



# The Petal

Little Flower Parish Newsletter

Vol. 11, Issue 4

## Newsfeed

- Find out more about the Year of Mercy at our website
- See the Holy Week schedule on page 4
- Annual Beef Banquet is April 2

*“This Holy Year will bring to the fore the richness of Jesus’ mission.”*

— Pope Francis in *Misericordiae Vultus*

## How to live mercy every day

Is it possible to live mercy every day? The answer is yes, according to Pope Francis. In his bull of indiction for the Jubilee Year of Mercy, *Misericordiae Vultus* or The Face of Mercy, he tells us how mercy is the very foundation of our Church’s life. Since mercy seems to be diminishing in today’s world, it’s up to each of us to take up this joyful call and return to the basics. It’s the force that reawakens us to new life and gives us the courage to look to the future with hope.

### Understanding before action

Pope Francis reminds us that St. John Paul II drew attention to this fact in his encyclical *Dives in Misericordia* (Rich in Mercy). Our world seems opposed to a God of mercy, St. John Paul II noted, and the very concept causes uneasiness in many. So he urges we both show and beg for God’s mercy in our own lives. “The Church lives an authentic life when she professes and proclaims mercy,” he wrote. Our Holy Father believes this teaching is more pertinent today than ever, and urges we take it up during this Holy Year.

Pope Francis asks that this year, we each re-discover how to incorporate both the corporal works of mercy and the spiritual works of mercy into our lives. “We cannot escape the Lord’s words to us, and they will serve as the criteria upon which we will be judged.”

### Path to holiness

The practice of pilgrimage has been given a special place in the Holy Year, because it represents the journey each of us makes in this life. “Life itself is a pilgrimage, and the human being is a pilgrim travelling along the road, making his way to the desired destination,” Pope Francis says. Any pilgrimage we undertake is a sign that mercy is also a goal to reach and requires dedication and sacrifice. Is it time for a parish pilgrimage?

Confession and reconciliation are integral to living mercifully. The Holy Father urges confessors to learn to hear the plea for help and mercy pouring from the heart of every penitent and be a sign of the primacy of mercy always, everywhere, and in every situation, no matter what.

In this Jubilee Year, the Holy Father asks that we, as the body of Christ in the Church, echo the word of God that resounds strong and clear as a message and a sign of pardon, strength, aid, and love. Never tire of extending mercy, and be ever patient in offering compassion and comfort.



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# The Petal

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## One in the Spirit

There seems to be so much division in the Church today. To counteract this disturbing trend, and show we remain one community, here are some things we can all do to proclaim our unity and solidarity with one another – and with Our Lord.

### **Ring bells together at the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday**

Traditionally, the Gloria on Holy Thursday is accompanied by the congregation ringing bells, creating a joyful noise to the Lord. The bells then cease at the end of the hymn, and no bells are heard in the church again until Easter Vigil on Saturday. So bring your bells to Holy Thursday service.

### **Ring bells together at Easter Vigil**

The sound of bells is joyful and celebratory. After silencing all the bells since the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, we celebrate the resurrection of the Lord for the first time at Easter Vigil. So again bring a bell from home, and we'll ring through the Gloria as one community.

### **Omit the Alleluia**

Alleluia is a joyful word that means "Praise the Lord." It is the song of joy in the Church, so during Lent, a season of sacrifice and penance, we purposely refrain from singing or saying this word. And then at Easter we are especially excited to acclaim, "Alleluia, the Lord is Risen!"

### **Stand after Communion**

In the Archdiocese of Regina, the congregation remains standing until all have received the Holy Eucharist. This is a sign of our unity in the Church. After the last person has received Communion, the congregation can then sit or kneel, using these quiet moments for personal prayer to thank God for his many gifts.

### **Listen to the Mass readings**

In early Church history, and still in many parts of the world, it was an offense against the law to attend Mass and hear the Word of the Lord so the liturgy was as silent as possible. Today in our Mass we joyfully proclaim the Word aloud, and the entire congregation hears the Word together.

### **Ring bells at the Consecration**

Bells are joyful, but they also add dignity. When the bells ring during Consecration, it is a signal to the congregation that a special moment is occurring – a signal for all to raise their eyes to adore the Body and Blood of Christ.



These are the moments when we all form One Body, One Church. Let's take advantage of them to show our unity with our community!

## St. Valentine's Day brunch



## Coffee and fellowship at March 6 Donut Day



## Little Flower welcomes new Pastoral Assistant

Bonnie grew up in Spring Valley, Assiniboia, and Moose Jaw. She graduated from the University of Saskatchewan and taught home economics for five years in Carleton Place, Arcola, Kennedy, Manor and Wawota. Earning a Master of Divinity from Newman Theological College in Edmonton, she worked in various capacities with the Archdiocese of Regina for 25 years – including catechesis with children, sacrament preparation, adult education, and the Lay Ministry Formation Program. She's still involved in Lay Ministry and is on the board of the Catholic Health Association of Saskatchewan. Bonnie is married to Ed, who has three adult children. They enjoy two granddaughters, run a mobile lube and fuel business, and have many adventures.



Bonnie Thiele Hunt

Be sure to introduce yourself when you see Bonnie at Mass!

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## Solemnities, Feast Days and Liturgical Dates

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**March 24—HOLY THURSDAY**

**March 25—FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

**March 26—EASTER VIGIL**

**March 27—EASTER SUNDAY**

**May 8—ASCENSION OF THE LORD**

**May 15—PENTECOST SUNDAY**

**May 22—SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY**

**May 29—SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST**

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## In Our Parish

Next DONUTS DAYS are Sundays, April 3, May 1 and June 5. Head downstairs right after Mass and meet your fellow parishioners!

CWL BEEF BANQUET is on Saturday, April 2. Tickets \$15 per person on sale after weekend Masses on March 19/20 and 26/27, or call the parish office at 306-522-8583.

FOOD DRIVE weekends (second Sundays of the month) are April 9/10, May 7/8 and June 11/12.

## EASTER SCHEDULE

**Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper – 6 p.m.**

**Good Friday – 1 p.m.**

**Easter Vigil, Saturday – 6 p.m.**

**Easter Sunday Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord – 11 a.m.**

Remember to bring your bells to ring on Holy Thursday and again at Easter Vigil!

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## In Our Community

St. Mary's *Year of Mercy Devotions* on the 3rd Friday of each month during the Year. Devotions begin at 6 p.m. with adoration and prayers, followed by Mass at 7 p.m. Copies of the program will be available for the evening. All are welcome.

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Rachel's Vinyard *Healing retreat*. A safe place to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Confidential and non-

judgmental support for women and men. April 15-17. Register with Elaine at 1-306-480-8911 or by email at email.r.vineyardsk@sasktel.net

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Holy Trinity *Theology of the Body COR* Seminar. See Christopher West in person at this experiential event. April 29 & 30. Tickets \$75. Call 306-543-3838.

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Holy Family Ecumenical Workshop on Saturday, May 14 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Pro-Life Banquet is on Friday, April 8 at 5 p.m. Call 306-569-1985 for tickets.

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Catholic Family Services is holding a Rib Night Fundraiser on Saturday, April 9 from 5 to 9 p.m. Call 306-525-0521 for tickets. \$25 each.

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Santa Maria Seniors home is in need of volunteers in the Spiritual Care area. Call 306-766-7092 if you can help.



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