

April 2018

ST MARY'S
ACADEMY

FAITH COMMUNITY JUSTICE RESPECT

Faith Walk

ST. MARY'S ACADEMY CAMPUS MINISTRY

Earth Day - April 22, 2018



<https://theearthdayimages.com/earth-day-2017-posters-images-pictures-sketch/wfpcuba-cesar2009/>

April With Loretto By Regina Drey SL

April holds special meaning in Loretto with celebrations for Foundation Day in April 25 and Earth Day on April 22.

While Foundation Day honors the three women who began the Sisters of Loretto, the formation of the Loretto Earth Network in the early 1990s reframes our founders' vision of loving God, creating community, educating themselves and others – today with an emphasis on responsible stewardship. Both are exceptional examples of responding to the needs of the times.

Loretto Foundation Day: April 25

Faced with the reality of her brothers' children not having an opportunity for education, Mary Rhodes did what we teach our students to do – she responded to a need. She simply started teaching in his home; invited other children; then moved the growing school into an abandoned log cabin; and welcomed Ann Havern and Christina Stuart to teach with her. The women lived in community in an adjoining cabin and soon decided they wanted to form a religious community with the help of Father Charles Nerinx, their local priest. On April 25, 1812 Loretto began. Since then thousands of sisters, and now women and men who are co-members, have seen needs and responded.

One-hundred-six years later we continue to be challenged by what it means to be a place of education, faith and service. While the realities of a fast-paced, complex society strongly influence our vision for the future, our school embraces Loretto's founding story by helping students develop the habits of heart and mind to see needs in our school and society and take action.

Earth Day: April 22

The Loretto Earth Network (LEN) provides opportunities for education on the sacredness and wonder of creation and on taking action to address environmental destruction.

Loretto's commitment to Earth is most striking at the Motherhouse in Kentucky, which has been a working farm since 1824. For the last 40 years Loretto has collaborated with governmental conservation programs, most recently planting 75 acres in hardwoods, pollinator habitat and native grasses.

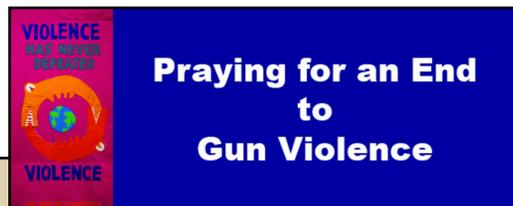
Besides these, many of Loretto's actions are individual ones that anyone can get involved in such as recycling, grouping errands into one car trip; and supporting Loretto in saying "No to Bottled Water."

Take a few minutes on Foundation Day and Earth Day to be grateful for our Loretto founders and members today who inspire our SMA community to see needs and respond with courage and love.

Resources you might enjoy:

[Earth Saints and Heroes](#): a downloadable booklet for students on scientists, theologians, writers and activists

[Earth Day 2018](#): The focus for 2018 is plastic pollution.



Loretto and SMA Praying and Acting to End Gun Violence

The Loretto Community again this year invites us to pray in silence on the first Monday of the month for an end to gun violence. This call to prayer began in 2015 when the Loretto Committee on Peace felt prayer was most fitting as public statements, lobbying, letter writing on gun control had not brought about change. The committee's hope is that our prayer may bring wisdom and guidance to this important issue.

You are most welcome to join us in the Oratory in the High School at 8:15 for whatever minutes work for you. Or take a few minutes of quiet wherever you are. The Mondays are: April 9 and May 7. If you have questions, please contact Sister Regina at rdrey@smnet.org.

Also: Connect with groups working to end gun violence like Everytown For Gun Safety (<http://every.tw/2yOp3yH>) or The Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence (<http://bit.ly/2iye07c>). Check out their recommended legislative actions and other ways to be involved.

Research what the U.S. Catholic Bishops have said on prevention of gun violence and passage of common sense gun laws. Become involved with Faiths United to End Gun Violence (<http://bit.ly/2zPDa5j>) and commit to witnessing, educating, and advocating for shared values and common sense solutions to gun violence.

Feast of the Annunciation April 9, 2018

Oskar Schindler



The Annunciation
By Patricia Brintle, Haiti

“Oskar Schindler (1908–1974) was born on April 28, 1908, in Svitavy (Zwittau), Moravia, at that time a province of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. An ethnic German and a Catholic, he remained in Svitavy during the interwar period and held Czech citizenship after Moravia was incorporated into the newly established Czechoslovak Republic in 1918.

