

# Palm [Passion] Sunday

Sunday, March 29, 2015

**Fr. Marion Nguyen, OSB**—Priest Administrator  
Dorothy L Conklin—Pastoral Assistant for Administration  
John H. Fahey—Pastoral Assistant for Music & Liturgy  
James Liberty—Pastoral Assistant for Faith Formation  
Laurie Liberty—Pastoral Assistant for Youth Ministry  
Andy Leech—Chair, Pastoral Council  
George Kushner—Chair, Finance Council  
John Chambers—Co-Chair Finance Council

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## CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

|     |    |         |                                   |
|-----|----|---------|-----------------------------------|
| Tue | 31 | 6 pm    | Glen Watts — RIP                  |
| Wed | 1  | 9 am    | Benjamin Reyes—RIP                |
| Thu | 2  | 7 pm    | Mass of the Lord's Supper         |
| Fri | 3  | 7 pm    | Passion & Veneration of the Cross |
| Sat | 4  | 8:15 pm | Easter Vigil Mass                 |

Monday, March 30th is the Funeral Mass for Fr. Gerry Lovett, celebrated at the Cathedral of St. James. Fr. Marion will be concelebrating at the Mass, so he will not be at the parish to hear confessions on Monday March 30th, from Noon to 1 pm. He will be back for to keep the evening schedule for confessions.

## PERPETUAL ADORATION—OPEN HOURS AVAILABLE

|     |                    |      |                               |
|-----|--------------------|------|-------------------------------|
| SUN | 2 am & 11 pm       | THUR | 12, 2- 4 am & 11pm            |
| MON | 12, 1, 2, 3 & 4 am | FRI  | 3, 5 a.m. & 7 pm              |
| TUE | 12, 1, 2, & 4 am   | SAT  | 9, & 11 pm                    |
| WED | 4 am & 11 pm       |      | <b>Contact Sally 293-3222</b> |



## Immaculate Conception Regional School

### Pancake Breakfast & 2015 Big Blue Auction

ALL ARE WELCOME: The PTO is hosting a **pancake breakfast** to celebrate Wellness Week, and raise money for the Science Center Science on Wheels program. Please join us for pancakes, eggs, sausage, coffee, and juice on Sunday, April 19, 2015, from 9 am to Noon. at St. Joseph Center. Please join us at the **2015 Big Blue Auction** on Friday, April 24 at 6:00 PM at St. Joseph Center. The evening includes: dinner catered by Max Dale's; premium beer, wine and soft drinks; and hundreds of silent and live auction items. The event will be hosted by Emmy winning television celebrity and auctioneer John Curley, along with Mount Vernon's own Mike Yeoman, a.k.a. "*Mike in the Morning*" of KAPS radio. Purchase your tickets online at [icrsweb.maestroweb.com](http://icrsweb.maestroweb.com) or stop by the school. (Cocktail attire) - Gwen Rodrigues— Principal-428-3912.

## themarriagecourse

This class begins on April 7, 2015 at 5:30 PM and runs through May 26, 2015.

### Sign Up Begins for The Alpha Marriage Course

Saint Mary's Parish will be offering the 8 week Alpha Marriage Course starting on Tuesday, April 7, 2015 at 5:30PM.

This popular series is designed to help couples strengthen their marriages by addressing eight important topics: strong foundations, communication, conflict resolution, forgiveness, parents and in-laws, good sex, love in action and coping with separation due to illness or military orders (optional).

It is a video based program that includes reading and private discussions between spouses. No group work.

Sessions will begin at 5:30 PM and will end by 8:30 PM.

There will be a candle-light dinner with the first and last class. All others will include dessert and beverages. Cost for the program is \$60.00 per couple. This includes the course materials.

On site child care can be arranged by prior arrangement. Please register by March 29th. Class size is limited to 8 couples.

We will ask for a few volunteers to help. To register or obtain more information please contact the Office of Faith Formation at 360-293-6882 or Don or Pat Webster (Facilitators) 360-588-1494. EMAIL: PATWEBRN@YAHOO.COM

## The Belles & Rummage Sale

The Belles of St. Mary will be holding their monthly meeting Monday 4/13 in the FAC room 5 at 10am. Rummage Sale is just around the corner and we need you! There is going to be training for cashiers at 9:30am prior to the 10am Belles meeting. Following the meeting, we will enjoy the potluck, in lieu of monthly birthday luncheon and continue Rummage Sale discussions as necessary.

