

Kidane-Mehret

Ge'ez Rite Ethiopian Catholic Church



April 2018

Rev. Abayneh Gebremichael, M.A., B.C.C., Pastor

Divine Liturgy 9:30 am at St. Vincent de Paul, 14M Street SE Washington, DC 20003.

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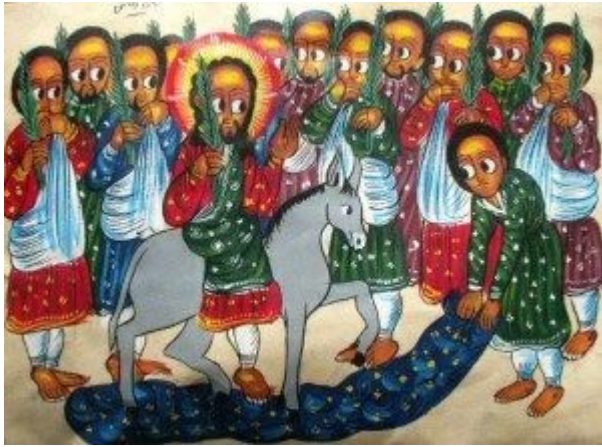
Important Parish Information

Newcomers to the parish: Please fill out your full names and addresses on the Registration Form. The Catholic Church requires that each member of a parish, to the extent allowed by his income, support the day-to-day running of the parish's pastoral activities.

Sacraments and Pastoral Care

Baptisms: Please telephone your pastor at the office to make an appointment to fill out the form and make the necessary arrangements. **Marriages:** It is the policy of the Archdiocese of Washington that couples proposing to marry must first contact, or see, a priest or deacon at least six months prior to the date on which they intend to marry for Marriage Preparation classes. All Catholics are bound to observe the laws of the Church concerning marriage. **Confessions:** are heard before the start of the Divine Liturgy, and any other times by appointment. **Funerals:** Contact your pastor at the parish office to make arrangements. **Hospital Visits:** Notify the pastor if a family member is hospitalized. **Mass Intentions (Stipend):** \$25.00. This is for Memorial Masses, thanksgivings, or petitions.

From the Pastor's Desk



Holy Week and its Liturgies

Each year, the Church enables us to experience, through Liturgy, God's infinite Mercy. Each year, we are filled with joy at Christmas when we view the Baby in a manger, a baby that is our God. We are shown glimpses of His life as He grows up under the strict laws of Judaism. We hear how God acknowledges Him as His Son when He is baptized. Then like Jesus Himself we are plunged into a penitential, fasting season. Then suddenly we are singing Hosanna (He who saves) and waving palms just like they did in Jerusalem. This is the beginning of Holy Week, just as it was for Jesus.

In a few short days we see all Old Testament, the Torah and the Prophetic teachings, Wisdom books and Psalms and Song of Songs, everything God promised in them, come to fulfillment. All that we read about in The New Testament, the Epistles of Paul and the other Apostles and especially the four Gospels comes to life for us in the liturgical services. In them, we walk in the footsteps of Jesus. We are with Him at the Last Supper and then as He endures betrayal and then undergoes humiliation and condemnation. We are with Him as He is nailed to the Cross and suffers, we are there as He is taken down from the cross and placed in the arms of His grief-stricken Mother.

Indeed, Holy Week is central to our religion. If you consider yourself Christian then you should give great attention to all that happens and meditate on the Pascal mystery. Most especially we need to immerse ourselves in those hours when He suffered most. In the Ethiopian Liturgy we call this time "Hemmamat."

Holy week covers the period from after the celebration of Hosanna until the Holy Saturday. On Wednesday he was betrayed by one of His friends and sold for 30 pieces of silver. Jesus suffered greatly, both physically, mentally and spiritually. In the Holy Thursday liturgy we are present with Him at the Last Supper when Christ shared that meal with his Disciples. It was then that Jesus instituted the Eucharist (agape: that means unconditional love) for his disciples. After that he told them this is the time to be sacrificed like a lamb for Passover feast ("Easter" in the Israelite's tradition). He released Judas to Satan to fulfil his contract with the Jewish leaders. Then He Himself set out with His disciples, singing psalms, to the Mount of Olives where Judas betrayed Him.

Thus, Jesus shows that He is the true Lamb of Sacrifice for our Sins. He carried the Cross to Golgotha where "For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him. (2Cor 5:21) and was crucified.

Christ defeated the two greatest enemy of Humanity. These are Sin and Death. In everything He overcome the temptation of Sins until the end. By His obedience to death He conquer the fear of death. On the third day Christ was no longer in the tomb but had risen from the death. In all history there has been no other religious leader or anyone else (except by the command of Jesus) who has risen from death, only Christ. So, during these days the Christian also shares in the passion, the suffering, crucifixion of Christ by our Baptism in Him. We await joyfully the resurrection of Sunday when that Christ will liberate us from the bondage of Sin, Satan, and Death and to give us freedom and new life by His resurrection and each other Sunday which is considered a little Easter.

