

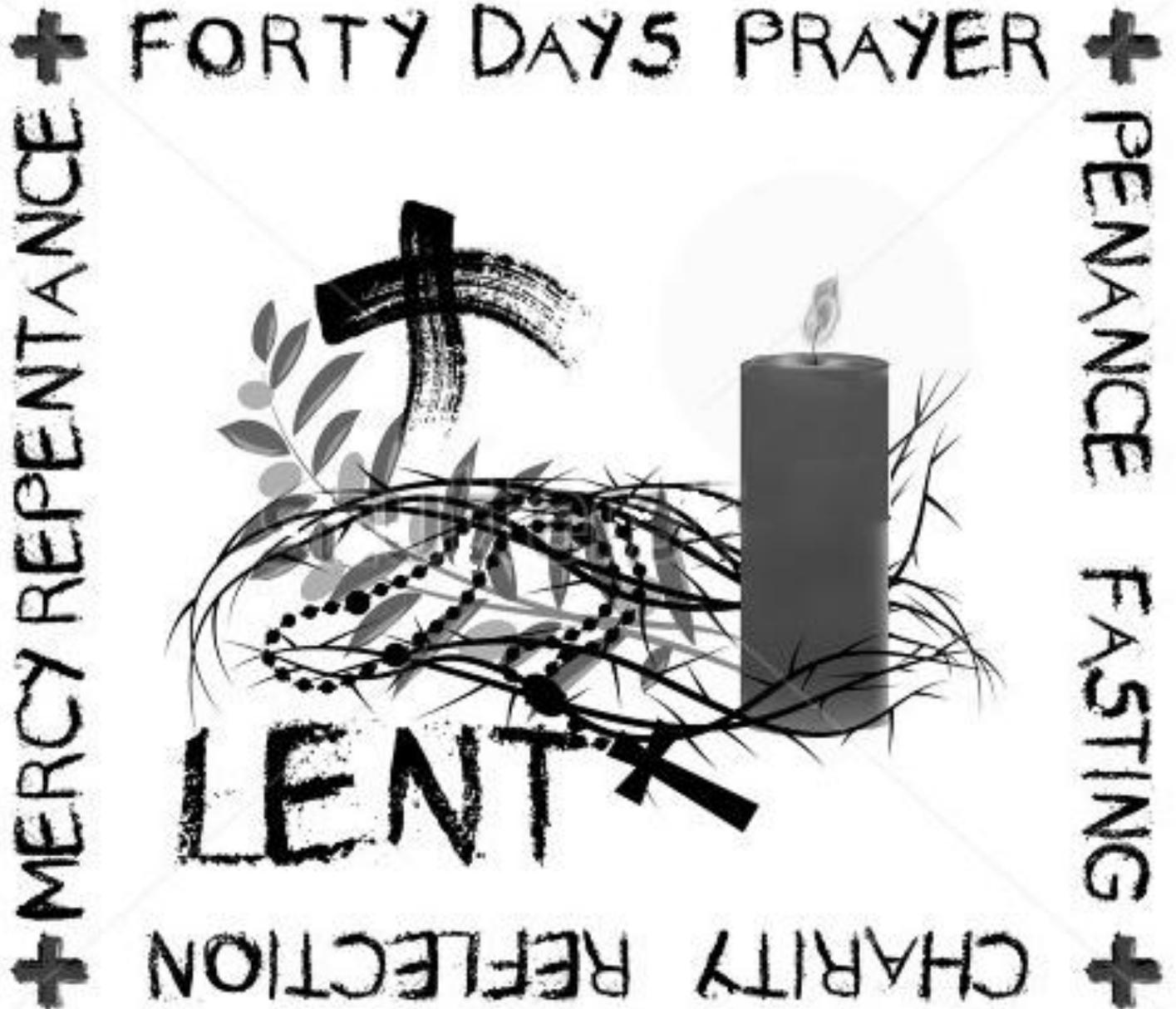
# HOLY FAMILY PARISH

Don Bosco Chapel

Fortbaan 79

2900 Schoten

[www.holyfamilyantwerp.org](http://www.holyfamilyantwerp.org)



+ MERCY REPENTANCE +

FORTY DAYS PRAYER

+ PENANCE FASTING +

CHARITY REFLECTION

**March 2018 Year B**  
**Sunday Mass 10:30am**  
**Fr. Francis Peerlinck, Pastor**

## **MESSAGE FROM FATHER: THE LITURGICAL CALENDER FOR MARCH AND APRIL**

Dear Parishioners!

