

Smell... the Memory sense?!

by Michael P

"Smells are surer than sights or sounds to make your heartstrings crack," writes Vladimir Nabokov¹.



As I write this, it is 17 degrees outside and I have just walked around our beautiful Incarnation church building. And it smells outside.....! Not in an unpleasant, hold your nose type of way. It is indeed pleasant and I take in two or three deep breathes. The smell is vaguely familiar and one I have not experienced in many months. It smells like fresh earth and new life. It is a smell that lifts me up and announces that there are changes coming. This fresh, awakening smell transports me to a different time and place. It smells like the transition between nothing and life.

Smell is a powerful memory sense. Smell can illicit emotions and feelings unlike any of the other senses. I recall walking into the parish hall in Saskatoon where we had lived when I was a boy, some 30 years after the fact. It smelled the same and I immediately became a 10 year old boy again. Chanel N° 5 perfume reminds me of my grandmother. Fresh baking bread is Aunt Greta.

What is it about smell? Those that please and those that repulse? Those that delight and those that distance? Those that anticipate and those that repel? We can't choose to smell one thing over another. That is the point of smell. It takes control of us, taking over that which we'd rather be able to smell. It is just there and somehow, somehow, you have to deal with it, whatever memory it brings back, whatever feeling it elicits, whatever good or bad effects it brings on.

That is the power of the sense of smell. It permeates our life with the good and the bad, the powerful and the painful, the delirious and the difficult.

And that is the power of the story in John's Gospel this week, especially here and now looking forward to the last two weeks of Lent. *"Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair"*- John 12:3. The smell of the perfume, costing almost a year's wages, permeating every nook and cranny of that room. That smell, in contrast to the smell of death, which, by the way, is reclining on Jesus. The smell of love in the face of certain betrayal. The smell of extravagant love. Mary's foreshadowed embodiment of Jesus' commandment - - "love one another as I have loved you." Abundant grace that thus far, only Jesus has been able to bestow.

A smell not to counteract death, erase death's smell, or try to overpower its stench mentioned only verses before with the raising of Lazarus. But a scent to smell at the same time you can smell the scent of death. I wonder if this is the point. Smells don't replace – they contrast, they tell the truth about our human existence.

All too human smell is, which may be part of the point. Lest we need a reminder that Jesus is truly the Word made flesh, here it is. Caught between the smell of love and the smell of the cross is Jesus. There is no one or the other. Both have to exist so as to reinforce that the incarnation really matters.

It holds together Lent and Easter so very tightly that you wonder how you can separate the two – and the point is that you can't. In our lives there is life and there is death; there is joy and there is sorrow; there is hope and there is despair. One does not exist without the other – that is the truth of the Incarnation. And, that is the very hope of the Incarnation, if we are truthful. Jesus is the new hope, the new life, the new joy that transports us to a different time and place. Jesus is the transition between the nothingness that life can be and life that is above all else.

1. Quoted in Rachel Herz, *The Scent of Desire: Discovering Our Enigmatic Sense of Smell* (New York: HarperCollins, 2007),

This Week at Inca



The season of Lent is now upon us. As we travel through this season, Incarnation will be participating in something that is referred to as **the Lent Event**. This is a season that we are invited to **Reflect, Connect, and Act**- our theme for the Lenten Season.

As such our Lent Event is 40 days to help us explore ways to:

- live more simply,
- reflect on our faith
- and support people struggling to free themselves from poverty and injustice.

Similarly, we are invited to participate in an expression of God's mercy and grace by giving up something we can do without. To accompany us on the journey, Lent Event offers a new **GUIDE TO LIVING LENT** plus a full range of resources to provide spiritual enrichment. These include a bible study, written daily prayers, worship resources for Sunday services and children's activities. All are available free on www.lentevent.com where you can also subscribe to the Lent Event Daily Prayers.

HOLY WEEK



Palm Sunday, March 20

8:30am - Spoken worship with the Liturgy of the Branches

10:00am - Choral worship with the Liturgy of the Branches

8:00pm - Contemplative Fire Gathering, a time to reflect, meditate and renew your spirit

Maundy Thursday, March 24

6:30pm. Join us as we share a community potluck meal, celebrate the liturgy, and hold a hand-washing ceremony.

Good Friday, March 25

10am - Liturgy of the Passion - reflections in scripture and song

Holy Saturday, March 26 -

8:30pm - The Great Vigil of Easter celebrated in joyful song

Easter Sunday, March 27,

8:30am - Contemplative Holy Communion

10am - A Choral Easter Day service with an expanded choir featuring music from Handel's *Messiah*



Welcome!

