

Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church

April 2, 2017/Fifth Sunday of Lent (Passion Sunday)

PASTOR'S CORNER

The fifth Sunday of Lent is traditionally known as Passion Sunday—coming between Laetare Sunday and Palm Sunday. It's all very confusing because these days Palm Sunday is sometimes called "Passion Sunday" or "Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord." But the old wine is good, and on these pages we're sticking with "Passion Sunday" for the the fifth Sunday. Moreover, the last two weeks of Lent (weeks 5 and 6) are properly *passiontide*, that final segment of Lent leading up to the Sacred Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. The Triduum strictly speaking is *sui generis* and not part of Lent—it is what Lent was all about, the celebration of the saving mysteries of Christ, where so much of his work was concentrated and where the liturgy of the Church draws its life. This is the Lord's Pasch: a complex whole involving his betrayal, arrest, trial, passion, death, burial, and ultimate victory. Everything about Jesus' existence has pointed toward this holy time; it is the reason for his becoming man.

Awful as it is to think of humanity's rejection of God and submitting him to the cruelest and most humiliating form of execution known to the ancient world, we must always remind ourselves that Jesus' death on the cross was no tragedy. Tragedy is really a notion that belongs to pagan cultures, minds that give no place to freedom. It's all about fate—the great tragic hero of Greek theatre is fated at some point to meet some horrible end because of cosmic forces, things entirely outside his control. But Jesus is Lord; he was in control of his life and destiny at every moment. He eluded his enemies at will: the Gospels tell us he would walk right through the mob trying to arrest him untouched because it "was not yet his hour."

But when the hour came, Jesus handed himself over to them, in perfect freedom. Going to the cross was entirely his choice, not in the sense of causing his own death, but that he submitted to it. It was the Father's will that the Son bear witness to divine love by enduring death for our sake. Would he have won more followers if he had come down from the cross in some show of power, besting the Roman soldiers in hand-to-hand combat and terrifying the Pharisees and Scribes? No. But anyway, it isn't power *per se* that he wanted to demonstrate; it was love, or better put: the power of love. And love is better shown in willing suffering than effortless victory. Those who stick it out in a difficult marriage for the sake of their children often experience marriage's deepest joys, if and when the darkness passes—they see each other as the spouses who trusted enough to stay. Taking a beating alongside a friend can be a better witness to the bond of friendship than kicking the other guys around—because scoring a victory may cost nothing. The Son of God could have done whatever he wished to the world and his persecutors, because he held the world in his hand as God even while he walked the face of the earth as man. Yet his choice was to suffer for us. And with us.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP All parishioners should participate fully in parish life (*this especially means worshipping at Mass on all Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation*), be registered here, and contribute to the support the parish to the extent possible. We often get requests for recommendations and permissions for parishioners to serve as godparents and sponsors. If we don't know you, we can't give that testimony on your behalf. You may have been baptized here (or gone to Catholic schools) but you need to be currently practicing and registered in your local parish (children are obviously registered with their parents; adults need to make their own arrangements). The Church requires that baptisms and marriages be celebrated in one's own parish. If one is not an active parishioner, problems could arise at those important times.

Baptisms Usually 1st and 3rd Sundays. Contact the pastor to schedule. First-time parents please also schedule a "pre-Jordan" preparation class—offered the 2nd Wednesday of each month, at 7:15 p.m. in the parish center.

Weddings Active parishioners contact the parish office no later than six months prior to the desired wedding date. Marriage preparation normally includes several meetings with a priest, several meetings with a mentor couple of the parish, a weekend of conferences offered by the diocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life, NFP training, and FOCCUS diagnostic. *If someone in your family is planning to get married*, please encourage them to speak to their pastor. The marriages of Catholics (whether or not they're marrying other Catholics) need to be conformable with Church law, and that requires that they receive suitable catechesis in preparation for marriage, and marry according to a certain rite.

Eucharistic exposition Wednesdays following the noon Mass until 7:00 p.m. Benediction. For information, and to volunteer to take hours of adoration, contact Regina Cano at (614) 582-8588.

