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THE PASCHAL MYSTERY

The *Paschal Mystery* is the *passion, death, resurrection and ascension* of our Lord into glory. It is a central mystery of the Christian Faith, celebrated at the Easter Triduum - Holy Thursday eve to Good Friday eve, Good Friday eve to Holy Saturday eve, Holy Saturday eve to Easter Sunday eve. *Paschal* is the English form of the Greek word *pascha*, which comes from the Hebrew word *pesah* which means passover.

The *pesah* is the Jewish feast celebrating the Israelite's deliverance from slavery in Egypt (Exodus, chapter 12). In this deliverance the final (tenth) plague of God against the Egyptian Pharaoh and his people, has the angel of death strike down the first born males of animals and people, whose homes are not protected by the blood of a sacrificial lamb (the paschal lamb, also called the lamb of God). This led to the Israelites' release from captivity and slavery, and began a new chapter in their salvation history.

The Passover foreshadows God's plan of salvation through Jesus. In both cases:

- the people are under foreign rule - Egyptian and Roman.
- the people are led to freedom by a savior - Moses and Jesus.
- the people are given a new covenant with God - commandments and beatitudes.
- the people are saved by the shedding of innocent blood - the Paschal lamb and Jesus.
- the people are led by the savior to a new situation in life - from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the promised land and from slavery to sin to being free from sin.

But the Passover was limited to just the Israelites, and was incomplete in that it did not bring about eternal salvation. In the passion, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus salvation is fully accomplishment and open to all people of all time.

Mystery is for many people something that is secret, irrational and invented. In the language of faith *mystery* is a religious truth that cannot be fully understood and is only known by revelation.

So in *Mystery*:

- human reason and science cannot lead to their discovery. We receive the Scripture and Tradition.
- these are religious truths that have both a seen and an unseen element to them.
- since they are revealed by God, they cannot be completely understood in this life, but we will understand them fully in the kingdom of heaven

Source: 2010 St. Mary's Press, Living in Christ Series, Document #: TX001312

Bishop of the Diocese of St. Catharines
Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D.

Pastor
Father Brian Bevan

Sunday Masses
Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Weekday Masses
Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri @ 9:00 a.m.
Wed @ 6:30 pm

Exposition and Benediction
1st Friday @ 8:00 am
3rd and 4th Wednesdays @ 7:00 pm

Reconciliation/Confessions
Wed 5:30 - 6:15 p.m.
Sat 4:00 - 4:30 p.m.
Or by request

Baptism
Sunday by appointment

Marriage
Contact Fr. Brian Bevan

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Please call the office.

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April 9, 2017
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

April 9, 2017

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord - Year A

Monday	Apr 10	9:00 am	For the health and healing of Doug and Maeve Devlin	by Pauline Lewis
Tuesday	Apr 11	St. Stanislaus, bishop & martyr		
		9:00 am	+For the peaceful rest of Henry Donkers and for God's blessings upon Annie Donkers	by John and Riky Mulder
		10:45 am	Junior Class Mass	
Wednesday	Apr 12	9:00 pm	+For the peaceful rest of John Fedorik Jr.	by family
Thursday	Apr 13	Holy Thursday		
		7:00 pm	For the health and healing of Paul Massad	by Joyce and Rodney Ross
		8:00 pm	Exposition which ends at 9:30 pm	
Friday	Apr 14	Good Friday		
		3:00 pm	****NO INTENTIONS TODAY****	
		6:30 pm	Stations of the Cross	
Saturday	Apr 15	Easter Vigil		
		11:00 am	Blessing of the Easter Food Baskets	
		8:00 pm	****AVAILABLE****	
Sunday	Apr 16	Easter Sunday		
		9:00 am	For the intentions of St. Martin's Parish family	
		11:00 am	+For the peaceful rest of Fr. Obioma Anyanwu	by Joan Hignett and Heather Belmont

FEASTS TODAY

Holy Week; April 9 - 15

This week is placed immediately before the feast of Easter, beginning with Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion and ending with Holy Saturday. The liturgy of the week recalls the arrest, suffering and death of Jesus Christ.

Christians in the first three centuries made no attempt to celebrate the events of Christ's last days on separate days, but remembered his suffering, death and resurrection in one event known as *Pascha* or Christian *Pass-over*. During the fourth century the *Pascha* was split into a series of liturgies that re-enacted the events of Jesus' final week. This began in Jerusalem, travelling to Rome by the sixth century. Over time so many additions were made to the celebrations that in the year 1955 Pope Pius XII brought many reforms that were continued at Vatican II (1962-1965).

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord; April 09

In the year 2011 we returned to calling this day Palm Sunday – between the years 1969 and 2011 it was called Passion Sunday. Palm Sunday takes its name from the palms that are distributed and blessed in memory of the Lord's entry into Jerusalem. This celebration dates from the fourth century in Jerusalem, and is the first part of the day's Mass. Of Roman origin, the second part of the Mass remembers the Passion of Christ.

