



CHURCH OF THE
HOLY COMFORTER 
THE DOVE

April 2011

The Week of Weeks by The Rev. Dr. Jason Parkin, Rector

There are so many reasons why not to take part. They are good reasons and they are understandable reasons. We are all so busy with all the other aspects of our lives at home, at work, in our other commitments and obligations. The services are held at peculiar and even awkward times. The liturgies themselves ask us to do things we don't do at any other time of the year: for we wash feet and strip the altar bare, venerate a simple wooden cross and sing ancient chants that don't sound anything like the music we hear on the radio every other day, light a fire in a darkened church and renew our baptismal covenant by candlelight. And at the center of the entire week lies a truth unnerving and uncomfortable: the truth that human frailty and weakness and fear put to death the Holy One of God. It is all so extreme, so extravagant, so intense. Yes, there are many reasons why not to take part in the journey known as Holy Week.

But there are also so many reasons why participating in the events of Holy Week is so critical to our lives as people of faith. We need to live the journey of Jesus to the cross and beyond because, while the story can be known by being heard or read, it can best be understood by being experienced firsthand. We need to be with our sisters and brothers of faith to be fully reminded that Jesus died and was raised for all people. And we need to remember and to celebrate the truth behind and beyond the crucifixion, the even more stunning and perhaps even unnerving truth that the love of God reigns supreme and will not be denied; the sublime and supreme truth that God's love for the human race overcomes everything put

in its way, including death itself. There are so many reasons to take part in the outlandish, outrageous journey of Holy Week; and chief among them is that the outlandish, outrageous love of God requires of us a response, a commitment, an expression of thanksgiving for this greatest of gifts.

Elsewhere in this issue of *The Dove* you will find brief information on the liturgies of Holy Week. Please read it carefully, taking note that the services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Eve will begin at 6:00, 7:00 and 8:00 p.m., respectively.

Holy Week is inconvenient and challenging. It should be; for the love of God is dramatic and stunning and profound. I do not encourage you to take part because I like a nice, full church, true though that may be. I encourage you to take part because we all need to be reminded, once again and always, of how much God has done for, and given to, us in the Holy One; and because the most fitting response to God's generosity is grateful thanksgiving.

So come, walk the journey of Holy Week. Enter the story. Relive the events of our salvation. Enter, as fully and with as open a heart as possible, the mystery of God's love for the human race.

See page 2 for detailed information about our Holy Week and Easter Liturgies.

Holy Week & Easter at Holy Comforter

As we enter Holy Week, we come to the central events that shape our common faith as Christian people. The heart of the liturgical year is the Paschal Mystery, the dying and rising of Jesus. Our participation in the saving acts of God finds its deepest expression in this great Week. Our celebration of Holy Week is the occasion above all others when we stand before the awesome mystery of redemption, bringing to God all that we are both as individuals and as a community of faith at this moment in our lives.

The rites of this week are based upon sources and practices stretching back to the fourth century in the Church at Jerusalem, and even earlier. On **Palm Sunday**, for example, we process into church singing a jubilant hymn just as joyous crowds waved palm branches and strewed their garments in Jesus' path as he entered the holy city*. The tone of the day alters soon after, however, as, for the Gospel lesson, we read together the story of Christ's Passion from the Gospel of Matthew. These words carry us into the sacred story of Jesus' life and final days. The entire congregation participates in the Passion story in order that all might remember that, though separated by distance and time from the Jerusalem of 2,000 years ago, we were nevertheless part of the story then, and that the story of God's redeeming work continues in us now. In essence, then, Palm Sunday gives us a concise presentation of all that we will experience in the coming week.

