

From The Pastor's Desk

Have you ever given yourself permission to really and deeply question the meaning of *suffering*?

Suffering presents itself daily in so many forms. We can't escape seeing its face. We would have to be totally blind and deaf not to find it all around us. And, if we were blind and deaf, we would be suffering enough, wouldn't we? The spontaneous question that jumps to our lips is, why?

Why so much suffering? Why do the old suffer? Why do innocent suffer? Why do good people suffer? And so on, and so forth. We can exhaust ourselves as we try to struggle with the answer to the question of suffering. You see, there is no answer that will offer any kind of reasonable explanation to us.

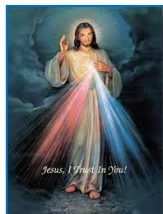
But if you are asked the question: Would you suffer for someone you loved? I'm sure that many, if not most, of you would say yes. And, if I asked you why you would do so, you would simply tell me: *"Because I love that person."* Our answer has nothing to do with reason or intelligence. It has nothing to do with having read a thousand books on suffering, or having heard a thousand lectures on suffering. If Albert Einstein were alive today, he wouldn't have any better explanation for suffering than you have.

The only answer that starts to make any sense is the answer you would have given. "Yes, I would suffer for someone because I love them."

And that is the answer Jesus gives us today. He suffered because he loved. He loved us. And, we needed to know that we were and are loved. The only question we need to know the answer to is that question: **Am I loved?**

Today, the answer is clear. As we look at Jesus on the cross and wonder why, the silent response that comes to us is: *"I love you."*

Fr. Joe



WHAT IS THE DIVINE MERCY NOVENA?

Jesus asked that the Feast of the Divine Mercy (Sunday, Apr. 3) be preceded by a Novena to the Divine Mercy which would begin on **Good Friday**. He gave St. Faustina an intention to pray for on each day of the Novena, saving for the last day the most difficult intention of all, the lukewarm and indifferent. **Please see the schedule in this week's bulletin for dates and times for the Novena being said here at Holy Spirit.**

Weekly Readings

- Sunday, Mar. 20** Lk 19:28-40; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Lk 22:14-23:56
- Monday, Mar. 21** Is 42:1-7; Jn 12:1-11
- Tuesday, Mar. 22** Is 49:1-6; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
- Wednesday, Mar. 23** Is 50:4-9a; Mt 26:14-25
- Thursday, Mar. 24** Ex 12:1-8, 11-14; 1Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15
- Friday, Mar. 25** Is 52:13-53:12; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1-19:42
- Saturday, Mar. 26** Gn 1:1-2:2; Gn 22:1-18; Ex 14:15-15:1; Ex 15: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18; Is 54:5-14; Is 55:1-11; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Bar 3:9-15, 32-4:4; Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28; Rom 6:3-11; Lk 24:1-12
- Sunday, Mar. 27** Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Col 3:1-4; Jn 20:1-9

Liturgy, Reconciliation & Activities

Sunday, Mar. 20 PALM SUNDAY: PASSION OF THE LORD

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Mass—†Raymon Del Bosque
- 8:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Food & Fellowship
- 9:15/11:15 a.m. 6th Grade Family Session
- 9:15/11:15 a.m. Children's Faith Formation/Adult Clusters 1, 2
- 9:30 a.m. Holy Mass—†Martha Noratto
- 10:30 a.m. Adult & Family Ministry Commission Meeting
- 11:30 a.m. Holy Mass—Intentions of Kenneth Dekleva
- 1:30 p.m. RCIA Vigil Rehearsal
- 5:30 p.m. Holy Mass—People of Holy Spirit

Monday, Mar. 21

- 8:30 a.m. Holy Mass—†Tersita L. Fajardo
- 7:00 p.m. Holy Thursday Practice
- 7:00 p.m. "Finding True Happiness" Class / Young Adults

Tuesday, Mar. 22

- 8:30 a.m. Holy Mass—†Charles Eby
- 7:30 p.m. K of C 1st Degree Team Installation

Wednesday, Mar. 23

- 8:30 a.m. Holy Mass—†Irenea Romualdo
- 9:30 a.m. Legion of Mary
- 6:00 p.m. Confessions / Family Prayer Group
- 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Practice

Thursday, Mar. 24 Holy Thursday—Parish Office Closed at 12:00 p.m.