Holy Thursday; April 13.

Today is also called *Maundy Thursday*, taken from the Latin word *mandatum* = *commandment*. This thought comes from the gospel acclamation of the day from John 13:34, "I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you."

SAINTS THIS WEEK

St. Stanislaus, bishop & martyr; April 11.

Stanislaus was born in Poland in the year 1030. He was ordained a priest in Cracow, and in the year 1072 he was appointed bishop of that city. Regarded as a good shepherd of the people, he rebuked the king for being morally corrupt and unfaithful. In response, the king himself murdered Stanislaus while he was celebrating Mass on April 11, 1079.

Stanislaus was canonized in the year 1253 by Pope Innocent IV.

LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERING

Generosity brought \$1463.50 to our parish last week through the Regular Sunday Offering and \$1290.25 through Share Lent (Development & Peace)



STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Stations of the Cross will take place on Friday April 14 at 6:30 pm
This Friday, the Stations are entitled "The Centurion Speaks".

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Over the next several weeks Father Brian will be inviting members of the parish - through the mail - to consider volunteering for a Parish Ministry. Father seeks help in ministries of the Eucharist, Lector & Reader, Hospitality, Money Counter and Adult Altar Server.

Please, if you receive an invitation, give it prayer and thought. Please do not be quick to say to yourself "they have so many already" because in fact our ministries are stretched thin right now. Instead say to yourself "the Lord needs my help and I will give it to him." Then decide if your talents match the ministry Father Brian has offered you.

All training is provided. You will be asked which Mass you will minister during, how often during the month you are available, and if there are family members in ministry you will serve together at your assigned Mass.

We live in a busy, hectic world. Ministry gives us a scheduled time and energy to give back to God.

If you do not receive an invitation from Father Brian, feel free to speak with him to let him know you want to be involved.

THE BACK PAGE

Have you ever wondered what the *Pashcal Mystery* is?

Find out on the BACK PAGE of this bulletin.

BEST WISHES THIS WEEK TO

Birthdays:

Beau Fischer – Apr 9
Daniela Pearson/Nicole Wealleans – Apr 10
Allain Hayward/Sandy Johnson – Apr 10
Anthony Pearson – Apr 11
Claudio Baccenga/Taylor Juszkiwicz – Apr 12
Austion and Mike Pereira – Apr 12
Rachel Telford – Apr 12
Colleen Murphy/Abigail Vieira – Apr 13
Jack Bruzzese/Lisa Mous – Apr 14
Becca Long – Apr 14
Tyson LeBlanc – Apr 15
Lauren Mous/Greg Oliver – Apr 16
Jared Whitelaw – Apr 16

Anniversaries:

Darren & Sherry O'Keefe – Apr 16

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF OF FATHER OBIOMA

May 10, 1964 - April 9, 2016

Ordained a Holy Ghost Father (Spiritans) in Nigeria, West Africa, on August 10, 1996.



He served as Pastor of St. Patrick Parish, Awo-Omamma, Imo State, Nigeria from August 1997 till 1999 when he moved to Canada in September of that year for missionary work. He lived in Gatineau, Quebec from 1999 to December 2004 where he served as the Pastors of triune parishes of Our Lady of the Annunciation, Hull; St. Elizabeth, Cantley and St. Stephen, Chelsea.

In January 2005 he moved to the Niagara region, and joined the diocese of St. Catharines, through the auspice of the then Bishop James Wingle. For a couple of months, he helped in the parishes of St. Thomas More, Niagara Falls; and St. Vincent the Paul, Niagara on the Lake before being appointed assistant pastor at Our Lady of the Scapular Parish, Niagara Falls from August 2005 to August 2006, and St. Denis Parish in St. Catharines from Sept 2007 till July 2008 with an intermittent one year recall to his home in Nigeria between those two assignments. He served as the Pastor of St. Martin of Tours Parish in Smithville, Ontario till August 2015 when he was appointed by our present Bishop, Most Rev. Gerard P. Bergie, as pastor to St. Patrick Parish, Port Colborne.

Fr. Obioma liked and played tennis, ping pong, and soccer. Chelsea Football Club in England was his favorite soccer team, just as Ottawa Senators and Toronto Raptors were his favourite hockey and basketball teams respectively. He loved spiritual reading and devotion. Steak was his favourite dish.

HE IS NOT DEAD

I cannot say, and I will not say
That he is dead. He is just away.
With a cheery smile and a wave of the hand,
He has wandered into an unknown land
And left us dreaming how very fair
It's needs must be,
Since he lingers there.
And you - oh you who the wildest yearn
For an old-time step, and the glad return,
Think of him faring on, as dear
In the love of There as the love of Here.
Think of him still as the same. I say,
He is not dead - he is just away.
Rest in Peace Fr. Obi