

# Christ my hope is Risen



## Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church



8968 Highway 23, Belle Chasse, LA 70037 † 504-394-0314 † Fax: 504-394-0376

Web: [www.olphbc.org](http://www.olphbc.org) † Email: [churchoffice@olphbc.org](mailto:churchoffice@olphbc.org)

**OFFICE HOURS**—Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.  
Please call between these times for routine parish business.

### PASTORAL TEAM

**Rev. Kyle V. Dave, Pastor**  
[kdave@arch-no.org](mailto:kdave@arch-no.org)

**Rev. William F. Maestri,**  
*Ministry of Sacraments & Education*

**George "Ed" Merritt, Jr., Deacon**  
[emerritt@arch-no.org](mailto:emerritt@arch-no.org)

**Brittany Breaux, School Principal**  
[bbreaux@olphbcschool.org](mailto:bbreaux@olphbcschool.org)

**Dawn Bassett, Administrative Assistant**

**Cecilia "CC" Merritt, Director of Religious  
Education and Adult Formation**  
[cre@olphbc.org](mailto:cre@olphbc.org)

**Angel Boyd, Receptionist**

**Debbie Fagnano, Director of Music Ministry**

**TJ Lejeune & Kenneth Pouwels,**  
*Maintenance Supervisors*

### OLPH SCHOOL

8970 Highway 23 † 504-394-0757

### PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION

8968 Highway 23 † 504-394-0314

### K.C. HALL

9016 Highway 23, Belle Chasse, LA 70037

### MASS SCHEDULE

**Saturday** 7:30 a.m. & Vigil 4:00 p.m.  
**Sunday** 8:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.  
**Monday** 7:00 a.m.  
**Tuesday** 7:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.  
**Wednesday** 8:30 a.m. During the school year  
(7:00 a.m. when school is not  
in session)  
**Thursday** 7:00 a.m.  
**Friday** 7:00 a.m.  
**First Friday Adoration:** 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.  
**Holy Days:** Consult the bulletin.

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

**Tuesday** 5:30 p.m.—6:15 p.m.  
**Saturday** 2:30 p.m.—3:30 p.m. or by appointment.

### SACRAMENT OF THE SICK (ANOINTING)

By appointment only

### MISSION STATEMENT

*We, the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, are a living and growing Catholic community of faith, striving to follow and serve Christ. We are an evangelizing community, and we welcome others to fullness of life in Christ. With Mary we say "Yes" to God's call to pray together, worship consciously, and serve joyfully.*

To visit our  
church website  
scan the QR  
code below:







## NEW PARISHIONERS

We welcome you to a very friendly and enthusiastic community. Please fill out the information in the Binder on the Welcome Table located in the back of church or register at the Church Office. A Census Form can also be found on our website at [www.olphbc.org](http://www.olphbc.org).

### Sacraments



**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:** Baptisms are usually celebrated after any weekend Mass. Currently we only schedule one family at a time. Parents and godparents are required to attend a seminar prior to the Baptism. The seminar is usually held on the third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Day Chapel in Church. More information and required forms can be found on our website.

**SACRAMENT OF FIRST COMMUNION:** First Eucharist is celebrated the first Saturday of May for students in the 2nd grade or above. Children older than 2nd grade will be prepared on individual situations. The Sacrament of Reconciliation must be celebrated prior to Communion.

**SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:** Confirmation is celebrated in the Fall of 11th grade. Candidates who attend Catholic high school or are enrolled in the High School of Religion program come together for Sacramental preparation. All candidates are asked to pre-register in their freshmen year and no later than December of their 10th grade year. Information and registration can be found on our website: [www.olphbc.org](http://www.olphbc.org).

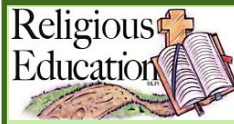
**SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:** Contact the Church Office at least nine months prior to the planned date. No other arrangements should be made before contacting the Church Office.

**For more information on any of our Sacraments, contact C.C. Merritt in the Church Office or email [cre@olphbc.org](mailto:cre@olphbc.org).**



**VISITATION OF THE SICK:** Inform the Church Office when someone is sick, shut-in or hospitalized and unable to attend Mass.

**FUNERALS:** Inform the Church Office as soon as possible when someone in the family dies, preferably before contacting the funeral home.



