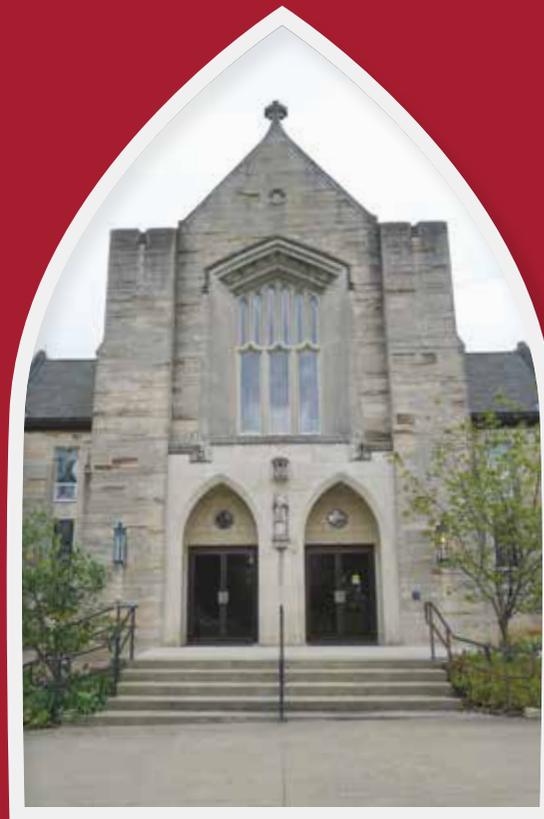


ST. CHARLES BORROMEO
CATHOLIC CHURCH
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



APRIL 2019

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CHURCH DECORATING MINISTRY

TRANSFORMS WORSHIP SPACE AND HEIGHTENS OUR PRAYER

When we enter our church during the upcoming Easter liturgies, we will be greeted with a worship space transformed into one of joy for a new life. Our Decorations Committee will have worked many hours with willing hands to make this transformation possible.

Not only does the committee decorate the church at Easter, but it also creates special decorations for the Christmas season.

Ed Langham coordinates the ministry that will be placing Easter lilies, plants and colorful flowers throughout the church for the Easter celebration.

“These will contrast the stark atonement of Lent with the new life of Easter,” Ed says. “Candles in each window will be lit by our newly Catholic sisters and brothers at the Easter Vigil.”

Ministry members give freely of their time and talents to keep the church



Arrays of lilies, colorful flowers and potted plants create a joyful setting to mark the celebration of Easter.

beautiful according to the liturgical seasons, and consider their work important to their faith.

“The work is similar to the graces Mary Magdalene received as she

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CHURCH DECORATING MINISTRY

continued from front cover

anointed the feet of Jesus, or those received by the women that sought to prepare the body of Jesus after His crucifixion — our efforts to adorn the house of God please Him,” Ed says.

As the ministry members undertake their work, they find they have been able to grow spiritually through their service to the Church. As they enter the church, the members see the faces of fellow parishioners light up with a greater appreciation of the high Holy Days of our faith.

“For us, decorating our worship space is a selfless act that heightens the prayer of the assembly,” Ed says.

Although our church is beautiful in itself, the work of the Decorations Committee adds to its beauty, and serves a higher purpose in leading us to see the beauty of God. Many hands help make that possible.

“Before I was involved with church decoration, I didn’t give much thought as to how the beautiful transformation of the Christmas and Easter sanctuary happened,” Ed says. “Now, I realize that this effort involves the loving hands and hearts of many people in coordinating flower deliveries and ordering additional candles, rearranging of sanctuary furnishings, volunteer hours and even flower contribution envelopes. I hope more parishioners will want to volunteer to share in this ministry.”

St. Charles Borromeo has been fortunate to have ministry members who have been willing to use their specific talents to decorate the church — and bring glory to God.

In 1985, Bev Rollins cast and painted a one-of-a-kind creche that never fails to evoke wonder in the expressions of young and old who visit the church during the Christmas season. Chuck Coghlan more recently designed and built a strong, new stable to more securely house the creche. Eileen Endress has sewn frontals and beautiful banners that depict Our Lady of Guadalupe and Medjugorje, as well as



Bev Rollins used her talents to craft this one-of-a-kind creche for our Christmas season decorating. Chuck Coghlan later designed and built the stable to house the pieces. Church Decorating Ministry members use their talents and offer their time to create beautiful settings for our Easter and Christmas celebrations.

