

Holy Cross Catholic Church

Newsletter

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 Parish Priest: Fr. Zacheusz Dulniok, ofm



April 2016

Year 21 — No. 4

SATURDAY VIGIL MASSES (For Sunday)

- 4:00 pm Polish: *Every 1st Saturday of the month*
 4:00 pm Spanish: *Every 2nd Saturday of the month*
 6:30 pm English

SUNDAY MASSES

- 8:00 am English
 9:30 am Greek
 10:30 am English
 12:00 nn French: *Every 1st Sunday of the month*
 12:00 nn Tagalog: *Every 2nd Sunday of the month*
 12:00 nn Indian: *Every 3rd Sunday of the month*
 12:00 nn Sinhala: *Every 4th Sunday of the month*
 6:30 pm English (Children/Families)

WEEKDAY MASSES

- 7:30 am Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday - English
 7:30 am Tuesday - Greek
St. Anthony Devotion
 8.00 am Wednesday - English
 6:30 pm Every day - English

MASSES IN NORTH CYPRUS

- 12:00 nn St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Kyrenia - *Every Sunday* - English
 7:00 pm Famagusta - *Every Sunday* - English

My dear friends,

The month of April is opening the whole of God's creation to a new life. We have received once more the gift – offered to us by the Church– of celebrating and living the season of Lent in order to ready and open ourselves for the greatest gift of new life conquered for us by our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Jesus died for us and for our sins on the cross and the beautiful cross, placed in the centre of our Holy Cross church reminds us always about this truth: that God loves us to the point of sacrificing His only son for us sinners.

We can experience our Lenten journey within our Parish community life thanks to all the opportunities for prayer, devotion, fasting and almsgiving that the Church is offering us during this time. However, the Lenten season is also a personal moment for each one of us, because Jesus paid for the sins of each one of us personally. Let us pray that we may (re)discover during this period the weakest points in our lives and through works of mercy, spiritual and material, find a way to repent, to come back to God and to reconcile with our neighbors.

I wish to all of us a blessed and fruitful time of good changes in our lives.

Fr. Zacheusz M. Dulniok, ofm

REMINDER: LENT 2016 PREPARATION AT HOLY CROSS



WEEKDAYS (Monday-Thursday) at 5:30 pm: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with the Evening Prayer (Vespers)

THE WAY OF THE CROSS: Every Friday at 6:00 pm, before the Mass. For those who cannot come on Friday, **every Sunday right after the 10:30 am Mass.**

For the Sri Lankan Community, every Sunday at 3:30 pm.

PARISH RECOLLECTION AND PENITENTIAL DAY: It will be held on **Sunday 27 March from 12 noon till 3:00 pm.**

Sacramental confessions will take place immediately after the meditation.

LENTEN PILGRIMAGE: Friday 1 April 2016, to the old church of St George in Kormakitis [See details, pp. 2 & 3].

Lord, teach me to accept all afflictions after the example You have given.

April Calendar

CELEBRATIONS

Sunday 24 April

Palm Sunday - Passion of the Lord



Thursday 28 April

Holy Thursday



Friday 29 April

Good Friday



Saturday 30 April

Holy Saturday



Sunday 1 May

Easter Sunday - The Resurrection of the Lord



Holy Week is the high point of the Lenten season. It opens with the procession with blessed palms and olive branches and the Gospel reading of the passion and death of our Saviour. The triumphant entry into Jerusalem ended on Calvary, but we know that Good Friday led to Easter Sunday.

The Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday ushers in the Easter Triduum of Christ's passion and death (Good Friday) and burial (Holy Saturday), and resurrection on Easter Sunday. The Easter Triduum is the most solemn celebration in the liturgical year when we commemorate the paschal mystery of Christ in which we participate through baptism and the Holy Eucharist. The renewal of baptismal promises at the Easter Vigil and during all Masses on Easter Sunday culminates our Lenten observance. The sprinkling with holy water and the lighted candles in our hands evoke the most significant moment in our lives: our baptism, when God claimed us as His sons and daughters.

The joy of the resurrection of Our Lord flows over into the next fifty days of the Easter Season until Pentecost Sunday. The solemn chanting of the Alleluia and the lighted paschal candle keep alive the solemn and memorable celebration of the Easter Vigil. The biblical readings and the prefaces prayed during the Easter Vigil remind us that the Risen Christ is always present among us and that we can recognise him in the proclaimed Word and in the Breaking of Bread during the Eucharist. Let us enter into these wonderful celebrations with the joy of being forgiven and redeemed by Our Risen Christ.

"Christ has died, Christ is Risen, Christ will come again."

PARISH LENTEN PILGRIMAGE 1 April - Kormakitis

The registration list (name and passport number) is in the Sacristy. **The cost is €10** to be paid at the time of registration.



Bring your passport and a visa if you require one.

Deadline for registration Sunday 27 March

Coaches will depart from the old CYTA at 8:30 am sharp. Bring food and drinks for the picnic (to be shared with other participants).