### Religious Education

The mission of OLPH's Religious Education program is to bring the "Good News" of God's love to all children and their families and to call them to commit their lives to Christ. Religious Education is available for children in Kindergarten through adults. We encourage parents to be parishioners of OLPH when registering students for Religious Education classes. Census forms can be obtained from the Parish Office during regular business hours, in the gathering area of the church or you can register online. Call C.C. Merritt, 504-394-0314, or email [cre@olphbc.org](mailto:cre@olphbc.org) for more information.

**SUNDAY LITURGY OF THE WORD:** Children in grades K-2nd are invited with a catechist during 11:00 a.m. Mass to the Day Chapel for the Liturgy of the Word for Children (September-May). A summary of the readings of the day is discussed on their level.

**PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION:** Our PSR program is divided in two parts. Family Faith Formation is the "academic" part with the textbook discussed at home as a family. Our Encountering Engaging Events are a chance to come together as a community to worship together, do crafts, or engage in traditional events like our Nativity Play and Living Way of the Cross.

**HIGH SCHOOL OF RELIGION:** Students in 9th through 12th grade not attending a Catholic High School are offered Faith Formation with academics at home, working at their own pace, but also some time to get together to discuss what they have learned with their peers about three times a year. It is intended to be an informal study with honest Catholic answers.

**RCIA:** Are you or someone you know interested in becoming Catholic or completing Sacraments? Please join our RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). We have a Year-Round RCIA process that you can enter into whenever you are ready. This is for you if you have never been baptized, if you have been baptized into another denomination and now want to become Catholic, or if you are an adult Catholic but have never been confirmed. Sessions will be held in person on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. (day and time can be adjusted to personal schedules). For additional information and to register, contact C. C. Merritt in the Church Office or email at [cre@olphbc.org](mailto:cre@olphbc.org).

**Archdiocese of New Orleans Safe Environment—** Refer to the Web Site: <http://www.nolacatholic.org/safe-environment> for policies and procedures concerning safe environment and child protection

## Scripture Readings & Events this Week

### Sunday, March 31, The Resurrection of the Lord

Masses, Church—7:00 a.m. (Fr. K), 9:00 a.m. (Fr. M) & 11:00 a.m. (Fr. K)

NO Children's Dismissal at 11:00 a.m.

KC Easter Egg Hunt—10:15 a.m.

### Monday, April 1, Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11; Mt 28:8-15

Daily Mass, Church — 7:30 a.m. (Fr. M)

Church Office Closed

Altar Society, KC Hall—6:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, April 2, Acts 2:36-41; Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22; Jn 20:11-18

Daily Mass, Church—7:30 a.m. (Fr. M)

Church Office Hours—9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or by Appointment

Confessions, Church—5:30 p.m.—6:15 p.m.

Novena—Mother of Perpetual Help, Church—6:50 p.m.

Daily Mass, Church—7:00 p.m. (Fr. K)

### Wednesday, April 3, Acts 3:1-10; Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9; Lk 24:13-35

Daily Mass, Church—7:30 a.m. (Fr. K)

Church Office Hours—9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or by Appointment

### Thursday, April 4, Acts 3:11-26; Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9; Lk 24:35-48

Daily Mass, Church—7:30 a.m. (Fr. K)

Church Office Hours—9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or by Appointment

### Friday, April 5, Acts 4:1-12; Ps 118:1-2 and 4, 22-24, 25-27a; Jn 21:1-14

Daily Mass, Church—7:30 a.m. (Fr. M)

First Friday Adoration, Day Chapel—8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Church Office Hours—9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. or by Appointment

Riverbend Mass—10:00 a.m.

### Saturday, April 6, Acts 4:13-21; Ps 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21; Mk 16:9-15

Daily Mass, Church—7:30 p.m. (Fr. M)

Confessions, Church—2:30 p.m.—3:30 p.m.

Vigil Mass, Church—4:00 p.m. (Fr. M)

Rite of Anointing—All Masses

### Sunday, April 7, Sunday of Divine Mercy

Masses, Church—8:00 a.m. (Fr. K) & 11:00 a.m. (Fr. K)

Children's Dismissal—11:00 a.m.

Rite of Anointing—All Masses



The annual **KC Easter Egg Hunt** will be on Easter Sunday morning, March 31, 2024 behind the church. It will take place between the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Masses, about 10:15 a.m. All of the children of the community are invited. Please bring a bag or basket for the kids. **NOTE: Volunteers are needed to help set up.**



**Anointing**  
of the **Sick**

Rite of Anointing will be offered after all Masses next weekend, Saturday, April 6, 2024 and Sunday, April 7, 2024.

