

**Working with the Scriptures** (*Jn. 20:1-9*)

As a pastoral minister I am occasionally called upon to greet the mourners at church prior to a funeral or to preside at a wake or committal service. Often, if I have the opportunity to chat with the funeral director, I will ask him or her what drew them to this kind of work. One young man told me that his father, grandfather and great-grandfather had all been undertakers and he'd never really considered doing anything else. A young woman told the story of having attended her father's funeral and of being impressed by the kindness of the funeral directors. And another man told of growing up next door to a funeral home and gradually becoming aware of the opportunity for closure that the funeral director offered to those who had suffered the loss of a loved one.

Human history records a wide variety of preparatory rituals for burying the dead. For the Jewish people in the time of Jesus these rituals included washing and anointing the body (much like what is done today), and this is essentially what Mary Magdalene and the other women were prepared to do. But since Jesus had been laid in the tomb on the eve of the Sabbath (Friday evening) they were prohibited from carrying out the burial rituals until the day after the Sabbath (Sunday). Likely this was what their mothers, grandmothers and great-grandmothers had done before them. Perhaps they had been impressed by the gentleness and respect with which the body of a loved one had been treated and had come to offer the same gift to Jesus. Or maybe they simply needed this ritual to provide closure for their own mourning.

Today, as in the time of Jesus, members of the human community take great care to respect the bodies of the dead. As Christians we recognize the presence of the Divine in each human person. Like those funeral directors - and like Mary Magdalene and the women who accompanied her - we use human rituals to affirm and proclaim that death does not have the final word.

*"Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again."* ALLELUIA!!

Vinal Van Benthem

### Congratulations to Our Weekly Calendar Raffle Winners

March 19—Chris Croatt—\$25.00  
 March 20—Floyd Cottrell—\$25.00  
 March 21—Karen Hoppe—\$50.00  
 March 22—Connor Drzewiecki—\$25.00  
 March 23—Kenneth B. Haen—\$25.00  
 March 24—Jan Abendroth—\$25.00  
 March 25—Tim Sauter—\$25.00

St. Joseph Parish Office  
 will be closed on Monday, April 5,  
 and reopen on  
 Tuesday, April 6, 9:00AM



### Please Pray For...

Please pray for all our parishioners who are ill.

Please also remember our nursing home residents and shut-ins.

### Spring Flowers



### Plant and Flower Sale

Time is running out to order your spring plants. Orders are accepted through **April 11th** and will be available for pick-up on **May 21st/22nd**. Order forms are in the bulletin, back of church and in the parish office. Thank you in advance for supporting our parish fundraiser.

### Religious Education

Religious education classes resume this week on our regular schedule.

**First Eucharist** families please complete the preparations and meet with your child's mentor before April 15. The First Eucharist retreat is April 17. Parents, please remember to submit the letter to your child, in an envelope with your child's first and last name. Your child's banner should be completed and brought to the retreat.

**Confirmation:** Our next session is April 18. Those who were unable to attend one or both of the previous sessions should reflect on the topics using the information found at: [http://www.inter-parish.org/confirmation\\_information.htm](http://www.inter-parish.org/confirmation_information.htm)

**Registration for Religious Education** for fall 2010—spring 2011 is April 21, 4:00-8:00PM in St. Mary community room. You can download and fill out the forms to bring with you. They are available at: [http://www.inter-parish.org/registration\\_information.htm](http://www.inter-parish.org/registration_information.htm).

### Youth Ministry

**Middle School Students** - join us for : "Rock the Flock" Night! Dance to a spectacular show featuring music with positive messages. Chuck Towns from Q-90 will entertain with music, videos, and interactive games. Friday, April 23 from 6:30-10PM at St. Mary's Elementary School in Menasha. \$3 if you register by April 19, \$5 after April 19.

**High School Students** - join us for a one-day service trip to St. Ben's Soup Kitchen (Capuchin-run) on Sunday, April 25. \$15. We will help serve a meal and clean up afterwards. Great experience!

Contact Celia for more information at 738-7413 or [jprf@inter-parish.org](mailto:jprf@inter-parish.org).

### Make Friends in Faith at Teen Disciples!

All high school students are invited to Teen Disciples on Monday, April 5th from 7-8:30PM at Mount Tabor Center, Menasha. Join other area high school students and our SPIRITUS team for lively discussions, activities, prayer and snacks. No sign up, just show up!

### Adult Education

#### Christ renews His Parish - Women's Retreat - April 10-11, 2010

Ladies, do not delay in registering. **Registration Deadline is this Sunday, April 4 (Easter).** We have room for 30 participants on each weekend. Bright Green or Pink registration forms are available at the back of church. They can be returned through the weekend collection, dropped off or sent to St. Mary or St. Joseph parish offices. If you have questions, please call Carol at 739-5119.

