



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Jesus blesses those who believe even when they can't see what lies hidden beyond the veil of mystery. The Easter story is about people daring to believe in Jesus' resurrection precisely because of what they could not see or find – his body

in the tomb.

In the pre-dawn darkness, Mary Magdalene was making her way to the tomb where Joseph of Arimathea had placed the body of Jesus. She wasn't going there expecting to find an empty tomb. She was going to wash and anoint Jesus' body for burial, according to Jewish custom. Mary found nothing but the stone rolled away and the grave emptied of its precious contents. When she ran to tell Simon Peter and the other disciple, she was thinking his body had been stolen as one final, cruel act of mockery.

The disciple whom Jesus loved *saw and believed*. Who did he see? No one. What did he see? Nothing, just the shroud. He believed even if he did not yet understand.

No one saw the moment when the Lord God raised Jesus from the dead, but the Apostles would soon see Jesus, touch him, and eat with him by the shores of Galilee. They would be strengthened by him and given the Holy Spirit to guide them in the important work that lay ahead of them – that of building the Church. There would be no looking back from that day forward.

The same can happen for us. If we let him, the risen Christ can change our hearts so that we, too, will never be the same again. The risen Lord wishes to draw our eyes and our attention to heaven, that we might seek and think of what is above. Just as God rolled the stone away from the tomb and called his Son to new life, the risen Lord Jesus is seeking to roll the stone away from our tombs as well, calling us forth to live our faith more deeply.

Some people look at a cross and see an interesting geometric shape, a piece of art, or a Roman symbol of torture. For the believer, when we look upon a cross we see love and victory. Worldly people look at an empty tomb and they feel just like it – empty. Witnesses to the Resurrection look at the empty tomb with hearts full of faith, and we believe precisely because of what we can't see inside of it – the body of Jesus.

As we begin our 50-day celebration of Jesus' resurrection, may we be blessed for all that we do not see and still believe.

Yours in the Risen Christ,  
Fr. Marco

**PARISH OFFICE CLOSED** On Monday, April 10. A Blessed Easter to all!

**ALTAR FLOWERS/SANCTUARY CANDLES** If you would like to donate the Altar Flowers or Sanctuary Candles in memory or for special intentions of a loved one, please call the Parish Office or email at [cindy@ihmrcc.org](mailto:cindy@ihmrcc.org).

**EASTER EGG HUNT** An Easter egg hunt will be held on Sunday, April 16 at IHM! The egg hunt will be after the 11:15 Mass (roughly 12:15) and will conclude before the 1 pm Mass. For any questions, please contact Martha Worrell at [mfworrell1@hotmail.com](mailto:mfworrell1@hotmail.com).

**PERPETUAL ADORATION** Did you know our very own Immaculate Heart of Mary offers you the opportunity to participate in Perpetual Adoration? Some may ask "What is Perpetual Adoration?" Perpetual Adoration is a Eucharistic devotion whereby members unite in the adoration before the Most Blessed Sacrament with the goal of adoring The Blessed Sacrament perpetually (24 hours a day). If you are interested, please call our adoration coordinator, Jeff Harmon, at 240-538-5017 or email [adoration@ihmrcc.org](mailto:adoration@ihmrcc.org) for more information.

**DO YOU FEEL ALONE IN YOUR MARRIAGE?** Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue, or have you just stopped talking to each other? Retrouvaille has helped tens of thousands of couples struggling in their marriage. For confidential information or to register for the upcoming program beginning with a weekend on January 20th, please visit: [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org), call (443) 400-7017, or email us at: [3015@HelpOurMarriage.org](mailto:3015@HelpOurMarriage.org).

**LAZARUS COMMITTEE** The Lazarus Committee provides funeral repasts for the funerals of active and registered parishioners. If interested in joining the Lazarus committee or for more information, please contact Pat at 240-925-0021 or Linda at 240-298-5264.



