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LENT AND EASTER 2017

Dear Members of the St. Kevin's Parish Community,

We are happy to write to you during this Holy Season of Lent, as we journey towards Easter, the great feast of our salvation. Lent is an opportune time for us to go back to the school of prayer to reflect, to evaluate and to refocus in our call to love and serve God and one another.

The key to remember here is that we can only love and serve God through our neighbour. Yet it is not easy, these days, loving and serving God and one another. It seems that we live in a climate of fear today, fear that would have some excluding others who are different because of their race, religion or gender. But the Good Friday-Easter Sunday proclamation is that Jesus died for all; that salvation is intended for everyone. Our Holy Father Pope Francis, does not tire in asking the Church

to overcome our fears, to reach out to those at the margins of our society, to include people, to welcome people to experience God's love and mercy through us, the Church.

For us Holy Cross priests here at St. Kevin's, (Father Jim and Father Vijai), it has been our experience that many find St. Kevin's to be a *very warm and welcoming* spiritual community. We minister to the spiritual needs of over 3,300 families. For our community Sunday Eucharist is the epicentre of every week. It is the Eucharist that feeds us and sends us out to share and care. To be honest, life is not easy. We all need time to be refreshed and replenished. In the celebration of the Eucharist we bring our cares and concerns to the Lord; we give thanks to the Lord; we join with others in praising God and committing to God our common worries and preoccupations.



St. Kevin's is your *spiritual home*. Please make the effort to join us for the Sunday Eucharist. But, if you are not able to join us, please know that we would love to see you any time and you and your loved ones are in our community's prayer at all times. Please pray for our Parish Community, especially for our five RCIA candidates who will receive the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) at the beautiful Easter Vigil, April 15, 2017 at 8.00 pm, for our six RCIC children who will be baptized on Easter Sunday April 16, 2017 at 5.00 pm, and for our 95 grade two children who will receive First Holy Communion with their families on Easter Sunday.

Included with this letter is the schedule of our services for Holy Week and Easter. We are looking forward to welcoming the Parish Community to these celebrations. This is a wonderful opportunity to enter the tomb so that at Easter we can feel a renewed and stronger faith.

Share Lent 2017

It is 50 years now that every Lent, the Canadian Catholic Church, through the *Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace*, has been making the annual SHARE LENT appeal for the poor in the developing world. It started in 1967 when Pope Paul VI in his Encyclical *On the Development of Peoples* wrote forcefully that *development is the new name for peace*. At St. Kevin's over the years, we have approached SHARE LENT with serious gospel fervor responding to Jesus' words in St. Matthew's gospel – *I was hungry – I was thirsty – I was homeless* and *insofar as you did it to one the sisters or brothers you did it to me!* Today's headlines and news reports describe thousands experiencing hunger in Somalia, Yemen and South Sudan — caused by the devil's mixture of drought and civil war. For the Canadian church, to respond to such a humanitarian crisis is but one example of the urgent need for this year's SHARE LENT collection. As you have been in past years, please be very, very generous. Giving to the hungry is to respond to Jesus. About 1600 years ago St. John Chrysostom put it this way: *If you cannot find Christ in the beggar at the church door, you will not find him in the chalice*.

You may bring your Share Lent contribution to Mass on Palm Sunday or to any Sunday Mass during the Easter Season.

May you and your loved ones have a blessed Easter.

Yours in the peace of Christ,

Father Vijai Amirtharaj, CSC Father Jim Mulligan, CSC

Schedule for Holy Week 2017

Passion Sunday / Palm Sunday April 8th - April 9th

Mass Times: Saturday 5:00 p.m.; Sunday 8:00 a.m.; 10:00 a.m.; 12 noon; 5:00 p.m. Palms will be distributed to each person as they enter the Church and blessed during the Liturgy.

Sacrament of Penance: Monday, April 10th Communal Celebration at 7:30 pm

Communal Preparation with several priests for confessions.

Sacred Triduum

Holy Thursday April 13th

Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30 p.m. Reception of Oils; Washing of Feet; Commissioning of Ministries – all parishioners involved in any ministry are encouraged to participate in this beautiful liturgy. **Hours of Adoration: 8:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.**

Good Friday April 14th

Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 12 noon and 3:00 p.m.

Stations of the Cross at 7:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday April 15th Easter Vigil

At 8:00 p.m. Blessing of the new fire and Paschal Candle

and Initiation of Catechumens/Candidates [NO 5:00 p.m. Mass today]

Easter Sunday April 16th

Masses at 8:00 a.m.; 10 a.m.; 12 noon;

5:00 p.m. - Initiation of the RCIC children