See the program in the Parish Council report on p. 3

Good Friday - 29 April, at 3:00 pm

Drama Passion presentation in the friary garden
All volunteers who wish to take part in the play should contact Fr. Zacheusz or the group leaders.

The Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of April 2016

Universal: That small farmers may receive a just reward for their precious labor.

Evangelisation: That Christians in Africa may give witness to love and faith in Jesus Christ amid political-religious conflicts.



Let me place my death in Yours and my weakness in Your abandonment,

PARISH NEWS



EL SHADDAI DWXI-PPFI

El Shaddai's mission is to proclaim to the world the greatness, faithfulness, power, goodness and love of God, to provide relief to people whose hearts and minds are burdened with problems, to heal spiritual and physical afflictions and to preach the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ.

The El Shaddai movement is a Catholic Charismatic renewal movement originating from the Philippines. It has many chapters around the world. In Cyprus it started 24 years ago and has transformed the lives of many overseas Filipino workers.

During this year of Mercy the El Shaddai brethren from the Nicosia Chapter will be visiting the sick in hospitals, old people who need care and affection in homes for the aged, and we will also assist people who need counseling, with the help of our Spiritual director Rev. Fr. Zacheusz Dulniok. We believe that by helping others with one heart, one mind and one spirit we can best serve and glorify God.

Despite the tremendous growth of El Shaddai DWXI-PPFI, there is still much work to do. If we come to know God in spirit and in truth, repent of all our sins, turn away from our wicked ways, and accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, peace and unity will reign in our hearts and minds. If this happens, peace and unity will also prevail in our homes and from our homes, will spread to our communities and to the entire world. This is what the El Shaddai DWXI-PPFI "FLU" - Faith, Love, and Unity - is all about.

Bernadette Koutsidou



Concerts at Holy Cross

Wednesday 20 April at 8:30 pm

Saint John's Passion — Saint Matthew's Passion
Sacred oratorios by Johann Sebastian Bach

Friday 22 of April at 8:00 pm

Lenten Concert — Katie Economidou.



MOVIE NIGHT

FRIDAY 8 APRIL

St Francis Hall

7.15 pm

Snacks and drinks will be served at the interval.

HOLY CROSS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS AND MESSAGES

The Executive Members of the Parish Council met on Thursday 3 March 2016 mainly to plan the arrangements for the Holy Cross Lenten Pilgrimage on Friday 1 April to the Catholic Maronite village of Kormakitis and the "Holy Door" of the Jubilee Year of Mercy at the old St George Church in the village.

The journey will be through Kyrenia and the most beautiful north coastal road, with some appropriate stops. Preaching on the Jubilee Year of Mercy, an opportunity for confessions, the Holy Eucharist, the Way of the Cross and passing through the "Holy Door" will also be part of our pilgrimage experience of the day. To go through the checkpoint everyone coming needs to have a valid passport/ID, as well as a valid permit to stay/work in the Republic of Cyprus (if applicable). We will set off at 8.30 am from Holy Cross and return by about 6.00 pm.

Because of the date of the pilgrimage, the Movie Night for April will take place on the second Friday of April (8 April). A movie on the life of St. Rita will be screened [see box above]. Do not miss it!

Following proposals previously made, two gifts will be offered by the Parish Council to each parishioner: (1) a booklet for Lent to help parishioners daily in their journey through Lent to Easter and (1) a smartphone/tablet application dedicated to the Holy Cross Church. These two gifts can be accessed, through the Holy Cross website, as follows:

(1) Free e-book "Journey to the Cross": you can download this electronic book to your computer, tablet or smartphone. Go to the homepage, double-click on the relevant article for the e-book and download it by clicking on the link, then open it and enjoy it.

(2) Free smartphone/tablet application for Android or iPhone/iPAD entitled "Holy Cross Church": the file can be downloaded and installed in the same way. Double click on the relevant article for the application, click to download, install it and start enjoying it.

We hope that you will find these gifts a real blessing in your spiritual life and faith, that they will keep you close to the Lord and our Parish and that we will all be nourished through the gifts the Lord has in store for us as we walk through Lent to the great feast of Easter together with Him each day. May He bless you, our Parish, our priests, our families, abundantly always!

Akis Hjiiossif (Chairman of the Parish Council – email: holcrossparishcouncil@yahoo.com)

Take hold of me with Your love, that same foolish love that knew no limits,

MORE NEWS

Misericordiae Vultus - BULL OF INDICTION OF THE EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY (6)



15. In this Holy Year, we look forward to the experience of opening our hearts to those living on the outermost fringes of society: fringes which modern society itself creates. How many uncertain and painful situations there are in the world today! How many are the wounds borne by the flesh of those who have no voice because their cry is muffled and drowned out by the indifference of the rich! During this Jubilee, the Church will be called even more to heal these wounds, to assuage them with the oil of consolation, to bind them with mercy and cure them with solidarity and vigilant care. Let us not fall into humiliating indifference or a monotonous routine that prevents us from discovering what is new! Let us ward off destructive cynicism! Let us open our eyes and see the misery of the world, the wounds of our brothers and sisters who are denied their dignity, and let us recognize that we are compelled to heed their cry for help! May we reach out to them and support them so they can feel the warmth of our presence, our friendship, and our fraternity! May their cry become our own, and together may we break down the barriers of indifference that too often reign supreme and mask our hypocrisy and egoism!

