



Reflections

A silhouette of a person standing on a reflection, positioned over the word "Reflections". The reflection is a mirror image of the person, creating a sense of depth and reflection. The person appears to be looking down at their reflection.

Holy Week the final days of Lent

Holy Week has as its purpose to remember the Lord's passion. The days of Holy Week, from Monday to Thursday inclusive, have precedence over all other celebrations. On Palm Sunday, the Church celebrates Christ's entrance into Jerusalem to accomplish his paschal mystery. The entire passion of the Lord is read on this day and the theme dominates the entire week. Pastors should encourage Good Friday - abstinence from meat, prayer, fasting and a call to conversion. We sincerely prepare for the joy of resurrection by participating in the Passion of the Lord. By his stripes we are healed. God so loved the world that he gave us his only begotten son as ransom for sin (John 3:14). This suffering servant of God fulfills both old and new Testament prophecies in three-fold fashion:

1. Jesus, God's son humbles himself out of pure love of sinful humanity;
2. The Messiah did not shield his face from the buffets and spitting.
3. He offers his life freely on the cross relying solely on God's love for creation.

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Scriptures on Monday emphasize the suffering servant found in (Isaiah Ch. 42). Though he must die, he does not cry out. Tuesday and Wednesday deal with Jesus being handed over to his enemies by Judas for the price of silver. The die is cast, Jesus did not turn from the call of God. The Messiah must remain faithful, he must suffer and die like his sheep. Thursday evening mass celebrates the institution of Eucharist! Jesus washes the disciples feet as a token of love. He teaches what it means to love one another. After the Mass on Thursday, the altar is stripped. The Eucharist is taken to a side altar. The empty church waits for the death and burial of Jesus. Good-Friday is awesome simplicity! No mass throughout the whole world. The Lord's Passion is read at the liturgy of the word. Dead Silence! The Son of Man is buried! We await the Liturgy of Easter Vigil, Holy Saturday night when New Fire paschal candle is lit and the church proclaims Jesus is risen. The long preparation of Easter is over. The Gloria and Alleluia is sung proclaiming the Victory of Jesus over death. We are Easter People renewed in Christ.

Fr. Dennis

A Saint for the Season

Mary Magdalene

With Good Friday and Easter Sunday approaching we sometimes forget the role Mary Magdalene played in the resurrection of Christ. She was a Disciple of Jesus and is in all four Gospels where she is mentioned by name, (most woman in the Bible are nameless). Mary is found standing at the foot of the Cross, she saw Christ laid in the tomb, and was the first recorded witness to the resurrection.

Mary was from the town of Magdalene, a town know for vice and violence. She was

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A SAINT FOR THE SEASON (Cont.)

named as the woman Jesus cast out seven demons. So Mary, a sinner, was forgiven and became a follower and a disciple of Jesus.

It was on Easter morning that Mary Magdalene saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb of Jesus. She ran to get Peter and John so that they could see the empty tomb as well. When the Disciples arrived at the site of the empty tomb, they went in and saw the burial cloths. They saw and believed, but did not understand. The Disciples went home.

Mary stayed outside of the tomb weeping, unwilling to abandon her Lord. Two angels in white appeared, followed by a stranger whom she mistook for a gardener, until he spoke her name: "Mary". She responded immediately "Rabboni!" which means "my great teacher". Before Jesus went to His heavenly home He gave Mary an assignment: "go...to my brothers and tell them I am returning to My father and your father, to My God and your God". And so she did and proclaimed "I have seen the Lord!" An undeniable testimony that set an example for us all.

During this season of lent let us follow Mary Magdalene's example of repentance, prayer and glorifying the Lord.

Kathy Moran
Communications Committee

Reflection of the PPC

What is the Worship Commission?

What is the Worship Commission? This is a frequent question posed by many people at Assumption. The Worship Commission of any parish is present to assist in the spiritual/liturgical development of the faith community throughout the liturgical year. From Advent to Lent, from Easter to Thanksgiving, the Worship Commission serves to insure that every aspect of liturgy, prayer and the day-to-day appearance of the church sanctuary are meaningful, appropriate and inspiring as well as in accord with diocesan guidelines regarding liturgical worship.

The Worship Commission meets monthly from September to May and acts as an advisory Committee to the Pastor. In this role, the Commission becomes the voice of the parish, taking into consideration all input and feedback from parishioners, and placing them before the parish priests. The Commission takes great time, care and effort to assist in planning and reviewing each major liturgical celebration.

