

April 2023 ~



~ St Stephen Parish

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Holy Mass 5:00 Reconciliation 11:00 Felias Baptism 1:00
2 Holy Mass 11:15 Catechism 10:00 Confirmation Class 10:00 Altar Server Training and Social following Mass Holy Mass 7:00	3 PPC Meeting 7:00 (Didsbury)	4 Holy Mass 6:30	5 Holy Mass 12:05 Lenten Lunch 12:40 SFO Meeting 7:30	6 Holy Mass 7:30 HOLY THURSDAY 	7 Services: GOOD FRIDAY Sundre 11:00 Didsbury 3:00 Olds 3:00 Stations of the Cross 2:30 (Olds)	8 Holy Mass 9:00 PM 
 MASS TIMES: Sundre 8:00 Didsbury 10:00 Olds 11:15 NO 7:00 Mass Happy Easter	10 Easter Monday The Parish Offices will be Closed 	11 NO MASS  Saint Stanislaus	12 NO MASS KC Meeting (Sundre) 7:30	13 CWL Meeting 6:30 (Didsbury)	14 Holy Mass 9:00	15 Holy Mass 5:00 Reconciliation 11:00 CFC Meeting 3:00
16 Holy Mass 11:15 Catechism 10:00 Confirmation Class 10:00 Adoration & Benediction 2:00 (Sundre) Holy Mass 3:00 (Sundre) Divine Mercy Sunday	17 Adoration (Didsbury) 9-2:00 CWL Meeting 7:00 (Olds) Saint Kateri Tekakwitha	18 Holy Mass 6:30 PPC Meeting (Olds) 7:00 Blessed Marie-Anne Blondin	19 Holy Mass 9:15 With Holy Trinity School 	20 PPC Meeting (Sundre) 7:00	21 Holy Mass 9:00 Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosary (Sundre) 10:00  Saint Anselm	22 Holy Mass 5:00 Reconciliation 11:00 CFC Meeting 3:00
23 Holy Mass 9:00	24 Saint Fidelis of Sigmaringen	25 Holy Mass 6:30 Saint Mark	26 Holy Mass 9:00  Our Lady of Good Counsel	27	28 Holy Mass 9:00 Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosary (Sundre) 10:00 Saint Peter Chanel & Saint Louis Grignon de Montfort	29 Holy Mass 5:00 Reconciliation 11:00 Saint Catherine of Siena
30 Holy Mass 11:15 Catechism 10:00 Confirmation Class 10:00 Saint Marie of the Incarnation						

GOD'S WINGS – After a forest fire in Yellowstone National Park, forest rangers began to assess the inferno's damage. One ranger found a bird literally petrified in the ashes, perched statuesquely on the ground at the base of a tree. Somewhat disturbed by the eerie sight, he knocked over the bird with a stick. When he gently struck it, three tiny chicks scurried from under the dead mother's wings. The loving mother, keenly aware of impending disaster, had gathered her offspring at the base of the tree and had covered them with her wings, instinctively knowing that the toxic smoke would rise. She could have flown to safety but had refused to abandon her babies. When the blaze had arrived, and the heat had scorched her small body, the mother had remained steadfast...because she had been willing to die, so those under the cover of her wings would live.

'He will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge.' Psalm 91:4



THE EMPTY EASTER EGG – Jeremy Forester was born with a twisted body and a slow mind. At the age of 12 he was still in second grade, seemingly unable to learn. His teacher, Doris Miller, often became exasperated with him.

One day Miss Miller called his parents and asked them to come in for a consultation. As the Foresters entered the empty classroom, Doris said to them, "Jeremy really belongs in a special school. It isn't fair to him to be with younger children who don't have learning problems. Why, there is a five-year gap between his age and that of the other students."

Mrs. Forester cried softly into a tissue, while her husband spoke. "Miss Miller," he said, "there is no school of that kind nearby. It would be a terrible shock to Jeremy if we had to take him out of this school. We know he really likes it here." Doris sat for a long time after they had left, staring at the snow falling outside the window. Its coldness seemed to seep into her soul. She wanted to sympathize with the Foresters. After all, their only child had a terminal illness. But it wasn't fair to keep him in her class. She had 18 other youngsters to teach, and Jeremy was a distraction. Furthermore, he would never learn to read or write. Why waste any more time trying?

As she pondered the situation, guilt washed over her. Here I am complaining when my problems are nothing compared to that poor family, she thought. Lord please help me to be more patient with Jeremy. From that day on, she tried hard to ignore Jeremy's noises and his blank stares. Then one day, he limped to her desk, dragging his bad leg behind him.

"I love you, Miss Miller," he exclaimed, loud enough for the whole class to hear. The students snickered, and Doris' face burned red. She stammered, "Wh-why that's very nice, Jeremy. N-now please take your seat."

Spring came, and the children talked excitedly about the coming of Easter. Doris told them the story of Jesus, and then to emphasize the idea of new life springing forth, she gave each of the children a large plastic egg. "Now," she said to them, "I want you to take this home and bring it back tomorrow with something inside that is a symbol of new life. Do you understand?"

"Yes, Miss Miller," the children responded enthusiastically, all except for Jeremy. He listened intently. His eyes never left her face. He did not even make his usual noises. Had he understood what she had said about Jesus' death and resurrection? Did he understand the assignment? Perhaps she should call his parents and explain the project to them.

That evening, Doris' kitchen sink stopped up. She called the landlord and waited an hour for him to come by and unclog it. In addition to that, she still had to shop for groceries, finish her laundry, and prepare a vocabulary test for the next day. She completely forgot about phoning Jeremy's parents.

The next morning, 19 children came to school, laughing and talking as they placed their eggs in the large basket on Miss Miller's desk. After they completed their math lesson, it was time to open the eggs. In the first egg, Doris found a flower. "Oh yes, a flower is certainly a sign of new life," she said. "When plants peek through the ground, we know that spring is here." A small girl in the first row waved her arm. "That's my egg, Miss Miller," she called out. The next egg contained a plastic butterfly, which looked very real. Doris held it up. "We all know that a caterpillar changes and grows into a beautiful butterfly. Yes, that's new life, too." Little Judy smiled proudly and said, "Miss Miller, that one is mine." Next, Doris found a rock with moss on it. She explained that moss, too, showed life. Billy spoke up from the back of the classroom, "My dad helped me," he beamed.

When Doris opened the fourth egg. She gasped. The egg was empty. Surely it must be Jeremy's she thought, and of course, he did not understand her instructions. If only she had not forgotten to phone his parents. Because she did not want to embarrass him, she quietly set the egg aside and reached for another. Suddenly, Jeremy spoke up. "Miss Miller, aren't you going to talk about my egg?" Flustered, Doris replied, "But Jeremy, your egg is empty." He looked into her eyes and said softly, "Yes, but Jesus' tomb was empty, too."

Time stopped. When she could speak again, Doris asked him, "Do you know why the tomb was empty?" "Oh, yes," Jeremy said, "Jesus was killed and put in there. Then His Father raised Him up."

The recess bell rang. While the children excitedly ran out to the schoolyard, Doris began to cry. The cold inside her heart melted completely away. Three months later, Jeremy died. Those who paid their respects at the funeral were surprised to see 19 eggs on top of the casket...all of them empty.

'Why are you looking for the living among the dead? You won't find him here. He is risen.' Luke 24: 5-6

Source: <http://gatewaytojesus.com/inspirationalstoriespage1.html>

**We are the Easter People
and Hallelujah is our Song!**

~Saint John Paul II

