

Sacred Heart CHURCH OF THE FIRST PEOPLES

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Facebook: Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples-Catholic Church

March 25, 2018

NISKIPISIM (GOOSE MOON)

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF THE FOLLOWING:

Douglas Redhead passed away March 6, 2018. Patrick Moloney passed away March 14, 2018.

BAPTISMS: March 18, 2018: Gabriel Bourdages, Maken Bourdages, Heaven Cardinal, Ethan Tipler, Emma Tipler, Olivia Mora and Alexander Mora.

Passion (Palm) Sunday

All-powerful, eternal God, You have chosen to give mankind a model of humility; our Savior took on our flesh, and subjected Himself to the Cross. Grant us the grace to preserve faithfully the lessons He has given us in his Passion and to have a share in His resurrection. This we ask of You through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son. Amen

MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Mornings at 8:30 a.m.

Sunday at **10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.**

Sunday at **4:00 p.m. the Eritrea Mass**

Weekday Masses

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday at 9 a.m. Friday at 7 p.m.

Baptism Preparation Class

Sacred Heart CHURCH OF THE FIRST PEOPLES is having its next Baptismal Class on

Thursday, April 12, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the church.

Call 780-422-3052 to register.

First Communion Class

The next First Communion Class at Sacred Heart CHURCH OF THE FIRST PEOPLES will be held on

Saturday, April 14, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the church

Call 780-422-3052 to register.





Our Weekly Church Bulletin Paper is
Generously Donated by:

Connelly-McKinley Funeral Homes
780-422-2222
www.connelly-mckinley.com

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

1. **Baptism:** Everyone wishing to have their child Baptized are asked to attend one Baptism Preparation Class. These classes are offered on the second Thursday of each month and take place in the church at 6:00 p.m. Please register by calling the office. Adults wishing to be baptized are asked to call the office to register separately.
2. **First Communion:** We are providing classes for children ages 6 to 12 years who wish to receive their First Communion. To assist us with planning the classes we would ask that you call to register if you would like to have your children receive the sacrament anytime over the next 6 months or so. Thank you for your cooperation.
3. **Marriage:** Due to preparation and paper work, please make every effort to register for marriage at least 3 months ahead of the date.

Outreach Ministries Available at Sacred Heart CHURCH OF THE FIRST PEOPLES

1. **Communion for Housebound Parishioners:** Housebound parishioners of Sacred Heart Church of The First Peoples who might wish to receive Holy Communion on Sundays can register by calling the office at 780-422-3052. Please be sure to provide your complete address. Trained Eucharistic Ministers are available to offer the service.
2. **Spiritual Assistance and Direction:** Archbishop Emeritus Sylvain Lavoie, OMI and Lucie Leduc (Director at Star of the North) will be available by appointment at Sacred Heart Church of The First Peoples to provide spiritual assistance. Please call the office to book an appointment (780-422-3052). This is a free service.
3. **Grief Counselling:** Grief counselling is available to anyone who is dealing with the death of a loved one. This service is for all parishioners of Sacred Heart Church of The First Peoples and is offered by Fr. Susai Jesu, OMI and Helen Gledhow, CGSC, CSIC. Please call the office to make an appointment (780-422-3052).
4. **House Blessings:** Call the office if you wish to have a House Blessing.

WORLD YOUTH DAY JANUARY, 2019

THEME: "I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word. (Lk 1:38)

AGE: 18 to 35 years.

DATES: January 17-21, 2019: Days in the Diocese (Costa Rica, Nicaragua, & Panama)
January 22-27, 2019: World Youth Days Panama

Parish Finance Committee Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 26 at 5 p.m. in the rectory.

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 28 at 5:30 p.m. in the rectory. The meeting will begin with supper at 5 p.m.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

A Bible Study Group has begun at Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples. The next session is on Tuesday, March 27, from 7 to 8 p.m. It is held in the church rectory and will run every other Tuesday. The dates will be on the monthly calendar. Everyone is welcome. We will be reflecting on one parable each week. The “Parable of the two sons” will be the one we reflect on during the March 27th session.

Parable of the Two Sons (Matthew 21.28-32)

Jesus went on to say, “What do you think of this? A man had two sons. He went to the first and said to him: ‘Son, today go and work in my vineyard.’ And the son answered: ‘I don’t want to.’ But later he thought better of it and went. Then the father went to the second and gave him the same command. This son replied: ‘I will go, sir,’ but he did not go. Which of the two did what the father wanted?” They answered, “The first.” And Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you: the publicans and the prostitutes are ahead of you on the way to the kingdom of heaven. For John came to show you the way of goodness but you did not believe him, yet the publicans and the prostitutes did. You were witnesses of this, but you neither repented nor believed him.