**IHM MUSIC MINISTRY** If you are interested in sharing your musical talents with the parish, there is a place for you in this ministry! Please call Mary at 240-434-8876 (leave a message!).

**6TH ANNUAL WALK IN THE PARK 5K RUN** Come attend the "Walk in the Park" at St. Francis Xavier Church on Saturday, April 22! This run is to benefit their parish's Newtowne Manor House Preservation/Restoration Fund. Registration starts at 8 am until 12 pm and run/walk participants may begin at 8:30 am. The registration fee is \$20, which includes a tee shirt. Information on registration and online giving is available on [www.stfrancixavierchurch.org](http://www.stfrancixavierchurch.org). If you need additional information, please contact Sarah Matisick at 301-247-7416.

# EASTER SUNDAY



**April 10 — April 16**

<b>Monday</b>	Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/Mt 28:8-15
<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Grace Miedzinski (L)</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	Acts 2:36-41/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22/Jn 20:11-18
<b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>George Walter Thompson, Jr. (L)</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	Acts 3:1-10/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 24:13-35
<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Billy Riddell (D)</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	Acts 3:11-26/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 24:35-48
<b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>William McDowell (D)</b>
<b>Friday</b>	Acts 4:1-12/Ps 118:1-2 and 4, 22-24, 25-27a/Jn 21:1-14
<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>C.R. Hammons (D)</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	Acts 4:13-21/Ps 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21/Mk 16:9-15
<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Devon Bailey (L)</b>
<b>4:00 pm</b>	<b>Buck Hewitt (D)</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	Acts 2:42-47/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31
<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>Rev. Pawal Sass (L)</b>
<b>11:15 am</b>	<b>The Browns (L)</b>
<b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>All IHM Parishioners</b>

**MASS IN THE PARKING LOT** As a reminder, during IHM's weekend Masses we have in-parking lot options available. While parked at IHM, if you tune to 99.7 FM you can hear the Mass broadcast live. If you park in the second, smaller parking lot, we will bring out Communion at the appropriate time if you have your hazard lights on.

**MASS INTENTIONS** may be requested at the parish office during regular office hours (M—F, 8 am—4 pm) in person or by phone (301-863-8144 x11), or by e-mailing [julian@ihmrcc.org](mailto:julian@ihmrcc.org). Your desired date may not be available. We now have the ability to accept Mass intention stipends online (but only **after** the date has been accepted by the office).

**FIRST (THIS MONTH SECOND) TUESDAY COFFEE** The next First Tuesday Coffee will be held on Tuesday, April 11 from 9 until 11 am in the Parish Hall. Please note the date change in order to not conflict with Holy Week activities! Please bring a friend and a non-perishable food item for the Food Pantry.

**LITTLE BETHLEHEM** will be here the weekend of April 29 and 30 to sell their olivewood wares after Mass in the Parish Hall.

## Events Calendar

**April 10 — April 16**

Mon:	All Day	Parish Office Closed
Tues:	9 am	First Tuesday Coffee
Sat:	9 am	CPR Training
Sun:	After 11:15 Mass, Easter Egg Hunt	
	3 pm	Sung Divine Mercy Chaplet

## FORMED

To sign up for Formed, the premier site to access Catholic Media online, go to [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org) and press "sign up" and then "sign up as a parishioner". Type in the ZIP code of the parish "20653", follow the directions to create an account, and then enjoy!

**IHM MEN'S GROUP** Join us every Saturday morning, from 7 am to 8:30 am in the Large Classroom for Fellowship and Spiritual Growth. Each week we preview the scripture readings for the coming weekend and then watch and discuss a video. For more information contact Mark Baysinger (240-925-2677 or [nbay9@hotmail.com](mailto:nbay9@hotmail.com)).