## Mass Intentions

**3/30, Saturday, 8:00 p.m.**— Eric Hansen, Peter “Trae” Vujnovich, III, Esther Belsom, Alexandra “Allie” Boteler, Beverly Hebert, Berislav & Marija Murina, Kristo & Marija Murina, Michelle Machella, Francis Gainey, Seth David Chedville, Wheldon Boyd, Jr., Wheldon Boyd, Sr., Ray Oncale, Darrell Roy, Abraham & Louise Paddio

**3/31, Sunday, 7:00 a.m.**— for the Parishioners

**3/31, Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**— Thomas George Whatley

**3/31, Sunday, 11:00 a.m.**— Joyce Ehrhard, August David Murla, Sr., Rev. Msgr. Frank Lipps, Vincent & Belle Ladner, Theresa L. Bossier and Leslie J. Casler, Jr., Kerry M. Casler, Rosebud L. Dumesnil and Emmette E. Dumesnil, Sr., Earl J. Bossier, Ronald P. Boudreaux, Darlene Boudet, Lucille Bernard, Rosemary (Schaubhut) Hebert, Pat & Dolly Stakelum, Ray Burke, Jr., Eric Hansen, Stipo & Anka Cibilic, Jan Shapard, Ante Ivo & Michael Tesvich, Andrew & Kate Probrica, Dinko Popich, Barbara Jurisich, Seth David Chedville, Michael G. Tredinich, Edward J. & June Tredinich, Farrell & Martha Nolan, Woody & Beverly Wilson, Ruby Pontiff Tredinich, Doris Sponge Wimberley, Anne Fowler, Sanders & Dobard Families, Lynwell Wilson, Fawn Cooper, Brian Cooper, Irwin Cooper, Peggy Walker, Blaze St. Marie, Elaine Borne Shelley, Gary Buras, Allyson Kirby, Evelyn Jacksina

**4/1, Monday, 7:30 a.m.**— for the intentions of the Priest

**4/2, Tuesday, 7:30 a.m.**— for the intentions of the Priest

**4/2, Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.**— Blaze St. Marie

**4/3, Wednesday, 7:30 a.m.**—for the intentions of the Priest

**4/4, Thursday, 7:30 a.m.**— Blaze St. Marie

**4/5, Friday, 7:30 a.m.**— for the intentions of the Priest

**4/6, Saturday, 7:30 a.m.**— for the intentions of the Priest

**4/6, Saturday, 4:00 p.m.**— for the Parishioners

**4/7, Sunday, 8:00 a.m.**— Johnnie Pennison, Cathy Madere, Sally Allan, Rosella & Donald Bernard, Rachel Celentano, Gloria Williams, Anne Fowler, for the intentions of Dave & Sue Mallaun, for the intentions of Bob & Carol Cothorn, Rennie Coludrovich, Jr.

**4/7, Sunday, 11:00 a.m.**— Gary Buras, Loredia Terrebonne, Eric Hansen, Ante & Ane Jurisic, Theresa L. Bossier, Rosebud L. Dumesnil, Darlene Boudet, Lucille Bernard, Rosemary (Schaubhut) Hebert, Pat & Dolly Stakelum, Seth David Chedville, Doris Sponge Wimberley, Karen Cappiello, Francis Gainey, Michael Tesvich, Blaze St. Marie, Allyson Kirby



**POST LENT WEEKDAY MASS CHANGE:** Beginning Monday, April 1st, weekday Mass times will resume at 7:30 a.m., excluding Wednesdays, which begin at 8:30 a.m. when school is in session.



## OLPH School News



Thanks to our  
Co-op Board for  
hosting another  
successful bingo!  
There was fun,  
laughter and  
fellowship!



So the other disciple who had first come to the tomb then also entered, and he saw and believed. For as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise again from the dead. Jn 20:8-9

**OLPH SUMMER Camp**

Sports, Karaoke, Snowballs, Arts & Crafts, Water Activities, Slime Making, Pony Rides, and Much More!

**For All Sessions:**

- LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE
- Concessions For Purchase Available
- Must Be Registered, No Drop-In's
- Camp Shirts MUST BE Worn Daily
- Sessions CANNOT Be Swapped

REGISTER ONLINE NOW & Get More Info by Scanning the QR Code OR Visiting <https://shorturl.at/DEJSV>



### Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions for the Year 2024

*March—For the New Martyrs*

We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.