It is my burning desire that, during this Jubilee, the Christian people may reflect on the *corporal and spiritual works of mercy*. It will be a way to reawaken our conscience, too often grown dull in the face of poverty. And let us enter more deeply into the heart of the Gospel where the poor have a special experience of God's mercy. Jesus introduces us to these works of mercy in his preaching so that we can know whether or not we are living as his disciples. Let us rediscover these *corporal works of mercy*: to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, heal the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead. And let us not forget the *spiritual works of mercy*: to counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish sinners, comfort the afflicted, forgive offences, bear patiently those who do us ill, and pray for the living and the dead.

We cannot escape the Lord's words to us, and they will serve as the criteria upon which we will be judged: whether we have fed the hungry and given drink to the thirsty, welcomed the stranger and clothed the naked, or spent time with the sick and those in prison (cf. *Mt 25:31-45*). Moreover, we will be asked if we have helped others to escape the doubt that causes them to fall into despair and which is often a source of loneliness; if we have helped to overcome the ignorance in which millions of people live, especially children deprived of the necessary means to free them from the bonds of poverty; if we have been close to the lonely and afflicted; if we have forgiven those who have offended us and have rejected all forms of anger and hate that lead to violence; if we have had the kind of patience God shows, who is so patient with us; and if we have commended our brothers and sisters to the Lord in prayer. In each of these "little ones," Christ himself is present. His flesh becomes visible in the flesh of the tortured, the crushed, the scourged, the malnourished, and the exiled... to be acknowledged, touched, and cared for by us. Let us not forget the words of Saint John of the Cross: "as we prepare to leave this life, we will be judged on the basis of love".

16. In the Gospel of Luke, we find another important element that will help us live the Jubilee with faith. Luke writes that Jesus, on the Sabbath, went back to Nazareth and, as was his custom, entered the synagogue. They called upon him to read the Scripture and to comment on it. The passage was from the Book of Isaiah where it is written: "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and freedom to those in captivity; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour" (*Is 61:1-2*). A "year of the Lord's favour" or "mercy": this is what the Lord proclaimed and this is what we wish to live now. This Holy Year will bring to the fore the richness of Jesus' mission echoed in the words of the prophet: to bring a word and gesture of consolation to the poor, to proclaim liberty to those bound by new forms of slavery in modern society, to restore sight to those who can see no more because they are caught up in themselves, to restore dignity to all those from whom it has been robbed. The preaching of Jesus is made visible once more in the response of faith which Christians are called to offer by their witness. May the words of the Apostle accompany us: he who does acts of mercy, let him do them with cheerfulness (cf. *Rom 12:8*).

17. The season of Lent during this Jubilee Year should also be lived more intensely as a privileged moment to celebrate and experience God's mercy. How many pages of Sacred Scripture are appropriate for meditation during the weeks of Lent to help us rediscover the merciful face of the Father! We can repeat the words of the prophet Micah and make them our own: You, O Lord, are a God who takes away iniquity and pardons sin, who does not hold your anger forever, but are pleased to show mercy. You, Lord, will return to us and have pity on your people. You will trample down our sins and toss them into the depths of the sea (cf. *7:18-19*).

The pages of the prophet Isaiah can also be meditated upon concretely during this season of prayer, fasting, and works of charity: "Is not this the fast that I choose: to loosen the bonds of wickedness, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, here I am. If you take away from the midst of you the yoke, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday. And the Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your desire with good things, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters fail not" (*58:6-11*).

The initiative of "24 Hours for the Lord," to be celebrated on the Friday and Saturday preceding the Fourth Week of Lent, should be implemented in every diocese. So many people, including young people, are returning to the Sacrament of Reconciliation; through this experience they are rediscovering a path back to the Lord, living a moment of intense prayer and finding meaning in their lives. Let us place the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the centre once more in such a way that it will enable people to touch the grandeur of God's mercy with their own hands. For every penitent, it will be a source of true interior peace.

[TO BE CONTINUED]

You can receive the Parish Newsletter electronically.

Go to

<http://groupspaces.com/HCNewsletter/>

Click on "Join Group" and follow the instructions.

Notices, Contributions, etc. for Parish Newsletter

Please send your notices and other contributions for the next newsletter to Monique (moniqueburston@yahoo.com) and/or to the Parish priest (holcross@logos.cy.net), or leave them in an envelope in the Church Library.

Deadline for submissions: 24 April

Coffee Morning in the Library

**21 April 2016
10.00-12.00**

For more information call
Rosemarie (99216007) or Monique (99795207).

and let me offer myself to the Father with You so that I may rise with You to eternal life. (A Lenten prayer)