Knights of Columbus Contact Trinidad Cano at (740) 819-8002. The K of C offer a hot breakfast every 4th Sunday following morning Masses, and lead the Rosary after the 11:00 Mass on 5th Sundays.

Choir We're always in need of more voices in the choir. Contact the parish office or the choir director Mrs. Adams. Weekly rehearsals are Wednesdays, after Benediction.

Funeral luncheons Contact Mary Margaret Murphy at (740) 452-4454.

Rental information To reserve Rosary Hall or Activity Center (i.e. the school gym) contact Mary Ann Ewart at maewart@gmail.com or (740) 319-2449.

Pregnancy counseling Heartbeat Family Center/Pregnancy Distress: (740) 450-5437, www.heartbeats.org.

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MASS INTENTIONS

It is a holy and pious thought to pray for the dead.
cf. 2 Maccabees, 12.



Sunday, April 2

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (PASSION SUNDAY)

5:00pm (Sat.) Betty Haren (+)
7:00am Dolores Heil (+)
9:00am People of the parish
11:00am Dec members K of C Msgr. Dury Council

Monday, April 3

Lenten Weekday

8:00am Cecil Mary Soller (+)
12Noon Mary Norris (+)

Tuesday, April 4

Lenten Weekday

8:00am Mr. & Mrs. Linda Sentivany and Linda Ann
12Noon Roy & Barb Teeters Family

Wednesday, April 5

Lenten Weekday

8:00am Neal Arnold (+)
12Noon Bob & Bette Mattingly (+)

Thursday, April 6

Lenten Weekday

8:00am Gerry Kuhn (+)
12Noon Clement & Olive Mattingly (+)

Friday, April 7

Lenten Weekday (day of abstinence from meat)

7:00am Marvin Arnold (+)
12Noon William Heil Family
7:00pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 8

Lenten Weekday

9:00am Ted Paulus

Sunday, April 9

PALM SUNDAY

5:00pm (Sat.) John & Peg Mattingly (+)
7:00am People of the parish
9:00am Marcia K. Dunkle (+)
11:00am Joe Rosta (+)

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, April 2

CCD after 9:00 a.m. Mass
Coffee and doughnuts after 9 & 11 Masses

Monday, April 3

7:00 p.m. Scouts (Parish Center)

Tuesday, April 4

2:00 p.m. Bible Study with Fr. Luke (Book of Revelation)
6:00 p.m. Rosary for Life (church)
7:00 p.m. Catechism (Rosary Hall)

Wednesday, April 5

Eucharistic exposition following noon Mass
7:00 p.m. Benediction (*Confessions follow*)
7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal (church)

Friday, April 7

6:00 p.m. Soup supper (Rosary Hall)
7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross (*Confessions follow*)
Faith on Tap (following Stations)

Sunday, April 9: PALM SUNDAY

CCD after 9:00 a.m. Mass
No coffee and doughnuts

Parish Finances

Weekend of March 26

Main collection total\$7,700.09*
Special collections 1,833.05]
Weekly Budget11,538.00
This week's deficit- 3,837.91

Thank you!

* This figure includes envelope and loose amounts. It does not include automatic electronic donations.

Upcoming special collections

Apr 14 Good Friday/Holy Land Christians
Apr 23 Catholic Home Missions
Apr 30 Church in Central & Eastern Europe
May 7 St. Vincent de Paul Society
May 21 Catholic Communications Campaign

Please remember the parish in your will.

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The Sacrament of Penance (III)

Now we get down to the brass tacks of actually *going* to Confession. It's not easy, if it's your first time or if you're out of practice. But people who go frequently will tell you it's not at all complicated—even if it remains difficult to reveal your sins to someone.

Here's the first step to making a good confession: an EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE. And this doesn't simply mean taking your own inventory, but doing so with the help of the Holy Spirit. We can't truly love without the Spirit of God, and we can't truly detest our sins without his help, either. So first of all, pray to the Holy Spirit to reveal your sins to you so that you can make a good confession. If you doubt the power of prayer, try that one. He will answer that prayer, if you ask it sincerely and constantly.

