

**STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION** : As we enter Holy Week we are faced with the great paradox of the cross. The crucifixion from a mere human standpoint was an utter and humiliating defeat for Jesus. How could God let Himself be killed by His own creatures? The only way we can recognize the sublime beauty and victory of the cross is if we view it through a Divine lens. The Jews resisted accepting the necessity of the crucifixion because they expected Him to be a wondrous king that would set them free from the political rule of the Romans. Jesus on the other hand comes as a poor and lowly carpenter sent to set them free not from political tyranny, but from the tyranny of sin. To do this, he “humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross” (Philippians 2:8). Jesus hid all of His Divine majesty with His humanity and allowed Himself to die for love of us. It was because of this humility that “God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name” (Philippians 2:9). As stewards, we may sometimes forget the truth found in the paradox of the cross. It is not our own strength or achievements that make us great but it is rather our humility and obedience to God. The Lord can bring about tremendous good out of our willingness to humbly serve Him wherever He places us. As we enter Holy Week, let us take some time to meditate on the radical humility of Christ crucified and seek to imitate Him in our own lives as stewards.

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*Taken from excerpts of the Archdiocese of Toronto website.*



**Welcome Jesus into your hearts by sharing your blessings today**

Today is Palm Sunday, a time in our Lenten journey when we are reminded of the importance of welcoming Jesus in our hearts. In the spirit of His teachings and example, let us extend our hands to those who need our help the most. Thus far we have raised \$1,640.00 toward our goal of \$16,000.00. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at [sharelife.org/donate](http://sharelife.org/donate).

**VOCATION REFLECTION:**

Blessed are those who come in the Name of the Lord! Blessed are they who live their lives in the Name the Lord! If you feel God is giving you the blessing of a call to be a priest, religious, or permanent deacon call **Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997.**

[vocations@archtoronto.org](mailto:vocations@archtoronto.org)  
[www.vocationstoronto.ca](http://www.vocationstoronto.ca)

**EASTER LILLIES** will be accepted from **March 23rd to March 27th** to be used for our Easter Triduum liturgies.

Donations for flowers will also be accepted.

Let us make our church beautiful:  
 Jesus deserves the best!



*“The death of the Lord our God should not be a cause of shame for us; rather, it should be our greatest hope, our greatest glory. In taking upon himself the death that he found in us, he has most faithfully promised to give us life in him, such as we cannot have of ourselves.” — St. Augustine*



This year’s Passover Seder Meal will be held on **Saturday, April 13th after the 4:30 pm Mass.** Doors will open at 5:30pm.

**Tickets:** Adults - \$25.00/person  
 Children 12 yrs. & under - Free

Tickets will be available from the back of the church during all weekend Masses, or you may also call the parish office at 416-767-7054.

## ENCOURAGEMENT TO WATCH THIS 5-PART SERIES

"I'm excited to share with you an upcoming television series called The Sacred Project, a captivating 5-part series set to premiere on Yes TV this Holy Saturday, March 30th, at 12:30 p.m. This series, produced by the talented Jonathan Michael, a graduate of St. Michael's Choir School and a cantor on the Daily TV Mass, promises to be a truly enlightening experience.

The Sacred Project beautifully blends sacred music performances, recently recorded by Jonathan, with insightful interviews featuring prominent liturgical ministers of the Roman Catholic Church. These interviews, which include discussions with Fr. Michael Coutts, Deacon Mike Walsh, Fr. Hank Van Meil, and Deacon Rob Kinghorn, known to many from the Daily TV Mass, delve into various topics central to the Roman Catholic faith.

I encourage you to mark your calendars for Saturday, March 30th, at 12:30 p.m., and tune in to Yes TV. For Rogers subscribers, the show will be on channel 9, and for Bell subscribers, on channel 1651. You can also visit the program's website at [www.TheSacredProject.ca](http://www.TheSacredProject.ca) for more information."



The GOOD FRIDAY PONTIFICAL COLLECTION will take place on March 29th for the benefit of the Holy Land.

Our parish, once a year on Good Friday, is called to support Christians in the Holy Land. Many Christians in the Holy Land depend on the collection for their lives. As a Pontifical collection requested by Pope Francis, the annual Good Friday Collection helps to maintain not only the Holy Places above all, but also the pastoral, welfare, educational and social works that the Church carries out to the benefit of the Christian brothers and sisters and the local population.

### The Story of the Donkey

A poor farmer near Jerusalem had a small donkey which was too stupid to do any work. It could not carry anything on its back. So he told his family that he was going to kill the animal. But his children begged him to sell it, rather than harm it. "How can I sell an animal that won't work?", the father insisted. His son suggested, "Father, tie the donkey on a tree on the road to town and let it be known that whoever wants it may have it for nothing." The next morning, that was what the father did. Soon, two men approached and asked to take the animal. "It will carry nothing", the farmer warned the men. "The Lord has need for it", replied one of the men. The farmer could not imagine what the Lord would want with such a useless donkey, but handed it over. The men took the animal to Jesus who stroked the sweet animal's face and then mounted it without trouble. So it was on the day we celebrate today the Lord's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, riding on the back of this tiny donkey.

The donkey, the rejected animal, is a figure of Christ himself who is to be later rejected by his own people but would eventually become their savior. Christ is referred to as the "stone rejected by the builders, becoming the cornerstone..." (Mt. 21:24).

The people and circumstances we tend to reject are the same people and circumstances that become our salvation. For God chooses the weak to confound the strong. He chooses the foolish to shame the wise. (1Cor 1:27).

When God strokes us on our faces, we realize our limitless potential. When we submit to God our faults and failures, we are filled with his grace and blessing. It is in our weakness that God's power is at work with us.

As we join Jesus in his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, let us take with us our own wounds and weaknesses so he can transform them into a source of our healing and strength through the power of his resurrection.

*(Source: FrEdmund@saintmichael.ca)*