After attending a series of trade schools in Brno and marrying Emilie Pelzl in 1928, Schindler held a variety of jobs, including working in his father's farm machinery business in Svitavy, opening a driving school in Sumperk, and selling government property in Brno. He also served in the Czechoslovak army and in 1938 attained the rank of lance corporal in the reserves. Schindler began working with the Amt Auslands/Abwehr (Office of the Military Foreign Intelligence) of the German Armed Forces in 1936.

In February 1939, five months after the German annexation of the Sudetenland, he joined the Nazi Party. An opportunist businessman with a taste for the finer things in life, he seemed an unlikely candidate to become a wartime rescuer. During World War II, Schindler rescued more than 1,000 Jews from deportation to Auschwitz, Nazi Germany's largest killing center.”

For more, visit: <https://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10005787>



I hated the brutality, the sadism, and the insanity of Nazism. I just couldn't stand by and see people destroyed. I did what I could, what I had to do, what my conscience told me I must do. That's all there is to it. Really, nothing more.

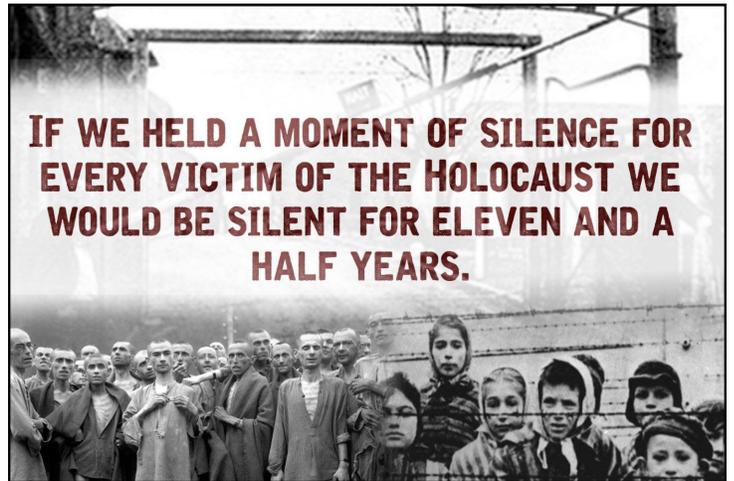
— Oskar Schindler —

AZ QUOTES

יום השואה / Yom HaShoah

יום הזיכרון לשואה (יום היזכור לשואה) ו"גבורה", "Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Day"), known colloquially in Israel and abroad as Yom HaShoah (יום השואה) and in English as Holocaust Remembrance Day, is observed as Israel's day of commemoration for the approximately six million Jews and five million others who perished in the Holocaust as a result of the actions carried out by Nazi Germany and its accessories, and for the Jewish resistance in that period. In Israel, it is a national memorial day and public holiday. It was inaugurated on 1953, anchored by a law signed by the Prime Minister of Israel David Ben-Gurion and the President of Israel Yitzhak Ben-Zvi. It is held on the 27th of Nisan (April/May), unless the 27th would be adjacent to Shabbat, in which case the date is shifted by a day.

Yom HaShoah begins at sundown on Wed, 11 April 2018.



<https://www.hebcal.com/holidays/yom-hashoa>

Leila al Miraj

"Lailat al Miraj is a Muslim holiday that commemorates the Prophet Muhammad's nighttime journey from Mecca to the 'Farthest Mosque' in Jerusalem where he ascended to heaven, was purified, and given the instruction for Muslims to pray five times daily.



The story of Lailat al Miraj consists of two major parts. The first part of the story begins with the Prophet Muhammad at the Kabaa in Mecca. He is visited by two archangels who provide him with a mythical winged steed called Buraq. Buraq carries the Prophet to the 'Farthest Mosque,' believed by Muslims to be the Al Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem, where Muhammad joins past prophets in prayer.

The Prophet then ascends to heaven where he is told by God of the duty for Muslims to pray five times daily (Salat). This second part of the journey is commonly referred to as the Miraj, an Arabic word meaning "ladder."

The events of Lailat al Miraj are described briefly in chapter 17 of the Quran, which is named "Sura Al-Isra" after the Prophet's ascension to heaven. Many of the details of the story are filled in by hadith, supplemental writings about the life of the Prophet Muhammad.

Today Lailat al Miraj is observed by Muslims as one of the most important events in the history of Islam. Muslims may attend special prayer services at a mosque, or they may commemorate the holiday privately at home by telling the story to children or reciting special nighttime prayers."