ST. PAUL PRAYER GROUP

A St. Paul Prayer Group has also started and is held in the rectory on alternate Tuesday’s (alternate to the Bible Study Sessions). The next St. Paul Prayer Group session will be on Tuesday, April 3, 2018 from 7 to 8 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Knights of Columbus

Anyone interested in joining the Knights of Columbus please contact Fernie Marty at 780-655-7135 or you can see him at the 11:30 mass on Sundays.

SACRED ART OF LIVING AND DYING

Providence Renewal Centre is pleased to collaborate with the Sacred Art of Living Centre in offering a two-day workshop “**Understanding Spiritual Pain**” on Friday, April 6 and Saturday, April 7, 2018, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Focusing on **forgiveness, relatedness, meaning and hope**, the workshop addresses how or facing spiritual pain or ‘leaning into’ it has a profound impact on our lives and the lives of those receiving and giving care. Participants will learn a total pain management model that helps reduce anxiety and improve quality of living. Cost \$475.00 (includes manual, lunch and follow-up group support). Discount of \$100.00 for groups of 5+. For more information or to register, go online www.providencerenewal.ca or phone 780-701-1854.

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SPRING BREAK FUN

A week of training, skill building and fun for First Nations, Metis, Inuit and Edmonton Public High School Students.

Eastglen High School

11430 68 St NW

March 23 – 29, 2018

For more info or to Register visit: goo.gl/dstPBB

Information night: Thursday March 15 from 6:30 to 7:15

Matt Talbot Prayer Group

The Matt Talbot Prayer Group meets once a month on Saturday mornings at Sacred Heart CHURCH OF THE FIRST PEOPLES after the 8:30 am mass. The group is inspired by the life of Venerable Matt Talbot (1856-1925), also known as “the worker’s saint” and patron of people who suffer from alcoholism. Ven. Matt Talbot encourages all of us by his moving example of personal conversion, triumph over addiction, dedication to duty, care for family, and life of constant prayer.

SACRED HEART WEBPAGE (www.sacredpeoples.com)

Our webpage has been updated and as time goes on new information will be added on a regular basis. You will be able to access our weekly Bulletin and Calendar. We also have our new facebook page, which lists all our current parish activities that you can link to from this website.

Benefit Concert for Star of the North Retreat Centre

“Starry Night” featuring Coco Love Alcorn and Sachs Pop-Up Choir

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Arden Theatre (5 St. Anne Street, St. Albert)

General Admission: \$35.00

For Tickets: 780-459-5511

www.starofthenorth.ca

e-mail: reception@starofthenorth.ca

All proceeds support the ongoing mission of Star of the North Retreat Centre to offer a sacred place of hospitality and healing.

Weekly Sunday Collection

Sunday Collection for March 18, 2018: \$2,950.00

New Parishioners

Are you new to Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples Parish?

Everyone is welcome! If you would like to register as a parishioner or if you would like donation envelopes please call the office at 780-422-3052.

MEDICINE WHEEL TEACHINGS

Would you like to learn more about the core teachings of the Medicine Wheel! There will be a teaching session on Thursday, April 19, 2018 in the church basement starting at 6:30 p.m.

Teaching will be done by:

Fernie Marty, Gilman Cardinal, Marie Lund and Fr. Susai Jesu, OMI

Everyone is welcome!



Lenten and Holy Week Celebrations 2018

Weekday Masses during Lent

Tuesday to Thursday 9:00 a.m.

Friday Mass

7:00 p.m.

Palm Sunday March 25

10:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.

Chrism Mass, March 26th

St. Joseph's Basilica Parish at 7:00 p.m.

Holy Thursday Mass, March 29th

7:00 p.m. followed by Adoration

(During the Mass of the Lord's Supper on March 29th at 7:00 p.m., the priest will wash the feet of some of our parishioners. After the Eucharist, there will be a procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the tabernacle for adoration until midnight.)

Good Friday, March 30th

3:00 p.m.

(During the Good Friday Service on March 30th at 3:00 p.m., the Passion of Jesus is proclaimed, the Cross of Christ is venerated and a brief Communion Service will take place)

Holy Saturday March 31st

10:00 p.m.

(The most sacred vigil will take place on Holy Saturday, March 31st at 10:00 p.m.)

This Easter Vigil has four parts:

- 1. The Service of Light which includes the lighting of the new fire, the Easter Candle, and the candles of the faithful and concluding with the singing of the Ancient Exsultet.*
- 2. The Liturgy of the Word is proclaimed. The church meditates on all the wonderful things God has done for his people from the beginning of creation.*
- 3. Renewal of Baptismal Promises: All the faithful will renew their Baptismal promises including the re-lighting of their own candles from the Easter candle.*
- 4. Finally, the Liturgy of the Eucharist where all the faithful are called to participate in the sharing of the Body and Blood of Christ*

Easter Sunday, April 1st

10:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.

