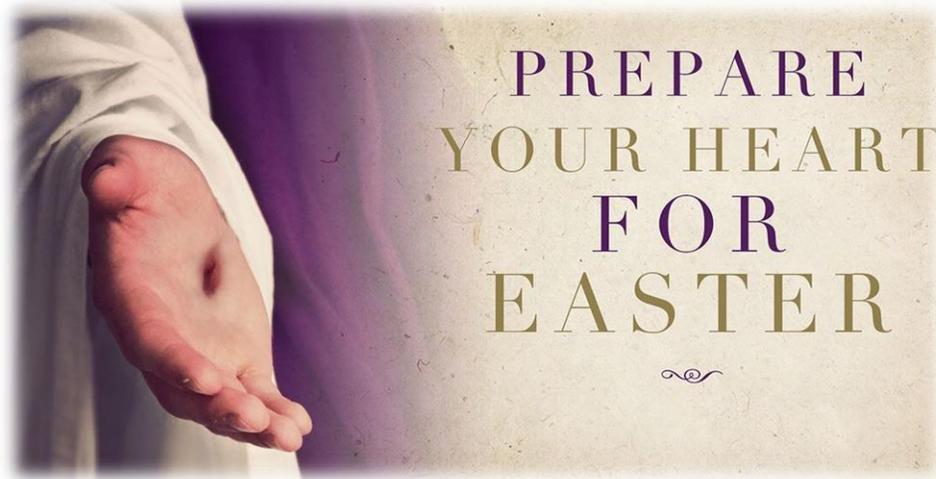


CCB Parent Connector



April 2019



www.billericacatholic.org

This has been a difficult Lent for myself and my family. My mother-in-law had a fairly swift decline with dementia and died three days after Ash Wednesday. It was actually March 9, what would have been her 85th birthday. My husband and I were planning to have the family over to celebrate the big day with her. Instead, we gathered in her room at D'Youville as she passed from this world into eternal life. Two weeks later we gathered again for her funeral Mass. Two days later we had to make the unbearable decision to have our 15-year-old dog, Taylor, put down. Neither of these deaths were in our plan, even though the signs were there for both. My recent experiences have certainly made me more sympathetic to the Apostles as they moved through the passion and death of Jesus. The disciples had planned on sharing a Passover meal with Jesus. They had even followed His directions on securing the room to be used. But then right away they must have realized this was not going to go the way they thought it would. Jesus begins to wash their feet. There was no lamb. Just bread and wine. Judas leaves the meal abruptly. We are all familiar with the rest of the story. Jesus had tried to prepare them for what was to come, but they still could not understand. Maybe, they chose not to. Imagining a world without their friend and teacher would be very difficult. And as much as Jesus tried to explain that He would need to suffer and die before being raised up, His message fell on ears that simply could not comprehend what He meant.

But, we know. We are Easter People. We have the luxury of moving through Lent & Jesus' passion and death knowing that Jesus overcomes death! We know that He not only returns to comfort His disciples, but sends the Holy Spirit to remain with each of us until He returns again.

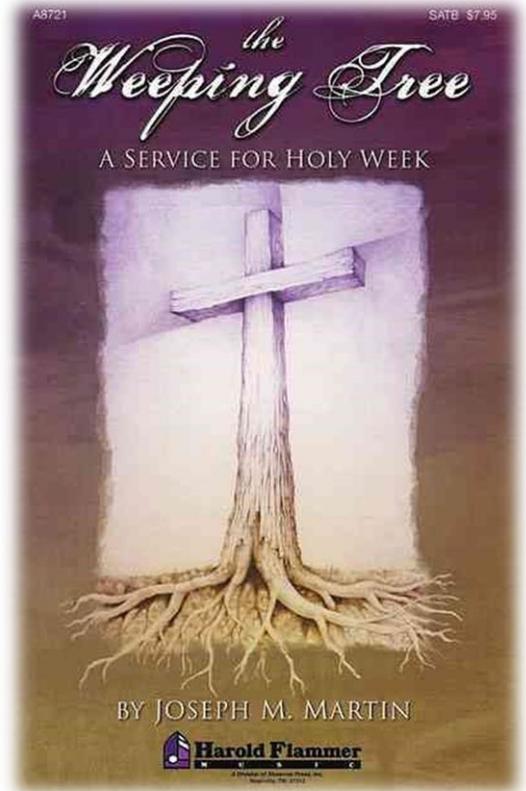
Does this knowledge, this faith, take all of our pain away when we lose someone? No. Nor does it take away the suffering that Jesus endured for us. The very real suffering. But what our faith in the resurrection provides is the peace in knowing that suffering and death are not the end. Death has been defeated! As faith-filled Christians, we are given the gift of God's love and mercy and of knowing that we are not Home yet. And what a day that will be!

So perhaps, as we move through these last weeks of Lent, we can do so with hope, joy and thanksgiving for all our Lord has done for us, and what He has prepared for us. **We are Easter People.**

The Weeping Tree - A Service for Holy Week

Monday, April 15 at 7 PM at St. Andrew Church

For the past several years, on the Monday of Holy Week, we have offered a beautiful prayer experience at St. Andrew Church. The Weeping Tree was written by Joseph M. Martin and uses "beloved hymns, newly composed music, thoughtful narration, and simple sacred symbols to create a touching portrait of the cross." It is truly a prayerful way to enrich your Lenten experience and enter into Holy Week. All are encouraged to join us on **Monday, April 15 at 7 PM at St. Andrew Church**. This unique prayer service is approximately 40 - 45 minutes long and features a "weeping tree" cross hand-carved by one of our own parishioners. "Come, and see the Weeping Tree."



Easter Sunday Mass Schedule

Saturday, April 20:

- Easter Vigil Mass at 8PM at St. Theresa Church

Sunday, April 21:

- 8 AM at St. Theresa Church
- 9 AM at St. Mary Church
- 10 AM at St. Andrew Church
- 10:30 AM at St. Theresa Church & Hall
- Noon at St. Mary Church



HAPPY EASTER

Question: If you don't attend Mass on Easter Sunday, what do you tell your children that you are celebrating? What do you tell yourself that you are celebrating?