The months of March & April are blessed with the following liturgical celebrations, worth remembering:

March 18: We begin our Sunday Eucharistic celebration with a special "Penitential Service" as our preparation to Easter. We confess our sins, ask God for his forgiveness, and receive the absolution of all our sins. If you would like a private confession, you can ask Father before or after Mass.

As it also is "First Sunday of the Passion", we shall go the "Stations of the Cross" after Mass. We meditate the Passion of the Lord Jesus Christ, as Holy Family Parish has no Good Friday Services. People, who can't stay, may leave after Mass.

March 25: Palm Sunday / Passion of the Lord / Commemoration of the Lord's Solemn Entrance into Jerusalem. At the beginning of the Mass we bless the palm branches, which you can take home after Mass with you. During Mass we hear the reading of the "Passion of the Lord according to the evangelist Mark". We begin the Holy Week, ending the week with the Sacred Pascal Triduum.

March 29: On Holy Thursday the Church celebrates the Lord's Last Supper with his disciples. Holy Family Parish has no evening service. You're invited to participate in the service of a local Flemish church.

March 30: The Church celebrates "Good Friday" or the "Friday of the Passion of the Lord". In Belgium Good Friday is a day of abstinence, left up to people's personal devotion. Holy Family Parish has no services. You're invited to go to an evening service in a Flemish church.

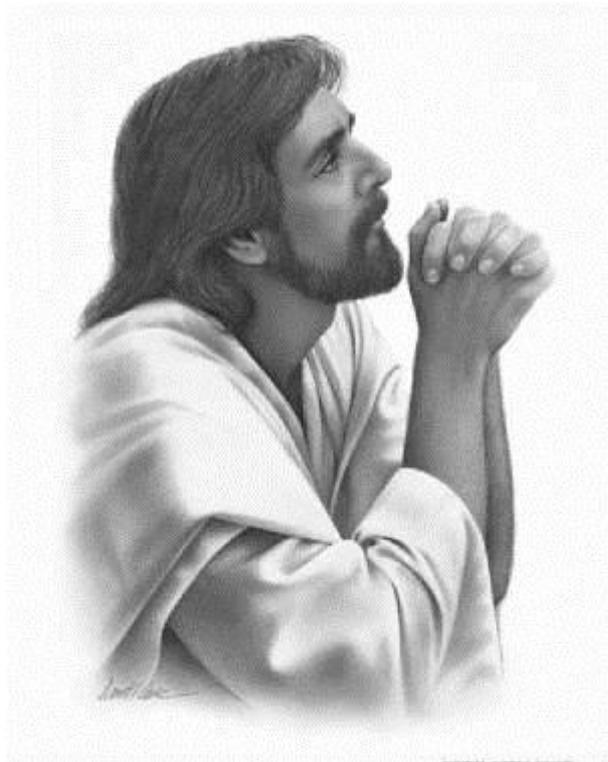
April 1: Easter Sunday / the Resurrection of the Lord. At 10:30 a.m. Holy Family Parish comes together and will solemnly celebrate the resurrection of the Lord. In Belgium children go and seek chocolate Easter eggs, remembering the real eggs that were once given to poor people on that day! A "Happy Easter" to all of you!

April 9: Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. The feast is normally celebrated on March 25th, this year it was changed, because of Palm Sunday.

Father Frans Peerlinck

## PRAYERS AND SPECIAL INTENTIONS

† For all those who have asked anonymously for our prayers.



† For strength and guidance for marriages enduring hard and stressful times.

† Please pray for friends and relatives who are suffering mental and physical illnesses, that God comfort them and give them hope that their lives will improve and they will return to good health and be happy.

† For families separated because of work and life situations. That they may stay strong and close in spite of the miles separating them.

† For all those making Lenten sacrifices, that their efforts help them to come closer to Jesus and come to know better His love and mercy.

## PRAISE GOD FOR HE IS GOOD

☺ Praise God for **ALL** the blessings he has given me!

☺ Praise God for the love of good people!

☺ Praise God for my family and friends!

☺ Praise God for my good health!

☺ Praise God for being there **ALWAYS!**

☺ Praise God for He is worthy to be praised!

☺ Praise God for my Guardian Angel and all Angels watching over me!

☺ Praise God because He loves me EVERY DAY!

