



Easter 2018

Dear Friends,

I take this opportunity to share with you a few personal reflections on what Easter and the Resurrection of Christ means this year to me.

The journey of Lent has brought you and me once again to stand before the profound reality of the paschal mystery and to ponder the significance of the amazing and unexpected triumph of Christ's Resurrection. I am always struck by the experience that Christ's Resurrection explodes the ordinary and proposes the extraordinary by opening the door beyond death to eternal life with God. This, of course, is the heart of the good news, that there is more to life than death.

Now that we have come to the moment of celebrating this joyful news, liturgically, my prayer and hope is that each of us has also undergone a renewed personal experience of discipleship through our Lenten spiritual exercises, which entail a transformation of mind and heart. Having followed the Lord closely on his mission and witnessed his public ministry, I hope the process has led us to a more intimate relationship with Christ and raised in us a deeper desire to share our faith with others.

I know that by re-living the events and experiences of Christ's journey to Jerusalem, I have been challenged by the cost of discipleship and the necessity to say yes or no to the cross in my life. I suspect that this is also true for you. In fact, for all of us, the grace of conversion, which Christ's passion and death demands, inevitably calls us to a confrontation of our humanity, with all its vulnerabilities and the invitation to let go all that is source of non-life in our daily experience.

Following Christ all the way to the cross can leave us standing there paralyzed by fear or doubt, or it can be a moment of newfound spiritual freedom that allows us to say with Christ: Into your hands I commend my spirit. By sharing the grace of compassion with Christ, as we hear and pray at mass: through him, with him and in him, we can also rise again with Him.

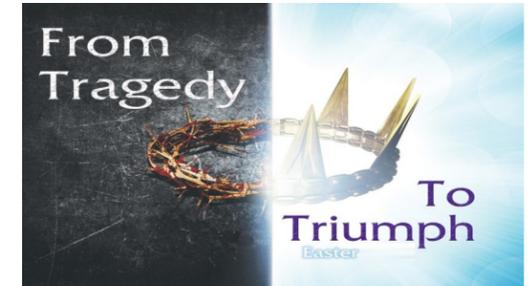
The celebration of Easter, with all its customs and traditions is not only the celebration of Christ's Resurrection. I believe it is also the experience of our own resurrection and hope for new life possibilities. Easter reminds us that Christ came that we might have abundant life. The mission of sharing with humanity, the love of God, is the gift offered to us by the Resurrection of Christ. When this gift is accepted, it is experienced as a real personal spiritual transformation which impacts our daily struggles and triumphs to attain the love of God.

May this Easter be for all of us, an experience of new life lived fully. Christ is Risen! Alleluia, Alleluia! May we all respond, He is Risen indeed, Alleluia, Alleluia! – because you and I have seen and experienced Christ risen in each other. Happy Easter.

†Anthony Mancini  
Archbishop of Halifax-Yarmouth



*St. Agnes Parish*  
*1st April 2018*  
*Easter Sunday*



**St. Agnes Parish,**

6903 Mumford Road, Halifax NS B3L 2H4

Phone -902-454-8200 fax 902-455-3831,

Website: <http://www.stagnesparish.ca> ;

email: [stagnes@hfx.eastlink.ca](mailto:stagnes@hfx.eastlink.ca)

**Weekday Masses:**

*Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:00am;*

*Wednesday & Fridays 12:10pm*

**Saturday: 4:00pm (anticipated)**

**Sunday: 8:30am & 10:30am**

**Confessions: Saturdays 3pm – 3:30pm.:**

**Pastor :** Father Paul Morris

**Email:** [fatherpaulmorris@gmail.com](mailto:fatherpaulmorris@gmail.com)

**Religious Ed. Director:** Tanya Thomson-

902-454-8281 or [stagnesdre@eastlink.ca](mailto:stagnesdre@eastlink.ca)

**Office Administrator:** Marlene Turpin:

**Parish Office Hours:** 9:00am – 3:00pm

**Marriages: Baptisms: RCIA & Hall Bookings**

**contact the parish office. 902-454-8200 x2**

**From the Desk of Fr. Paul:**

***"We have seen the Lord!"***

(Jn. 20:25) The Resurrection is the central mystery of our faith, which gives joy, hope, and assurance that God's life and power is given to us.