If you or someone you know is interested in becoming Catholic or you know a Catholic desiring to learn more about the faith, please contact Tess Crowe via email at [rcia@ihmrcc.org](mailto:rcia@ihmrcc.org) or contact the office at 301-863-8144 to register.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

### THE SICK

### THAT THEY MAY BE RESTORED TO FULL HEALTH

Audrey Somers, Kathleen Floyd, Mary Oliver, Vince Guerin, Jane Kenyon, Linda F. Gieser, Ralph Gough Sr., Betty LePore, Joseph Hugh Weiland, Rylee Corliss, Alan Stapanon, Ruby Garcia, Mia Garcia, Matthew Riddell, Marie C. Williams, Kaylee Klier, David Kalil, Wanda Slater, Enedina Melendez, Hector Perez, Josephine, Glenn Thompson III, John Worrell, Jim Makin, Carmen Colby, Gary Green, Grace Miedzinski, Bruce Riddell, Katelyn Corliss, Robert Weaver, Linda Jones, Devlin Rich, Ana Gates, Mike Price, Corrine Geraty, Dennis Berg, Alejandra Spargo, Paul Crowe, Adele Bavani, Violette Ghalbouny

*Please note: names will remain on this list for two months, unless otherwise notified. To keep a name on the list, please resubmit by contacting [bulletin@ihmrcc.org](mailto:bulletin@ihmrcc.org), or call the Parish Office.*

### PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL

We pray for the spread of peace and non violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.

Follow us on



# APRIL 8 & 9, 2023

**SPRING MUSIC FESTIVAL** Camp Maria Retreat Center in Leonardtown is hosting a Spring Music Festival on Sunday, April 16 from 1 pm to 5 pm. Admission is free, and donations will be accepted. This family friendly festival includes performances by Seven Gables Academy Homeschool Choir, Libation, Robbie Booth, Jerry Burch and the Port Tobacco Pickers. There will be food trucks available from Pizza Hotline, Olde Town Pub, The S'more the Merrier, and Kristen's Creations. In addition to all this, there will be Earth Day activities for the youth. Please bring your own chairs.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY** Camp Maria is in need of high school student volunteers to assist with the Spring Music Festival at Camp Maria Retreat Center on Sunday, April 16 from 11 am until 6 pm. Tasks include set up, clean up and break down for the event, as well as assisting with running the children's activities. If interested, please contact Ann Kovalcik at [director@campmaria.org](mailto:director@campmaria.org) or call 301-475-8330. This is a great way to earn community service hours!

**CRS RICE BOWLS** Will be collected the weekend of April 22/23 at all Masses. Bowls can also be turned in to the parish office during operating hours before that weekend.

**HOLY LAND TRIP** Our Lady Star of the Sea Travel Club in Solomons is hosting a trip to the Holy Land this coming November. Last year's trip exceeded our expectations, so we have decided to offer it again. The trip dates are November 28 (depart the U.S) to December 6 (return home). The per person cost of \$999 includes hotel, daily breakfast and dinner, bus, and all tours with a private guide. Airfare and trip insurance is additional. (Current airfare is around \$900) Please contact Mary Beth Brown at 443-623-6368, or e-mail [marybeth@bytheseatravel.com](mailto:marybeth@bytheseatravel.com) for more information.

**MASS WITH HEALING PRAYERS** This month's Mass with Healing Prayers is at 7 pm on Monday, April 24. After Mass, we will have Eucharistic Adoration and prayers for healing with laying on of hands. Confessions begin at 6:30 pm and continue as long as there are penitents.

**SECRETARY POSITION AVAILABLE** Saint George Catholic Church in Valley Lee is accepting applications for the Secretary position. All applicants should possess strong computer skills including a solid working knowledge of Microsoft Office applications, i.e., Excel, Publisher, Outlook and Google Docs, etc. The position is part-time, 20 hours per week: Tues/Thurs 10 am to 4 pm and Wed/Fri 10 am to 2 pm. For further information or an appointment, please email Father Paul Nguyen at: [Fr.paulnguyen@gmail.com](mailto:Fr.paulnguyen@gmail.com)

**DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET** On Divine Mercy Sunday, April 16 at 3 pm. We will pray and sing the Divine Mercy Chaplet in the main church. Confession will be available starting at 2:30 pm and will be available through the Chaplet as well. All are invited to attend and pray!