- 8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer
- 7:30 p.m. Holy Mass of the Lord's Supper
- 8:30 p.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 7:00 a.m. Good Friday

Friday, Mar. 25 Good Friday—Parish Office Closed

- 12:00 a.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 7:00 a.m.
- 8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer
- 3:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross
- 3:45 p.m. Divine Mercy Prayers
- 7:30 p.m. Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

Saturday, Mar. 26 Holy Saturday

- 8:30 a.m. NO MASS
- 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer & Vigil Rehearsal
- 6:30 p.m. Divine Mercy Novena & Chaplet
- 8:30 p.m. Holy Mass — Easter Vigil Mass —Intentions of Paola Trumata
- 10:00 p.m. Easter Vigil Reception

Sunday, Mar. 27 EASTER SUNDAY: RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Mass—Intentions of Brenda Souter
- 9:30 a.m. Holy Mass—Intentions of John Thomas Post
- 9:45 a.m. Holy Mass (Gym) — Intentions of Polina Lee
- 11:30 a.m. Holy Mass—Intentions of Oriana Vittrup
- 12:45 p.m. Divine Mercy Novena & Chaplet
- 5:30 p.m. NO MASS

Youth Ministry

Welcome back from Spring Break! Tonight is our Virtus night. We will be watching the documentary "Out of Reach." There will be a great discussion about prescription pill abuse and its problems in our schools right now. Parents, check your Emails for more information about this topic.

Reminder: There will be no Youth Ministry **NEXT Sunday, Mar. 27**, because of Easter. Check out www.BustedHalo.com for some great Holy Week resources!

Permission slips are **due Apr. 1** for our HSY Spring Retreat to The Pines! Find them at holyspiritcatholic.com/permission-slips.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday: Mar. 24

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer
7:30 p.m. – Holy Mass of the Lord’s Supper
Adoration until 7:00 a.m. on Good Friday

Good Friday: Mar. 25

8:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer
3:00 p.m. – Stations of the Cross in the Courtyard
3:45 p.m. – Divine Mercy Prayers led by CDA in church
7:30 p.m. – Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion

Holy Saturday: Mar. 26

10:00 a.m. – Morning Prayer / Easter Vigil Rehearsal
No Confessions at 3:30 p.m.
8:30 p.m. – Holy Saturday Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday: Mar. 27

7:30 a.m. - Holy Mass (LY’s Attendance: 688)
9:30 am – Holy Mass (LY’s Attendance: 918)
9:45 am – Holy Mass—Gym (LY’s Attendance: 294)
11:30 a.m. – Holy Mass (LY’s Attendance: 1080)

Note: There will be NO 5:30 p.m. Sunday Mass

Also please note the following important information:

Childcare WILL NOT be available during Holy Week.
PARISH OFFICE CLOSED: Holy Thursday 12 Noon, Good Friday, and Easter Week (**Monday, Mar. 28–Wednesday, Mar. 30**).
There will be Communion Services daily this week.
No Confession on Wednesday, Mar. 30.



The **Sanctuary Lamp** will burn this week for the intentions of **Marie Diersing’s** Birthday, requested by **Mary Flusche**.

Altar Flowers have been donated in honor of our former pastor, **Fr. Augusthy Thekemailadyil** by the Friends of Holy Spirit for his birthday! We send our prayers to him in India for a most blessed birthday!

Sacramental Preparation

The next Confirmation Parent & Student Session is **Sunday, Apr. 3** from 1:00—4:00 p.m. in the church (Please note the time change). Please mark your calendars to attend, as this is the last session of the year and includes practice! Also, your sponsor should attend. **All paperwork is now due!** Contact Devyn Buschow x16 with any questions regarding Confirmation.

The next First Communion Parent & Student Session is **Sun., Apr. 10** from 1:30 - 4:00 p.m. and includes practice. Please contact **Lisa Estrada** x12, if you are unable to attend this meeting.

Information and paperwork regarding infant Baptism (ages 6 and under) should be directed to **Lisa Estrada**. Mark your calendars for our next baptismal preparation class for parents and godparents: **Saturday, June 11, 2016**, 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.



Can You Spend One Hour with Our Lord?

