

Church of St. Francis



The Liberal Catholic Church
Province of the USA □ Villa Park Illinois

Easter 2018

Good Friday captures the law of sacrifice. The law of sacrifice is also the law of love, for sacrifice is selfless giving – that is, love.

This Easter Season we have homily about three crosses, namely:

1. *The cross of Calvary,*
2. *The cross of matter, and*
3. *The cross of our own hearts and lives.*

First, the cross of Calvary – the sacrifice of Jesus the Christ on the Holy Cross. We remember and commemorate, not just His death, but also his sacrificial life. He provided a Special example of how to live, for he constantly gave of himself selflessly to others, so that they might live.



"The Pieta" by Michelangelo (detail)

It is written that Jesus came that we might have life and have it more abundantly (John 10:10). Thus, we must give of ourselves to others. Jesus is the Way-Shower. He shows us the way by awakening us to the possibilities of our own nature. He is the pattern leading us to union with the Father in heaven that dwells in our innermost consciousness. In that special sense, Jesus is the way, the truth and the life of God in man. Only actions through which

shines the light of the Cross are truly worthy of the disciple.

There is a wonderful thing about the law of sacrifice which the saints and holy ones discovered, and which is true also for us. They rejoiced in sacrifice, sorrow and suffering, because they offered every act of sacrifice as an offering on behalf of the world – to lessen, by their own voluntary giving and enduring, the pain and loss of others. We also think of the "still small voice" within, the voice of conscience and reason that is always with us as our inner guide to wisdom and truth.



"Pieta" by William Bouguereau

Secondly the cross of matter – Good Friday also represents an ongoing cosmic sacrifice in which the Spirit of Life descends into matter. Said the great avatar, Sri Krishna:

*"I established this universe with a portion of myself;
and I remain."*

This is the enduring, eternal sacrifice by which the world is nourished and sustained, the sublimest myth known to humanity, the "Lamb

slain from the foundation of the world". In this cosmic sacrifice, or crucifixion, the eternal and immutable spirit of life itself is crucified upon the cross of matter and imprisoned in form.



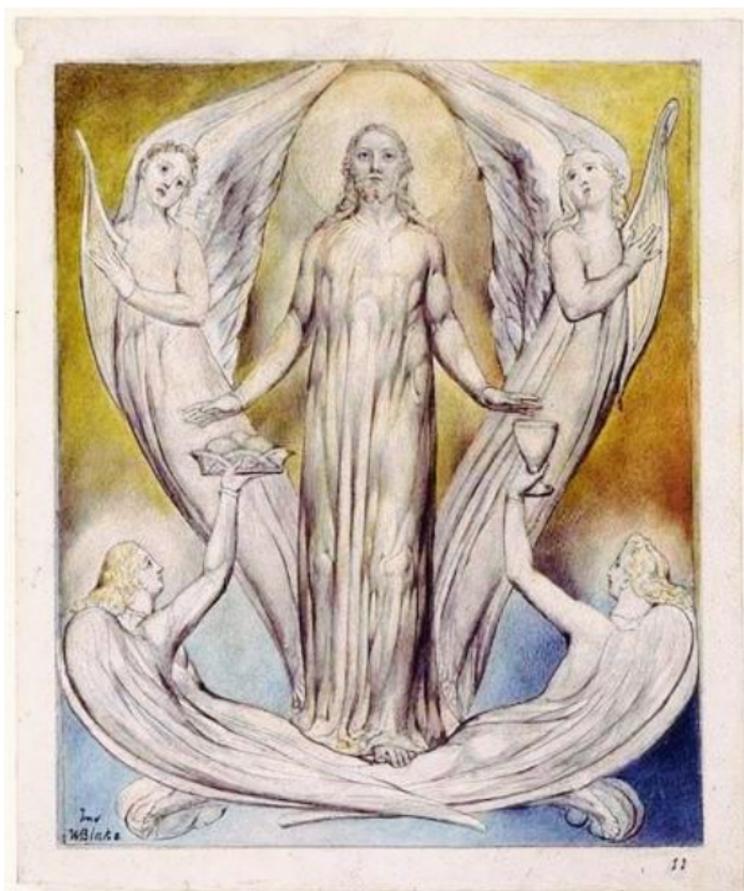
"spirit of god descending like a dove" source unknown

Let us never forget the one, common life in ourselves, that we are all one, that all life is one and indivisible. Yes, the Spirit of Life, which breathes into existence all that is, is both transcendent and immanent in our universe, suffering, dying, rising again, evolving, acting with and through all life.