Divine Mercy. Karen Glanders offered her talents to create a unique and uplifting mosaic, and paintings depicting Catholic tenets hang throughout the church.

“Not all these artists are still with us, but their gifts glorify God and draw us more deeply into faith now and in the future,” Ed says. “Others are welcome to join the ministry. We look forward to offering people the opportunity to use their God-given talent to His glory.”

**If you are interested in joining our Church Decorating Ministry,
please contact the Parish Center at 812-336-6846.**

A Letter from Our Pastor

CELEBRATING EASTER WITH GRATITUDE

Dear Parishioners,

Easter Sunday arrives later this year — April 21. The method for determining the date of Easter was settled by the ancient Church according to a complicated formula that allows it to fall anywhere between March 22 and April 25. However, most of us are content simply to look it up on a liturgical calendar!

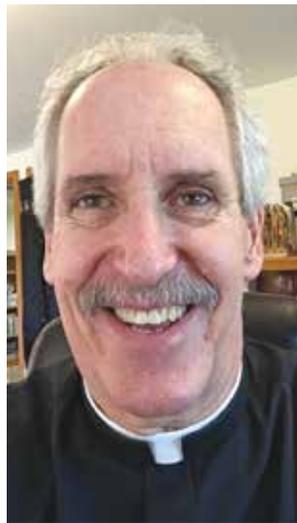
One feature at this year's Easter celebration will be a dramatic contrast from what we have experienced in the winter months — the days will be noticeably longer.

As a matter of fact, the English word “Lent” is related to the Anglo-Saxon word meaning “to lengthen,” for spring is the season when the days grow longer. Even though most Americans do not live in rural settings or agricultural environments like our ancestors did, we still find joy in the longer days that contrast with the early nightfall that we experienced at Christmas. So when Lent is over and Easter arrives, our spirits naturally delight as we leave the winter behind.

Don't get me wrong — I am not saying that Easter is some sort of spring festival. The central theme of the Christian festival of Easter is clear. It celebrates what happened once for all over 2,000 years ago, when Jesus of Nazareth died on the cross and was raised back to life on the third day by God the Father. This event took place during the Jewish observance of Passover, which comes during the spring, which is why we celebrate Easter then.

So, then, we have two reasons to celebrate at Easter. Primary, of course, is our yearly remembrance of the victory of Jesus Christ over sin, Satan and death. But we can also rejoice in the coming of spring, which melts the snows of winter and brings us beautiful flowers in bloom.

In its pastoral letter on stewardship, *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops gives a definition of who a Christian steward is. It has several parts, but the first noted aspect is that a Christian steward is “one who receives God's gifts gratefully.”



The bishops don't distinguish between gifts from God that are spiritual and ones that are material.

After all, “God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good” (Genesis 1:31). The first step in becoming a good steward is to receive what God gives, to recognize that these gifts come from God, and to be grateful for them.

So then, as we celebrate Easter with gratitude for what God continues to do for us in both the material and spiritual spheres, we can resolve to use all we have received — the time, the talent and the treasure entrusted to us, the beauty of the natural world, and the hope of eternal life — as stewards who use

them for God's glory and the welfare of His people.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "T. Kovatch". The signature is fluid and cursive.

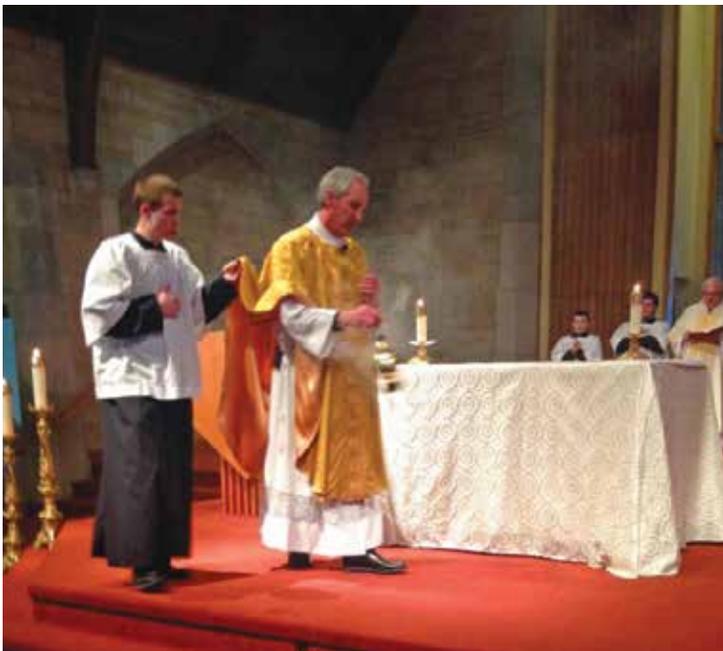
Fr. Thomas Kovatch
Pastor



EMBRACING OUR IDENTITY AS AN “EASTER



The Easter Vigil always begins after sunset, allowing the liturgy to begin in total darkness. This represents both the darkness of our sin and the tomb.



