

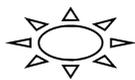


ST. JEROME'S ENGLISH COMMUNITY
BULLETIN
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March
2008
No. 03

MARCH SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Activity	Place
March 2 nd 4 th Sun. of Lent	9:30 am	Finance Committee	Rm. 411
	3:30 pm	Stations of the Cross	Church
March 9 th 5 th Sun. of Lent (A)	9:30 am	Liturgy Meeting	Rm. 405
	9:30 am	Choir & Editorial Groups	4 th Floor
	9:30 am	Eucharist Ministers	Tuck Shop
	9:30 am	Coordinating Committee	Rm. 411
March 16 th Palm Sunday (A)	9:30 am	Vocation Group & Migrant Desk	Rm. 405
	2-5 pm	Denitence Service	Church
	6:00 pm	Passover Meal	4 th Floor
March 20 th		Holy Thursday	
	8:30 pm	Only Chinese Mass	Church
March 21 st		Good Friday	
	4:30 pm	Stations of the Cross	Church
	5:20 pm	The Lord's Passion	Church
March 22 nd		Holy Saturday	
	8:30 pm	Only Chinese Mass	Church
March 23 rd		Easter Day	
	12:15 pm	Easter Gathering	4 th Floor
March 30 th 2 nd Sun. of Easter		Eng. Com. Anniversary	
	1:00 pm	Festivity	4 th Floor



Each Sunday
Mass 8:00 am - Adoration 5:00pm

THE CROSS OF SALVATION



The cross. It is a common sight in our society. Churches use it as a symbol of their faith. Many wear a cross around the neck as jewelry. But often the meaning of the cross is lost to many. Just what did it mean to die on a cross? And why did Jesus have to die on a cross?

We recall that at the "trial" at the high priest's palace Jesus was found guilty of blasphemy. That is, he claimed to be God. In effect, Jesus' claim is true. He even performed miracles that defied physical laws and medical realities to prove his divinity. Even the Roman centurion on Good Friday uttered: "Surely this man is the Son of God." But in the Mosaic Law blasphemy was punishable by stoning!

Jesus was crucified on the cross. He suffered there. Why the cross? Crucifixion was the punishment for criminals. The cross represents the evil and horror of humankind. The Bible calls it "sin" which is filthy, vile, foul, contagious and deadly in His sight. Although the cross reveals the ugliness of the human heart, it also reveals God's grace and forgiveness. It was on the cross God himself laid our sins upon His own dear Son, Jesus Christ. On that cross, Jesus paid the penalty of our sins. 2 Corinthians 5:32 says, "For God had made Christ to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him". In Isaiah 53:6, we are told that "the Lord had laid on Him (Christ) the iniquity of us all".

This is the good news. This is the gospel of Jesus Christ, that the Father so loved you and me that He gave His only begot-

ten Son, Jesus Christ, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish in the lake fire but have everlasting life in heaven. It is the death of Christ that reconciled us with God. It is His death that saved us by bearing our punishment and by taking the penalty of our sin upon His own body.

On that cross, where Jesus was crucified, He prayed, "Father forgive them". From His gracious word, pardon and forgiveness is freely opened to all who believe that He is the Lamb of God who takes away your sins.

MIGRANT DESK CORNER
"TAKE YOUR RIGHTS SERIOUSLY"



It's important to know that that the help agencies are doing good work to recover the rights of the migrant workers, even though many are not connected with any government. Private or religious organizations can be the very interested agencies and many of them are free of charge or asks a minimal cost to the client. The people who work in the help agencies at these groups will be willing and able to listen to your story and then try and sort out just what can be claimed in terms of money.

They also can help by assisting you to file the actual claim. The worker should make the claim with the Labor Relations Division, seven (7) days after the date of termination of contract. The claim itself will be a form that will indicate what grounds the claim is based upon as well as how much money you are claiming

from your former employer..

What happens next?

Following the filing of the claim, the clerk will set down a date for something known as conciliation meeting. The employer will also be notified of the date for the **Conciliation Meeting**. On the date of the meeting, the worker who is filing the claim will be expected to appear before a Labor Officer who is there to try and encourage some kind of compromise agreement regarding the former employee's claim. If such an agreement is found between the two parties then the claim will effectively come to an end. If not, the claim will then move on to the next stage.

In this event, the claimant may choose to take it to either to the Minor Claims Adjudication Board (for claims that are below \$8,000) or to the Labor Tribunal (for claims of \$8,000 and above). If no agreement can be reached between the two parties to the dispute, a date will then be set down for a hearing before either the Minor Claims Adjudication Board or the Labor Tribunal. There, the two parties to the dispute will then meet in front of an adjudicating officer who is empowered to settle the dispute as between the worker and her former employer.