# WHO'S DOING WHAT IN MARCH

## Liturgy Readers:

- 04/03/18 ~~~~~ Barbara
- 11/03/18 ~~~~~ Alan
- 18/03/18 ~~~~~ Graeme
- 25/03/18 ~~~~~ Rosanne & Barbara
- 01/04/18 ~~~~~ Graeme

If you have any questions, please contact Rosanne

## EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:

*(IF YOU SEE FATHER NEEDS HELP, FEEL FREE TO JOIN HIM GIVING COMMUNION)*

## Our after Mass bakers are:

- 04/03/18 ~~~~~ Pilar
- 11/03/18 ~~~~~ Olga and Eric
- 18/03/18 ~~~~~ Marta
- 25/03/18 ~~~~~ Rosanne
- 01/04/18 ~~~~~ Renée

If you have any questions, please contact Renee

## PEANUTS



# DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS MARCH 25<sup>th</sup>!



Don't forget to change your clocks before you go to bed Saturday night or you might just make it to church in time for the final Blessing.

No stress!! No worries! There's a simple way to remember which way to turn your clock for Daylight Saving Time. In the SPRING you should set your clocks ahead or "SPRING FORWARD"

## dates to Remember

- March 18<sup>th</sup> Penitential Service will be held during the 10:30 mass. We will go the Stations of the Cross after mass.
- March 25<sup>th</sup> - Daylight Saving time begins at 2am March 25<sup>th</sup> in Belgium. Remember to turn your clocks ahead (Spring forward, Fall back) Saturday night March 24<sup>th</sup> before going to bed. Otherwise you will be an hour late for Mass.
- Palm Sunday
- April 1<sup>st</sup> Easter Sunday! Halleluiah! The Lord is risen today!
- May 13<sup>th</sup> First Communion Mass at 11:00
- May 20<sup>th</sup> Pentecost Sunday
- June 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish Picnic. Please keep this date free for our annual Parish picnic. Mass will start later for this day at 11:00
- June 24<sup>th</sup> Last mass at Don Bosco chapel before the summer break. Mass will start at the regular time of 10:30.

# DESPERATELY SEEKING TALENT ~~~~~ ROSANNE

If you are even a little familiar with Microsoft Word or any other document program and are looking to expand your experience then you are the one I'm looking for. I am looking for someone who is looking for a way to serve the parish in a creative and, I must say, very appreciated job. How often do you get to do something that MANY people appreciate? With the start of this year I have been doing the bulletin now for 12 years! As I said, it's a job that takes commitment but the rewards are innumerable.



I will be leaving Belgium by the end of this year and will no longer be able to fulfill this commitment but if someone is interested, we can use the time I have left here to get you trained and comfortable.

**Volunteering:  
IT'S EASIER  
THAN  
YOU  
THINK.**

Please think about it. I will be happy to teach you all I know about putting the monthly bulletin together.

I will run this add in every bulletin between now and when someone accepts the challenge

Also, if you would like to be a reader of the Liturgy, we could sure use your voice. Please let me know if you're interested and I'll help get you prepared.





Herewith the Christian Women's Club invites you to the coming prayer connection which will be held on **Tuesday March 6, 2018** at the home of Marie-Louise, Valkenlaan 67, 2950 Kapellen (tel. 03-605 71 88).

You are welcome from 10 o'clock in the morning. Prayer time starts at 10.30h.

**Daily prayers lessen daily worries.**

*Prayer: Help me, dear God, to depend more fully on You in every moment of the day and to rest in the assurance that You are always with me.*

If you are unable to come and have a prayer request please let us know.

Date for the next prayer connection: **Tuesday April 3, 2018!** Please make a note!

Blessings,

Sharmini (03-354 01 43)

Marie-Louise (03-605 71 88)

# *Diner* Liefdadigheids-

Sri Lanka Women's Association of Belgium

**ZATERDAG 24 MAART 2018**

- . 19.30 - 22.30u (deuren open vanaf 19.00)
- . 'Werf 44', Schoolstraat 44, 2970 Schilde
- . 30 euro p/p

Tickets bestellen voor 10 maart 2018

Contact: Sharmini 0486/709832

Email: slwab28@gmail.com

Bankrekening ING: 363 1122797 62



## **Pope Francis' Lenten Message**

### **MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR LENT 2018**

“Because of the increase of iniquity, the love of many will grow cold” (Mt 24:12)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Once again, the Pasch of the Lord draws near! In our preparation for Easter, God in his providence offers us each year the season of Lent as a “sacramental sign of our conversion.” Lent summons us, and enables us, to come back to the Lord wholeheartedly and in every aspect of our life.