Incensing around the altar during the Holy Thursday liturgy.

Describing Catholics repeatedly as “the Easter people,” St. John Paul II emphasized throughout his papacy the centrality of the resurrection to our Christian faith. For by rising from the dead, Jesus Christ permanently conquered sin and death, ushering in a spirit of new life and hope that is meant to be lived out daily by His faithful. Yet, in our eagerness to celebrate the joy of Easter, it’s important we not forget the road which led us there — for, notes Fr. Tom Kovatch, the resurrection has no real meaning without the preceding context of Christ’s suffering, passion, and death.

“Easter is when we celebrate Christ’s victory over death,” Fr. Tom says. “God comes into this world specifically to lead us back to Him. He comes to suffer and die on the cross for us, so that we can later rejoice in the Good News of Easter — experience the joy of His resurrection.”

Therefore, just as Lent brought us spiritually into the desert with Jesus, Holy Week and the Easter Triduum are designed to help Catholics enter into the full drama of our salvation and accompany Christ, Mary and the apostles in the events which led up to Easter Sunday. This process officially begins on Palm Sunday where, like the people of Jerusalem, we welcome Christ into the church with palm branches. Yet, only minutes later we respond, “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!” in the passion narrative, forcing us to recognize our own sinfulness which resulted in Christ’s suffering and death.

A few days later, we are called to experience a new part of the story by reliving Christ’s institution of both the Eucharist and the ordained priesthood during the Holy Thursday liturgy. Then, just as Christ departed with his apostles into the Garden of Gethsemane to prepare for his suffering, the Eucharist is symbolically taken out of the church.

“To see this great gift of the Eucharist leave the church like that puts a lot of people in tears — to be left in the church without Christ’s presence like that, spiritually entering into the passion and the agony that Christ went through for us,” Fr. Tom says. “It also helps us really understand the solemnity of Good Friday.”

The only day of the entire liturgical year when Catholics are unable to celebrate the Mass, Good Friday is

PEOPLE” THIS HOLY WEEK

instead marked by a solemn Memorial Service. This includes the scriptural narrative of Christ’s suffering and death, the veneration of the cross, and finally a Communion service.

“Good Friday is this beautiful opportunity to remember and enter into the Passion of Christ,” Fr. Tom says. “We have a veneration of the cross, which is always so moving — the realization that it’s because of each of us, our sinfulness, that really brought this about. I think it just really brings home the fact that Christ died for us.”

And then at last, the Easter story culminates with the Saturday Vigil celebration. Always beginning after sunset, the Mass starts out in total darkness, symbolizing the darkness that permeated the world before Christ’s coming. Then, through numerous Old and New Testament readings, salvation history is depicted allowing us to more fully appreciate God’s perfect plan for redemption.

“It’s a time when all of the sadness and preparation of the Lenten season culminates with this liturgy of great joy and celebration,” Fr. Tom says. “We’re blessed to have our candidates and catechumens receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and their First Communion. And then, of course, there is the tremendous joy of the overall message that He’s not dead. He has risen!”

Best of all, Fr. Tom says, the great gift of Easter isn’t limited to any single liturgy. Rather, it is meant to be lived in our hearts daily, no matter what time of the year, for we truly are an Easter people. This is what makes Easter the

perfect time for spiritual cleaning and rejuvenation — a time to honestly examine our hearts and recommit ourselves to the mission of our discipleship.

“Ultimately, the Easter message is simply this — we are sinners,” Fr. Tom says. “We are the ones who caused God to come into this world to save us because that’s what He wants. He desires all of us to be with Him forever in heaven. And after His resurrection, like the first disciples, we are supposed to go forth and share that good news.”

St. Charles Borromeo Holy Week Schedule:

Palm Sunday Vigil

Saturday, April 13, at 4 p.m.