### Bible Verses for the Year!

**KINDNESS - March**

"Love is patient, love is kind." 1 Corinthians 13:4



### Catholicism: Faith Seeking Understanding

In this year long theological, biblical, spiritual, and moral adventure, the Truth, Beauty, and Goodness of the Catholic Tradition will unfold. This journey into the richness of Catholicism is open to ALL: those well-versed in Catholicism; the newly arrived; those returning to their home of Faith; and to those who are curious and skeptical.

Catholicism is a UNIVERSAL, ever-expanding Canopy under which faith and reason; the everyday and the eternal; and the mystery and revelation of God's love become the foundation of our daily lives.



**Starting Date:**

Thursday, April 4, 2024

**Time:** 7:00 PM

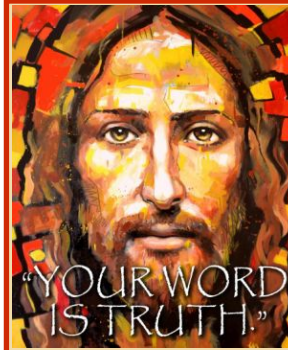
**Where:** KC Hall, 9016  
Highway 23, Belle Chasse

**Presenter:** Fr. Maestri

*ALL are welcomed.*

**Please bring your Bible and the updated  
Catechism of the Catholic Church.**

*Sponsored by OLPH, Educational Ministry.*



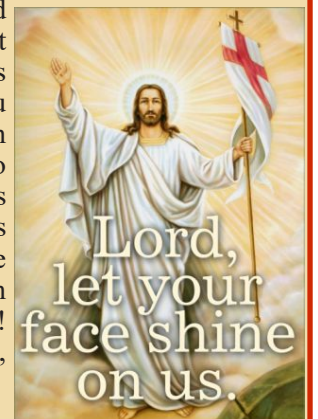
### God's Divine Plan

"God, infinitely perfect and blessed in himself, in a plan of sheer goodness, freely created man to make him share in his own blessed life. For this reason, at every time and in every place, God draws close to man. He calls man to seek him, to know him, to love him with all his strength. He calls together all men, scattered and divided by sin, into the unity of his family, the Church. To accomplish this, when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son as Redeemer and Saviour. In his Son and through him, he invites men to become, in the Holy Spirit, his adopted children and thus heirs of his blessed life."-CCC 1

This is the first paragraph from the catechism and I think it perfectly sums up what we celebrate today on this beautiful Easter morning. In today's first reading we hear the entire Gospel story being preached by Peter. This is the same Peter who denied Jesus three times just a few days before, and who we read about in the Gospel as not fully understanding what Christ was doing until he saw the empty tomb. Peter then knew the plans of God and could easily and succinctly proclaim them to all people.

The goal of the Lenten season is to bring us to a point where we can realize that our destiny is to share in the divine life of God. This isn't just a vague sentimental idea or ambiguous theology, but it is the entire point of our lives. Jesus loved you enough to die on a tree in order that you might receive adoption as his beloved. It seems simple enough, but do we really grasp the depth of the meaning? Easter morning is the good news that not only were you bought back at a price, but that the death of God was not the end. Rather, it was just the beginning. Christ rising from the dead defeated sin and death once and for all and claims us back as adopted children.

This is why Easter is the most important feast in our liturgical calendar. And God wants us to feast. We might be a little rusty after 40 days of fasting, but God wants us to pull out all the stops. I recommend making the nicest dinner you can within your means and celebrate as a family what Christ has done in conquering sin and death. The Easter egg hunts are fun and everybody likes baked ham, but let's not forget the reason for this season. That God desired for you to be saved and come to share in his divine life. This is enough to make even the worst of sinners or hardened criminals rejoice. As John Paul II said often, "We are an Easter people, and Hallelujah is our song." Now go feast! From all of us here at Diocesan, God bless! By Tommy Shultz



### A Good Day to Die

Do you remember your own baptism? I wish I could; I was baptized as an infant, just a few days old. I envy the adults I have seen baptized at the Easter Vigil. Hopefully, they

experience what St. Paul says in the epistle we hear at the Vigil. For Paul, Baptism is a sign of dying and rising to new life. Sounds like Easter to me. So when Jesus died, he rose from the dead. Is Paul telling us that we will rise from the dead, too?

Yes, but that is not his main point. If all we think about is our physical death, and hope we go to heaven afterwards, we're missing the point. The new life starts with our baptism, not just our physical death. That's why Paul says things like, "our old self was crucified" or "sinful body done away with...." (Rom 6:6) Baptism gives us a new life NOW. The water is both cleansing and a sign of dying (symbolic drowning) that help us see we are free from sin. We are dead to sin when we begin to live in Christ. The fictional Klingons have a saying "today is a good day to die" to express courage in battle. But real Christians might say that Easter is a good day to die: we have died to sin and begun a new life in Christ.