With this message, I would like again this year to help the entire Church experience this time of grace anew, with joy and in truth. I will take my cue from the words of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew: “Because of the increase of iniquity, the love of many will grow cold” (24:12).

These words appear in Christ’s preaching about the end of time. They were spoken in Jerusalem, on the Mount of Olives, where the Lord’s passion would begin. In reply to a question of the disciples, Jesus foretells a great tribulation and describes a situation in which the community of believers might well find itself: amid great trials, false prophets would lead people astray and the love that is the core of the Gospel would grow cold in the hearts of many.

#### **False prophets**

Let us listen to the Gospel passage and try to understand the guise such false prophets can assume.

They can appear as “snake charmers,” who manipulate human emotions in order to enslave others and lead them where they would have them go. How many of God’s children are mesmerized by momentary pleasures, mistaking them for true happiness! How many men and women live entranced by the dream of wealth, which only makes them slaves to profit and petty interests! How many go through life believing that they are sufficient unto themselves, and end up entrapped by loneliness!

False prophets can also be “charlatans,” who offer easy and immediate solutions to suffering that soon prove utterly useless. How many young people are taken in by the panacea of drugs, of disposable relationships, of easy but dishonest gains! How many more are ensnared in a thoroughly “virtual” existence, in which relationships appear quick and straightforward, only to prove meaningless!

These swindlers, in peddling things that have no real value, rob people of all that is most precious: dignity, freedom, and the ability to love. They appeal to our vanity, our trust in appearances, but in the end they only make fools of us.

Nor should we be surprised. In order to confound the human heart, the devil, who is "a liar and the father of lies" (Jn 8:44), has always presented evil as good, falsehood as truth. That is why each of us is called to peer into our heart to see if we are falling prey to the lies of these false prophets. We must learn to look closely, beneath the surface, and to recognize what leaves a good and lasting mark on our hearts, because it comes from God and is truly for our benefit.

## **A cold heart**

In his description of hell, Dante Alighieri pictures the devil seated on a throne of ice, in frozen and loveless isolation. We might well ask ourselves how it happens that charity can turn cold within us. What are the signs that indicate that our love is beginning to cool?

More than anything else, what destroys charity is greed for money, "the root of all evil" (1 Tim 6:10). The rejection of God and his peace soon follows; we prefer our own desolation rather than the comfort found in his word and the sacraments. All this leads to violence against anyone we think is a threat to our own "certainties": the unborn child, the elderly and infirm, the migrant, the alien among us, or our neighbor who does not live up to our expectations.

Creation itself becomes a silent witness to this cooling of charity. The earth is poisoned by refuse, discarded out of carelessness or for self-interest. The seas, themselves polluted, engulf the remains of countless shipwrecked victims of forced migration. The heavens, which in God's plan, were created to sing his praises, are rent by engines raining down implements of death.

Love can also grow cold in our own communities. In the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, I sought to describe the most evident signs of this lack of love: selfishness and spiritual sloth, sterile pessimism, the temptation to self-absorption, constant warring among ourselves, and the worldly mentality that makes us concerned only for appearances, and thus lessens our missionary zeal.

## **What are we to do?**

Perhaps we see, deep within ourselves and all about us, the signs I have just described. But the Church, our Mother and Teacher, along with the often bitter medicine of the truth, offers us in the Lenten season the soothing remedy of prayer, almsgiving, and fasting.

By devoting more time to prayer, we enable our hearts to root out our secret lies and forms of self-deception, and then to find the consolation God offers. He is our Father and he wants us to live life well.

Almsgiving sets us free from greed and helps us to regard our neighbor as a brother or sister. What I possess is never mine alone. How I would like almsgiving to become a genuine style of life for each of us! How I would like us, as Christians, to follow the example of the Apostles and see in the sharing of our possessions a tangible witness of the communion that is ours in the Church!

For this reason, I echo Saint Paul's exhortation to the Corinthians to take up a collection for the community of Jerusalem as something from which they themselves would benefit (cf. 2 Cor 8:10). This is all the more fitting during the Lenten season, when many groups take up collections to assist Churches and peoples in need. Yet I would also hope that, even in our daily encounters with those who beg for our assistance, we would see such requests as coming from God himself. When we give alms, we share in God's providential care for each of his children. If through me God helps someone today, will he not tomorrow provide for my own needs? For no one is more generous than God.