Palm Sunday Masses

Sunday, April 14, at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and 12 p.m.

Archdiocesan Chrism Mass at

Sts. Peter and Paul Cathedral

Tuesday, April 16, at 2 p.m.

Holy Thursday Mass

Thursday, April 18, at 7 p.m.

Good Friday Service

Friday, April 19, at 3 p.m.

Easter Vigil Mass

Saturday, April 20, at 9 p.m.

Easter Sunday Masses

Sunday, April 21, 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and 12 p.m.

“It’s a time when all of the sadness and preparation of the Lenten season culminates with this liturgy of great joy and celebration. We’re blessed to have our candidates and catechumens receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and their First Communion. And then, of course, there is the tremendous joy of the overall message that He’s not dead. He has risen!”

— Fr. Tom Kovatch





THE EUCHARIST AND STEWARDSHIP AS A WAY OF LIFE

More than 20 years ago, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops approved a pastoral letter titled *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*. This document was an invitation to follow Christ Who gave of Himself for us. Each of us is called to serve our neighbors and to be stewards of God's creation and of all that has been entrusted to us. However, to truly understand stewardship, we must look to the Holy Eucharist. The Holy Eucharist is the total gift of our loving Savior to us. Stewardship is our response to that gift.

Even the word "Eucharist" implies stewardship. The word "Eucharist" finds its roots in the Latin word *eucharistia*, which in turn came from the Greek word *eukaristos*, which meant, quite simply, "gratitude" or "thanksgiving." How fitting that we, who are called to be a stewardship people, celebrate at the focal point of every Mass an act of thanksgiving and gratitude — namely, the reception of Jesus' gift to us — the Eucharist.

In their pastoral letter on stewardship, the bishops speak of the Eucharist in this way: "The Eucharist is the great sign and agent of this expansive communion of charity... we enjoy a unique union with Christ and, in Him, with one another. Here His love — indeed, His very Self — flows into us as disciples and, through us and our practice of stewardship to the entire human race."

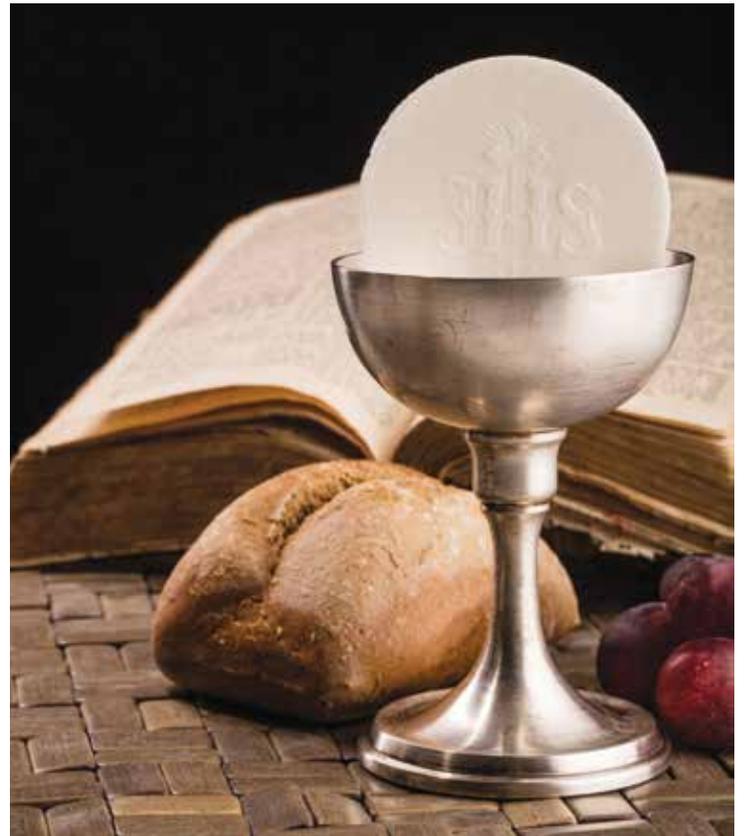
When we receive Christ's Body in the Holy Eucharist, we hear the minister say, "The Body of Christ." To this, we respond, "Amen" — which means in Hebrew, "Yes; it is so." This is the essence of stewardship. We should enter the Church for Mass out of "gratitude." We recognize the presence of the Lord in Holy Communion, and then we truly receive the Lord. What is left for us to do is the fulfillment of stewardship — that is, sharing what we have received in love of God and neighbor. Our entire experience speaks to stewardship — we are grateful; we recognize the real presence of the Lord; we receive the Lord; and then we share what we have received.