Syrian Refugee Family

A huge thank you for all the furniture donations for our incoming family! The only item we are still looking for is a coffee table. Please contact Mary Loeffler at 905-825-0982 if you have any items to donate.

These items will be collected each Sunday by the following people:

- Household items - Lesley Hickey
- Clothing - Jean Grieve and Judy Vanderwater
- Toys, books, car seats (forward facing and booster type) - Lynne Jenkins

Our family will have many adjustments to make to life in Canada. It is important that they have some of the comforts of home, including familiar food, during this time. It's fine if there are multiples of staples, like rice and beans. You can bring your donations to church, or arrange to deliver them to Leslie Hickey.

Attached to the email is a list of pantry items for our sponsored family.



Choir Practice -

The choir rehearses every Wednesday **at 7:30**. Share your voice, all welcome. Rehearsals for Easter begin this week, 7:30-8:30 PM.



Easter Flowers:

Donation envelopes are now available at the greeter's table. Please make sure to fill out the front of the envelope and hand it to one of the counters.



Wing and a Prayer - Thursday, March 24, 2016!

We meet at 6:30pm at Monaghan's. Cost: \$25 per person including food and drink. RSVP Rob Moniuk (Robert@Moniuk.ca).

Everyone is welcome!



Contemplative Fire - Sunday, March 20, 8:00pm.

Are you looking for time to reflect, meditate and recharge your spiritual life? Each meeting begins with a communal sharing of food followed by quiet and intentional reflection in the gathering area. The response to this has been very encouraging. We continue to see new faces at each meeting and look forward to growing this community.

For more information, please speak to Michael. All are welcome.



Go for the Gold – Fundraising event for Incarnation

Gather up your broken and unwanted gold items, coins, paper money, donate them to the church by putting them in the envelopes provided, and receive a tax receipt for the value once the items have been sold.

For larger or more valuable items, please bring them to the church on one of these appraisal dates, and Doug can discuss in more detail:
Thursday, March 10, 2-4pm, and Saturday, March 19 3-5pm



Niagara Youth Conference – August 28 to September 2, 2016

A caring, spiritual, participatory learning community that encourages inclusivity and personal growth - mitigated, of course, by fun and frivolity! This is a residential conference for youth ages 13-21. Early bird registration is now open. Details can be [found here](#)



Youth Group Events-

For info contact Phil Carver at incayouthprogram@gmail.com

Community News



The Choir of St. Jude's Church

Palm Sunday, March 20, 4:00pm, St. Jude's Church

"Olivet to Calvary", A Victorian Sacred Cantata recalling the scenes which mark the last days of the Saviour's life on earth

Puttin' on the Ritz, The Talisker Players Quartet

Friday, April 8, 2016 8:00pm, St. Jude's Church

Featuring music from the Irving Berlin Songbook including: Top Hat, Cheek to Cheek, Heat Wave, Always, and Puttin' on the Ritz. Form more information call 905-844-3972. Tickets \$30

This & That



Looking to volunteer?

We have lots of way you can get involved. Positions include: altar prep, greeters, readers, hosts and coffee preparation. **Youth** can gain some volunteer high school hours. Training will be provided. Contact Claudine Boulert, at boulert@rogers.com for more information, or call 905-825-2851.



Changes to Order of Service or Bulletin News - Any changes need to be sent to the office by Tuesday, noon. office@incarnationchurch.ca

Nametags let people know who you are and make it helpful for people to put names to faces, especially for newcomers



Receiving Communion

All people at Incarnation are invited to receive the bread and wine at communion. The bread is received from the priest who stands between the servers who offer wine from the common cup; choose whatever side is free. You may choose to receive from an individual wine cups available to the left of the altar. Take one, consume the wine and replace the empty cup in the same spot. We hope this provides an inclusive approach to communion where all are welcome.

VOLUNTEER!	March 13	March 20
Bread Making	P. Henley	C. Surplis
Altar Prep	B. H-M & L. Bird	A. Moniuk
Coffee	Gowing	Hutchinson/Henley
Coffee	Hickey	Lockhart
Host	D. Bold	B. Abrams
Reader 1	D. Bold	J. Bowden
Gospel	G. Hughes	J. Grieve
Prayers	K. Pitt	I. Hickey
Server 1	A. MacNaughton	J. Stevens
Server 2	K. Pitt	B. Hanna-Morrison
Wine Cups	P. Carver	Z. Boulert
Counting	P. Moffat	M. Thompson