

## Lent and Easter 2016



Dear Members of the St. Kevin's Parish Community,

We are happy to write to you during this Sacred Season of Lent, as we journey towards Easter, the most solemn feast of the Church Year. As you might be aware, Pope Francis has designated 2016 as a Jubilee Year of Mercy so that the whole Church will find in this jubilee the joy needed to rediscover and make fruitful the mercy of God.

The Holy Father refers to Jesus in the Gospels as the model of mercy: Jesus restoring a son to his grieving mother; Jesus seeking the lost sheep; Jesus welcoming home the prodigal son. And Pope Francis invites us to come to our merciful God to experience God's unconditional love and mercy and share that mercy with our brothers and sisters.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is the gift par excellent for every Catholic. This sacrament is not about judgement or punishment. It is about healing and experiencing the joy of Jesus renewing us to love as God wants us to love. The Jubilee Year of Mercy is a wonderful and grace-filled invitation to each of us to encounter the healing Christ in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Our Catholic tradition places so much emphasis on the Works of Mercy as a way of showing mercy. The Corporal Works of Mercy: To feed the hungry; to give drink to the thirsty; to clothe the naked; to shelter the homeless, to visit the sick...and the Spiritual Works of Mercy: To admonish the sinner; to comfort the sorrowful; to bear wrongs patiently; to forgive all injuries; to pray for the living and the dead.

At St. Kevin's we have been greatly blessed to be able to show mercy through our hospitality to two Syrian refugee families, through our social ministries of Food Bank, Harvest Kitchen and St. Vincent de Paul, through our hospital and home visits, through our comfort to those who grieve and through our availability to be the hands and feet and heart of Jesus to those who suffer and are in need.

And, St. Kevin's is your spiritual home of love and mercy. Please make the effort to join us for our celebrations. Included with this letter is the schedule of our services for Holy Week and Easter. We extend our joyful greetings to you and to your families as we look forward to celebrating the power and glory of the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

### **Reflecting on Share Lent - Create a Climate of Change**

As has been our focus for the past few years, we are again reminded that one billion among us go hungry, and countless others are sacrificed to the idols of greed, violence and war. **Pope Francis** has invited the church to "declare a war on world hunger." He reminds us that we are *one human family* and that there should be food for all. Pope Francis has also called our attention to the issue of climate change, and through our interconnectedness as one human family, we all are required to care for our common home - the earth. This year Development and Peace asks us to *Create a Climate of Change*, to make changes to the way we care for the earth so as to not harm the environment. We

know that detrimental practices disproportionately affect our brothers and sisters of the Global South, who feel the effects of climate change so intensely. In making positive changes we care for our planet and we show solidarity and love to our human family.

The Parish's annual *Share Lent* collection is a powerful symbol of hope and becomes the most important expression of almsgiving that we have over the course of each year. This year's *Share Lent* becomes urgent; too many are hungry in our world and suffer from the consequences of environmental destruction. You will find the *Share Lent* envelope in this mailing. Please use it and **be as generous as you can. We must work hard to overcome donor fatigue.** You will also find a prayer card inviting us to create a climate of change in our reverencing and respect of God's gift of creation. Jesus made it so clear that we must recognize that the goods of the earth were meant for everyone and that we will be judged on how we share ... or neglect to share. *Share Lent* becomes hope for the poor. As usual, the *Share Lent* collection will take place **Palm Sunday weekend – March 19 - 20.** *From those who are given much, much will be expected!*

Yours in the peace of Christ,

Father Vijai Amirtharaj, CSC      Father Jim Mulligan, CSC

**You may bring your Share Lent contribution to Mass on Palm Sunday  
or to any Sunday Mass during the Easter Season.**

## **SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK 2016**

- **Passion Sunday / Palm Sunday - March 19<sup>th</sup> - March 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**Mass Times: Saturday 5:00 p.m.; Sunday 8:00 a.m.; 10:00 a.m.; 12 noon; 5:00 p.m.**  
Palms will be distributed to each person as they enter the Church and blessed during the Liturgy.
- **Sacrament of Penance: Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup> Communal Celebration at 7:30 pm**  
Communal Preparation with several priests for confessions.

### **Sacred Triduum**

- **Holy Thursday - March 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30 p.m.**  
Reception of Oils; Washing of Feet; Commissioning of Ministries – all parishioners involved in any ministry are encouraged to participate in this beautiful liturgy.  
**Hours of Adoration: 8:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.**
- **Good Friday - March 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 12 noon and 3:00 p.m.**  
**Stations of the Cross at 7:00 p.m.**
- **Holy Saturday - March 26<sup>th</sup>**  
**Easter Vigil At 8:00 p.m.** Blessing of the new fire and Paschal Candle  
and Initiation of Catechumens/Candidates      **[NO 5:00 p.m. Mass today]**
- **Easter Sunday - March 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**Masses at 8:00 a.m.; 10:00 a.m.; 12 noon; 5:00 p.m.**–Initiation of the RCIC children