



*St. Joseph ~
Mother Church of
the Berkshires
Established 1849*



ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH

414 North Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201

Tel: (413) 445-5789

Hours: Mon.-Fri.: 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Website: www.stjoepittsfield.com

THE STAFF

Pastor ~ Msgr. Michael Shershanovich

e-mail: mshermike@berkshire.rr.com

Parochial Vicar ~ Rev. Michael Goodreau

Priest in Residence ~ Most. Rev. Timothy McDonnell

Secretary ~ Michele Madden

e-mail: michelemadden@berkshire.rr.com

Coordinator of Youth Religious Education

John Arasimowicz

e-mail: johnaccd@gmail.com

Pastoral Minister ~ Mrs. Patricia Momnie

ST. JOSEPH CEMETERY ~ (413) 499-1317

Website: www.stjoecem.com

e-mail: stjoecem@verizon.net

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday-4:00 PM

Sunday-9:00 AM & 11:30 AM

*The 9 AM Mass is streamed live at
stjoepittsfield.com & on the Parish App*

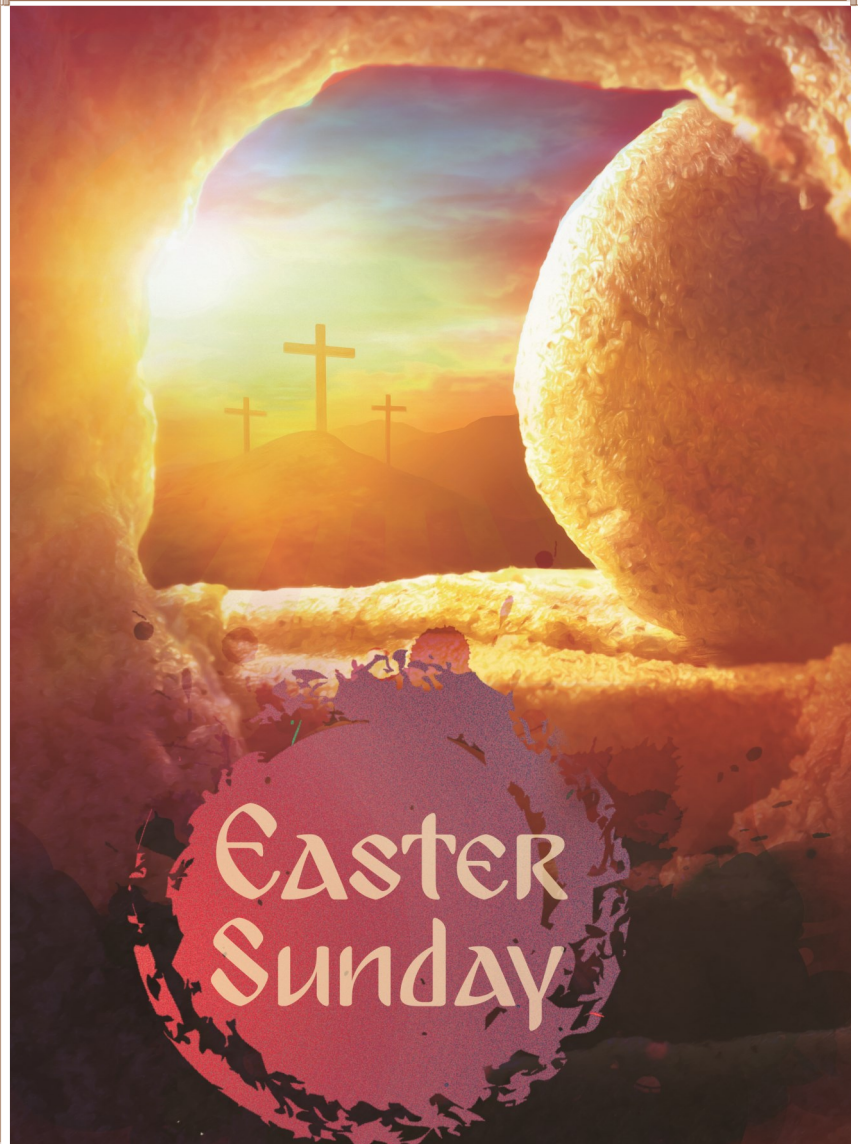
Daily Mass-12:10 PM

RCIA-Wed. 6:30 PM

Holy Hour—Monday - Friday 11:00 AM

Rosary—Monday - Friday 11:30 AM

PRAYER LINE 413-443-1221



April 4, 2021

Hallelujah!
HE IS RISEN!



At Easter, we celebrate that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, conquered death, rose from the dead, and remains very much alive. To the world of non-believers: what!? It is quite a big reality to swallow.

But for the believer, it is a reality that inspires us to the point where we find ourselves constantly sharing the Gospel with everyone we meet! Right? So what does Easter mean to you? The question is not what do you believe. The question is what impact does Easter have on you? How do your actions demonstrate the power of Easter? What does it mean we you hear that we, the Church, are an Easter people? You may be saying right now that you have no intention of becoming an evangelist, passing out Bibles to all you meet. But I would like to suggest that you actually have a more powerful way of evangelizing others: everyday stewardship. Actions speak louder than words and the way you live your life can be a great testimony to all those you encounter. By acknowledging the gifts you have been given, cultivating those so they grow to an increase, and then sharing them fully with God and with others in God's name will give testimony to your belief that Jesus is alive and seeking a relationship with each of his people. If more of us won't live our lives in this manner, then non-believers and non-intentional disciples will ask the question, "What difference does Easter make anyway?" Jesus died and rose for you and me. To be sure, it DOES make a difference.