On **Maundy Thursday**, following a meal in the Great Hall reminiscent of the Last Supper, we wash one another's feet*, echoing Jesus' commandment to his disciples to love one another as he loved them, the *mandatus novum*, or new commandment, that he uttered while bathing their feet; and this year, all who wish to have their feet cleansed by one of the clergy will be invited to come forward at the Maundy Thursday liturgy. The liturgy that evening concludes with the solemn Stripping of the Altar as a sign of our

humility before God. The sacrament consecrated for Good Friday resides on the Altar of Repose throughout Thursday night, and all are invited to spend time in prayer and meditation through the rest of the evening and the next morning.

On Good Friday, **The Stations of the Cross** will be offered at 12:00 noon. This simple, ancient yet poignant rite is modeled on a custom widely observed by pilgrims to Jerusalem from the early centuries of the Church to the present day: the offering of prayers at a series of places in that city traditionally associated with Jesus' passion and death. The service will be held at the hour when Jesus was placed on the cross. This is a solemn and gentle service, but one that is infused with an intense awareness of all that God has done for, and given to, us in the Christ.

The **Good Friday Liturgy**, at 7:00 p.m. is the most solemn rite of the entire Christian year. It begins in complete silence, and includes the hauntingly beautiful Passion according to St. John, sung to a Gregorian chant tone by members of the choir and the Rector. A time of extended reflection and prayer for God's world also takes place, known as the Solemn Collects. Some of the most ancient prayers from the Church's early centuries, known as the Reproaches, are offered before a simple wooden cross, and Communion is shared from the sacrament consecrated on Maundy Thursday.

And at the **Great Vigil**—the preeminent celebration of the year, and the first proclamation of the Lord's Resurrection—we begin the liturgy in darkness and light the Paschal Candle, the symbol of the Resurrection and the light that spreads into our lives. The *Exsultet*, a magnificent chant recalling God's saving presence with humanity, introduces the series of sacred scripture passages, song and psalm that recount the history of God's saving presence in our lives and world. In the renewal of baptismal vows we

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are reminded that we are buried with Christ in his death and by it we share in His resurrection; and the Resurrection is then proclaimed. With an explosion of light, great organ fanfare, cries of “Alleluia, He is Risen Indeed,” the New Day and the New Creation sing out from every voice under heaven. As one author has said, “At the Great Proclamation, all heaven breaks loose.” So it does, as we celebrate with great joy the new and reconciled life made possible through the death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. The table is spread and all are invited to the first Eucharistic feast of Easter.

Yet during Holy Week, we do not merely mimic the ancient rites of earlier Christians. Far more significant is the reminder that, like our ancestors, we share in the celebration of Holy Week so that we might once again find ourselves immersed in God’s grace. It is from this week that all the other weeks of our life take their meanings.

Each of the liturgies within Holy Week contains its own unique beauty and power. Please resist the

temptation to move straight from Palm Sunday to Easter. Come, take your place in the entire journey: join the crowds that shouted “Hosanna,” the circle of friends who shared in that final sacred meal, the throng that saw the Christ be offered up for human brokenness. And then, like the stupefied few who were present for Jesus’ rising, rejoice in the dawning of the New Day and the New Creation.

***PLEASE NOTE:** *In addition to the inclusion of Stations of the Cross, there will be two significant changes this year from the pattern of previous celebrations during Holy Week. First, the 9:00 and 11:15 Palm Sunday services will begin outside—on the front lawn at 9:00 and in the Columbarium Courtyard at 11:15, weather permitting—for the distribution and blessing of the palms before the procession into the church. In addition, all who wish to have their feet washed by one of the clergy on Maundy Thursday will be invited to come forward at that moment in the service, rather than having one person represent all. If you think you will want to take part in this moving rite, please come prepared by wearing shoes and socks that can be easily removed.*

Easter Outreach and Flower Offerings

During the Easter Season, we remember the gift Jesus gave us of new life, and we celebrate our blessings. It is also a time of sharing our financial abundance with those in need. It is the tradition of the parish to give the Easter offering for outreach to help those beyond our parish community.

This year, we have received a remarkably **generous anonymous pledge to match up to \$25,000** in donations. Our Easter offering this spring will be dedicated to addressing issues of hunger among children in the Chicago area through Good News Partners, and to alleviating suffering and need among victims of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan in

March. Please be as generous as possible as we share our gifts with others.