We will have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament throughout the night on **Holy Thursday** after the Mass of the Lord’s Supper (9:00 p.m. - 7:00 a.m. on Good Friday.) Sign up in the Narthex for your preferred time slot. Come by yourself or with your family!

UPDATE: We are about half-way to our goal of providing 10,000 meals for *Kids Against Hunger*. Through your kindness and generosity, we have raised enough money to provide **5,200 meals** so far. Remember, just \$1.00 = 4 meals! Please help us get to our goal by donating at the front desk in the Community Center.



Finance

Weekend of March 5/6:

Contributions (Online, Mail & Collections)	\$30,527.97
Average Weekly Expenses	(\$24,038.00)
Surplus	<u>\$ 6,489.97</u>
Balance in Future Fund	\$35,210.71

Weekend of March 12/13:

Contributions (Online, Mail & Collections)	\$21,685.50
Average Weekly Expenses	(\$24,038.00)
Deficit	<u>(\$ 2,352.50)</u>
Balance in Future Fund	\$35,210.71

Thank you for your generous support of the parish, our Diocese and the global Catholic Church. May God bless you!

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION



There are no Faith Formation classes NEXT Sunday, Mar. 27 due to the Easter Holiday! The Faith Formation Team wishes everyone a very blessed and grace-filled Easter! Classes resume Sunday, Apr. 3.

6th Grade Family Sessions are scheduled for THIS Sunday, Mar. 20 in the dining room at your child's regularly scheduled Faith Formation time. Parents, join your child for another faith-filled session! Remember, these are NOT part of the sacramental preparation process.

5th Grade Family Sessions are Sunday, Apr. 3.



We are still gratefully accepting donations of plastic Easter eggs and individually wrapped Easter candy for our newly revamped Easter Egg Hunt to be held Sunday, Apr. 3 as part of the Children's Faith Formation Program. The children are actually stuffing the eggs in their Faith Formation class this Sunday so they can feel the anticipation until after Easter. We will also have an egg stuffing station in the Gym on Palm Sunday if you want to join the fun! Confirmation/First Communion families...if you're looking for a service project, here you go! If you would like to help us out with egg/candy donations, just drop them off at the Community Center front desk, Attn: Faith Formation.

Please feel free to contact **Deborah Pearson** at (972) 298-4971, x14, with any questions.

SPECIAL NOTE: There will not be an Easter egg hunt on Easter Sunday. Instead, children in the Faith Formation program are invited to bring a basket on Sunday, Apr. 3 to enjoy the egg hunt as part of their Easter lesson plan.

Our last day to accept designated items for this year's Lenten Pantry Project is Palm Sunday, Mar. 20. We will have two winners this year due to an exceptionally generous donation made on behalf of the Kindergarten classes. **Thanking you all for your support!**

Early Registration for the 2016/17 Faith Formation and sacramental preparation year begins on Sunday, Apr. 10 after all the morning Masses in the Gym. A few things to note prior to registering:

- ◆ You have to reregister and complete new paperwork each year. This is so we have the most current information on file.
- ◆ You must be a registered member of Holy Spirit prior to registering for Faith Formation classes.
- ◆ You will be able to register your own family for Faith Formation; however, so that we can ensure proper completion of registration paperwork, you will not be able to take paperwork for other family members/neighbors.
- ◆ A minimum payment of **50% is due at the time of registration** with the remaining balance paid by Aug. 1 or your child **WILL NOT** be placed on a class roster.
- ◆ Credit cards (not debit) will be accepted on Sunday, Apr. 10 for Faith Formation payments.
- ◆ For information regarding sacramental preparation requirements, please visit with one of the available Faith Formation staff members.*

After Apr. 10, you can pick up registration paperwork at the Community Center front desk on Sunday mornings while Faith Formation is in session or during the week Monday-Thursday, 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact **Deborah Pearson, Devyn Buschow, or Lisa Estrada.**

***Faith Formation/Youth Ministry attendance will be verified at the time of registration. In order to be eligible for sacramental preparation, satisfactory attendance, either here at Holy Spirit or at another parish, of six (6) absences or less for the 2015/16 year is required. If you are transferring from another parish to Holy Spirit, an Attendance Verification Letter from the Parish Faith Formation Office is required prior to sacramental registration.**

Adult & Family Ministry

For information about any of our Adult & Family Ministry programs, please email:

Richard Johnson: richardjohnson@holyspiritcc.org

Veronica Houston: veronicahouston@holyspiritcc.org



“LIVING YOUR MARRIAGE AS A SACRAMENT” : A marriage preparation workshop for couples not sacramentally married.