How do we experience this dying to sin? First, we identify the sinful areas of our life. Do I watch movies, video games, or TV shows that encourage promiscuity, lying, revenge, hatred or selfishness? What sins do I confess repeatedly and what can I do to avoid them? Next we look for ways to act differently: Can I spend more time with friends/relatives who are examples of love? Can I spend less time entertaining myself and more time in prayer? Instead of complaining about what is wrong with the world, can I find ways to make it better? (If not the world, then my community or family.) These are a few of the ways we begin our new life in Christ.

Tom Schmidt

## Next Sunday is Second Sunday of Easter

**Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35.** The whole group was united heart and soul.

**1 John 5:1-6.** Anyone begotten by God has already overcome the world.

**John 20:19-31.** After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them.



*The Sanctuary Light by the tabernacle burns to remind us of the sacramental presence of Jesus Christ. It is a mark of honor to remind the faithful of the presence of Christ, and is a profession of their love and affection.*

The Sanctuary Light will burn this week in loving memory of: **Ronald (Ronnie) Lemoine**, requested by Jackie Lemoine Wilbratte; **Blaze St. Marie**, requested by Jakov & DeeAnna Jurisic; and **Evelyn Jacksina**, requested by Dolly Roy.

*If you would like to have the Sanctuary Light burn in memory of a loved one, call the Church Office. The donation for the Sanctuary Light is \$10.*



## EASTER FLOWERS

**We are accepting donations toward Easter flowers used in Church. Donation envelopes are available on the information table in the back of Church. Please write clearly on the envelope so that the memorial may be published in the bulletin.**

Eucharistic



Adoration

## Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

**April 5, 2024**

(First Friday of the Month)

8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. (Day Chapel)

For questions or to sign up, please call the Church Office at 504-394-0314. *Pray as you like. Reading and meditation lead to communion with the Lord or just bask in the light of the Eucharist. Allow Christ to work on you and through you. Come before Christ in His entirety; His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity to contemplate His awesomeness and to lovingly adore Him. Please join us in prayer!*

## Sponsor of the Week:



DEBONED CHICKEN & TURKEY

& PRESEASONED MEATS

*A Cajun Meat Market*

Turducken • Deboned Stuffed Chicken

Deboned Stuffed Turkey

Homemade Boudin • Stuffed Pork Chops

Stuffed Duck • Stuffed Quail

Stuffed Rabbit • Shish Kabobs

Stuffed Pork Roast • Stuffed Beef Roast

Stuffed Boneless Pork Loin • Stuffed Brisket

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Look to the back now! Look and remember to support these businesses when you need a product or service. Also, tell them "thank you" for their interest in Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

## PASCHAL CANDLE



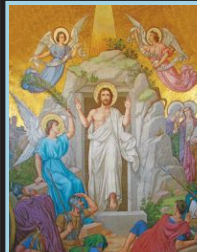
The **2024 Paschal Candle** for the Easter Season burns in our place of worship until Pentecost Sunday and for baptisms, funerals, and all special prayer services. **Cindy Liebel and Family** donated the Paschal Candle in loving memory of **Nick Liebel, Jr.**

## HOLY OILS



The **Holy Oils** blessed by Archbishop Aymond at the Chrism Mass are used to anoint the sick, to baptize and to confirm. **Agnes Avist** donated the Holy Oils in loving memory of **Larry Avist, Trena Avist, and the Avist & Wilson Families.**

## THE EASTER OCTAVE



Eastertime lasts fifty days: seven weeks of seven days (seven equals Biblical perfection) plus one day: perfection plus! Like an eight-day Jewish wedding, or a child who can't bear to let go of Christmas, birthdays, and school vacation, the Church celebrates the Easter Octave:

"the marriage of heaven and earth," as the Vigil calls Jesus' resurrection; our new members' baptismal rebirth; our renewal of baptismal vows; our hearts' "divine vacation" (Latin *vacare*, "to be empty"), newfound time and space for love of God and neighbor. Make home an Easter garden! Adorn the dining table with a pillar candle (your "paschal candle"), a bowl full of water (ideally, from the parish's baptismal font), a vase of flowers or bowl of sprouting grain with Easter eggs. Even non-singers can handle the three-fold Gospel Alleluia! Let that be your grace before meals, perhaps with a prayer recalling Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35): "Be known to us, Risen Lord Jesus, as you were to the first disciples, in your word, in the breaking of bread, and in everyone we meet."