The next thing to do in examining your conscience—at least if you're a newbie or a returning Catholic—is to make use of some kind of aid to help formulate your confession. We have some very handy ones in the pamphlet rack in church, and there are other ones, both printed and online. There are even some very good phone apps. You will likely discover, as you make repeated confessions, certain habits. You may even think you can't stop falling into the same sins—this drives some people away from confession, this scenario of being “stuck” in certain spiritual ruts. But it's actually good for the soul to be reminded that we're not as free as we often fancy ourselves to be, and that we need God's help to do good. Here's a question often asked:

So, I sometimes find I freeze or can't think of anything to say when I go to Confession. Or else I start rambling and feel like I'm not making a very good confession at all. Any suggestions?

You're not alone in feeling that way—caught between saying too little and too much, not knowing whether you're actually confessing your sins or just talking.

Every sacrament has a “form” and a “matter.” For example, in the Eucharist, the form is the words used by Christ at the Last Supper and now repeated by the priest celebrant: “this is my body”; “this is the chalice of my blood.” The matter of the sacrament is unleavened bread and grape wine. The form of the sacrament of Baptism is the words, “N., I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.” The matter is the water, poured over the head of the baptized. So, in general, the *form* of any sacrament is the verbal content, the expressed meaning; and the *matter* is always the “stuff” used in celebrating the sacrament.

But when we come to the sacrament of Penance, we notice a problem: there doesn't seem to be any material stuff used in the sacrament. There's no bread or wine or water or oil, as in other sacraments. Here is one sacrament that has

what the Church calls a “sort of” matter. The matter of Penance is the *sorrow*, *confession*, and *resolution* of the penitent. These are traditionally called the “acts” of the Penitent, as opposed to the “act” of the minister, namely the formula of absolution spoken by the priest, which constitutes the form of the sacrament.

Now, for any sacrament to be valid, there must be *both* the requisite form *and* matter. The priest must say the words faithfully (“I absolve you from your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen”). But the penitent must provide the matter of the sacrament, or else there is no sacrament. The acts of the penitent are *contrition* (or sorrow for the sins committed), actually *confessing* the sins (at least all mortal sins, individually), and finally having a firm resolve not to sin again, with the help of God's grace. Each of these can be misunderstood, so let me say a few things about each one.

Contrition. This doesn't mean “feeling sorry” for your sins. You may or may not *feel* sorry. What's important is that you fix your will against your sins, however you feel. What God wants is love, and love isn't a feeling. Especially with some sins that are intensely pleasurable, it is almost always the case that they exert a powerful attraction on the soul—and yet that doesn't mean that someone who feels that attraction lacks contrition. Contrition, like love, is an act of will, not a movement of the emotions or the senses. It's important to know that, otherwise having contrition could seem like some unattainable ideal: “how can I be forgiven if I still miss old sins?” Missing certain kinds of sin is no impediment to forgiveness as long as you renounce the past sins with mind and will. The emotions will catch up with your good intentions, if you stay the course.

As for *confession* of sin, there are many ways to go wrong. Always remember the four Cs: be *clear* and *concrete*, *concise* and *complete*. Be clear. No fuzziness, please. State what you did simply. Also, be concrete—i.e., specific. It's not enough to say, “I've said and done a lot of bad things” (yes, people do talk like that sometimes). Mortal sins need to be named specifically in the sacrament, as well as the exact number of times (to the best of one's memory). Don't say, “I did something I'm not proud of” when what you mean is “I watched pornography,” or “I let time get away from me” when you mean “I skipped Mass.”

The next two—concise and complete—might seem hard to accomplish at the same time, but they're not really. There's a certain amount of information the priest needs, but not more. Sometimes penitents lose the confessor amid too much backstory—just state the sin simply, without adornment, and without attempts to excuse them. This often happens when people bring in other people in their life

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who are driving them crazy—sometimes with the implication those other people are driving them to sin: spouses, co-workers, in-laws, children, whatever. Let it be a very firm policy for everyone receiving this sacrament that each person is to make his or her own confession of sin to God, and if anyone else need be mentioned in the sacrament, it's not for the purpose of accusing them of causing us to sin, or of being an accomplice. No one can make you sin. Not even the Devil himself. So keep it real, as they say. But do be complete, as well as concise: don't leave out essential things the priest needs to know. These could all be summed up by saying, be plain-spoken and honest before God, because that's who you're really talking to.