This important workshop is for couples civilly-married, married in another faith or in a common-law marriage and would like to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage in the Catholic Church.

**Saturday, Apr. 2 7:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Holy Spirit Community Center**

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO HAVE A MARRIAGE

VALIDATED? Couples who are free to marry and have completed sacramental preparation, in a civil marriage **and have never been married previously**, as long as one party is a practicing Catholic.

WHEN SHOULD COUPLES ATTEND? At your earliest convenience **prior** to scheduling your validation.

COST: \$60.00 (includes workshop materials and meals)

HOW TO REGISTER? Mail registration form and check, Money Order or Cashier's Check made payable to: Holy Spirit Catholic Church

Upon receipt of your completed **registration form** and **payment**, a confirmation letter that also serves as a receipt will be sent **via Email**.

Registration Forms can be found in the Narthex or at the front desk in the Community Center.



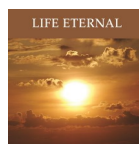
Announcing the Return of the Holy Spirit Library!

The Holy Spirit Library will re-open this fall! Please view our wish list on the Holy Spirit website under Adult and Family Ministry for donation and volunteer opportunities. Text or call **Katherine Reves** at (214) 929-9228 with questions or to volunteer.

The mission of the Holy Spirit Catholic Church Library is to foster discipleship in parishioners of all ages by making available materials that will help them grow in their Catholic faith and inspire and comfort them along their life journeys.

**Monday Morning Scripture Study
New Study: “Life Eternal”**

**Monday Mornings 9:30-11:15 a.m.
Beginning Apr. 4 — Length: 6 sessions**



\$20.00 registration fee covers the cost of all materials.

Community Life Ministry

Sunday Morning Food and Fellowship

Today: Breakfast Tacos

Join us in the Gym for this delicious breakfast and support our Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

NEXT Sunday, Mar. 27: Easter Sunday

Lenten Fish Fry THANK YOU! Thank you to our Knights of Columbus for another year of cooking and serving our parish. We appreciate your time over the past 6 weeks and all the delicious food!

Easter Vigil Reception: Saturday, Mar. 26: We are in need of **finger foods (small sandwiches, veggies, fruit, dips, appetizers, sweets, etc.)** for our Easter Vigil Reception. If you would like to contribute to our celebration we will be accepting food starting at 6:00 p.m. on **Saturday, Mar. 26**. Please join us in welcoming our new Catholic brothers and sisters. If you have any questions contact **Cindy Meyer** at **cindymeyer@holyspiritcc.org** or (972) 298-4971, x24.

Update Membership Information: It's time for us to update our parish database. If you have not already informed the Parish Office about the changes to your family's record, please let us know now so that the information in the upcoming Guide Book & Directory is correct. Contact the Parish Office (972) 298-4971, or pick up a form in the Narthex to make any changes/updates.

Outreach Ministry

23RD ANNUAL BISHOP'S PRO-LIFE DINNER Tickets will be on sale in the Narthex on **Mar. 27, Apr. 2, 3, 9 and 10**. The Grand Prize is \$15,000 in MasterCard gift cards and the winner need not be present to win!

Operation Rice Bowl, a Catholic Relief Services Lenten program. Your prayers, sacrifices, and generous donations help people in countries around the world. Pick up a Rice Bowl from the Narthex table and contribute whatever you can. Thank you for helping others in need. **Please return Rice Bowls to the office by Apr.12.**



Week Six: Lenten Giving – Disclced Carmelite Nuns are a group of cloistered nuns who live in daily silence and solitude. We will be collecting: tuna, canned fruit and vegetables, rice, beans, flour, pasta, sauces, soups, and dry or canned milk. They also need soap, detergent, dishwashing liquid, cleaning supplies, furniture polish, plain notepaper and stamps. Please label your donations for the “Carmelites”. You may also make cash donations payable to Holy Spirit and designate it for the Carmelite Nuns.