The empty tomb is God's answer to the mystery of sin and death. Our sufferings and struggles are never greater than what has been accomplished for us on this Day.

I would like to use this opportunity to wish all of you a very Happy and Holy Easter Season. I pray that the unsurpassed joy that accompanied the disciples upon seeing the Risen Lord be yours throughout this Holy Season and every day of your life.

**Easter Thanks:** a special "thank you" for all those who dedicated their time and talent toward making the churches look so beautiful for our celebration of Holy Week and Triduum. Also, thank you to all who were involved in liturgical ministries over these past days, including distributing Holy Communion, proclaiming the Scriptures and serving on the altar.

**HE IS RISEN**  
the Lord is risen indeed



**Saint Agnes 2018 Bursary** – Applications are ready for our Graduating Grade 12 students preparing for post secondary education. Applications can be picked up at the back of the church, downloaded from our website or via email at [stagnedre@eastlink.ca](mailto:stagnedre@eastlink.ca). Deadline is May 1, 2018



**Mancini Cup Saint Agnes Team practices in our church gym :**

**6:30pm – 8:30pm**

**Monday April 9<sup>th</sup> / Tuesday April 17<sup>th</sup> and Monday April**

**23<sup>rd</sup>**. Come be on our team and participate in a great Christian Youth Event!! **Mancini Cup Soccer Fun Day is Saturday April 28<sup>th</sup>** -

**St. Agnes Annual Mothers Day Lobster Brunch**  
- **Sunday May 13th from 11:30 to 1pm.**



My how time flies: Mothers Day is just around the corner and as in the past we will be hosting our Mother's Day Lobster Brunch.

Tickets are \$25.00 ea (alternate is baked ham). Take out Available. Tickets will be available soon. Pre- sold or reserved only! .All proceeds this year will be going to our Little Church Mission. Keep your eye on the bulletin for more info.



**Many Thanks** to all who participated in our Easter Memorial flower program. This program is designed to help with the cost of the floral arrangements that

decorate our Altar for the Easter Season, and at the same time giving respect to those who the flowers are in memory of. Thanks to our Altar Society who do such a great joy in the decorations for this very holy time of year.

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY – April 8<sup>th</sup> 2018**



This Photo by

From the diary of a young Polish nun, named Sister Faustina Kowalska a special devotion to the mercy of God is spreading throughout the world. Born in 1905, Faustina enter the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy at the young age of 20. For 13 years she served in the duties of cook, garner and door-keeper. Although her life seemed very ordinary she had a profound union with God and was marked with extraordinary mystical graces.

Jesus chose Sister Faustina as the apostle and secretary of his Mercy. She recorded his messages in a diary which eventually would cover 600 pages of divine messages. Sister Faustina was commissioned to spread the message of God's unconditional, unfathomable mercy to the whole world.

The Divine Mercy message is a gift of God given for the 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium. Although the message is not new, it takes on a powerful new focus, calling people to a deeper understanding that God's love is unlimited and available to all.

Divine Mercy is the heart of the Gospel. Scripture reveals how mercy is essential to understanding God's message of love and salvation. Mercy reveals His very identity. God's nature is Love. Mercy is God's love in action.

Remembering the Divine Mercy message is as easy as ABC –

- A – Ask for God's mercy; B – Be merciful to others
- C – Completely trust in Jesus, who is Divine Mercy incarnate

Through Saint Faustina, Jesus has given the world new channels for the outpouring of His grace:

- > The Feast of Divine Mercy Sunday – April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- > The image of Divine Mercy
- > The Chaplet
- > The Novena
- > The 3 o'clock hour of mercy

On April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2000, Pope John Paul II established Divine Mercy Sunday, the first Sunday after Easter to be celebrated throughout the Universal Church. Sister Faustina was also canonized on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2000.