(The Renewal of Baptismal Promises for the faithful will take place during the Mass)

THURSDAY READINGS: Holy Thursday – March 29, 2018

First Reading: (Exodus 12.1-8, 11-14)

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbour in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it.

Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs.

This is how you shall eat it; your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the Passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments; I am the Lord.

The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; when I see the Blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Second Reading: (1 Corinthians 11. 23-26)

Brothers and sisters: I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my Body that I offer for you. Do this in Remembrance of me."

In the same way he took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my Blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Gospel: (John 13. 1-15)

Before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured

water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know what I am doing, but later you will understand," Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean,"

After he had washed their feet, put on his robe, and returned to the table, Jesus said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord – and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you."

FRIDAY READINGS: Good Friday – March 30, 2018

First Reading: (Isaiah 52. 13 – 53. 12)

See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high.

Just as there were many who were astonished at him—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the sons of man—so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate. Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

For he grew up before the Lord like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he has despised, and we held him of no account.

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray; each has turned to their own way and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of many people. They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the Lord shall prosper. Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Second Reading: (Hebrews 4. 14-16, 5. 7-9)

Brothers and sisters: Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but he has one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of

need.

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

Gospel: (John 18. 1-19.42)

Several readers may proclaim the passion narrative today. N indicates the narrator; J the words of Jesus, and S the words of other speakers.

N: The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

After they had eaten the supper, Jesus went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons.

Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them,

J: **Whom are you looking for?**

N: They answered,

S: **Jesus of Nazareth.**

J: **I am he.**

N: Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. Again he asked,

J: **Whom are you looking for?**

S: **Jesus of Nazareth.**

J: **I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go.**

N: This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me."

Then Simon Peter who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter,

J: **Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father was given me?**

N: So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the priest, but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other

disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. The woman said to Peter.

S: You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?

N: Peter said,

S: I am not.

N: Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. Jesus answered,

J: I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I am said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said.

N: When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying,

S: Is that how you answer the high priest?

J: If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?

N: Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. The asked him,

S: *You are not also one of his disciples, are you?*

N: He denied it and said,

S: *I am not.*

N: One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked,

S: *Did I not see you in the garden with him?"*

N: Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

N: Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said,

S: *What accusation do you bring against this man?*

N: They answered,

S: *If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.*

N: Pilate said to them,

S: *Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law.*

N: They replied,

S: *We are not permitted to put anyone to death.*

N: This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him,

S: *Are you the King of the Jews?*

J: Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?

S: *I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. When have you done?*

J: My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.

S: *So you are a king?*

J: You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.

S: *What is truth?*

N: After he had said this, Pilate went out to the Jews again and told them,

S: *I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?*

N: They shouted in reply,

S: *Not this man, but Barabbas!*

N: Now Barabbas was a bandit. Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying,

S: *“Hail, King of the Jews!”*

N: and they struck him on the face. Pilate went out again and said to him,

S: *Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him.*

N: So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them,

S: *Hear is the man!*

N: When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted,

S: *Crucify him! Crucify him!*

N: Pilate said to them,

S: *Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him.*

N: They answered him,

S: *We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God.*

N: Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus,

S: *Where are you from?*

N: But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate therefore said to him,

S: *Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?*

J: **You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.**

N: From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out,

S: ***If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor.***

N: When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called "The Stone Pavement," or in Hebrew "Gabbatha."

Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. Pilate said to the Jews,

S: ***Here is your King!***

N: They cried out,

S: ***Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!***

N: Pilate asked them,

S: ***Shall I crucify your King?***

N: The chief priests answered,

S: ***We have no king but the emperor.***

N: Then Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus; and carrying the Cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them.

Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the Cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the people read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate,

S: ***Do not write, "The King of the Jews," but, "This man said, I am King of the Jews."***

N: Pilate answered,

S: ***What I have written I have written.***

N: When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another,

S: ***Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.***

N: This was to fulfill what the Scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots." And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the Cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother,

J: **Woman, here is your son.**

N: Then he said to the disciple,

J: **Here is your mother.**

N: And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, in order to fulfill the Scripture, he said,

J: **I am thirsty.**

N: A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth.

When Jesus had received the wine, he said,

J: **It is finished.**

N: Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

N: Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the Sabbath, especially because that Sabbath was a day of great Solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out.

(He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) These things occurred so that the Scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body.

Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundredweight. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

SATURDAY READINGS: Easter Vigil – March 31, 2018

First Reading: (Genesis 1.1 – 2.2)

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth,

The earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, when the spirit of God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light “Day,” and the darkness he called “Night.” And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome “Sky.” And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. God called the dry land “Earth,” and the waters that were gathered together he called “Seas.” And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation; plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, “let there be light in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so.

God made the two great lights – the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night – and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind; cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” So God created man in his image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.”