Fasting weakens our tendency to violence; it disarms us and becomes an important opportunity for growth. On the one hand, it allows us to experience what the destitute and the starving have to endure. On the other hand, it expresses our own spiritual hunger and thirst for life in God. Fasting wakes us up. It makes us more attentive to God and our neighbor. It revives our desire to obey God, who alone is capable of satisfying our hunger.

I would also like my invitation to extend beyond the bounds of the Catholic Church, and to reach all of you, men and women of good will, who are open to hearing God's voice. Perhaps, like ourselves, you are disturbed by the spread of iniquity in the world, you are concerned about the chill that paralyzes hearts and actions, and you see a weakening in our sense of being members of the one human family. Join us, then, in raising our plea to God, in fasting, and in offering whatever you can to our brothers and sisters in need!

## The fire of Easter

Above all, I urge the members of the Church to take up the Lenten journey with enthusiasm, sustained by almsgiving, fasting, and prayer. If, at times, the flame of charity seems to die in our own hearts, know that this is never the case in the heart of God! He constantly gives us a chance to begin loving anew.

One such moment of grace will be, again this year, the "24 Hours for the Lord" initiative, which invites the entire Church community to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation in the context of Eucharistic adoration. In 2018, inspired by the words of Psalm 130:4, "With you is forgiveness," this will take place from Friday, March 9 to Saturday, March 10. In each diocese, at least one church will remain open for 24 consecutive hours, offering an opportunity for both Eucharistic adoration and sacramental confession.

During the Easter Vigil, we will celebrate once more the moving rite of the lighting of the Easter candle. Drawn from the "new fire," this light will slowly overcome the darkness and illuminate the liturgical assembly. "May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds," and enable all of us to relive the experience of the disciples on the way to Emmaus. By listening to God's word and drawing nourishment from the table of the Eucharist, may our hearts be ever more ardent in faith, hope and love.

With affection and the promise of my prayers for all of you, I send you my blessing. Please do not forget to pray for me.

+FRANCIS



*2018 Lenten  
Message of  
His Holiness  
Pope Francis*

## The powerful 30 day prayer to Saint Joseph

*Just in time for Saint Joseph's March 19<sup>th</sup> feast day*

For centuries Christians have turned to St. Joseph as a powerful patron and faithful guardian, father and friend. Invoked as the *Glory of home life, Patron of the Dying and Terror of Demons*, Christians call upon St. Joseph for healing and conversion, help with their children, a new job or home, and for all their needs of body and soul.



Honored as the Patron of the Universal Church, St. Joseph's paternal protection of the Lord Jesus continues even from heaven, as he watches over Christ's Mystical Body on earth. The foster-father of the Son of God is also a father to those who have become God's sons and daughters through the sacrament of baptism.

Saints and popes down the centuries have experienced and extolled St. Joseph's great power to intercede. "Would that I could persuade all men to be devout to this glorious saint," wrote St. Teresa of Avila in her autobiography, "for I know by long experience what blessings he can obtain for us from God."

"Men of every rank and country should fly to the trust and guard of the blessed Joseph," especially fathers of families, Pope Leo XIII wrote in his encyclical on devotion to St. Joseph, Quamquam pluries.

Pope Benedict XVI especially encouraged married couples and parents to turn to St. Joseph, saying: "God alone could grant Joseph the strength to trust the Angel. God alone will give you, dear married couples, the strength to raise your family as he wants. Ask it of him! God loves to be asked for what he wishes to give. Ask him for the grace of a true and ever more faithful love patterned after his own. As the Psalm magnificently puts it: his 'love is established for ever, his loyalty will stand as long as the heavens' (Ps 88:3)."

And Pope St. John Paul II, with Pope Benedict and their predecessors, held up St. Joseph as a model of the interior life, pointing to the silence of St. Joseph which speaks louder than words. "The Gospels speak exclusively of what Joseph 'did,'" Pope John Paul II said. "Still, they allow us to discover in his 'actions' — shrouded in silence as they are — an aura of deep contemplation. Joseph was in daily contact with the mystery 'hidden from ages past,' and which 'dwelt' under his roof."

The liturgical feast of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Confessor of the Faith, is celebrated each year on March 19th. In preparation for this feast, we offer a powerful 30 Day Prayer to St. Joseph.

Why 30 days, you might wonder? According to tradition, St. Joseph died just before Jesus entered into his public ministry. The prayer therefore honors St. Joseph for each of the 30 years he spent with Jesus and Mary on earth.

