



## The Old Becomes New Again by Fr. Patrick Kennedy

My friends,

This weekend, we begin Holy Week, a yearly reflection on the passion and death of Jesus Christ. It culminates next Saturday at the Easter Vigil. Most of us have been through this many times. We know the story by heart. We can cobble enough of the facts surrounding these events and tell them to others without even opening the Bible. Even though we know what happens, our familiarity with the story sometimes has us become rather passive. Even when we choose to enter the age-old rites of the Church, our participation can be perfunctory.

It begs the question for me and maybe you, too, could these days hold any more meaning for us at this moment in time than they do? Could the scriptures we hear provide the fodder for us to enter into a deeper understanding of where we are right now in our lives? Could our willingness to stay with our Lenten journey for a few more days help us appreciate how the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus deepen our faith, hope, and love in ourselves, one another, and with our loving and merciful God today? Is there any new inspiration we might find in these familiar stories which can become routine in our hearing?

A long time ago, when I was in the Seminary, we had a Spiritual Director named Father Gerald Keefe. Not only was he our spiritual director, but he baptized me as a baby. He always told people later on, especially when I was in the room, that he forgot to do the exorcism (driving out the



devil) for me, which is part of the baptismal rite. He always got a big laugh when he said it to people when I was present. It's like people finally understood why I was the way I was.

Father Keefe knew instinctively, and from years of experience, our young minds wandered and our eyes got glassy when we reflected on the same Bible passages over and over again. He knew we got bored. His way was not to scold us or make us feel ashamed we had those reactions to the Word of God, especially when we seemed to cover the same stuff year after year.

One day, he proposed a different method. He invited us to approach the passage of scripture in another way than before. He simply said, "When I begin to read the words out loud, I would like you to close your eyes and imagine you are present in the setting. You are sitting in the room, at the square, on the road, or in the crowd. As you become part of what you hear, you are observing what is going on. Be curious as you watch the faces of the people in the story. Observe the reactions. Form some idea,

some thought, some feeling about what you are experiencing in that place and with those people."

As the scripture passage was read, most of us accepted Father Keefe's invitation not to just listen to the reader drone on and on. As this exercise unfolded, we found ourselves in the setting and with the people in the story. Our imagination and the Holy Spirit moved us to be a part of it. Amazingly and with little effort, the scripture passage came alive in our hearts. Afterwards, Father Keefe asked us about the experience. We became animated as we each spoke about what we heard and saw and the emotion it evoked in us.

I would like you to try this simple little exercise during these days of Holy Week. Place yourselves in the setting of the story. Observe. Imagine what people in the story look like; how each has a different voice. Become a part of them. Watch and listen to the reactions of the people present in the story. When the story ends, ask yourself, what did you observe, and did it touch your heart in a new way?

Maybe you will be drawn into what we celebrate this week like you never have been before if you give this a shot. It will take an ancient and familiar story and make it come alive in a new way. It will bring a freshness to our understanding and new meaning to our lives as we celebrate the life-giving days of Holy Week.



## EVENTS AND OTHER INFORMATION

Additional Information at [www.saintolaf.org/events](http://www.saintolaf.org/events)

### CHORAL PRELUDE – ST. OLAF PARISH CHOIR AND FROM AGE TO AGE

On Palm Sunday, April 14, plan to arrive at 9:35am to enjoy an extended choral prelude performed by the St. Olaf Parish Choir and From Age to Age, our choir-in-residence. Join us in celebrating Palm Sunday with this special music.

### BOOK CLUB

Sunday, April 14 from 2:30 to 3:30, *Mission of the Messiah* by Tim Gray

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

In addition to our regular schedule for confessions, we will have an extended time on Tuesday, April 16 from 12:30 – 5:30pm for you to receive the sacrament before Easter.

### TRIDUUM SCHEDULE

#### Holy Thursday, April 18

Mass of the Lord's Supper:

12:00 Noon (with music); 5:15pm (with music and foot washing)

*(no 7:00am Mass; no confessions)*

#### Good Friday, April 19

Celebration of the Lord's Passion: 12:00 noon, 5:15pm (both with music)

Stations of the Cross: 3:00pm (with music)

Individual Veneration of the Cross concludes each liturgy  
*(no 7:00am Mass; no confessions)*

#### Holy Saturday April 20

Easter Vigil: 7:00–9:00pm

*(Saturday: no 12:00 Noon or 4:00pm Masses; no confessions)*

#### Easter Sunday April 21

6:00am (no music)

8:00am; 10:00am; 12:00 Noon; 4:00pm (with music)

### REMEMBERING OUR MOTHERS ON MOTHER'S DAY:

This Mother's Day, May 12, remember mothers, living and deceased, with a donation toward church flowers and environment. Suggested offering is \$5.00. Use forms available in the pamphlet racks. Make checks out to St. Olaf Church with "Mother's Day Flowers" in the memo line. Please submit by May 3. Thank you!



## THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Additional Information at [www.saintolaf.org](http://www.saintolaf.org)

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 13

- 9:00 AM CENTERING PRAYER
- 9:00 AM SACRAMENT, FIRST RECONCILIATION
- 9:00 AM RCIA RETREAT
- 9:00 AM CHOIR REHEARSAL FOR EASTER VIGIL
- 12:00 PM MASS/CONFESSIONS
- 4:00 PM MASS

#### PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 14

- 6:00 AM MASS
- 8:00 AM MASS
- 9:00 AM NURSERY OPENS
- 9:30 AM SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION
- 10:00 AM MASS
- 12:00 PM MASS
- 2:30PM BOOK CLUB
- 4:00 PM MASS

#### MONDAY, APRIL 15

- 7:00 AM MASS/CONFESSIONS
- 7:30 AM SAMARITAN MINISTRY HOSPITALITY
- 12:00 PM MASS
- 12:00 PM AA

#### TUESDAY, APRIL 16

- 7:00 AM MASS/CONFESSIONS
- 12:00 PM MASS
- 12:30 PM EXTENDED TIME FOR CONFESSIONS UNTIL 5:30PM
- 6:30 PM SEASONAL CHOIR REHEARSAL

#### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

- 7:00 AM MASS/CONFESSIONS
- 7:00 AM AA
- 12:00 PM MASS
- 12:00 PM AA
- 6:00 PM ALANON
- 6:30 PM PARISH CHOIR REHEARSAL

#### HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 18

- 12:00 PM MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
- 5:15 PM MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
- SOLEMN ADORATION AFTER MASS
- ADORATION FOLLOWS UNTIL 8:00PM

#### GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 19

OFFICE CLOSED ON FRIDAYS

- 12:00 PM CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION/VENERATION
- 3:00 PM STATIONS OF THE CROSS
- 5:15 PM CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION/VENERATION

#### HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 20

- 9:00 AM CENTERING PRAYER
- 7:00 PM EASTER VIGIL MASS

### ANNUAL BUDGET AS OF WEEK #39

CONTRIBUTIONS	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
Week #39	\$13,540	\$27,180	-\$13,640
YTD through Week #39	\$1,001,847	\$1,086,976	-\$85,129