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## FAITH FORMATION NEWS

### LENTEN CORNER

**Rice Bowl Meditation:** "CRS Rice Bowl brings our Lenten journey back to Africa this week, to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We join in fasting in solidarity with people who go hungry, and we remember in prayer the importance of building a community that is willing to support those most in need." Please remember to bring your contributions to the Rice Bowl to all weekend Masses.

#### LENTEN SOUP SUPPER AND ACTIVITIES:

Confessions begin at 4:30pm on Fridays, followed by the Stations of the Cross at 5:15pm, Soup Supper at 6pm (Cheesy Potato by the Youth Group), with concluding presentation by Fr. Marion on Witnessing.

#### FAITH AND FAMILY NIGHTS

The Seattle Mariners have extended an invitation to Saint Mary's parish to purchase special discount tickets for either or both "Faith & Family Nights." The dates of the games covered by the offer are Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup> and Friday June 19<sup>th</sup>. After the game on the 26<sup>th</sup> there will be a showing of "The Lego Movie" and after the game on Friday June 19<sup>th</sup> there will be a fireworks display.

Tickets for either game will be \$12.00 per person and each group that attends will have a scoreboard greeting. To qualify we must reserve 20 or more discount tickets. If you are interested in attending one of these Mariners' games contact the Office of Faith Formation. At [Fform@stmaryanacortes.org](mailto:Fform@stmaryanacortes.org) or call 360-293-6882.

### LENTEN Prayer, Fasting & Almsgiving 2015

#### Lenten Almsgiving 2014 = \$ 9, 371.00

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| Ash Wednesday  | \$ 1,450.00         |
| Rice Bowl  | \$ 1,219.00         |
| Catholic Home Missions inc Black & Indian Mission        | \$ 1,064.00         |
| Catholic Relief Services [not incl. of direct donations] | \$ 1,485.75         |
| Soup Supper [Beneficiary: Priests for Life]              | \$ 1,143.00         |
| Easter Flowers for the Church                            | \$ 792.00           |
| SVDP—CCS Rebate  | \$ 1,662.00         |
| Lenten Mission   | \$ 1,672.00         |
| Holy Thursday [beneficiary: SVDP]                        | \$ 5.00             |
| Good Friday [beneficiary: Holy Land]                     | \$ 5.00             |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>\$ 10,497.75</b> |

## Fr. Marion's Corner

### I am not edified by Merton...

#### Reflection on the Passion

I have been reading Thomas Merton's autobiography, "The Seven Storey Mountain". I had hoped to be edified by the holiness of this man's life, but I'm afraid the opposite effect is resulting. Maybe I opened this book supposing it to be a hagiography? (Hagiography is a literary form that focuses on the miracles and edifying events of a saint's life with the purpose of encouraging faith in the reader.)

When I read about Merton, the most I can do is commiserate in his struggles and temptations. Nevertheless, in the midst of all his immoral tendencies and restlessness, somehow, God was able to break through the barriers of sin and touched Merton's heart. Is this not the meaning of sanctity? If saints only spoke inspiring words and performed only virtuous actions, I will end up wondering which planet they came from.

Saints by definition are sinners who have been saved by the mercy of God in Jesus Christ. Saints are saints not because they never do anything wrong; saints are saints precisely because every time they sinned, they ran back to the merciful arms of God to receive forgiveness and strength. Is this not the kind of holiness that you and I can relate and wish to follow?

The narrative of our Lord's Passion is essentially the recounting of the encounter between sinful humanity and the merciful face of God. In the Passion, we witness Judas as the Traitor, Peter as the Liar, the soldiers as violent, the Pharisees as envious, the Disciples as Cowards, humanity as shameless.

How does God respond? God responds by revealing Jesus as the Gentle, the Faithful, the Truth, the Generous, the Courageous, the Lover. Holiness is recognizing myself among these sinners who are loved from death into life. Saints outside of this encounter are frauds. I am not edified by Merton; I am edified by God's work in Merton's otherwise unedifying life.

Fr. Marion