



Connections

to communicate, share and celebrate Christ the King Parish.

Our Parish Newsletter

Issue 2 - February 2008

The Three Days of our Life

There's a lot of talk in church now about "the Three Days," or in Latin, the "Triduum." These are our most holy of days. They make up our most important single celebration of the year: Easter. But exactly *which* three days make up the Triduum?

At first this sounds like a stupid question such as, "What color was Napoleon's white horse?" or "Who's buried in Grant's tomb?" Actually, it's a trick question. Most would say that the Three Days are Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. And that's wrong! (How could Easter Sunday *not* be one of the Three Days?!)

The three days of the Triduum are counted using the Jewish way of keeping time: from sunset to sunset. So the first day of the Triduum is from sunset on Holy Thursday until sunset on Good

Friday. The second day is from sunset on Good Friday until sunset on Holy Saturday. The third day is from sunset Holy Saturday (the great Easter Vigil) to sunset Easter Sunday (Paschal Vespers).

Does this make any difference—or is it only good Catholic trivia? Here's the difference that it makes. We tend to think of the Three Days as commemorating separate, distinct events: On Holy Thursday we remember the Last Supper, on Good Friday we recall the passion and on Holy Saturday the resurrection. But in our liturgy, the church thinks about the Last Supper not as the last thing that happened on Holy Thursday, but as the *first* thing to happen on Good Friday. What new insights into the eucharist do you have when you think of it as the first act of Christ's passion? What new understanding of Sabbath—the day of rest—do

you have when you reflect on the fact that Jesus slept in death from sunset Friday and all through the Jewish Sabbath, Saturday? And how might we spend our Saturday nights if we understood them to truly be the beginning of Sunday—not just during the Triduum, but year round? What does it mean when the deacon or cantor sings at the Vigil that because of the resurrection, this night is brighter than any day?

These Three Days are a single moment. We walk (or crawl) into this moment on Thursday night and walk (or dance) out on Easter day. In between, there's a flood of stories and songs, rites and rest, fasting and feasting. **The Three Days are time out of time, the center of our year and of our life.** (*See the back panel for our Triduum schedule*)

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AID TO THE NEEDY

@ CHRIST THE KING PARISH



The Mission Statement of Christ the King Parish says in part, **“Our mission is to teach promote and live the Gospel values of love, social justice, peace, forgiveness and compassion”**.

Our Aid To The Needy (ATN) program is one way we, as a parish community, are able to live out that mission.

Christ the King Parish has a long history of providing aid to those in need. Each year, the parish budgets money that is available on a weekly basis to assist families and individuals with basic needs such as food, shelter, medicine, heat.

Early on and through the years, parish staff members fit this ministry into their busy day. About five years ago, it was decided to open this ministry to members of the parish community.

As we have welcomed those in need to our parish home, pastoral attention and care has always been coupled with financial assistance. We have been blessed with several gifted persons who have welcomed the call and volunteered to make ATN their ministry in our parish.

Shawn Helmeke, one of our former Catholic Campus Ministry Interns, is the most recent volunteer to fulfill this ministry. Shawn has a Bachelors degree in Social Work and is currently employed at the Poverello Center in Client Services. Shawn has a rich history of volunteering to the Missoula Food Bank, Catholic Charities, and the Food Bank of Minneapolis. He went on a Service trip to Mexico to build houses, and has traveled to Brazil on a Catholic Medical Mission trip.

Shawn sums up this ministry by saying, **“It is our sole responsibility to live out the heart of the Gospel and the core action to fulfill this moral responsibility is simply this: ‘ Love your neighbor as yourself”**.

In a couple of weeks Shawn will be moving back to Minnesota. We take this opportunity to express and extend our gratitude and blessing to Shawn as he ventures out on a new path of his life’s journey.





Our Parish Nurse



Hello, I am **Ann Schellinger**. I am a Registered Nurse. I have been a Parish Nurse since 2000 and became a Parish Nurse Coordinator in 2002.

At CTK, we have a Health Ministry Program which consists of folks who have an interest in health care. There is something for anyone who wants to volunteer. We visit the ill, whether at home, hospital or nursing home. We also visit the homebound. If there is a health question a parishioner has, we can help answer it. If there is a crisis of some sort, we can put together a Care Team to help out. We can also help with Advanced Directives.

I can be reached at the parish office, 728-3845, extension 227.

The CTK Stewardship Council



Jim Streeter, Sara Streeter, Judy Fredenberg, Molly Stockdale, and Bob Burton.

Not pictured: David Optiz and Dick Samson.

The Stewardship Council is a parish advisory body. Stewardship is a one-word summary of the Christian way of life. It is living our baptism each and every day.

Stewardship reminds us to put God first in our lives; recognizing that all we are and all we have comes from God. As grateful stewards, not owners, we are called to make a grateful return by freely sharing our gifts of time, talent and treasure.

The Stewardship Council regularly meets on the **Third Tuesday** of the month at **7:00 p.m.** **All parishioners are always invited and welcome to attend.**

CCM Mission Trip Planned!

Nearly a dozen University students are making plans for their first trip to our Diocesan Mission in Guatemala. Catholic Campus Ministry (CCM) interns and students are preparing for the visit through prayer, reflection and fundraising activities. Our goal for the trip is to provide students the opportunity to tangibly see the face of Christ across the world. To our young people, often over-saturated with media images, this pilgrimage can serve to ground them in a real and authentic experience of Christ.

This will be a deep experience, creating an understanding of our role as ministers, not as saviors, but as brothers and sisters.

Please watch the bulletin for opportunities to participate in our journey.

If you are interested in donating, please contact Kirsten Hargas at 728-3845.

THE SACRED TRIDUUM

HOLY THURSDAY, MARCH 20

Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7:00 p.m.

*The Word of the Lord, The Washing of Feet, The Holy Eucharist, Procession of the Blessed Sacrament,
Quiet Prayer in the Lower Center.*

Holy Thursday Night Prayer, 10:00 p.m.

Our vigilance and quiet prayer end with night prayer.

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 21

Stations of the Cross, 3:00 p.m.

Together we walk in the steps of Jesus.

Liturgy of the Passion & Death of the Lord, 7:00 p.m.

The Word of the Lord, Prayers for the World, Veneration of the Holy Cross, Holy Communion.

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER, MARCH 22, 9:00 P.M.

On this most holy of all nights, all creation was redeemed. Death was vanquished and life became victorious! ON THIS NIGHT we gather around the great fire—light in the darkness, warmth in the cold. From its blazing fire we light the Easter Candle and dispel the darkness of sin and fear. By its light we tell our story from the beginning of time until now. We acclaim the risen Lord and make our way to the FONT of LIFE, the tomb of Christ, the waters of rebirth. There, those chosen for baptism are immersed into the waters of life, anointed with HOLY CHRISM and clothed in the white garment of ministry. We too touch these waters of new life, renew our own promises to believe and belong. With the newly baptized and confirmed, we make our way to the TABLE OF THE LORD to offer thanksgiving and eat and drink of the Risen Christ!

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 23

Liturgy of the Eucharist: 9:00 & 11:15 a.m.

Evening Prayer to End the Triduum: 7:00 p.m.

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