Your Easter Flower Donation supports the Flower Guild and provides the beautiful flowers that grace our church during the Easter Season. Flowers may be given in memory of or thanksgiving for loved ones. To have your name included in the Easter bulletin, please return your flower offering envelope by April 15.

Please look for the special mailing that will arrive in the next week containing envelopes for both Easter and flower donations. In addition, Easter offering envelopes are available in the narthex and parlor.

A Celtic Spirituality for Today: The Spirit, the Earth, and the Human Mind

The Rev. John Philip Newell, poet, musician, scholar and teacher, is internationally acclaimed for his work in the field of Celtic spirituality, including his best known titles *Listening for the Heartbeat of God* and *Christ of the Celts*, as well as his poetic book of prayer, *Sounds of the Eternal*. His newest book is *Praying with the Earth: A Prayer Book for Peace*. He is a Church of Scotland minister with a passion for peace in the world and a fresh vision for harmony between the great spiritual traditions of humanity. He has played a leading role on both sides of the Atlantic inspiring spirituality that sustains us in today's world. Former warden of Iona Abbey in the Western Isles of Scotland, he now devotes his time to world-wide retreats and speaking engagements.

How are we to view the brokenness of our lives? How can we be a part of creating wholeness in our world? Join this renowned scholar for a two day program where we will consider these questions together.

Friday, May 13

7:00-9:00 pm at Kenilworth Union Church

Saturday, May 14

9:00am-12:00pm at Church of the Holy Comforter

Fees: Friday & Saturday \$50

Friday only \$25; Saturday only \$30

To register call 847-328-9300x45.

Sponsored by: Christ Church, Winnetka, Church of the Holy Comforter, Kenilworth Union Church, Seabury-Western Theological Seminary.

Flower Ministry's 20th Anniversary by Shari Burton

One of Holy Comforter's glorious traditions started with a simple question, "Can we do this ourselves?" In the early 1990's, while Father Parkin was an Associate, Nancy Lidecker and Joan Dodson attended a flower workshop put on by Missy McClain, wife of the former Rector of Christ Church. Missy, who had trained at the National Cathedral, encouraged the women of Holy Comforter to take on this ministry themselves, not just ordering flowers from a florist. Barbara Devlin, a professional arranger, agreed to help Nancy get this ministry going, even doing much of the arranging herself. As the Guild began grow, the women gained confidence. As Nancy Liedecker said, "it's so much fun and a wonderful way to meet people. It just makes you feel good. When you are in a church and you love it, you want to be a part of it. This is something that's satisfying, you can really say, 'I did it.'"

The Flower Guild, now called the Flower Ministry, has had many talented and creative directors and members over the years. Some came with a lot of previous skill through work in their garden clubs, while others learned "on-the-job," mentored by those

more skilled. Barbara Devlin, who took the major role at Christmas and Easter until two years ago, has given several workshops along with other Guild Directors. She said "the work of the women of the Guild now is fabulous." While Father Myers, who encouraged this ministry, always reminded the women that "the flowers were given to the glory of God," they came to learn that through this ministry they not only served the church, but also gained knowledge - and friendships!

On Wednesday, May 4, from 1:00-3:00pm, the Flower Ministry will hold a workshop for anyone interested in learning about floral arranging at Holy Comforter. Joan Dodson, a former director, will share her wit, wisdom and expertise as she leads the demonstration. Joan said "this is an art form that you can accomplish, even if it seems scary at first; anyone who is creative can do this." Participants will have a chance to learn some techniques and "tricks." Jean Britt, the current Chair of the Flower Ministry, invites all women to come join this fun and informative afternoon and see what they, too, can do! Please RSVP to the parish office or contact Jean with any questions.

In the Vineyard

We joyfully announce the birth of . . .