Christ's gift to us through the Eucharist is an invitation to us. We are called to give beyond what is convenient or what may be comfortable. We are called to forgive even when forgiveness may not be deserved; we are called to

love even when that love is not returned. We are called to love as God loves us.

The Eucharist is stewardship celebrated. The Mass is more than a ritual. It is an actual encounter with God, with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We need to respond to the Eucharist with our complete selves. What we experience in the Eucharist should, in turn, translate into our daily lives. We are committed to the Church, which is Christ's body. We show our love for His body by acts of charity and generosity. We spend time in prayer, expressing our gratitude and our love.

God's greatest gift to us is Christ's great love for us — this was shown when He was crucified on the Cross to pay the penalty for our sins and to give us eternal life. God's love for us is without limit, and He offers Himself to us in the Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist. Stewardship is how we respond to that gift.



MASS SETUP AND CLEANUP

TO PREPARE THE SUPPER OF THE LORD

Have you ever hosted a special meal at your home? If you have, you know how much time and preparation can go into feeding the special people in your life. You might use linens or glassware that is usually kept put away. You might take extra time making sure there is enough food for everyone. And when your family and friends arrive, you might even say a few words to bless your time together.

Preparing the Supper of the Lord isn't much different, and it's why a new ministry will take on the role of getting everything ready before each and every Mass. The Mass Setup and Cleanup Ministry will allow volunteers to assist our clergy with preparing all the vessels and linens for Mass and reverently cleaning and storing each item once Mass is over.

"The Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

usually do the setup and cleanup," says Mass Setup and Cleanup Ministry organizer Betsy Osborne. "This will be a separate, smaller ministry where people can come in and either learn how to do the setup for Mass or learn to do the cleanup. We wanted to have a way to get a few more people working inside and more integrated into the church life."

The ministry presents a great opportunity for parishioners who want to lend their time but prefer to stay "behind the scenes." For the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Betsy says the ministry will free them up to focus on serving.

The tasks involved in the Mass Setup and Cleanup Ministry include preparing the various linens and vessels involved in the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

"Basically, they'll help set up everything that's needed

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Betsy Osborne, coordinator for the Mass Setup and Cleanup Ministry, takes care of the chalice and altar linens "behind the scenes" before Mass. This ministry is responsible for making sure all objects used in the liturgy are prepared before each Mass.

**"It's really a privilege to get to do this and you want to be able to make sure everything goes right. I love to do it. It's serving the Lord really and it's a spiritual commitment, so we're hoping to attract a lot of new people back there to help. We're looking forward to getting it started."
— Betsy Osborne**



ST. CHARLES BORROMEEO
CATHOLIC CHURCH

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812-336-6846 · parish.stcharlesbloomington.org

MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKEND:

Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m.
Saturday: 8:30 a.m., 4:00 p.m. Sunday Vigil

WEEKDAYS:

Monday: 8:30 a.m.
Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. (middle school attends)
Friday: 8:30 a.m. (elementary school attends)
Tuesday, Thursday: 5:30 p.m.
**Confessions are offered 30 minutes prior to every Mass*

MASS SETUP AND CLEANUP

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for the Mass on the credence table or the gift table and interact with Fr. Tom on what needs to be done and how many hosts are needed,” Betsy says. “After the Mass, servers will bring back everything from the sanctuary and the person who does the cleanup just reverses everything. They’ll clean it up and put away everything that has been used for Mass with particular attention paid to making sure everything has been purified at the altar.”

Betsy says taking on this special role can mean growing deeper in knowledge of what each object involved with the Mass means and, in turn, give the Liturgy a more personal meaning.

“It’s really a privilege to get to do this and you want to be able to make sure everything goes right,” she says.

“I love to do it. It’s serving the Lord really and it’s a spiritual commitment, so we’re hoping to attract a lot of new people back there to help. We’re looking forward to getting it started.”

Parishioners who want to get involved are encouraged to call Betsy — she will then lead those who wish to be involved through a training session at the church and have them shadow her until they’re comfortable enough to serve alone.

“We’re not actively doing this yet, but I’m more than happy to talk to people who are interested and once we get scheduling figured out, we’ll go ahead and start doing it,” Betsy says.

**If you would like to learn more about this ministry, or to get involved,
please call Betsy Osborne at 812-606-7723.**
