carry the light of Christ into the darkened church, and the church is now aglow with the light of salvation. This is our call, this is what Lent was all about, this is why the passion took place; we are called to carry the light of Christ to the world, to bring light to the darkness. What a challenge to us, yet a challenge God believes us worthy and capable of fulfilling, because we do not do it alone.

We now begin the fifty days of Easter. For the next fifty days our liturgical readings will remind us and show us we are to be the light of Christ to the world. Easter, just like Lent, will place before us new challenges to meet as we journey towards full discipleship. To be *Mandatum* to the world is to carry the light of Christ always, and to be nourished on this journey with the gift of Eucharist. In the glow of the Easter candle let us now begin our new journey, the journey of Easter towards the celebration of Pentecost. May this Easter Season be a time of great blessings for you.

Father Tim Uniac, CR

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

49 Blueridge Ave.,
Kitchener, Ontario N2M 4E2
519-745-7301

www.stfranciskw.ca stfranciskitchener@hamiltondiocese.com

Administered by the Congregation of the Resurrection: www.resurrectionists.ca



"We are a Christ-centred faith community seeking to be instruments of God's peace."

MASS INTENTIONS -- April 23 - 28, 2019

No Masses Tues. April 23 – Fri. April 26

Saturday, 27th - **2nd Sunday of Easter**

5:00 pm +Dorothy Herzog – Shirley & Charles Daub & Family
+Michael Fisher – Mildred Fisher & Family
+Reno & Tony Ianni – Angela Ianni
+Czeslaw & Teresa Janiczak – Grace & Kevin Grundy & Family
+Allan Grundy – Grace & Kevin Grundy & Family
+Jose Gouveia & +Fatima Furtado – Maria Gouveia
+Ann Hutter – Gene Furtado
+Shelley Morabito – Kevin Clarke & Family

Sunday, 28th - **2nd Sunday of Easter**

9:00 am Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi
11:00 am +Philip Chow – Angela Chow & Family

MONTHLY GAME DAY

This month come out on a special day, **THURSDAY APRIL 25** from 2 – 4pm in the Parish Hall. Bring cards, board games, some friends! No cost, snacks provided. For more info contact Jane Kuronen at 519-745-6033.

MONEY 101: A FINANCIAL WELLNESS SESSION

Did you know that 41% of Canadians rank money as their greatest stress – over health, work and relationships? Sadly, 51% of Canadians feel embarrassed about the lack of control they have over their finances. Join us on **Tuesday, May 7th** from 7:00 - 8:30 pm in the Parish Hall for 'Money 101', a financial wellness presentation by Fred Masters, President & Founder of Masters Money Management and long-time Head of Business & Co-op at Resurrection CSS. Topics will include the importance of the earn/save/invest cycle, credit cards that pay you and understanding how robo advisors work. The session promises to be entertaining and practical! **Please contact the Parish Office to pre-register.** Admission is free; food donations to St. Vincent de Paul are greatly appreciated.

FIRST COMMUNION

Please keep our young people in prayer as they prepare to receive the Holy Eucharist for the first time on the weekends of April 27/28 and May 4/5. May they know Jesus as a friend who walks with them each day.

FASHIONS BY NYGARD

St. Francis CWL is hosting an evening of fun, fashion and friendship, featuring our very own ladies as models, wearing the styles of Nygard. Wed. May 1, 7pm in the parish hall. Bring your family and friends, refreshments provided, free will offering gratefully appreciated. For more info contact Lorraine 519-498-4526.



PARISH PICNIC

Save the date, Sun. June 2 after a special 10:30am Mass. BBQ lunch, bouncy castle, face painting, mini-golf, games, prizes and more! Come kick off our 60th Anniversary with an afternoon of family fun!

