



# Partners in Faith & Action

April 2017

## APRIL CELEBRATIONS

As we are celebrating the end of Lent, the Holy Days of Easter and beginning the Easter Season, please join us in one or more of our School Prayer Services or Sunday celebrations of the Mass.

--April 5<sup>th</sup> Lenten Prayer Service at 8:10 a.m. in the school auditorium.

--April 9<sup>th</sup>, Palm Sunday. The 9:00 a.m. is the Basque Mass.

--April 13<sup>th</sup>, Holy Thursday Agape Service at 8:10 a.m. in the school auditorium

--April 16<sup>th</sup>, Easter Sunday

--April 30<sup>th</sup>, the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students will be the readers and gift bearers and will receive their First Communion at the 12:15 Mass.

--April 28<sup>th</sup>, the kindergarten students will be readers our school Mass for St. Peter Chanel at 8:45 a.m. in the Church.

--May 7<sup>th</sup> – Bishop Daniel Walsh will confer the Sacrament of Confirmation at 12:15 p.m. A reception will follow.

## LENTEN RICE BOWL

Please remember to use your Rice Bowls as part of your Lenten sacrifice. The funds will be used by Catholic Relief Services to help those in need. You may turn your Rice Bowl in before or upon your return from Easter Break.

## Triduum



Lent officially ends at sunset on Holy Thursday, giving way to the most important days of the Liturgical Year, the Easter or Paschal Triduum. Triduum means “three days.” The Triduum is the heart of the liturgical year and of our faith. It begins at sundown on Holy Thursday and ends at sundown on Easter Sunday.

The Mass on Thursday reminds us of the meal Jesus shared with his disciples before he died. Unlike the other Gospels, John’s Gospel does

not tell us about what Jesus did with the bread and wine. John focused on Jesus’ washing of the disciple’s feet. After washing their feet, Jesus commanded his followers, “As I have done for you, you should also do.” This is called the “Mandatum” (Latin for mandate). That is why this day is referred to as “Maundy Thursday.” Maundy comes from the Latin word *mandatum*, which means commandment.

The washing of the feet during the Mass reminds us that Jesus came to serve others, even to the point of giving his life for us. He freely accepted his suffering out of love for us and obedience to his Father.

At the Holy Thursday Mass, the priest consecrates the hosts that will be used in the service on Good Friday because there is no Mass on Good Friday. The hosts are incensed and brought to the Tabernacle or Blessed Sacrament Chapel in a solemn procession.

At the end of Mass on Holy Thursday, all of the altar coverings and decorations are removed in silence. This reminds us that Jesus was stripped of his garments and helps us focus on Jesus.

Services on Good Friday remind us of Jesus’ passion. Services may include the Liturgy of the Word, Veneration of the Cross and Communion. There are often reenactments of Jesus’ passion story, meditations on the words from the cross, and Stations of the Cross.

The Easter Vigil is one of the most beautiful and meaningful celebrations of the Liturgical Year. It is a celebration of fire, light, water, Word and Sacrament. The readings for the Vigil follow the story of salvation from God’s creation of the world, the sparing of Noah and his family from the flood and the deliverance of God’s people from Egypt to the Gospel accounts of Jesus’ rising from the grave to redeem all people.

Check your Parish schedule for the times of each of these services. Share these meaningful celebrations as a family.



## EASTER

Remember, Easter is not one day. It is a season. The Easter Season refers to the fifty days from Easter Sunday to

Pentecost. This year Pentecost is on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Easter is a time of new life. During Lent many of us made Lenten promises which, if we are still keeping them, will lead us to a new and better life.

If you have been using *The Little Black Book* during Lent, you might want to pick up *The Little White Book* at NDV to spend six minutes a day in prayer during the 50 days of Easter.



## PASCHAL CANDLE

The Paschal (or Easter) Candle is the main symbol for the Easter Season. The candle is lit at the Easter Vigil and remains in the sanctuary during the 50 days of Easter and is lit at baptisms and funerals throughout the year.

Symbols on the paschal candle celebrate Christ. In the center of the cross, and at its four ends, grains of incense are inserted, representing the five wounds of Jesus. The Greek letters A (*alpha*) and Ω (*omega*) are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, and symbolize Jesus as the beginning and end of all things. The current calendar year also appears on the candle.



## EARTH DAY

April 22<sup>nd</sup> is Earth Day. On April 22, 1970 Sen. Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin founded Earth Day. Check out the following sites to find out more

about Earth Day:

<http://www.earthdaysf.org>  
<http://earthday.envirolink.org/>  
[www.ecokids.ca/](http://www.ecokids.ca/)

At our prayer service on March 29<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated the Catholic Social Justice theme of Care for God's creation. We remember that God created every plant, mountaintop, animal--everything. God said that these things are good. We find God in these good things, and so we must take care of creation--both for ourselves and for all of our human family.

In June of 2015, Pope Francis wrote an encyclical entitled "Laudato Si" reminding us that we need to care for "our common home."

Videos about "Laudato Si" can be found at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOGF2Kgel6k>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o3Lz7dmn1eM>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1tYdOIqvpqg>



## ST. PETER CHANEL, S.M.

Peter was born in 1803 in the diocese of Belley, France. At the age of seven, he was a shepherd boy, but the local parish priest, recognizing something unusual in the boy, convinced his parents to let him study, in a little school the priest had started. From there Peter went on to the seminary.

He was ordained a priest and assigned to a parish at Crozet. In three years he had transformed the parish. In 1831, he joined the newly founded Society of Mary, since he had long dreamed of being a missionary; but for five years he was assigned to teach at the seminary in Belley. Finally, in 1836, his dream was realized, and he was sent with other Marists to the islands of the Pacific. He had to suffer great hardships, disappointments, frustration, and almost complete failure as well as the opposition of the local chieftain. The work seemed hopeless: only a few had been baptized, and the chieftain continued to be suspicious and hostile. Then, when the chief's son asked for baptism, the chief was so angry that he sent warriors to kill the missionary.

Peter's violent death brought about the conversion of the island, and the people of Futuna remain Catholic to this day. Peter Chanel was beatified in 1889 and canonized in 1954.

Thought for the Day: Success or failure is often not completely in our hands, and sometimes we have to face what seems almost certain failure. But success is not required of us, only fidelity. St. Peter Chanel's work ended in his own death in the face of what seemed total failure. Out of that failure, God brought about the success Peter was seeking. (Taken from "The One Year Book of Saints" by Rev. Clifford Stevens published by Our Sunday Visitor Publishing Division, Our Sunday Visitor, Inc., Huntington, IN 46750.)