The Commission is comprised of representatives of each liturgical ministry (Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, Alter Servers, Bridal Coordinators and Cantors/Choir), Hospitality Ministers, Arts & Environment, the Director of Music, a Chairperson, and one of our priests. Our current members include Kathleen Blauth, Mary Ellen Davission, Fran Drake, Fr. John Gizler, Tom Nypaver, Dr. Neil Stahurski, Cecilia Stover, Mary Vic Taylor, Barbara Testa and Al and Ann Deverts. We are blessed at Assumption with a very vibrant and conscientious Commission that considers it an honor to serve our parish in this capacity

-The Members of the Assumption Worship Commission

School Bells

Living Stations: Walking That Final Mile With Christ

Among the most cherished of the Catholic traditions is the Lenten liturgical celebration Of the Stations of the Cross. The 14 “stations”, traditionally captured in beautifully carved stone

Or wooden tablets, recall the final journey of Christ’s human life, His passion and death. Our Belief as Catholics leads us to view this “last mile” devotion not as a futile and meaningless “death march”, but as a celebration of a life lived for others, a triumph of life over death.

The Gospel narratives come to give us a vivid portrayal of Christ’s humanity, His suffering, His love, His forgiveness, His triumph, and His life. We witness His betrayal with a kiss. We Feel His physical pain in each stroke of the lash. We are touched by His compassion for His supporters along the way. We are encouraged by His words, “Today you will be with me in Paradise.” We are astonished at His selfless act of forgiveness, “Father, forgive them for they do not know what They are doing,” and we are redeemed in His faithful surrender, “Father, into you hands I commend My spirit”.

The Stations of the Cross are not about suffering and death. They are about the wonder and Promise of God’s love as fully embraced in the life of Christ. They serve as a roadmap for our own Journey towards redemption. They are truly “living stations”.

On Friday March 30th, Assumption Parish will again present its moving rendition of the “Living Stations” enacted by the Students of Assumption School. All are invited to share in this Solemn re-enactment of the Stations of the Cross as a tribute to the dying steps and dying words of Jesus - steps and words for the living.

Terry Spindler
Assumption Grade school teacher

THE ORIGIN OF THE UKRAINIAN EASTER EGG

Ukrainian Easter eggs embody a myriad of symbolism: the egg itself, the design and color.

The egg of course is the most important; it represents the symbol of birth. The egg actually dates back to paganism. It depicts the mystery of the power of the egg to create new life. With the advent of Christianity to Ukraine the egg became an important part of the Easter ritual associated with the new religion. Many legends were passed down relating to the Easter egg. One story tells us of when Christ was dying on the cross blood flowing from his wounds fell to the ground. Wherever a drop fell a red Easter egg was created. Mary was standing beneath his cross praying and crying. Those red Easter eggs on which her tears fell turned into elaborately decorated Easter Eggs. Mary gathered all of the eggs into her kerchief and went to Pontius Pilate to ask for permission to bury her son. On her way there she gave an Easter egg to each child she met, along with the admonition to live in peace.

The symbolism which decorated pagan eggs underwent a process of adaptation to the new religion. While the pagan spring ritual celebrated a new beginning for the earth after a cold winter, the Christian holiday of Easter celebrates a new life for people's souls and their redemption through the process of Lenten fasting and resurrection of the Lord. The symbols and ornaments on the eggs did not change; what changed was simply their interpretation.

EASTER TRADITIONS

EASTER BUNNY HISTORY

The Easter bunny has its origin in pre-Christian fertility lore. The Hare and the rabbit were the most fertile animals known and they served as a symbol of the new life during the Spring season.

The bunny as an Easter symbol seems to have its origin in Germany, where it was first mentioned in German writings in the 1500s. The first edible Easter bunnies were made in Germany during the early 1800s. These were made of pastry and sugar.

The Easter bunny was introduced to America folklore by the German settlers who arrived in the Pennsylvania Dutch country during the 1700s. The arrival of the “Oschter Haws” was considered “childhood’s greatest pleasure” next to a visit from Christ-Kindel on Christmas Eve. The children believed that if they were good the “Oschter Haws” would lay a nest of colored eggs.

The children would build their nest in a secluded place in the home, the barn or the garden. boys would use their caps and girls their bonnets to make the nests. The use of elaborate Easter baskets would later as the tradition of the Easter bunny spread through out the country.

LENTEN PRAYER

Merciful God, on this Lenten journey, give me the courage to make a change.

Help me to show mercy for others and love generously.

Transform my heart so that I may know the joy of Easter.

I ask this in the name of Jesus.

Amen

Triduum Services

Holy Thursday – Mass of the Lord’s Supper — April 5 at 7 p.m.

Church will remain open until 11:30 pm on Holy Thursday

Good Friday Service — April 6 at 1:30 p.m.

Church will remain open until 10:00 pm for private meditation

Holy Saturday — April 7

Morning Prayer at 10 a.m.

Blessing of Food at 12 Noon

Easter Vigil Mass at 7 p.m.

Easter Sunday—April 8 — Masses at 8 and 10 a.m. and 12 Noon

No evening Mass on Easter