- John Andrew and Margaret Elizabeth born to Jen and John McIndoe on March 25. Their grandmother is Nancy McIndoe.
- Tyler Attaway born to Suzy and DA Molloy on March 19. Tyler's grandparents are Gayle and Dan Sundt.
- Dylan Khalidi born to Luke and Lana Khalidi Augspurger on March 21. Dylan's grandparents are Dick Augspurger and Rosie McDonel.
- Elise Charlotte born to Melanie and Michael Greely on March 16. Elise is Beth Kemp's first great-grandchild.
- Andrew James born to Tory and Cameron Strang on February 28. Andrew's grandparents are Bill and Barbara Haljun.

We express our sympathy to . . .

- The family of Caroline Drick who died on her 95th birthday, March 27.
- The family of Priscilla Hecht who died on March 7 at the age of 96.
- The Drake family on the death of Margaret's mother, Margaret Kelly, on March 15.
- The Warner family on the death of Martha's father, Dr. Robert Koch, on February 5.

We welcome to the parish . . .

- Stacy Hunt and her two sons, 8 yr. old Jack and 7 yr. old Troy. The Hunts reside in Winnetka.
- Rick and Meta Joutras, who live in Northfield.

Hands-On Outreach Opportunities

Easter Laundry Baskets

Please help collect household supplies, toiletries and miscellaneous personal items for residents of Cathedral Shelter. Our Easter laundry baskets are available in the parlor while supplies last. Baskets should be filled, wrapped and returned to the parlor by April 10. Cathedral Shelter is an Episcopal ministry in Chicago that serves the most vulnerable members of society.

Misericordia Candy Days

12,000 volunteers come together for Misericordia's annual fundraiser on Friday and Saturday, April 29-30. It's your typical "tag day." Volunteers simply pass out candy and informational tags in exchange for donations. Holy Comforter's site is Lakeside Foods, Winnetka. Volunteers are asked to sign up for a two-hour shift between 9:00am-3:00pm either day.

Father Myers Retirement Party ~ May 14, 2011

Church of the Holy Comforter, on behalf of the Bonnie C. Myers Memorial Fund, invites the parish to a celebration of the ministry of The Reverend Robert K. Myers, Ph.D. The celebration will take place at Misericordia on Saturday, May 14, at 5:00pm. Cost is \$50/person; this tax-deductible donation will go to the Bonnie C. Myers Memorial fund, established as a

gift to Bonnie to help support Andrew's residency at Misericordia. If you would like to make an additional donation to the fund please contact the business office. Invitations to parishioners were mailed April 1; if you did not receive your invitation, please contact the parish office. Responses are due by April 25.

Music Notes by Derek Nickels, Director of Music

The dramatic readings of Holy Week and Easter provide the basis for some of the most dramatic musical compositions of the Church Year. Among the dramatic readings and proclamations of the Easter Vigil Service, a piece of music commands a powerful place in this important liturgy. The *Exsultet*, or "Easter proclamation" is named for the first line of the Latin text: *exsultet iam angelica turba caelorum* ("Now the heavenly crowd of angels shout for joy"). This chant is sung after the blessing of the new fire (new life) and the Paschal candle has been lit. This powerful text

recalls Israel's exodus from Egypt, new Christians crossing through water from slavery to freedom, and Christ's resurrection.

This year's Easter anthem will be Healey Willan's *O Sing unto the Lord a New Song*, an anthem scored for organ and brass. At the heart of this anthem is a verse from the *Pascha nostrum*, or "Christ our Passover" surrounded by Alleluias. It is important to note that the forty days of Lent are followed by fifty days of Easter, from Easter Day to the Day of Pentecost.