The Feast of Divine Mercy holds first place in the elements of devotion requested by Jesus. In the diary there are fourteen revelations concerning the desired feast. Entry 699 "My daughter tell the whole world about my inconceivable mercy. I desire that the feast of mercy be a refuge and a shelter for all souls and especially the poor sinners. On that day the very depths of my tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of my mercy. The souls that go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness for sin and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are open."

This extraordinary promise given by Jesus is a reminder and a call. A reminder that Jesus is truly present and alive in the Eucharist filled with love for us and waiting for us to turn to Him with trust. A call for us to be washed clean by encountering His love and mercy in the sacrament of Reconciliation. Jesus is emphasizing the infinite value of Confession and Communion as miracles of mercy.

The grace given us on Divine Mercy Sunday has been compared to the grace we receive in Baptism. This very special grace given to us on the Feast forgives all sins and provide for removal of all temporal punishment due to sin, even sins forgotten to be confessed. Each year on Divine Mercy Sunday we can begin our lives again. Jesus is offering us a fresh, a new start.

Article prepared by Jackie Haywood. Free Divine Mercy Booklets are available at the back of the church **The Divine Mercy novena begins on Good Friday – March 30<sup>th</sup>.**

**Lenten Video Series:** At the November 2017 Assembly of the People of God we looked to the next steps of the Archbishop's three-year pastoral plan for the archdiocese to help accomplish the transformation and revitalization of our local church. Four important objectives in achieving this plan: **1 ) Foster parish communities that form missionary disciples 2) Provide resources to carry out our mission in the world 3) Equip people for our mission by providing diocesan leadership formation opportunities 4) Increase our mission capacity and efficiency by restructuring our parishes and our diocesan human and financial resources**

To help us understand these objectives and our role in moving forward the Archbishop has prepared the Equip the Saints 2018 Lenten Video Series –. In the Equip the Saints 2018 Series, Archbishop Mancini offers a vision of what our communities of faith – our communities of missionary disciples – can look like and how we can get there. The series features videos and accompanying materials to foster prayer, discussion, and discernment of where the Lord is leading our local Church and how we are all called to engage with it. The series consists of three video recordings of teaching by Archbishop Mancini.

We will be showing this series at St. Agnes Church on Tuesday evenings in April.  
**Tuesday April 3<sup>rd</sup> 6:30pm > Session 1: A Community of Disciples**  
**Tuesday April 10<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm > Session 2: A Culture of Discipleship—The Leaders**  
**Tuesday April 17<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm > Session 3: Structured for Discipleship—The Formation**  
**Tuesday April 24<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm > Follow up discussion**

*Dear Parishioners, these are important times in our current church & archdiocese. Please consider coming together these 4 Tuesday evenings in April to learn, assess and determine our role in the Archbishop's plans for the churches of our diocese.*

**Week at a Glance**

**Monday April 2**

Ordinariate Mass 4pm -  
Bingo—Auditorium 6:50pm

**Tuesday April 3**

Meditation—Campbell Centre 1:30pm  
SVDP Mtg—St.Agnes Rm 7p

**Wednesday April 4**

Playgroup—Auditorium—10-12 noon  
Private function—Auditorium 8:30—9:30pm

**Thursday April 5**

Prayer Shawl Min.—Campbell Centre 1:30pm

**Friday April 6**

Quilting— Campbell Centre -10—12noon  
Indoor Walking—Auditorium 10= 11am  
Private function—4:30—5:30pm  
Scouts Kar Rally 6-9pm

**Saturday April 7**

Scouts Kar Rally—Auditorium 9am—1pm  
Private function—1:30—3:30pm  
All Ages Dance 7-10pm

**Sunday April 8**

Rite of Enrollment 1st communion  
@ 10:30am Mass  
L'Arche— Auditorium 1-4pm  
Private Function 7-9pm