**SMALL GROUP STUDIES ON THE HOLY SPIRIT** will start soon! There will be two groups meeting weekly, one group meeting on Mondays at 7 pm and the second group meeting on Wednesdays at 10 am. Both group studies will use *"The Wild Goose: Discovering a Deeper Relationship with the Holy Spirit"* by Fr. Pivonka, TOR. The sessions are in the IHM large classroom, and the study lasts for seven weeks. The Monday group starts Monday, April 24 and ends Monday, June 5. The Wednesday group starts Wednesday, April 26 and ends Wednesday, June 7. All are welcome to attend! There is no cost for the study. If interested, please contact Nancy Baysinger at 240-298-4713.

**PRAYER CHAIN** The Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Shrine has a prayer line where you can talk and pray with someone over the phone. The prayer line is open Monday through Friday from 10 am to 5 pm. Call 1-866-202-4934.

**HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS VOCATION RETREAT** St. Mary of the Mills in Laurel is offering a one-day vocations retreat for high school girls on Saturday, April 29. It is open to all girls of high school age who may be interested in religious life. If you have any questions, please contact the [youth@stmaryofthemills.org](mailto:youth@stmaryofthemills.org), or by calling 301-725-3080.

**CPR CERTIFICATION CLASS** There will be a CPR class held Saturday, April 15 from 9 am until 12 noon in the Parish Hall. All IHM parishioners are invited to attend! To RSVP, please contact Adam Miller at [adam.r.miller74@gmail.com](mailto:adam.r.miller74@gmail.com) due to a limited capacity for the class.

**SPRING BAZAAR** Our Lady Star of the Sea in Solomons is hosting a Spring Bazaar on Saturday, April 29 from 9 am until 2 pm. The Bazaar will take place in their school and will include crafters, vendors, concessions, auctions, a bake sale, and more! For more information or for vendor inquiries, please contact [olssbazaarvendors@gmail.com](mailto:olssbazaarvendors@gmail.com)

**WOMEN'S NIGHT OF RECOLLECTION** On Tuesday, April 11 at 7 pm at St. Cecilia's. This month's talk is "Interior Castles and the Little Way," given by Msgr. Karl Chimiak. Seeking a deeper interior life of prayer and communion with our Lord? Come glean, from the writings of St. Teresa of Avila and St. Therese of Lisieux, how this looks! Msgr. Karl will be giving two talks with the relics of both saints to venerate. Adoration and confessions begin at 6:30 pm.

**BULLETIN DEADLINE** Please email your submission to [bulletin@ihmrcc.org](mailto:bulletin@ihmrcc.org) by Wednesday at 10 am prior to the Sunday of publication. All entries are subject to editing.

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# EASTER SUNDAY

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**LOYOLA ON THE POTOMAC**, A Jesuit Retreat House in Faulkner, MD is open for various retreat weekends, for both men and women. Directed and Private Retreats are also available. See our complete Retreat Schedule at: [www.loyolaonthepotomac.com](http://www.loyolaonthepotomac.com), (301) 392-0800.

**SPAGHETTI DINNER** The Knights of Columbus Council 9968 invites everyone to a Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, April 15 from 5 pm to 7:30 pm at the Fellowship Hall. Dinner includes Spaghetti with either meatballs or sausage, bread, and salad. Donations from this event will support the replacement of the roadside church sign.

**CATHOLIC MOTHERS GROUP** St. Aloysius in Leonardtown has started a Catholic Moms Group! Join us on the 2nd Wednesday at 7 pm in the Church Hall. This is a great opportunity to form solid friendships with fellow moms, go deeper into your faith life, and be reminded of the incredible role you play in this world. We welcome moms of all ages and stages. Email [StAloysiusMoms@CatholicMomsGroup.com](mailto:StAloysiusMoms@CatholicMomsGroup.com) to RSVP. Childcare is not provided.