We're in Touch by Mary Johnson, Director of Children's /Youth Ministries

From 1979 to 1999 when he retired, Hugh Downs closed the ABC 20/20 show with this tagline: "We're in touch, so you be in touch." No doubt Hugh Downs had no idea how many ways would exist today to be in touch. The statistics are staggering: there are 247 billion emails sent each day, 190 million twitter accounts send 65 million tweets a day, 74% of all cell phone users send over 2.5 billion text messages each day. So with all these options thrown at us, what is the best way to be in touch? We are looking in to expanding our options here at Holy Comforter in addition to our website to communicate. The 21st century has so many communication options and many people have a strong preference for one over another. Whether you prefer email, Facebook, evites, or even good old fashioned snail mail, we want you to feel invited and welcomed into our community of

faith.

The text, email or tweet does not offer the same feeling of community - being in touch - that your actual physical presence here will provide. It is your presence here that creates community: the children in the Chapel celebrating the Eucharist and praising God with their exuberant singing, the congregation in strong voice singing "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" on Easter Sunday, the handshake or hug at the sign of peace every Sunday. These are moments that can't be replicated in an electronic exchange.

So however we are in touch with you in the months to come our goal is for you to walk through our doors and be in touch with us in the presence of God's love.

All Things Bright & Beautiful Summer Camps

All Things Bright & Beautiful will offer two summer camp options: a 6-week Summer Camp and a 2-week Vacation Bible School. The Summer Camp will be held Tuesday through Thursday, June 21-July 28, from

9:15-11:30am. Vacation Bible School will be Monday through Thursday, August 1-11, from 9:15-11:30am. Both camps will include indoor and outdoor activities. Please contact Mary Johnson for Information.

She's a Maniac by Patti Pateros, Director of Community Building

As part of our Adult Forum study on the risks and barriers to Christian hospitality, we discussed the movie *The Blind Side*, the true story of the relationship of Michael, a homeless young African American high school student, and a well-to-do family who open their home and hearts to him. This movie illustrates many of our barriers to Christian hospitality: race, social status, economic structure, stereotypes, and exclusivity. But we focused on the scene when the mother, Leigh Anne (played by Sandra Bullock), defends her family's actions to her friends. After being chastised, one friend says to Leigh Anne, "I think what you're doing is great . . . you're changing that boy's life." Her reply is, "No, he's changing mine."

Much like Leigh Anne's experience, those who practice Christian hospitality are surprised and pleased to discover how much they learn from their guests and how much their guests minister to their needs. Christian hospitality isn't just opening our door to others; it's opening our minds and hearts - listening to other's life stories and learning about their experiences - and allowing them to get to know ours. What you get out of such a relationship - the "rewards" - can be totally unexpected. I know firsthand, because I have experienced it.

Most of you know (because I brag about them often enough) that I work with our high school youth group WHAM and that last summer we went to Nicaragua for a week-long mission trip. While there, we had all the "expected" guest/host experiences. I, as one the lay leaders of WHAM, had a dual role as both the host of our own students and the guest of Fabretto. Our relationships with the Nicaraguan people - the Fabretto staff, the school children, the residents of the small villages - became very personal and deeply emotional. Everywhere we went we were greeted with hugs and music and dancing. Although there was a language barrier for many of us, we communicated through our actions and our smiles. They wanted to absorb everything about us as we became willing participants in their lives. Although I was a stranger in a strange land, and I was emotionally moved and physically challenged every minute of the trip, it wasn't until our return trip that I received my "unexpected" reward.

Our flight home was delayed in Managua so by the time we got to Miami, through customs, re-checked our bags, we literally had minutes to catch our flight to Chicago. So everybody took off racing through the airport hoping to catch the next flight. I was walking as fast as my short legs let me, and, of course, I lost sight of our group far ahead of me. All of a sudden I see this bright orange shirt running towards me, and realized it was Andrew running in the

wrong direction. I assumed he either had to find a bathroom or lost something along the way.