Finally, being resolved not to sin again (or the "purpose of amendment") is not a *prediction* that one won't sin again. You can't predict any such thing. You most certainly will sin again, in some other way if not the same. Again, it's an act of will. We're supposed to make a commitment not to sin again, calling on God to help us make good on that commitment. And if we sin again, we return again to this sacrament of mercy, and once again we commit ourselves to a change of life, with God's help.

Please pray for the home-bound of the parish:

Margaret Gladys Abbott, Nancy Arledge, William & Jan Barry, Mary Batteiger, Gertrude Bell, Madelyn Bronkar, Mathilda Clark, Bart & Josephine Cooper, Mary Cowden, Herman Crock, Michael Curtis, Jeanne Dittmar, Frances Feerick, Evelyn DiVincenzo, Betty Fedor, Beverly Foley, Isabel Gilchrist, Mary Ellen Grafton, Florence Herbert, Sandra Honeywell, Patricia Huck, Eileen Johnston, Mike Kline, Dorothy Loewendick, Henry Long, David Macenko, Dolores Mahon, Josephine Marshall, Patricia Perone, Alice Pitcock, Mary Polascak, Mary Postlewaite, Mary Rosta, George and Barb Ridenour, Joe and Barbara Ritchey, Mary Lou Scott, Barbara Schumacher, Loretta Silfko, Terri Woods

2017 Diocesan Senior Citizens Celebration June 6

The 40th annual diocesan Senior Citizens Celebration is Tuesday, June 6, 2017, at St. Joan of Arc Church at 10700 Liberty Road in Powell. Bishop Campbell will celebrate Mass at 10:30 a.m. Mass will be followed by a luncheon. Registration cost is \$10. This annual event is a great opportunity for food, faith, and fellowship with seniors from the 23-county Catholic Diocese of Columbus. When registering, please make check payable to the Office for Social Concerns, Catholic Diocese of Columbus, 197 E. Gay Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. Questions? Call (614) 241-2540 or email socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org. Registration deadline is June 1.

ZANESVILLE CATHOLIC TEENS

Two upcoming events!

Sunday, April 2, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

St. Nicholas Church Teen Center

Walk With Christ: *Walking Stations of the Cross*, a joint middle school/high school event.

Good Friday, April 14, 9:00 a.m.

Walking Stations of the Cross

Meet in St. Nicholas Church

All are invited to join Zanesville Catholic Teens as we walk through downtown Zanesville remembering Christ's journey to the Cross as we pray for the needs of our community.

THE DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA seek to promote the welfare of the community in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church through unity, friendship, and charity. All women aged 16 and up are welcome. The next meeting is **Tuesday, April 11, 6:00 p.m. at St. Nicholas Parish Office.**

Understand the ENTIRE BIBLE!



A 24-Part Study Featuring Jeff Cavins



Dates, Times, Location

Begins Thursday, April 20

6:30 PM

Parish Center

Cost/Registration

\$34.95 plus shipping

(shipping costs to be announced)

*****Deadline to register is April 10th*****

For More Information

For further information or to enroll, contact Mary Baker:
Phone - 740-297-5851
Email - marybaker@hotmail.com

The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation is a fascinating Bible study that will take you on a journey through the entire Bible.

Go deep into each period of salvation history and discover the amazing story woven throughout all of Scripture. Using a unique color-coded system, you will see how all the major people, places, and events of the Bible reveal the remarkable story of our faith.

"I never would have read the Bible if it wasn't for this, and now I simply adore scripture. It has given me such insight into the Catholic faith and helps me to understand its true beauty."

—Kyley Drach



Visit BibleStudyForCatholics.com to learn more!

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Sacred Triduum of Holy Week, 2017

Holy Thursday, April 13

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:30 p.m.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 10 p.m.

Good Friday, April 14

Celebration of the Lord's Passion 3:00 p.m.

Stations of the Cross 7:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday, April 15

Easter Vigil Mass 8:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 16

Regular Sunday Mass Schedule, i.e.,

7:00, 9:00, & 11:00 a.m.

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