**ALMOST IMMACULATE IHM THRIFT STORE** is in need of help! Please stop by the store during operating hours to check out what we do. Then, if you want to help, please contact Deacon Mike at 240-542-8369. We are located in the Kerr House (white building at the street entrance). The thrift store is open Fridays from 10 am to 3 pm, and Saturdays from 10 am to 4 pm. Donations (no clothing) accepted during those hours. The thrift shop supports the food pantry and our local community, so stop by and see what you can do!

**FATHER ALEXANDER GALA** Our Lady Star of the Sea is hosting their Father Alexander Gala on Saturday, April 22. Join us for an evening of dinner, food, dancing, and friendship as we honor Fr. Maurice Alexander and this year's Fr. Alexander Award recipients, Fr. Richard Gardiner and Msgr. Mike Wilson. This year, all proceeds will benefit the Our Lady Star of the Sea School! Tickets are \$100 per person, to include hors d'oeuvres, dinner, dessert, beer & wine, and a live music show from The Fabulous Hubcaps! You will also have the opportunity to raffle on some incredible items and potentially win a 50/50 raffle. Visit [tinyurl.com/3wec2y2u](http://tinyurl.com/3wec2y2u) to purchase tickets. Contact the OLSS Parish Office at 410-326-3535 or [olstar-sea.md@adw.org](mailto:olstar-sea.md@adw.org) if you have any questions, or if you're interested in sponsoring the event or donating items in new condition for the raffle.

**CHESTERTON ACADEMY OF ST. MARY'S GALA** All are welcome to attend Chesterton Academy of St. Mary's Gala 2023! The Gala is on Saturday, April 22 from 6 pm to 10:30pm in the Monsignor Harris Center at St. John Francis Regis in Hollywood, MD. To purchase tickets, go to [chestertonstmarys.org/gala2023tickets](http://chestertonstmarys.org/gala2023tickets).

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** on Monday, April 17 at 7 pm in room Phillip.

**GOLD STAR AWARD** IHM has been awarded the Golden Star Achievement for 2022 by the St. Mary's County Health Department for an, "outstanding record of excellence in food safety and sanitation for the past inspection year." Thanks you to the St. Mary's County Health Department for the award, and thank you to all the volunteers that help make that happen!

**GARDEN AND GROUNDS MINISTRY** We have various projects around the church that need to be completed. Any adult or child would be welcome. If you want to volunteer, please contact Martha Davie by phone or text at 240-434-3510. Thank you!

**CATHOLIC GRANDPARENTS ASSOCIATION** Grandparents are invited to join us for The Catholic Grandparents Association (CGA). For updates on this new ministry, please request to join our Flocknote group (Catholic Grandparents) via [www.ihmrcc.org](http://www.ihmrcc.org) (click on the join Flocknote tab or log-in to your Flocknote & request to join group). More info is available on the international website [www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org](http://www.catholicgrandparentsassociation.org). For even more information, contact Malani or James Baker at [mrsmalanimbaker@outlook.com](mailto:mrsmalanimbaker@outlook.com).

**IT SHOULDN'T HURT AT HOME** The Catholic community cares about families experiencing violence and unhealthy relationships. Visit [www.CatholicsforFamilyPeace.org](http://www.CatholicsforFamilyPeace.org) to learn more about this issue, how to help, who to call, and the rich Catholic teaching that supports survivors. If you need help now, contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline, 800-799-7233 (24 hours); 800-787-3224 (TTY); [www.ndvh.org](http://www.ndvh.org) to find assistance near you.