Now to understand this story, you have to know a little bit about Andrew. Andrew is a New Trier football player whose neck seems to enter the room before the rest of his body. He is also a WHAM regular which may seem contrary to his persona. Andrew has that "jock" attitude that implies, "I'm cool and I'm tough." But on this trip, we saw a very different side of Andrew. He was a work horse and became our go-to-guy when we needed strength (we have a picture of him lifting a boulder). The Nicaraguan kids adored him and everyday he was covered in mud from playing soccer with them. At one particular dinner at a local restaurant, he sat with one of the quieter members of our group, trying to get to know him a little better. I noticed these things about him because I realized I had stereotyped Andrew. I'm not going to say he was a perfect angel, as was evident when we let him go souvenir shopping with Steve Crawford . . . but that's another story. The trip was a huge success because he was a part of it.

Back to my airport story . . . Andrew, in his bright orange T-shirt, finally catches up with me and, seeing that I'm exhausted, shakes his head and says, "Patti, if I carry your backpack, can you walk a little faster?" It was a simple question, but it took me by surprise. Suddenly our roles were reversed and Andrew, who tries so hard to be the tough guy, became the caregiver. That's when I realized that he is indeed a sweet, funny, gentle giant. This was my "unexpected" moment and it came from an unexpected relationship.

Andrew also gave me a physical "reward." It was at that moment I realized I needed to get in better shape. I now fast-walk two miles a day on the treadmill, listening to a dance/club satellite radio station. The music is fast-paced, energetic and makes me feel young again! It takes me back to the 80's (which may have been the last time I exercised) and makes me want to put on legwarmers and a sweat band. On the outside, I may look like Cloris Leachman on *Dancing with the Stars*, but inside I feel like Jennifer Beals from *Flash Dance*, sweating to the song, "*She a Maniac*."

So thank you, Andrew, for these unexpected gifts of Christian hospitality. And for giving me the impetus to exercise. On days when I just dread the thought of getting on that treadmill, I imagine myself being chased by a bright orange T-shirt, and the tough guy wearing it didn't appreciate being called sweet and gentle! So I've got to keep going because I've become "*a maniac, maniac on the floor, and she's dancing like she's never danced before. . .*"

Adult Education for Lent

WHAT ARE WE AFRAID OF?

**Wednesday, April 6 & 13 in the Great Hall
6:00pm Supper; Presentation 6:30-8:00pm**

Fr. Hardman's popular Reel Spirituality study series returns during Lent. *What are we afraid of?* will explore our many fears and discover how God in Christ helps us overcome those fears. Session I identified our fears. Session II places those fears in a theological context, allowing us to discover how the Gospel message addresses those fears and leads us to overcome them and thus live more human lives. Session III will take what was learned and apply it to one movie, ***The King's Speech***. Reservations are required for supper; Reservation required for supper.

ADULT FORUM: RISKS & BARRIERS TO CHRISTIAN HOSPITALITY

Sundays at 10:00am in the Great Hall

- April 3: Are we abusing our role as guest on this Earth?
Movie: ***Wall-E***
- April 10: Is social media hampering hospitality?
Movie: ***The Social Network***
- April 17: Are you ready to open to the door to hospitality? Movie: ***The Visitor***

Please consider helping the Altar Ministry prepare palm crosses on Friday, April 15, at 10am in the Great Hall

CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER
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Holy Week & Easter Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 17

7:30, 9:00 and 11:15am

Blessing of the Palms, Reading of the Passion and Holy Eucharist

Maundy Thursday, April 21

6:00 pm Agape Meal

7:00 pm Holy Eucharist, Washing of the Feet, Stripping of the Altar, Watch at the Altar of Repose

Good Friday, April 22

12:00pm Stations of the Cross

7:00pm The Good Friday Liturgy

Holy Saturday, April 23

9:00am Liturgy of the Word

The Great Vigil of Easter, Saturday, April 23

8:00pm Lighting of the Paschal Candle, Renewal of Baptismal Vows and Holy Eucharist

Easter Day, Sunday, April 24

7:30, 9:00 and 11:15am

Festive Holy Eucharist, with guest musicians

To read more about our parish or to register for a parish event, go to www.holycomforter.org.