This is the Ancient Wisdom, the Truth behind all True Religions, the Doctrine of One Life. As Bishop Arundale pointed out,

"The One becomes the many, that the many might know themselves as One."

Easter is about endings and beginnings. It is about love overcoming hate, hope prevailing over despair, and life triumphing over death. Easter celebrates the fact that life has no beginning and no end. Life is indestructible, and as part of life's self-expression we can never cease to be. We may change form and vanish from view, but we can never cease to be. We cannot be separated from life.



"Angels Ministering to Christ" by William Blake

Thirdly the cross of our hearts and lives – the victory of the Christ consciousness in us, as we learn to take up on a daily basis our own particular cross and follow the Master. This is both a crucifixion and a resurrection experience. It can happen to us today, if we make a decision to lay aside the old self, that is, our self-centeredness, pride and willfulness.

In dying to self, we become new persons, our "best selves" ("God in us"). Our old sense of isolation and alienation is gone. Out of gratitude, we now desire to live selflessly for others and share our crucifixion and resurrection experience with them.

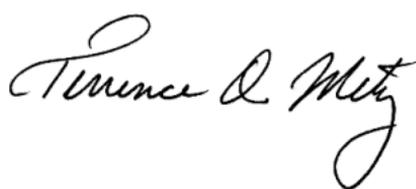
In *The Inner Side of Christian Festivals* Bishop Leadbeater wrote:

"Every stage of the [spiritual] progress is a victory – every stage of that progress is a resurrection."

CWL also wrote that "The victory which [we] gain over the lower nature is something which must be achieved by everyone ... Easter is not only the commemoration of something in the far-distant past; it is a real day of celebration and of thankfulness for the victory which we have gained, are gaining, and will gain through the ages over that which is lower, that which is less developed."

Three crosses — each one a sacrifice. Now, here is a truth: all three crosses are really one and the same, namely, the one cross of love — that is, selfless self-giving.

May you all have a happy, and more importantly, holy, Easter.



Rev. Terrence O. Metz
Rector, Church of St. Francis LCC

Dearest Friends — We're long overdue for an Episcopal Visit and here it comes. Don't miss out. If you do — It's your loss . . .

Healing Service

Immediately following **Holy Eucharist Celebrated by Rt. Rev. Thomas Miller**

On **Sunday, April 15th**, we will offer a special Healing Service, also known as Holy Unction, immediately following Holy Eucharist. Everyone is invited and encouraged to participate.

Those who have not attended Holy Unction will have the opportunity to experience one of the most lovely and powerful Sacraments of the church. Our newest bishop will perform the unction and blessings to enable the service to be brief.

So you may plan accordingly. The service is open to the public and all are welcome.



EASTER SUNDAY MASS

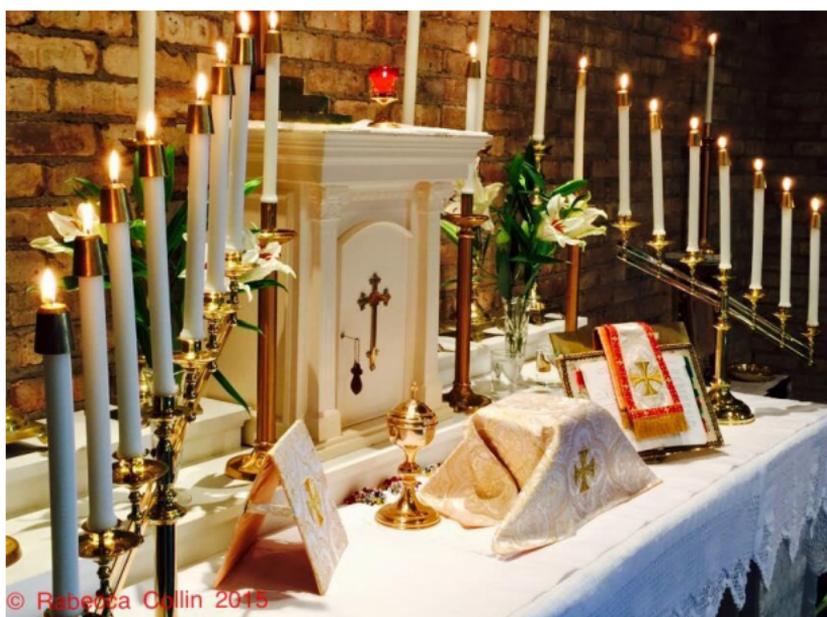
April 1, 2018 at 10:00am

The Church of St. Francis

12 West School Street
Villa Park IL 60181
(630) 592-8482

*Jesus said to him,
'I am the way, the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father
except through Me.'*