"Or are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life." (Rom. 6:3-4)

Holy Week Prayer

**Please, Lord, guide my mind with your truth.
Strengthen my life by the example of Jesus.
Help me to be with Jesus in this week
as he demonstrates again his total love for me.
He died so that I would no longer
be separated from you.
Help me to feel how close you are
and to live in union with you.**

Sunday Readings for April

April 1: Heb 9:11-20 1Pet 4:1-11 Jn 12: 12-19
April 8: 1Cor 15:20-48 1Pet 1:1-12 Mt 28:1-20
April 15: 1Cor 15:1-10 1Jn 1:1-10 Jn 20:19-31
April 22: 2Cor 5:11-21 2Pet 3:14-18 Lk 24:13-32
April 29: Col 3: 1-10 Pet 3:15-22 Lk 24: 33-44

Psalms 32 : 5

Then I declared my sin to you;
my guilt I did not hide.
I said, "I confess my transgression to the LORD,"
and you took away the guilt of my sin.

Let us pray for:

All baptized Christians throughout the world that we will show the world that we are Christians by our love for Christ and one another. Especially for the protection of those in war-torn lands.

The Parish of Kidane-Mehret: for Peace, Unity, Harmony and Charity in the Parish.

For the World: That the King of Peace will reign in every nation and in every heart.

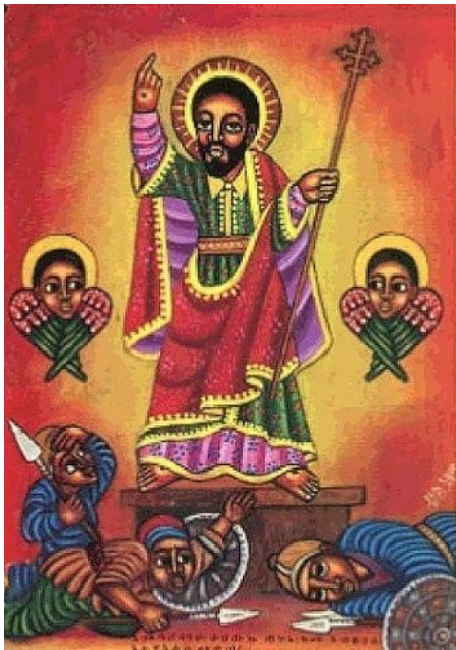
Easter and Beyond

This month we contemplate Jesus, bloodied and scarred, hanging in agony on the cross. We see His Mother at the foot of the cross watching Her Perfect Son die in agony at the hands of unmindful and sinful men. Is this agony worth it for Him?

As God, He had the power to achieve His purpose. On the third day, He rose from the grips of death into the light of the Resurrection, free from anything His enemy could perpetrate. What did He achieve?

Firstly, He had overcome evil and placed the devil in a no win situation, although still strong enough to tempt people and lead them astray if they permitted it. Secondly, He had opened up a way for each and every one of us to return to a state akin to original justice, albeit still weakened by the Fall of Adam and Eve. Thirdly, He had made it possible for the Kingdom of God to once again become a reality on earth.

The last few words Jesus had with His disciples were the command to go and make disciples of all, “baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” Not only did Jesus call for the baptism of all, but that all mankind be given the chance to hear His call to sanctity and friendship with God by making them disciples or people eager to learn about God and His Way of Love. The Church has been doing this ever since, growing despite the attacks of Her enemies. Over the centuries, the Church has contributed great things to help make life easier, more beautiful, more profound for not just the Family of God, but for all people everywhere. The Church pioneered with hospitals and medicine and encouraged learning especially in the fields of philosophy and science. All the arts have flourished because of the Church. Science has taught us of the wonders of the universe as well as the best ways to grow crops for food. Through fearless missionaries who gave up their families, cultures and homes, the Church spread throughout the world.



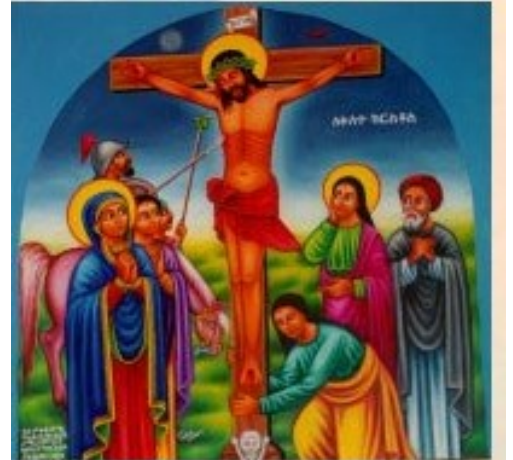
Today, as we look at the lands of our birth and at our country, we see so much that is contrary to God’s desires. Even when Christendom was at its most powerful, the just governance of people fell far short of what it would be like if rulers had taken Christ the King as their model. Every day it is something we pray for, especially each time we pray the third intercession in the Our Father: “Thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven.” This was the motivation of Pope St. John XXIII:

“The task of humble Pope John is to “prepare for the Lord a perfect people,” which is exactly like the task of the Baptist, who is his patron and from whom he takes his name. And it is not possible to imagine a higher and more precious perfection than that of the triumph of Christian peace, which is peace at heart, peace in the social order, in life, in wellbeing, in mutual respect, and in the brotherhood of nations.” —POPE ST. JOHN XXIII, True Christian Peace, December 23rd, 1959.

We must never forget that it was one of the reasons for His willingness to die for us: that all mankind would become one through Baptism and the Eucharist. That Christ’s love would prevail and the “*leopard shall lie down with the young goat.*” (Isaiah 11:6). We have to remember that gun control will not stem death and violence. It only deals with the symptom. The real need is for the Kingdom of God on earth, when “*swords shall be beaten into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks*”. (Isaiah 2:4). This can only come about through each of us contributing with love, perseverance, and obedience to God’s vision for His Creation and enabling Him, through sanctifying grace, to make us holy.

“Today, more than ever, we need people who live holy lives, watchmen who proclaim to the world a new dawn of hope, brotherhood and peace. —POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II, “Message of John Paul II to the Guannelli Youth Movement”, April 20th, 2002; vatican.va

Let us make sure that our cries of Hosanna (I beg you to save) permeate our hearts this Holy Week and Easter and are a never-ending refrain in our conversation with God as we pray for ourselves, our families and the world throughout the coming months.



News From Around the World

Francis's Homily Palm Sunday 2018

Sounds of joy

The Pope says that we can imagine that among those in the crowd who sang and shouted as Jesus entered Jerusalem would have been such people as the prodigal son, the healed leper, “those who had followed Jesus because they felt his compassion for their pain and misery.” Their “outcry is the song and the spontaneous joy of all those left behind and overlooked, who, having been touched by Jesus, can now shout: ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’” These people cannot but help to praise the person responsible for restoring their dignity and their hope, making it possible for them to trust again, the Pope says.



Joy suppressed

But there is another group present as well. The joy of those who have been touched by God's mercy is unbearable and intolerable for others Pope Francis points out. “How hard it is for the comfortable and the self-righteous to understand the joy and the celebration of God's mercy!”

This prompts another kind of shouting, Pope Francis observes. It comes from those wishing to “twist reality,” “invent stories,” “gain power,” “silence dissonant voices,” “spin facts,” defend themselves, and discredit the defenseless. In the end, “they disfigure the face of Jesus and turn him into a ‘criminal,’ ” Pope Francis says.

“And so the celebration of the people ends up being stifled. Hope is demolished, dreams are killed, joy is suppressed; the heart is shielded and charity grows cold.”

The joy of the young

The conclusion of Pope Francis' homily was directed to the young. He pleaded with them not to succumb to the attempts of their elders to silence them.

“Dear young people, the joy that Jesus awakens in you is a source of anger and irritation to some, since a joyful young person is hard to manipulate,” he says.

Pope Francis recalls the words of Jesus to the Pharisees who wanted to silence his disciples. To “Teacher, rebuke your disciples,” Jesus replied, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out” (Lk 19:39-40).

Pope Francis begs young people to choose to sing Hosanna and not to keep quiet: “Please, make that choice, before the stones themselves cry out.” -- Vatican News

The times we live in and our children

Archbishop Chaput speaks at the Napa Institute conference July, 2017

“If we cling to that joy, if we cling to God, then all things are possible,” he added. “The only way to create new life in a culture is to live our lives joyfully and fruitfully, as individuals ruled by convictions greater than ourselves and shared with people we know and love. It's a path that's very simple and very hard at the same time. But it's the only way to make a revolution that matters.”

Archbishop Chaput spoke July 27 at the Napa Institute conference in Napa, Calif. The institute aims to help Catholic leaders face the challenges of contemporary America.

“When young people ask me how to change the world,” he said, “I tell them to love each other, get married, stay faithful to one another, have lots of children, and raise those children to be men and women of Christian character. Faith is a seed. It doesn't flower overnight. It takes time and love and effort.”

“The future belongs to people with children, not with things. Things rust and break,” the archbishop continued. “But every child is a universe of possibility that reaches into eternity, connecting our memories and our hopes in a sign of God's love across the generations. That's what matters. The soul of a child is forever.”

In the face of the many challenges of today, he pointed to an idea from St. Augustine: “it's no use whining about the times, because we are the times.”