God said, “See I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so.

God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day God finished the work that he had

done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done.

Second Reading: (Genesis 22.1 - 18)

God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" and Abraham said, "Here I am." God said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there was a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you."

So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him.

On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together.

Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And Abraham said, "Here I am, my son." Isaac said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.

When Abraham and Isaac came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son.

But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." The Angel said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.

So Abraham called that place "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

The Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the Lord; Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed by voice."

Third Reading: (Exodus 14.15-31; 15.20,1)

The Lord said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the children of Israel to go forward. But you, lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the children of Israel may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall

know that I am the Lord, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.”

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The children of Israel went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh’s horses, chariots and chariot drivers. At the morning watch, the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, “Let us flee from the children of Israel, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.”

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.” So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained.

But the children of Israel walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

The Prophet Mariam, Aaron’s sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the Lord:

Fourth Reading: (Isaiah 54.5-14)

Thus says the Lord, the God of hosts. Your Maker is your husband, the Lord of hosts is his name; the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called. For the Lord has called you like the wife forsaken and grieved in spirit, like the wife of a man’s youth when she is cast off, says your God.

For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with great compassion I will gather you. In overflowing wrath for a moment I had my face from you. But with everlasting love I will have compassion on you, says the Lord, your Redeemer.

This is like the days of Noah to me: Just as I swore that the waters of Noah would never again go over the earth, so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you and will not rebuke you. For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

O afflicted one, storm-tossed, and not comforted, I am about to set your stones in antimony, and lay your

foundations with sapphires. I will make your minnacles of rubies, your gates of jewels, and all your walls of precious stones.

All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the prosperity of your children. In righteousness you shall be established; you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; and from terror, for it shall not come near you.

Fifth Reading: (Isaiah 55, 1-11)

Thus says the Lord: “Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and mild without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

“See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

“Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked person forsake their way, and the unrighteous person their thoughts; let that person return to the Lord that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, not are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and the bread to the one who eats, so shall my word me that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

Sixth Reading: (Baruch 3.9-15, 32-4.4)

Hear the commandments of like, O Israel; give ear, and learn wisdom! Why is it, O Israel, why is it that you are in the land of your enemies, that you are growing old in a foreign country, that you are defiled with the dead, that you are counted among those in Hades? You have forsaken the fountain of wisdom. If you had walked in the way of God, you would be living in peace forever.

Learn where there is wisdom, where here is strength, where there is understanding, so that you may at the same time discern where there is length of days, and life, where there is light for the eyes, and peace. Who had found her place? And who has entered her storehouses?

But the one who knows all things knows her, he found her by his understanding. The one who prepared the earth for all time filled it with four-footed creature; the one who sends forth the light, and it goes; he called it, and it obeyed him, trembling; the stars shone in their watches, and were glad; he called them, and they said,

“Here we are!” They shone with gladness for him who made them.

This is our God; no other can be compared to him. He found the whole way to knowledge, and gave her to his servant Jacob and to Israel, whom he loved. Afterward who appeared on earth and lived with humanity. She is the book of the commandments of God, the law that endures forever. All who hold her fast will live, and those who forsake her will die. Turn, O Jacob, and take her; walk toward the shining of her light. Do not give your glory to another, or your advantages to an alien people.

Happy are we, O Israel, for we know what is pleasing to God.

Seventh Reading: (Ezekiel 36.16-17a, 18-28)

The word of the Lord came to me: Son of man, when the house of Israel lived on their own soil, they defiled it with their ways and their deeds; their conduct in my sight was unclean. So I poured out my wrath upon them for the blood that they had shed upon the land, and for the idols with which they had defiled it. I scattered them among the nations, and they were dispersed through the countries; in accordance with their conduct and their deeds I judged them.

But when they came to the nations, wherever they came, they profaned my holy name, in that it was said of them, “These are the people of the Lord, and yet they had to go out of his land.”

But I had concern for my holy name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations to which they came. Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord God: It is not for your sake, O House of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came.

I will sanctify my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them; and the nations shall know that I am the Lord, says the Lord God, when through you I display my holiness before their eyes.

I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land.

I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleanness, and from all your idols I will cleanse you.

A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh, I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Gospel: (Mark 16. 1-8)

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the Mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled

back.

As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him.

"But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

SUNDAY READINGS: Easter Sunday – April 1, 2018

First Reading: (Acts 10.34a, 37-43)

Peter began to speak: “You know the message that spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

“We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witness, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.”

“He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the Prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Second Reading: (Colossians 3.1-4)

Brothers and sisters: If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Gospel: (John 20. 1-18)

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone has been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.”

Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in.

Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that has been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary Magdalene stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two Angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.”

When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing he has carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.”

Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” which means Teacher. Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers your Father, to my God and your God.”

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and she told them that he had said these things to her.