John 14:6



Holy Eucharist

The Holy Eucharist is the central act of Christian worship. Designed to help those who take part therein, it is intended also to pour out a great flood of spiritual power upon the surrounding world at large, and it summons the congregation to intelligent and energetic participation in this work.

SUNDAYS AT 10:00AM

followed by refreshments and fellowship

The Church of St Francis is the Chicagoland parish of The Liberal Catholic Church, Province of the USA that has steadfastly served the spiritual needs of our community by freely offering the sacraments to seekers in Chicago and the surrounding area since 1925.

The Liberal Catholic Church is an independent and self-governing body; neither Roman Catholic nor Protestant--but Catholic. It derives its Episcopal Succession through the Old Catholic Church and came into existence as a separate body in 1916. It aims at combining the traditional sacramental form of worship--with its stately ritual, its deep mysticism, and its abiding witness to the reality of sacramental grace--with the widest measure of intellectual liberty and respect for the individual conscience. It therefore permits to its members' freedom of interpretation of the Scriptures, the Creeds, and the Liturgy. Regarding the mind as one of the great avenues to spiritual understanding, it encourages among its adherents the freest play of scientific or philosophic thought. Its Apostolic Success is accepted as valid by all branches of the Catholic Church; it maintains the seven historical sacraments and the Holy Eucharist as its primary service of worship.

Hello Everyone,

There will be an informal gathering at my Mom's house in Villa Park on Saturday, April 14th at 5:00 pm to welcome Bishop Thomas Miller, who will be visiting St Francis that weekend. Coffee, Tea, and light refreshments will be served and there will be a Bishop's Hour. Please RSVP if you can make it by April 6th.

Rabecca Collin
630-853-3563



Theosophical Study Group

Third Sunday of the Month

The Besant Hall Theosophical Study Center meets at Noon on the third Sunday of each month at the Annie Besant Hall, 12 W. School Street in Villa Park. Please meet us in the community room located in the church basement following Sunday Mass. For more information, contact Jeffrey Forth: 630-836-0215
email: aspirant38@yahoo.com



Spud Sunday

Fourth Sunday of the Month

Join us for Baked potatoes following Sunday Mass on the fourth Sunday of every month. Bring a topping to share. Contact Rabecca for more information.



Pancake Breakfast

Fellowship & Flapjacks

Fifth Sunday of the Month

Join us after Holy Eucharist for our Fifth Sunday Pancake Breakfast, featuring of course pancakes, vegetarian sausage, hash browns and other yummy fixings. Bring a friend - All are welcome, and there is no charge. Visit with old friends, and make some NEW ones! We do ask everyone to bring an item or two to donate to our local food pantry.

Upcoming Dates:

April 29, 2018

July 29, 2018

September 30, 2018

December 30, 2018



"He is risen."

Matthew 26:8

St. Francis Vestry & Congregational Guardians 2017-2018

Rev. Terrence Metz – President
Dawn Regnier – Vice President
Rev. Jeffrey Forth – Warden
Rabecca Collin – Secretary
Lori Jo Metz – Treasurer
Annie Pepich – Assistant Treasurer
Vicky Fitzmaurice – Ladies' Guild President
Rt. Rev. Ruben Cabigting – President Emeritus
Chuck Bermingham --Kathleen McNamara
Frank Pepich



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<http://www.liberalcatholic.com>



The Church of St. Francis

Rabecca provides a live stream of the Mass on most Sundays through Facebook! Contact her through our Facebook site for more information

Newsletter Schedule:

Christmas • Easter

St. Alban's Day (Midsummer)

Feast of St. Francis (Annual Report)

Editor: Frank Pepich

frankpepich@gmx.com

The event schedule is correct at the time this newsletter is published, but may be subject to changes.