—Peter Scagnelli

## Stewardship

*All things are possible with God*



Devote Time



Share Talent



Give Treasure



A way of life

## Church Financials Fiscal Month Ending December 31, 2023

Total Income \$ 399,000

Total Expense \$ 323,000

Net Gain/(Loss) \$ 76,000\*

\*includes Fair Net Proceeds of \$90,000

*Thank you to our parish family members who faithfully support our parish. May God bless you for your generosity!*

**Online Giving Is Available on Our Website at [www.olphbc.org](http://www.olphbc.org)** (click on **Give Online**), or simply scan the QR code with your phone. You can easily create your donation account online and make changes at any time.





## Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord



## Straight Talk

by: **Father William Maestri**  
**Resurrection:**  
**THE Parable of God**

Human beings are drawn to stories. Some of our earliest and most lasting memories are connected with stories. For example, regardless of age, we are attracted to stories about our families. We want to know the early years of our parents - "Tell us about mom and dad when they were growing up." Grandparents with a family album are more interesting than the latest techno-gadget. And it is not only the pictures and mementos, but the authoritative storyteller (parents and grandparents are especially fascinating) who "brings to life" the photo or object (baseball, doll, etc.). The power of stories is their engagement with our powers of imagination.

Jesus was a powerful storyteller, the Storyteller, who conveyed the mysteries of the Kingdom of heaven through parables (Mt 13:34). What is a parable? The standard answer: it is a story which teaches a lesson. Such an answer is true...as far as it goes. But the parables when told by Jesus, reveal the often overlooked, veiled presence of God within the marrow of our lives and everyday world. In effect, the parables of Jesus serve as a kind of "speed bump" in our well-ordered, taken for granted assumptions about God. When told by Jesus, parables are subversive. They are a "shaking of the foundation" of the image (idol) we have built about God! The parables serve as spiritual shock therapy to jolt us from slumber. Jesus is not only the storyteller of parables; He is the Parable of God. From the beginning with "the Word becoming flesh" (Jn: 1:14), God enters our hearts and world history in the most unexpected of ways. Throughout his public ministry, in word and deed, the "settled" conception of who are the good, bad, and unclean is challenged: sinners are called to be disciples (Lk 5: 27-32), touching of the unclean (Lk 5: 12-16), Samaritans are called good neighbors (Lk 10:29-37), a public sinner at the foot of the Cross (Jn 19:25), and the call of the disciples who were not wise, powerful, and of noble birth (1Cor 1:26), all of these and more confound "human standards". For "God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise, and God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong." (1Cor 1:27).

The Supreme Parable unfolds with the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus the Christ. For it is Jesus the Suffering Servant (Isa. 53), the Innocent Lamb "who takes away the sin of the world" (Jn 1:29), the Spotless One, who bears all sin and guilt through his crucifixion (Mk 15:15), the Faithful Son whose last words from the Cross, "'It is finished.' And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit" (Jn 19:30), and the One who was laid in a borrowed tomb, with "a huge stone rolled across the entrance" (Mt 27:60), he is our hope of glory (Col 1:27)! Only Mary Magdalene and the other Mary remained in their grief (Mt 27:56).

It would seem that Jesus is just another of the martyrs who gave his last full measure. So, it would seem. However, the Supreme Parable and Parabler lift us beyond all natural obituaries: "...you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said." (Mt 28:5-6). But it is not just Jesus who has been raised, "...everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him on the last day." (Jn 6:40). The Parable and the Risen Lord continues, "the last days" have already begun and are partially being realized: "...I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes in the one who sent me has eternal life (Jn 17:3) and will not come to condemnation, but has passed from death to life." (Jn 5:24). With Jesus, an entirely new, unimagined mode of existence has been brought to light. Granted there are no cameras, selfies, and video tapes. Such is the way of God, understated so as to respect our freedom and elicit from us an authentic love. Such a love, born of faith in the words from the Word, send us forth to testify, "we have seen the Lord" (Jn 20:18).

Can we believe and live the Easter Parable in a complex, secularized culture? The words of St. Paul are timely and timeless: "...be firm, steadfast, always fully devoted to the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." (1Cor 15:58).

Live Easter! Jesus has "overcome the world." (Jn 16:33).



**504-392-0554**



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 FAX: (504) 564-0174  
 27136 HIGHWAY 23, PORT SULPHUR, LA 70083



**BEZ OYSTERS and SEAFOOD**

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