**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL OF IHM** Our food pantry provides food to those who need assistance. We'd like to have you help us bag groceries from the food in our food pantry for our clients, or to pick up food from grocery stores in our area that donate to us. We do this throughout the week, excluding weekends. We have meetings just once a month. If you'd like to volunteer in our food pantry, please call 301-863-8193 on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays from 8:30 to 11:30 am, which is when the pantry is open. Leave your name and number and we will work to get you started as soon as you'd like.



# Sacraments and Sacramentals at Immaculate Heart of Mary

## BAPTISM OF INFANTS

Baptisms of infants (younger than 7) are normally scheduled for the 2nd Saturday of the month at 10 am. A baptism preparation class is required for parents and godparents. Godparents must be practicing Catholics in good standing who have received Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation and must present a letter from their own parish stating that they are members and meet the requirements to be a godparent. See the pamphlet "Choosing Godparents" available in the foyer between the church and the hall. Contact Deacon Mike Crowe (240-542-8369, [deaconmike@ihmrcc.org](mailto:deaconmike@ihmrcc.org)) **before** attending the preparation class.

## CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Adults who would like to become Catholic or complete their sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion) go through a formation process to prepare them not only for the sacraments, but for life as a disciple of Jesus Christ in this world and as saints in the next. Contact Tess Crowe at 240-538-6951 or [rcia@ihmrcc.org](mailto:rcia@ihmrcc.org) for more information.

## FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION OF YOUTH

Children and youth prepare for the sacraments as part of our religious education program on Sunday mornings and Monday evenings. At least two years of preparation are required for each sacrament, but Christian formation should not be seen as simply sacramental preparation. Children can and should be in our program continuously from age 6. Contact the Office of Religious Education.

## COMMUNION TO THE SICK

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion make regular visits to the sick and homebound. Those who are hospitalized and wish to receive communion should make sure they are listed in the hospital records as Catholic and wishing to receive communion. Most hospitals have a group from local parishes distributing communion. For visits at home, contact the parish office.

## ANOINTING OF THE SICK

The Anointing of the Sick is administered both to the dying and to those who are gravely ill or are about to undergo a serious operation, for the recovery of their health and for spiritual strength. It may be repeated if the illness worsens or for a different serious illness. Please contact the parish office to arrange for a priest to administer the sacrament.

## PENANCE/CONFESSION

Penance, confession or reconciliation is available Saturdays from 2:30 to 3:45 pm, as well as on most Thursdays after the 5:30 pm Mass and most Sundays after the 1 pm Mass, or by appointment. On the first Friday of each month, confessions are available after the 9 am and 5:30 pm Masses and on the first Saturday after the 9 am Mass. The Church asks that we receive this sacrament at least once a year, but a greater frequency is highly beneficial. God's mercy is greater than any sin! Come unload the burden of your sins and receive God's mercy.

## MARRIAGE

Couples must begin meeting with one of the priests at least **6 months before** the desired date of the wedding and before booking any reception halls or vendors. The date cannot be set until both parties' freedom to marry in the Catholic Church is established. A marriage preparation program, a natural family planning class and several meetings with the priest are part of the process of ensuring that you start off on the most solid ground possible. Contact Ronnie and Belle Chavez at 301-737-5233 for the preparation class. Contact K.C. Schnitker at 240-256-0118 or visit [www.familyNFP.com](http://www.familyNFP.com) for the natural family planning class.

## SACRED ORDERS

While this sacrament doesn't take place at the parish, the initial preparation for it does take place in the parish and in the home: living a truly Catholic life in service to God and neighbor, assisted by the sacraments and prayer. The formal preparation is coordinated by the Archdiocese.

**Diaconate:** Requires a 5 year part-time formation and discernment period. Contact the pastor and/or Deacon Charles Huber, Director of Formation at the Office of the Permanent Diaconate, 301-853-4582 or [HuberC@adw.org](mailto:HuberC@adw.org). See <http://www.adw.org/permanent-deacons/>

**Priesthood:** Requires a 4-8 year full-time formation and discernment period. Contact one of the parish priests and/or the Archdiocesan Vocations Director, Fr. Mark Ivany at 202-636-9020 or [dpriest@adw.org](mailto:dpriest@adw.org). See <http://www.dcpriest.org>.