This prayer can be said during any 30-day period, but with St. Joseph's feast fast approaching, now is a particularly opportune time to turn to him asking his help and guidance for all your needs, the needs of your family, loved ones, friends, and all those in need of prayer.

And if you begin one or two days late, no need to worry. St. Joseph lives outside of time, and has been known to answer on the March 25th Feast of the Annunciation.

### **THIRTY DAY PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH IN HONOR OF THE 30 YEARS HE SPENT WITH JESUS AND MARY**

Ever blessed and glorious Joseph, kind and loving father, and helpful friend of all in sorrow! You are the good father and protector of orphans, the defender of the defenseless, the patron of those in need and sorrow.



Look kindly on my request. My sins have drawn down on me the just displeasure of my God, and so I am surrounded with unhappiness. To you, loving guardian of the Family of Nazareth, do I go for help and protection. Listen, then, I beg you, with fatherly concern, to my earnest prayers, and obtain for me the favors I ask.

I ask it by the infinite mercy of the eternal Son of God, which moved Him to take our nature and to be born into this world of sorrow.

I ask it by the weariness and suffering you endured when you found no shelter at the inn of Bethlehem for the Holy Virgin, nor a house where the Son of God could be born. Then, being everywhere refused, you had to allow the Queen of Heaven to give birth to the world's Redeemer in a cave.

I ask it by the loveliness and power of that sacred Name, Jesus, which you conferred on the adorable Infant.

I ask it by the painful torture you felt at the prophecy of holy Simeon, which declared the Child Jesus and His holy Mother future victims of our sins and of their great love for us.

I ask it through your sorrow and pain of soul when the angel declared to you that the life of the Child Jesus was sought by His enemies. From their evil plan, you had to flee with Him and His Blessed Mother to Egypt.

I ask it by all the suffering, weariness, and labors of that long and dangerous journey.

I ask it by all your care to protect the Sacred Child and His Immaculate Mother during your second journey, when you were ordered to return to your own country.

I ask it by your peaceful life in Nazareth where you met with so many joys and sorrows. I ask it by your great distress when the adorable Child was lost to you and His mother for three days.

I ask it by your joy at finding Him in the temple, and by the comfort you found at Nazareth, while living in the company of the Child Jesus.

I ask it by the wonderful submission He showed in His obedience to you.

I ask it by the perfect love and conformity you showed in accepting the Divine order to depart from this life, and from the company of Jesus and Mary.

I ask it by the joy which filled your soul, when the Redeemer of the world, triumphant over death and hell, entered into the possession of His kingdom and led you into it with special honors.

I ask it through Mary's glorious Assumption, and through that endless happiness you have with her in the presence of God. O good father! I beg you, by all your sufferings, sorrows, and joys, to hear me and obtain for me what I ask.

(Here name your petitions or think of them.)

Obtain for all those who have asked my prayers everything that is useful to them in the plan of God. Finally, my dear patron and father, be with me and all who are dear to me in our last moments, that we may eternally sing the praises of: JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH. "A blameless life, St. Joseph, may we lead, by your kind patronage from danger freed."



ACTUALLY, YOU HAD A  
PRETTY GREAT LIFE, BUT  
YOU WERE LOOKING DOWN  
AT YOUR PHONE AND YOU  
MISSED IT!

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## HAPPY RESURECTION

After Jesus died; the women went to Jesus' tomb, it was

**E**mpy, how

**A**mazing, they were

**S**urprised! It was the

**T**hird Day after his death, how

**E**xtraordinary! Jesus had

**R**isen! Alleluia!



## PARISH COUNCIL 2017/2018

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Music	EricWouters&OlgaVelez .....	----- eandohfp@gmail.com

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- March 18<sup>th</sup> Penitential Service during mass and stations of the cross after mass.
- March 25<sup>th</sup> - Palm Sunday - Daylight Saving time begins.
- April 1<sup>st</sup> Easter Sunday! Halleluia! The Lord is risen today!
- May 13<sup>th</sup> First Communion; Mass at 11:00
- May 20<sup>th</sup> Pentecost Sunday
- June 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish Picnic
- June 24<sup>th</sup> Last mass at Don Bosco chapel before the summer break.

**PLEASE SEND ROSANNE ALL SUBMISSIONS FOR THE APRIL BULLETIN BY MARCH 27<sup>TH</sup> . THANK YOU!**