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/06/05/lailat-al-miraj_n_885922.html#

Easter Egg Art: Hatched From An Ancient Tradition To Celebrate Rebirth

By Nancy Shute

"It all starts with the egg.

In spring, chickens start laying again, bringing a welcome source of protein at winter's end. So it's no surprise that cultures around the world celebrate spring by honoring the egg.

Some traditions are simple, like the red eggs that get baked into Greek Easter breads. Others elevate the egg into an elaborate art, like the heavily jewel-encrusted Faberge eggs that were favored by the Russian czars starting in the 19th century.



One ancient form of egg art comes to us from Ukraine. For centuries, Ukrainians have been drawing intricate patterns on pysanky – eggs decorated using a traditional method that involves a stylus and wax. Contemporary artists have adapted these methods to create eggs that speak to the anxieties of our age: Life is precious, and fragile. Eggs are, too.

"There's something about their fragile nature that in an insane way appeals to me," says New Yorker cartoonist Roz Chast. Several years ago, she became obsessed with eggs and learned the traditional wax-resist technique used for Ukrainian pysanky to draw her very modern characters. "I've broken eggs at every stage of the process – from the very beginning to the very, very end."

But there's an appeal in that vulnerability. "There's part of this sickening horror of knowing you're walking on the edge with this, that I kind of like. Knowing that it could all fall apart at any second."

Chast's designs reflect that fragility, from a worried man alone in a wee rowboat, to a Humpty Dumpty who seems all too aware of his imminent fate. Traditional Ukrainian pysanky also spoke to those fears. The elaborate patterns were believed to offer protection against evil.

"There's an ancient legend that as long as pysanky are made, evil will not prevail in the world," says Joan Brander, a pysanky artist in Richmond, B.C. She's been making pysanky for more than 60 years, having learned the art of the egg from her Ukrainian relatives.

The pysanky tradition, says Brander, dates back to Ukrainian spring rituals in pre-Christian times. The tradition was incorporated into the Christian church, but the old symbols endure. "A pysanka with a bird on it, [when] given to a young married couple, is a wish for children," she explains. "A pysanka thrown into the field would be a wish for a good harvest."

She says that pysanky artists used to work in secret, unveiling their designs on Easter. But with the Internet, pysanky has become a democratized art. Artists share designs and techniques online, so they no longer have to rely on family traditions.

Paul Wirhun, an artist in Provincetown, Mass., has adapted pysanky techniques he learned as a child in a Ukrainian-American family for decidedly modern ends, including a series of eggs commemorating those who died in the Iraq war.

The egg, Wirhun says, is not just a symbolic object – "it's a power object." When people raised chickens themselves, he notes, the eggs would have been fertilized by a rooster. "It wasn't just a representation of new life, it was new life." When artists decorate eggs, Wirhun says, they evoke that power in their art.

<https://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2016/03/24/471719770/eggs-become-art-to-celebrate-lifes-rebirth>

A Prayer for Justice

God of Compassion,
You let your rain fall on the just
and the unjust.
Expand and deepen our hearts
so that we may love as You love,
even those among us
who have caused the greatest
pain by taking life.

For there is in our land a great
cry for vengeance
as we fill up death row and kill the
killers
in the name of justice, in the
name of peace.

Jesus, our brother,
you suffered execution at the
hands of the state
but you did not let hatred
overcome you

Help us to reach out to victims of
violence
so that our enduring love may
help them heal.

Holy Spirit of God,
You strengthen us in the struggle
for justice,

Help us to work tirelessly
for the abolition of state-
sanctioned death
and to renew our society in its
very heart
so that violence will be no more.
Amen.

– Sister Helen Prejean

Mahavir Jayanti

“Mahavir Jayanti is the most important Jain festival. It celebrates the birth of Saint Mahavir in a small town called Vaishali. The importance of the festival owes to the fact that Saint Mahavir was the founder of Jainism as a religion. It is a peaceful religion that cherishes simplicity. Their core values are such that they do not believe in killing even an insect. The mood of this festival is also without any kind of drama, just a quite celebration with respect to their saint. There are dominantly four types of Jains: Digambaras and Svetambaras, Deravasis and Sthanakvasis. The worship rituals of Jains are not very elaborate or striking as their leader Mahavir was against idol worship in its ideal sense. Out of the four sects only Deravasis go to temples, while the others regard their ideal faith to be purest when internalized.



