



Palm Sunday: March 25th, 2018

Stewardship Reflection

He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. Therefore, God highly exalted him...

Jesus humbled himself and became the suffering servant for us all. We too, as stewards of the mysteries of God entrusted to us, may suffer from time to time. We may occasionally suffer rejection for sharing what we profess to believe. Jesus emptied himself in serving God's purpose and ultimately his suffering was rewarded.

So, we pray this Holy Week that we too may empty ourselves of pride or fear. We call upon the Holy Spirit to give us the humility, wisdom and courage to share the Gospel with whoever needs to hear it.

St. Paul reminds us today that as disciples and good stewards, *"Every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is lord, to the glory of God the Father"*. When we have the courage to share our faith, one of the rewards we will receive is the joy of witnessing someone give their life to the Lord.

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Good Friday Pontifical Collection on March 30 For the benefit of the Holy Land:

Our Parish, once a year, on Good Friday, is called to support Christians in the Holy Land. Many Christians in the Holy Land depend on the collection for their lives. As a Pontifical collection requested by Pope Francis, the annual Good Friday Collection helps to maintain not only the Holy Places above all, but also the pastoral, welfare, educational and social works that the Church carries out to the benefit of the Christian brothers and sisters and the local population.

IC PARISH Men's Shoe Drive

Thank you to everyone who support the IC Men's Shoe Drive. We are having an overwhelming response. May the Lord bless each one of you for your generosity and kindness, and fill us with the joy of God as we care for others in need.

ICS Taize Prayer Evening: Wednesday, March 28 at 7pm

This Wednesday you are invited to participate in an evening of Taize Prayer here at Immaculate. This form of prayer gathers us together in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. The Taize style of prayer is rather simple – it incorporates silence, the soft chanting of Taize refrains and the piety and beauty of candlelight. It is hoped that the evening of Taize prayer will prepare and ready us for the Triduum – the Holy Days of Holy Week. Come and see – all are welcome! Wednesday, March 28, 7pm-8pm.

Chrism Mass

One of the most solemn and significant liturgies of our Church is the Chrism Mass. Join Archbishop Miller and the priests of the archdiocese on Wednesday, March 28, at 5 p.m. at Holy Rosary Cathedral for the blessing of the oil of catechumens, the oil of the sick, and the oil of chrism.

New Evangelization Summit

Join over 3,000 Catholics across Canada and the U.S. at this premier conference for the New Evangelization. The Summit features 6 world-class Catholic speakers on the New Evangelization including Curtis Martin, Sr. Anne Shields, George Weigel, Patrick Madrid, Christy Dupuis, and Michael Dopp. The NES has been designed to inspire Catholics and help them live out their personal call to evangelize. The Summit will be held live in Ottawa on April 27-28th and will be broadcast across the continent. We are excited to have three host sites in the Archdiocese; St. Ann's Parish, Star of the Sea Parish, and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish. Be inspired, receive formation, and connect with other Catholics. To register – www.newevangelization.ca

Parish School Seismic Upgrade:

Praise be to God –
we are ever so close to finalizing the project!

Holy Week Parish Office Hours:

Holy Thursday - Office closes at noon
Good Friday & Easter Monday – Office is closed

✍ Mark Your Calendar

MayFair: Saturday, May 26 at 11am

Sisters of St. Ann: 160th Anniversary Mass - June 5, 11am Mass in Victoria – The Cathedral

Palm Sunday Reflection

The cross is our most precious symbol.

It is the first sign put on us in Baptism.

Many people wear a cross around their neck as a protection against evil.

The cross stands atop our Church entrance here at Immaculate.

The cross will stand vigil over our graves.

The cross is a symbol of hope and love.

It is a symbol of love because it reminds us that Jesus laid down his life for us.

And, it is a symbol of hope because we see it in the light of Easter.

This Holy Week may we have the courage to live and trust in the saving love of Christ before an indifferent and sometimes hostile world.

May we unite our suffering to that of Jesus, and know his power in our weakness. May we be sensitive to the sufferings of those around us, and ensure that no one carries their cross alone.

Way of the Cross at Queen Elizabeth Park

Communion and Liberation is hosting the Via Crucis (Stations of the Cross) at Queen Elizabeth Park. We will proceed through the trails of the park with prayers, meditations and songs. Departure at 10 a.m. at the fountain next to the Bloedel Conservatory. Friday, March 30, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

ICS Holy Thursday Retreat

The annual ICS Lenten Retreat is coming up on Thursday, March 29. Parishioners are invited to join us from 8:45am to 11:45am that day. Come away for a morning of reflection on the rich gift of our most holy of days, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. Part of the morning will include opportunity to explore with our Grade 7 students the blessings these days offer to us. The session will be facilitated by Mrs. Teresa Macht of St. Joseph the Worker Parish. Please RSVP to the school office at office@icschoolvancover.com by Monday, March 26.

Children Reaching Out to Children

Our 'Children's Project' of collecting nickels to Toonies to help get soccer balls for the boys and girls in our sister schools in Haiti and Vietnam will end on Easter Sunday! Something beautiful for God, the children in Haiti and Vietnam and our parish family is happening through this outreach project. The love in our children's hearts is celebrating who we are as brothers and sisters in Christ around the world.



***Something fun
for the kids and young at heart:***

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for the kids after all of our Sunday morning Easter Masses!

Our Next Sunday Twilight Mass: April 8 at 8pm

Flowers and Easter Lilies for the 'Altar of Repose' for the Blessed Sacrament on Holy Thursday:

Parishioners are invited to bring bouquets of flowers and/or Easter Lilies to help decorate the Altar of Repose for Holy Thursday. The Holy Thursday Mass concludes with the Tabernacle in the Church being emptied of the Blessed Sacrament – The Blessed Sacrament (Eucharist) is carried in procession where it will be housed on a special Altar of Repose in the Parish Gym.

The gym will remain open until 11:00pm so that parishioners can come and spend time in vigil and prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. All are encouraged to come and spend time in prayer with the Lord on this Holy Night. Flowers can be dropped off at the Parish office during the week during office hours.