Help in vocations promotion at the parish is needed. Contact Fr. Schad to find out what you can do to encourage more men to discern the possibility of a call to the diaconate or the priesthood.

## QUINCEAÑERA

The *Quinceañera* is a 15th birthday blessing and celebration for girls common throughout Mexico and Central America. Girls must be actively practicing their Catholic faith (attending Mass regularly) and have received Confirmation or be actively preparing for Confirmation. Girls wishing to celebrate their *Quinceañera* at Immaculate Heart of Mary should contact the parish office several months ahead of time.

## FUNERALS

The Rites of Christian Burial both assist the deceased in their final journey and help the bereaved in their grieving process. Funerals at IHM normally take place sometime between 10 am and 1 pm (never on Sundays). On certain days of the liturgical year, funeral Masses cannot be celebrated. Initial arrangements should be made through the funeral home, who will confirm availability with the parish. Contact the parish office to complete the arrangements (selection of readings, music, etc.). Some people choose to make arrangements for their own funeral with the help of a priest. If you are considering cremation, the Church stresses that the funeral rites take place before cremation. Cremated remains should not be kept at home or scattered, but be treated with dignity, being laid to rest in a consecrated plot or columbarium niche. To purchase a plot in our cemetery, contact Catholic Cemeteries at 301-475-5005 or 301-932-1766.



“

This is the day  
the Lord has made;  
let us

*rejoice and  
be glad.*

”

(PS 118: 24)

April 9, 2023

## Easter Sunday

### The Resurrection of the Lord

Acts 10:34a, 37-43 | Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8 | Jn 20:1-9

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

#### **GROW AS A DISCIPLE** | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

I love arriving to Mass early when the sacristan is preparing the altar, or even shortly after the prior Mass clears out. This is because I enjoy praying the rosary with fellow parishioners as well as having my choice of seat in the church, but there's also something about the silence, the stillness that permeates the atmosphere during that time. Sitting alone with one's thoughts tends to either disturb or flat-out bore many people, but consider the silence in a new light this Easter Sunday. Mary of Magdala visited Christ's tomb only to find it empty; what was the tomb like after Christ had risen and left? I'd like to think the silence of the sanctuary before Mass is like the silence of the tomb: still, peaceful and, most of all, joyful, for our Savior conquered the grave. In a way, arriving early to a silent church is like Mary arriving to Jesus' tomb and finding it empty. Soon, though, the church is filled with other believers – witnesses to the risen Christ who proclaim his victory over sin and death to share in the Eucharist before going out into the world to serve and make disciples.

#### **GO EVANGELIZE**

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

After Mass, many of us are swept up in a dizzying Easter timeline full of brightness and pastels, rushing from Mass to Easter egg hunts to lunch or dinner that may leave kids and adults alike exhausted. But our Easter worship and traditions are important because they mark this day as the most joyful of all celebrations, indeed the greatest event in human history. The Lord Jesus is calling us to new life in him! We take this time to celebrate and reflect on what this means. After his resurrection, Jesus revealed himself over time to his Apostles. But before they saw Jesus and truly understood he had risen from the dead, they experienced great sadness and fear. In the same way for us, we must remember that there is no Easter without the suffering and darkness of Good Friday. St. Paul tells us in the second reading that, in order to celebrate the feast, we must “clear out the old yeast, so that [we] may become a fresh batch of dough.” We can't celebrate with “the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness” – we must let Christ purify our hearts and fill them with his Truth.

**WITNESS** Let the joy of Easter fuel a new resolve to be a witness to the Resurrection. Take Easter week to contemplate Scripture, to let Jesus fill your heart with his light and forgiveness so that you may bear his witness to those you encounter in the days and weeks to come.