“Mahavir Jain was born in the 5th century B.C. He was born in a palace of Vaishali to King Siddhartha and Queen Trisala. During the pregnancy, the queen is said to have had dreams of auspicious nature. The number of dreams varies in belief of each sect. After running his kingdom faithfully till 30 years of his age, the great saint gave up all luxuries and comforts of palace for penance. For twelve long years the saint had been under penance. At this time he was enlightened. He was known to be the 24th and the last tirthankara to have received enlightenment. He gave up all redundancies of life. He would eat on his palms refusing to use a plate. He also gave up wearing clothes. Getting rid of these rudimentary materials he focused on the real things and the real meaning of life. He preached the importance of truth and non-violence along with the message of not owning anything and not stealing. He later formulated all his teachings into a religion that he names Jainism.”

<http://festivals.indobase.com/mahavir-jayanti/index.html>

Sister Helen Prejean



“Sister Helen Prejean was born on April 21, 1939, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She joined the Sisters of St. Joseph of Medaille in 1957 (now know as the Congregation of St. Joseph) and received a B.A. in English and Education from St. Mary’s Dominican College, New Orleans in 1962. In 1973, she earned an M.A. in Religious Education from St. Paul’s University in Ottawa, Canada. She has been the Religious Education Director at St. Frances Cabrini Parish in New Orleans, the Formation Director for her religious community, and has taught junior and senior high school students.

Sister Helen began her prison ministry in 1981 when she dedicated her life to the poor of New Orleans. While living in the St. Thomas housing project, she became pen pals with Patrick Sonnier, the convicted killer of two teenagers, sentenced to die in the electric chair of Louisiana’s Angola State Prison.

Upon Sonnier’s request, Sister Helen repeatedly visited him as his spiritual advisor. In doing so, her eyes were opened to the Louisiana execution process. Sister Helen turned her experiences into a book that not only made the 1994 American Library Associates Notable Book List. *Dead Man Walking: An Eyewitness Account of the Death Penalty in the United States* was number one on the New York Times Best Seller List for 31 weeks. It also was an international best seller and has been translated into ten different languages.”

For more, visit: <https://www.sisterhelen.org/biography/>



MINISTRY
AGAINST THE
DEATH
PENALTY

Poetry Corner

Long nights and cold days,
Fallow fields and dormant trees,
A journey of the inner world.

I open my eyes and see light.
Warmth breaking through,
Promise of new life.
Coming out of death.
Resurrection.

Welcome, beauty.
Welcome, buds.
Welcome, newness.
Inside and all around me.

You, God, source of hope,
Source of healing,
Source of life
Welcome, welcome.
Make your home in me.

—Beth A. Richardson



Prayer Opportunities

- Parents and Faculty/Staff: **NEW TIME!** First Wednesday of the month at 9:15 in the HS Oratory
- Prayer Intention Boxes - On the counter in the HS Office, MS Lobby and LS Lobby
- Prayer Wall in the High School
- Send your prayer requests via the SMA website under “Resources,” “All Academy Resources,” “Prayer Requests.” Or email smaprayergroup@gmail.com. All prayers are handled in confidentiality, and may be submitted anonymously.

HAPPY APRIL!

St. Mary’s Academy is a school that believes the fundamental message of God as taught and lived by Jesus, to love without bounds.

Together we continue to build and live the Loretto School values of faith, community, justice and respect!

Paula Lee, Ph.D.

Campus Minister

plee@stmarys.academy

APRIL 2018

Interfaith and Justice Calendar



April is Genocide Awareness Month

*The event begins the evening of the previous day
 **Exact date may vary between traditions and communities
 Adapted from: www.interfaithcalendar.org and www.adl.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Easter Christian Palm Sunday Orthodox Christian	2	3 Mahavir Jayanti** Jain	4	5	6	7 World Health Day
8 Pascha-Easter Orthodox Christian	9 Feast of the Annunciation Christian (Observed)	10	11	12 Yom HaShoah* Holocaust Remembrance Day Jewish	13 Lailat al Miraj* Islam	14 Baisakhi (Vaisakhi) Sikh
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 Helen Prejean, C.S.J. Born 1939
22 Earth Day	23 St. George's Day Christian	24 Armenian Martyrs' Day	25 Loretto Foundation Day All Academy Prayer Service 10:00	26	27 Day of Silence Arbor Day	28 Oskar Schindler Born 1908
29 Visakha Puja - Buddha Day** Buddhist	30 Theravadin New Year Buddhist 4/30-5/2					