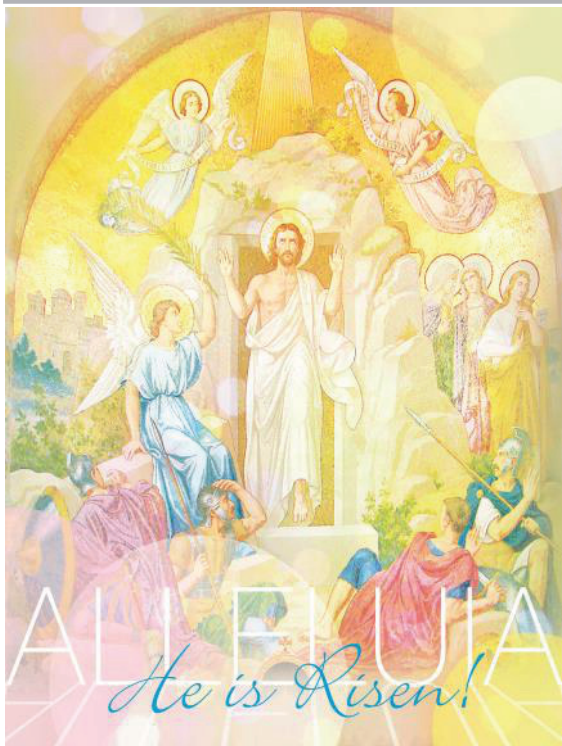


Saint Mary's Church

15164 Juniper Dr. Marne, MI 49435 / 616.677.3934 / www.saintmarysmarne.org

April 9, 2023 ~ Easter Sunday of The Resurrection of The Lord



Weekend Mass Schedule:

Saturday 4:30PM St Mary

Sunday 8:30AM St Michael

Sunday 10:30AM St Mary

Sunday 4:30PM St Michael

Weekday Mass Schedule:

Tuesday 9AM St Mary

Adoration begins after Mass until 2:00 pm

Wednesday 9AM - St Michael

Adoration begins after Mass until 2:00 pm

Thursday 9:00 AM St Mary

Friday 9:00 AM St Michael

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday 3:30 PM—4:15PM-St Mary

Sunday 3:00PM -4:00PM St Michael

Wednesday 2:00 PM—3:00 PM St Michael

(or anytime by appt. please call parish office)

St. Mary Parish Office

Monday - 8:00AM - 4:30PM

Tuesday - 8:00AM - 4:30PM

Wednesday - 8:00AM - 11:30AM

Thursday - 8:00AM to 4:30PM

St Mary's Mission Statement: We, the Roman Catholic community of St. Mary's, by our baptism have become the People of God, dedicated to living and proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are a community built on faith and the sharing of individual talents, abilities and skills for the sake of the Kingdom of God. Empowered by the Holy Spirit and strengthened by prayer and the sacraments, we continue the mission of Jesus to reveal God's presence in all of human life.

Pastor:

Rev. Michael Hodges / frmhodges@grpriests.org
616.677.3934

For emergency please call: 616.745.1409

Deacon:

Deacon Tom Roberts / troberts@saintmarysmarne.org
616.677.3934

Business Manager:

Todd Kline / businessmanager@saintmarysmarne.org

Parish Secretary:

Cathie VanGessel / secretary@saintmarysmarne.org

Director of Religious Education:

Rebecca Chicklon / dre@saintmarysmarne.org
616.677.5065

Youth Minister—Life Teen grades 9-12

Rebecca Chicklon / dre@saintmarysmarne.org
616.677.5065

Director of R.C.I.A: Jill Brown-616.677.3934

Maintenance/Custodian: Jim & Marian Looks: 677.3934

Liturgical Minister:

Gary Karr / 616.677.3934 / gkarr@saintmarysmarne.org

Music Director:

Dr. Bernie Stanko 616.490.3836 /
berniestanko@hotmail.com

Pastoral Council:

Sharon Davis, Becky Warners,
Vito Dolci, Geary Farrell, Doug Frantz

Finance Council:

Lisa Bradley, Jose Gomez, Todd Kline,
Scott Lampe, Mel Northup

Martha League: Parish Office: 616.677.3934
(assistance with meals during illness or injury)