#### Interested in Bible 101 classes?

We invite you to an organizational meeting on Wednesday, April 14, 6:30PM at St. Mary Parish Center, Room LL07. At our recent Women's Day, a group of participants asked Sr. Anne Arthur if she would walk with them through an introductory class. This meeting will discuss possible meeting times, material to be covered and the commitment involved. It is open to both men and women from both St. Mary and St. Joseph Parishes.

### Xavier Food Fair Book Shoppe

We are looking for gently used books, CD's, videos and puzzles for our Food Fair Book Shoppe. Please bring your donated books, etc. to the Xavier office any time before May 1. No Textbooks or encyclopedias please. Call JoAnn at 739-1708 for pickup if necessary. Thank you.

### Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Weekend Fundraiser

The Knights of Columbus are again conducting their statewide fund drive to aid citizens with cognitive/intellectual disabilities. This will be the weekend of April 17 and 18. The majority of funds raised stay in the Appleton area community to support local programs for this special group of people in their workplace, home and social settings. Additionally, part of this program is to provide scholarships to college juniors and seniors who are pursuing a degree in special education. Please support this project with your contributions at the weekend Masses on April 17 and 18.

### Bishop's Appeal

#### What does Stewardship & Pastoral Services do?

The Stewardship and Pastoral Services department helps nurture vibrant parish ministries. This is accomplished through a number of new and continuing ministries including Stewardship as a Way of Life.

Here are a few examples of ministries provided through the Stewardship & Pastoral Services department:

- \* Pastoral Care helps support parish programs that reach out to the sick, homebound, persons who are grieving and programs for parish nurses.
- \* Training for parish leadership helps pastoral & finance councils, stewardship & social concerns committees set priorities, plan for the future and energize parish communities.
- \* Serving Diverse Cultures and Communities by reaching out and welcoming people of different cultures and the deaf and hard of hearing community.

### Big Collections!

Several people have commented to me: "That sure was a great collection last week! Sometimes we have a good weekend." Usually they are referring to the second Sunday of the month. The reason we look good on the Second Sunday is due to the monthly "direct deposit funds" that are withdrawn from people's accounts at this time. Monies above the \$15,692.00 are required each week need to be spread over the other 4 or 5 weekends of the month.

### Financial News

Tithing Needed ..... \$15,692.00  
 Last Week's Tithing ..... \$11,844.27  
 Children's Collection ..... \$44.18

#### Thank You!

Your special offering to help keep us on target would be appreciated.

### Readings for the Week of April 4, 2010

Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43/  
 Col 3:1-4 or 1  
 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9  
 or Lk 24:1-12 or  
 Lk 24:13-35

Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/  
 Mt 28:8-15

Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41/  
 Jn 20:11-18

Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10/  
 Lk 24:13-35

Thursday: Acts 3:11-26/  
 Lk 24:35-48

Friday: Acts 4:1-12/  
 Jn 21:1-14

Saturday: Acts 4:13-21/  
 Mk 16:9-15

Next Sunday: Acts 5:12-16/Rv 1:9-  
 11a, 12-13, 17-19/  
 Jn 20:19-31

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The women who had come from Galilee with Jesus

took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb; but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. - Lk 24:1b-3

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

## Weekly Liturgical Calendar

### Monday, April 5

12:05 pm Dec. Adam and Larry Boelter

### Tuesday, April 6

12:05 pm Dec. Williamsen sisters, Mary Ellen  
and Barbara Ann

12:30 pm St. Anthony Devotions

### Wednesday, April 7

12:05 pm Mass at St. Mary's

### Thursday, April 8

12:05 pm Mass at St. Mary's

### Friday, April 9

12:05 pm Dec. Art and Marcella Alesch

### Saturday, April 10

4:30 pm Dec. Al and Alvera Stoegbauer

### Sunday, April 11

7:30 am Dec. Frank and Marie Brum

9:00 am Members of St. Joseph Parish

10:30 am Dec. Susan Terrell

6:30 pm Dec. George and Jeff Krueger

## This Week in Our Parish

### Monday

Adult Confirmation, 6:30-8:00PM, Rm. 209

### Tuesday

NO Chime Choir

Prayer Shawl, 1:00-3:00PM, Rm. LL09

Fall Festival Committee Mtg., 3:00PM,  
Holly Hall

Twinning Mtg., 6:30PM, Rm. 210

### Wednesday

IPRF Classes

### Thursday

NO Choir Practice

### Saturday

Scrip sold after 4:30PM Mass

### Next Sunday

Food Collection for Food Program

Scrip sold after 7:30, 9:00 and 10:30AM  
Masses

## St. Patrick's Supports Youth

Remember to mention the Youth Ministry Program at St. Mary and St. Joseph when you purchase any items for First Eucharist, Baptism, or other special reasons at St. Patrick's Bookstore. A portion of the sales helps the youth of your parish attend service trips! Thank you for your support!

## Mass of Healing

Do you or someone you know need healing of the body or spirit? St. Bernadette is hosting a Mass of Healing, Friday, April 16, 6:30PM. Light dinner will follow. RSVP at 739-4157.