

## PASTOR'S PACE

I am writing this column the week before Palm Sunday because of the printing schedule of our bulletin's publisher. It is a bit odd to be thinking about Easter and the resurrection of Jesus prior to celebrating Holy Week and Triduum, but such is necessary. There is no way to prepare Easter, I suppose and as Christians are reminded that Easter is part of our daily lives.

No matter how much we are aware that Easter is coming, it still has the power to catch us off-guard; this is a good thing. There is no legitimate way to prepare for Easter, something the Gospel reminds us. Despite all of our planning and prayer, the meaning and profundity of Easter seems to find us unprepared to accept its message and implications because it avails us to something new, surprising and enlivening.

The early disciples of Jesus show us that a true celebration of a new life in Jesus certainly brings forth unexpected and unplanned experiences, discoveries and sensations. None of them could fathom what the resurrection would mean for them and their earthly lives. Their experience of finding an empty tomb and ultimately encountering the risen Jesus could not be explained away by theory or subsequent theology. Such is the same for us: the resurrection can only be accepted, not understood.

Perhaps this is why we and the world favor Christmas over Easter: we understand a birth and can identify with it; a glorified body is something we cannot relate to in the ordinary confines and context of our earthly lives. Easter forces us to engage our imaginations and rely on faith and hope in order for it to take hold of us and transform us and the way we look at the life we have been given and the eternal life we can claim as our own as followers of Jesus.

The resurrection does not call forth understanding; it calls forth belief, something we cannot grasp or control yet need in order to make sense of our lives, our identity, our Church, and the time we have been given. Easter is a lifelong experience that breaks into the ordinariness of our lives, dispels our fears and complacency, and gives us a perspective that is far exceeds anything we could plan or for which we can prepare. Easter defies human knowing and calls forth the God-given grace which is manifested by faith, hope, and love.

This process of transformation and change catches us off-guard and invites us to be caught up in the mystery, wonder, awe, and reverence that is the imagining of what life is and what it can be. Happy Easter!

Let us remember each other in prayer this holy week!  
+Eric J. Knapp, S.J.

## MASS INTENTIONS: April 5-10

MON	6:00	+Marilyn Bleil Schulenberg
	11:30	+Vincent Salazar
	12:05	+William Williams
TUES	6:00	+Rita Menges
	11:30	+Peter Ginocchio (Birth.)
	12:05	Sp. Int. Cyndi Niehaus
WED	6:00	Parish Book of Remembrance
	11:30	+Walter Stahl
	12:05	+Thomas Muddiman
THURS	6:00	+Greg Roth
	11:30	O'Connor & Whalen Families
	12:05	+Richard Niehaus
FRI	6:00	Favret and Dell Families
	11:30	+Catherine Knapp
	12:05	+Dr. Richard Boiman
SAT	7:00	Sp. Int. Patty Crotty
	11:00	+Joseph and Theresa Norris

## FAITH FORMATION

### APRIL Apostleship of Prayer

**General:** That every tendency to fundamentalism and extremism may be countered by respect, tolerance, and dialogue among believers.

**Mission:** That persecuted Christians may persevere, sustained by the Holy Spirit, in witnessing to the love of God for all, even for those who persecute them.

### BREAK OPEN THE WORD: Sunday Scripture Study

Come and break open the Sunday readings with Al Cucchetti from **8:00-8:45 AM in the Undercroft** (except Easter).

### WOMEN OF GRACE

St. Xavier will again host a powerful Catholic program for women entitled "Full of Grace: Women and the Abundant Life Foundational Study." This study encourages all women to explore the powerful influence God calls her to be in today's world. The study will begin on **Tuesday, April 13** and will run for eight consecutive Tuesdays concluding June 1. Contact Marguerite Kron at 513-385-2246.

### The Gospels of Luke: VOLUMES I & II, the Story of the Church.

Fr. Tim Schehr will present the two-volume Gospel four Tuesday evenings **April 13, April 20, April 27 and May 4**, in the Church Undercroft from 7-8:30 PM. You are invited to gather with Fr. Tim to read together some of Luke's account. Discover what wonderful things can happen when people are filled with the Holy Spirit. Please bring a friend and your Bible.

**Baptism Prep Class** is scheduled for Thursday, April 29 at 7 PM in the undercroft. Please call the office to register.

