**PONDERING**

The liturgical calendar offers us forty days to prepare for Easter and fifty days to celebrate its effects. For better or worse there are more customs for Lent than for the Easter season. Too often we journey through Lent, arrive at Easter and that is the end of it. We need to develop customs to enrich the time between Easter and Pentecost.

In the gospel for the Vigil we are given Matthew’s telling of the events. In Matthew, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary approach the tomb and an angel descends from heaven and rolls back the stone. On Easter Sunday we have John’s telling of the events. In John, Mary Magdalene is alone when she approaches the tomb and the stone is already removed. In both accounts the stone is symbolic. Easter is all about getting rid of the “stones” that block our progress.

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if God would just send an angel to do the work for us? Wouldn’t it be great if the “stones” that block our growth and would just magically be rolled away? But that is not how it happens. There are “stones,” “boulders” and “pebbles” that have become part of our lives and the lives of those we love. The Easter season is an opportunity to get rid of the obstacles that hold us back and to help others remove the obstacles that block their growth and development. I’m not sure fifty days will be enough time for me but at least I can get started. How much time do you need? How much time do our loved ones need?

The following Easter message came to me via email: “Jesus paid the price; we get to keep it.” Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!

**BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS**

The next Baptism Preparation class is **Tuesday, May 10** from 7 to 9 p.m. in the parish hall. Parent preparation is required and arrangements should be made at least three months prior to the baby’s due date. If you have any questions or plan to have a child baptized, please call the office at 783-7459.

**RECOMMENED ADJUSTMENTS**

Very early in the morning after the Sabbath, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb to anoint Jesus’ body with precious oils. The reward of this good and conscientious steward was to be among the first to know that Jesus had been raised from the dead! Alleluia!

**BANNS OF MARRIAGE**

Jamie Doehler and James O’Day
Emily Feeney and Steven Poricelli

**CATHOLIC CHARITY FUND APPEAL**

The Catholic Charities drive for our parish kicks off this week. The gift cards are being mailed out on Monday. Similar to last year, there will be no in-pew solicitation. In the mailing, you will find a self-addressed stamped envelope for the return of your gift or pledge. On the card you will find the amounts you have given for the last two years. We ask that you please return the card even if you are unable to participate. Our focus this year will once again be on participation. If you are not accustomed to making a pledge, please consider doing so this year. Our decision to wait until after Lent to kick off our campaign means we are counting on your swift and generous support. Thank you in advance.

**BILLION DILLER STUDY**

The bible study group will meet **Thursday, April 28** at 7 p.m. in the parish hall for session 3 of Isaiah. If you have been thinking about joining us it is never too late!

**ALMS BOX DONATIONS**

Thank you for your continued generosity. The Alms Box donation total thus far is $11,750.00, which will be donated to the Bonny Cave Center.

**SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE**

The annual Mother’s Day Baby Shower is **Saturday/Sunday, May 7/8**. Suggested items are: diapers (size 3, 4, 5), wipes, bath items, Good Start formula… etc. There is not a need at this time for baby food. Please drop off items in marked boxes in the parish hall. Items will be donated to the Domestic Violence Resource Center, South County Community Action, the Bonny Cave Center and Welcome House.

**STOREHOUSE DESSERT**

Christ the King Parish is responsible for the Storehouse Dessert on **Friday, April 29**. Please deliver the dessert between 9 – 10 a.m. or 4 – 5 p.m. For more information contact Karen Hawkins at 792-2249.
LAWN CREW
Spring is finally here and the grass is growing! It is time to set up our lawn cutting crew. We need about ten stewards for the mowing schedule. Each one will cut the grass about three times during the season. If you are interested, please call Beth or Christine at the office, 783-7459. Yes, we do have a riding mower!

STEPHEN MINISTRY MESSAGE
In so many ways, Holy Week is a reflection of our own lives. Can you imagine the confusion, pain, and fear of the disciples watching the events unfold? We know what will happen at the end of the story – Easter, but they did not. We can take courage from them. To help remain hopeful, we sometimes need help. A Stephen Minister can be that help. Contact Carol Hartley at 783-4036 (email carolhartley@cox.net), Larry Bartley at 965-7276 (email LJBJR@cox.net) or call the office at 783-7459.

THE PROUT SCHOOL PROUDLY PRESENTS “LITTLE WOMEN”
“Little Women,” the musical based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott, is at The Prout School next weekend. For information and tickets contact The Prout School at 789-9262 or rskinkle@theproutschool.org.

CALENDAR FOR APRIL 24 – MAY 1
Sunday, April 24
No 8 p.m. Liturgy

Monday, April 25 – Friday, April 29
RF Office Closed

Tuesday, April 26
7 p.m. Stewardship/Library
7 p.m. Vision for Change/Hall

Wednesday, April 27
7 p.m. RCIA/Catholic Center

Thursday, April 28
6:30 p.m. Make a Difference/Hall
7 p.m. Bible Study/Hall

Saturday, April 30
4 p.m. Confession
7 p.m. Appreciation Reception/Hall

PARISH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS
Parish Council will select two At-Large Members at its meeting on Monday, May 9. An at-large member represents the community of Christ the King as a whole. His or her responsibility is to evaluate and respond, as a member of the parish, to items under consideration by the parish council. At-Large Members will be randomly selected. If you would like to nominate yourself, or someone else, please return the attached form to the parish office by Friday, May 6. Remember – it is important to obtain your nominee’s consent before submitting her/his name.

Nominee for Parish Council:
_________________________________________
Telephone number: _______________________

Nominated by: ___________________________
Telephone number: _______________________

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E-mail: info@ctkri.org

MASS SCHEDULE
Daily: Noon at the Catholic Center
Saturday: 5 p.m.
Sunday: 8, 9:15, 11:35 a.m., 8 p.m.
Confessions: Saturday, 4 p.m.