ANNUAL
CATHOLIC
APPEAL

BUILD MY CHURCH

This Lenten Season, we are called to prayerfully consider a sacrificial donation. "Sowing the Seeds" of our faith will sow the seeds of hope to those who most need our help during this time of COVID-19. Ministries and agencies provide emergency food, support services to the family & elderly, services to young people, pastoral and spiritual support services, and supports vocations.

Please help our parish meet our goal! It is simple to give. Send in your one-time contribution, or make a pledge using the donation card you received in the mail, or donate online through www.diospringfield.org/aca or by calling: 413-452-0670. All donations are tax deductible. Thank you.



HAPPY EASTER to the St. Joseph's Community, families and students. May God bless each and everyone of you. May you be healthy and safe. From John Arasimowicz and the teachers of the Religious Education Program.



Easter Question:
Why does the date of Easter change every year, while most other celebrations are celebrated on the same day?

Answer:

Every feast is celebrated at a certain time for a reason. Saints feast days are commonly the day of their death. While we don't know Jesus' exact birthday, we celebrate the "light of the world" around the time of winter solstice, as dark, wintry days begin to lengthen again. We have a historical clue, however, to when the Easter events occurred. We know that Jesus was crucified the day before Passover. The Jews calculated the date for Passover based on both the solar and lunar calendars. It corresponds to the first full moon after the spring equinox. The early Christians maintained this connection in their celebrations of Easter on the first Sunday after the paschal full moon. We don't re-calculate the full moon every year. As astronomy developed, so too did the forecasts of when Easter would occur in future years. The Church has created a table of calculated dates, projecting the date of Easter decades in advance. The date of Easter also determines the date of Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent, as well as the feast days following in the Easter season, including Pentecost. So these feasts move, too! This tradition may seem complicated, but it connects our Christian faith now to what has come before — our Jewish roots and the real, historical reality of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection.



Online Giving

Please consider signing up to give your donations to our parish online. It is very easy to do. You can donate either with a credit card or a check and choose how much you would like to give and how often: weekly, monthly, semi-monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually. You can go directly to the website at <https://stjoepittsfield.weshareonline.org> to sign up. We thank you for your generosity during these difficult times.



To the confirmation students class of 2021, please be sure that you have handed in and have done all the modules so that you will be prepared and be able to make your confirmation. Please make every effort to attend services for Easter Sunday online or in person. Thank you, John Arasimowicz.

EASTER

WHEN I THINK OF THE EMPTY TOMB, THERE'S JUST ONE THING I WANT TO SAY TO THE DEVIL:



BUSTED!!!

i SCOTED UBBB!
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APRIL 4, 2021 EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

Who are you? This question was most assuredly asked of Jesus on the day of resurrection and it is a question asked of each of us. Our identities can be described in so many ways. We can start with our gifts and our talents, expertise and unique personality expressions. We can describe things we like and things we prefer to set aside. As descriptive and captivating as these can be, none come close to our essence, our real and true self. While accurate in their own right, the self who lives and interacts with the world is the self we want others to see, the one we project. But there is much more to us just as there is much more to Jesus. Jesus could describe himself based on all of the same criteria we use for ourselves. After all, Jesus is totally human. With all that people witnessed and all that Jesus knew about his physical human self, his divinity also shined forth. There was so much more to know about him.

Whereas once Jesus was transfigured on top of a mountain before his disciples' eyes, so today he is transfigured before our eyes as he reveals his resurrected self as the Christ. Alleluia, Christ is risen! His glorified presence stands before us showing us that we are all much more than we see ourselves to be and show to others. We have a depth, purpose, and essence that go way beyond the superficial treasures of our existence to the very core of who we are. Within each one of us is a spark of Divine Love where creature and Creator meet, and we are known uniquely by the name God whispers to us. It is not the earthly name that was given to us but the one that flows from Divine Power and claims us as one who is special and chosen in God's eyes. This is the self that will rise one day with the eternal Christ of God and live eternally as God provides. This is the self that when free from all superficial constraints layered upon it in this life can discover and know freedom in a way never possible before. This is love lifting us up and transforming us into who we really are, not who we want or need ourselves to be. Who are you? A special, unique child of God who has been fashioned in God's image, sustained by the power of God's love and kept eternally with the Blessed Trinity in heaven. Get to know this deeper, truer self as it is who you really are.

Saturday, April 3rd ~ VIGIL For the Parish	7:30 PM
Sunday, April 4th For the Parish	9:00 AM
For the Parish	11:30 AM
Monday, April 5th NO mass	12:10 PM
Tuesday, April 6th Tim Brady Requested by Jack Laviolette	12:10 PM
Wednesday, April 7th Rose Szymanski Trzepacz Requested by Family	12:10 PM
Thursday, April 8th An Vuong Requested by Van Bui	12:10 PM
Friday, April 9th Stella Kozlowski Requested by Barb & Bob Conway	12:10 PM
Saturday, April 10th Mary Beth Taylor—4th Anniversary Requested by Family	4:00 PM



READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 4, 2021

Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23
[24]/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/
Jn 20:1-9 or Mk 16:1-7 or Lk 24:13-35
Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11
[1]/Mt 28:8-15
Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22 [5b]/
Jn 20:11-18
Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 [3b]/
Lk 24:13-35
Thursday: Acts 3:11-26/Ps 8:2, 5, 6-7, 8-9 [2ab]/Lk
24:35-48
Friday: Acts 4:1-12/Ps 118:1-2, 4, 22-24, 25-27 [22]/Jn
21:1-14
Saturday: Acts 4:13-21/Ps 118:1, 14-15, 16-18, 19-21
[21a]/Mk 16:9-15