Take Your Rights Seriously (Jim Rice)

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS



The Stations of the Cross (also called *Via Crucis*, *Via Dolorosa* or *the Way of the Cross*), is a liturgical way to reenact that journey as a meditation of worship, an act of devotion to God. The Reason for reviving the practice of making the Stations of the Cross is that it is a

powerful way to contemplate, and enter into, the mystery of Jesus' gift of himself to us. Remembering this event by prayers and meditations on His way to the crucifixion and burial, we are not just reenacting a 2,000 years old event. We are making our own journey, and in the process confessing our own dependence upon God.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

☺ **Palm Sunday**. This coming March 16th, we will have the blessing of the plants and procession followed in the park behind the church. (**bring your own plants**).

☺ Saturday, March 20th, the Community will organize a **Penitence Service** followed by the **Passover Meal**. For more details and participation, please check the bulletin board posted on the lobby.

☺ During **the Holy week**, our Church holds services to express and reflect on our Christian life and devotion. Please check the schedule of liturgy.

☺ The English Community will hold an **Easter Tea gathering** on the Easter day (Mar. 23). In this occasion we welcome the new baptized. Everyone is invited to come and join the celebration.

 The **11th Anniversary** celebration of the English Community will be held this coming **March 30th, 2008** from **1:00-5:00pm** at St. Jerome's Church Hall 4/F. The theme is **"From yesterday's burdens, today's grace forward tomorrow's hope"**. Everyone is invited. For details, please check the bulletin board posted on the lobby.

MONTH'S SCRIPTURES



MARCH 2ND: 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

Theme: That I may see

Readings: ♦ 1Sam 16:1, 6-7, 10-13 ♦ Eph 5:8-14 ♦ Jn 9:1-41

In the light of faith, we see in a new way. With the interior help of the Holy Spirit, moving our hearts and turning them towards God, the eyes of our minds are open. Through this grace we recognize the truth, and with joy accept and believe it. The readings are about seeing and not seeing. The story of the man born blind shows us how we can see as God sees.

MARCH 9TH: 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

Theme: I am the Resurrection and the Life

Readings: ♦ Ez 37:12-14 ♦ Rom 8:8-11 ♦ Jn 11:1-45

"Obedient unto death, even death on a cross, Jesus was exalted as Lord of all, and through His resurrection...was made known to us all as God's Son in power... He is the 'first-born of the dead'...He gives eternal life to us all." As Christians, we believe that Jesus Christ has conquered death and brings us new life. This new life we received in Baptism is a new kind of existence. Death is destroyed by our New Life in Jesus!

MARCH 16TH: PASSION/PALM SUNDAY (A)

Theme: The Paschal Mystery

Readings: ♦ Is 50:4 - 7 ♦ Phil 2:6 - 11 ♦ Mat 26:14 - 27:66

The Church calls us together for special liturgies these days, so that we can ponder and celebrate the central mysteries of our faith. It is a time to step back from the routine of our daily lives, to renew our faith and recommit ourselves to living the Gospel. It is a time to center ourselves around Christ. It is a time of new life and new creation. The liturgy begins with rejoicing, Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. We wave our branches and flowers as a sign of welcome into our hearts and homes. But, the Gospel, the Passion reminds us that highlight of the week is the Paschal Mystery, when Jesus won our salvation through His Passover, suffering, death and resurrection.

MARCH 21ST: GOOD FRIDAY (A)

Theme: The Cross

Readings: ♦ Is 52 52: 13 - 53: 12 ♦ Heb 4: 14 - 16; 5: 7 - 9 ♦ Jn 18: 1-19: 42

The Church begins the Paschal Fast. It is not a fast of penance but of one of expectation and anticipation. We fast from work and the usual distractions so that our minds and hearts grow hungry for God's Word. May our lives be filled with this mystery of Jesus death and resurrection so that we will know how to respond to that dying and rising and thus little by little we will become the image of Christ in our world.

MARCH 29TH: EASTER SUNDAY (YEAR A)

Theme: He has risen !!!

Readings: ♦ Acts 10:34, 37 - 43 ♦ Col 3:1 - 4 ♦ 1 Cor 5: 6-8 ♦ Jn 20:1 - 9

Easter is the celebration of the central mystery of our faith. Birth, life, suffering and death all take their meaning from the death and resurrection of Jesus. In the Easter Vigil we welcomed new members into the mystery of Christ through the sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist.) We also deepen our appreciation of this Paschal mystery, the meaning of our faith and the meaning of our life.

Truly risen, Jesus is the unfailing source of life and the outpouring of the Spirit upon us.

MARCH 30TH: 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)

Theme: My Family, the Church

Readings: ♦ Acts 2:42-47 ♦ 1 Pet 1:3-9 ♦ Jn 20:19 - 31

The Church ...gives witness to its faith through its way of life, its worship and the service it gives to those in need. The forgiveness and reconciliation experienced by repentant sinners are signs of the Church as a healing community. Concern for and ministries to the poor, disadvantaged, helpless and hopeless are signs of the Church as servant. Faith grows as a new community begins to evolve, just as it grows in the soul of an incredulous Thomas.