**Marriage Prep Class** is scheduled for Thursday, May 6 at 7 PM in the undercroft. Please call the office to register if you are planning to be married at St. Xavier Church in 2010.

## CHURCH NOTES

The **Sunday collection** for March 28 was **\$9,441.28**, and weekday was **\$331.23**. **Thank you for your generosity!** Tithing for the month of March went to: **St. Vincent DePaul, C.I.S.E., Catholic Charities, Downtown Dash, Magis, Caracol, Winton Hills Seniors' Computer Project, Fernside, and Crossroads Health Center.**

**Please remember in your prayers the sick of our parish:** Fr. Murphy, Bob Carey, Jean Fischer, Patty Everett, Marian Hardy, Adam Stropko, Rhua Kepferle, Betsey Wilson, Elizabeth Brown, Marge Willis, Lola Davis, Diane Gottmer, and Alice Schutte.

## X-CETERA

**Xpressions Book Club** will meet Monday, April 19 at 4:00 PM. **The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything** by James Martin, S.J. will be discussed. All are welcome.

### Xplorers Keeneland Trip

Mark your calendars for Keeneland Race Track, Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>; cost: \$45 pp includes ticket, program and bus accommodations. Please call the office by Monday, April 12. Leaving St. X at 10 AM and return at 7:45 PM. Please call the office by Monday, April 12.



**\$5 Cincinnati Reds Night** Join your friends from Saint Xavier for our 2010 Cincinnati Reds Night. **Friday June 11 at**

**7:05** Tickets have been reduced to only \$5 each. There will be fireworks after the game. Please call Diane at the church office to secure your \$5 tickets no later than Monday May 10. We're better when we're together!

**THE DOWNTOWN DASH AND BLOCK PARTY** will be held on **Friday, August 6**. Volunteers are still needed for logistics, publicity, and race coordination. Check us out on **Facebook: Downtown Dash** or go to [www.downtowndash.org](http://www.downtowndash.org) for more information.

It was following the resurrection and disciples were still somewhat scattered about Jerusalem and the surrounding villages. John finds Peter and runs up to him. Excitedly he says, "Peter, Peter! I've got some good news and some bad news." Peter takes ahold of John and calms him down. "Take it easy, John. What is it? What's the good news?" John says, "The good news is Christ is risen." Peter says, "That's great! But, what's the bad news?" John, looking around, says, "He's really steamed about last Friday."



## CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Shawls, lap blankets and other items are hand made by our parishioners, meeting on the first and third Saturdays of the month from 9:15 to 11:15 AM. These items are distributed to individuals who are hospitalized, homebound, or in a nursing facility.

**Caring Hands Homebound Ministry:** Provides prayer and Communion, visits and assistance to those who are ill or homebound on as needed bases. If you or someone you know is in need of a visitor with Communion, please call the parish office. If you would like to assist with this meaningful ministry, please contact Barbara Westendorf.

**Jail Ministry:** Our Worship Team visits the Correctional Institutes on the first and third Sundays to read God's word and share in prayer with each other.

**Health Ministry:** Our goal is promoting spiritual growth through healthy living. Our mission is to raise awareness on health issues and provide resources to the parish and the larger community in response to our Christian call to charity and our Jesuit call to be men and women for others.

**Tender Mercies:** Our parishioners prepare and serve a hot meal for the residents on the last Sunday of every month. Call the office to assist with food items.

**St Vincent De Paul:** meet every Saturday at 9 AM at the Cathedral to make home visits and attend to requests for service prior to providing assistance.

**X-Acts Young Adult Group:** The Young Adults of the parish will meet on **Thursday, April 8 at 6:30 PM** in the undercroft. Their mission is to provide service to the community and reflect on their service work.

## SOCIAL ACTION

Earlier this month a group of seventeen parishioners completed the "Salt and Light" program, a program sponsored by the Archdiocese about Catholic Social Teaching and its role in the parish. We have met people in our community whose lives have been impacted by social issues, learned about the rich tradition of social teaching in the Church, and were provided with resources and a model for using Catholic Social Teaching on the parish level to address human needs. We had a rich discussion and benefited from the experience. We ask that you pray for us in the coming weeks as we discern starting a Parish Social Action Ministry Committee at St. Xavier, so that as a parish we can more fully live out our call to be a community that is truly "salt for the earth" and "light for the world," and in so doing, work to build the kingdom of God. May Christ be with all of us.

-Gretchen Niswonger