Prayer Line:

Parish Office 616.677.3934
or Linda at 677.3269 for evening requests
call Darlene 616.453.0157
or email: bfa1414@yahoo.com

Our Cluster Parish:

St Michael's - 17150 - 88th Avenue
Coopersville, MI 49404
616.384.4026
www.saintmichaels.us

Mass Intentions

Saturday April 8 Holy Saturday Easter Vigil

9:00PM Our Parish Family **MA**
 9:00PM Our Parish Family **MI**

Sunday April 9 Easter Sunday of The Resurrection of The Lord

9:30AM † Jack Mahn by Chris Albrecht..... **MI**
 10:30AM Our Parish Family **MA**

Monday April 10 NO MASS

Tuesday April 11

9:00AM † Mary Klein by Terri Schoenborn **MA**
Adoration begins after Mass until 2pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2:00 PM—4:00 PM

Wednesday April 12

9:00AM † Elaine Schoenborn by Pat Phillips **MI**
Adoration begins after Mass until 2pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 2:00 PM—3:00 PM

Thursday April 13

9:00AM † Bob Bacon by Joe Martin **MA**

Friday April 14

9:00AM † Jeff LeMieux by Jim & Edna May **MI**

Saturday April 15

4:30PM † Elizabeth Oziemkiewicz by M/M Carl May..... **MA**

Sunday April 16 Divine Mercy Sunday

8:30AM † Ron Raczkiwicz by Pam Raczkiwicz **MI**
 10:30AM † Pat O'Connor by M/M Jim Lothschutz..... **MA**
 4:30PM † Nathan Syrek by the Syrek Family **MI**
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 3:00 PM—4:00 PM - St Michael

MA=St. Mary **MI**=St. Michael's

Divine Mercy Sunday

Divine Mercy Sunday is a very special Sunday when the Divine Floodgates from Heaven are wide-opened and Jesus offers us the total forgiveness of all sins and punishment to any soul, who goes to Confession and receives Him in Holy Communion, on that day.

Sunday - April 16 at St Michael

3:00PM-4:00PM, Confessions
 4:15PM, Divine Mercy Chaplet
 4:30PM, Mass



For the Week of April 9, 2023

Sunday The Resurrection of the Lord
 Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8; Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10 or Lk 24:13-35

Monday Monday in the Octave of Easter
 Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11; Mt 28:8-15

Tuesday Tuesday in the Octave of Easter
 Acts 2:36-41; Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 & 22; Jn 20:11-18

Wednesday Wednesday in the Octave of Easter
 Acts 3:1-10; Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9; Lk 24:13-35

Thursday Thursday in the Octave of Easter
 Acts 3:11-26; Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9; Lk 24:35-48

Friday Friday in the Octave of Easter
 Acts 4:1-12; Ps 118:1-2 and 4, 22-24, 25-27a; Jn 21:1-14

Saturday Saturday in the Octave of Easter
 Acts 4:13-21; Ps 118:1 & 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21; Mk 16:9-15

Sunday Divine Mercy Sunday
 Acts 2:42-47; Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24; 1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31

St. Michael's Liturgical Ministers

	Apr 16 / 8:30 AM	Apr 16 / 4:30 PM
Altar Servers	Alivia Kosten Lauren Meerman	Molly Jonaitis Madelyn Jonaitis
Eucharistic Ministers	Cindy Lindberg Joe Hitchings Sharon Carlson Melanie Mayse Kenny Harker NEED ONE	Greg Helsen Chris Albrecht
Lector	Lyndsey Kosten	Joe LeMieux
CLW	Jenny L. & Jennie T.	NO CLW
Sacristan	Judy Driedger	Karen Helsen
Ushers	Dave Tronovich Deb Tronovich Joe Meerman Wade Lindberg	Bob Jonaitis Greg Helsen
Music	Craig Bleckley	Craig Bleckley

St. Mary's Liturgical Ministers

	Apr 15 - 4:30PM	Apr 16 - 10:30AM
Sacristan	Need One	Gary Karr
Altar Servers	MJ Potts Bryson Potts	Hannah Davis Calvin Davis
Host	Julie Lothschutz Keith Anderson Kay Willcome	Becky Warners Christine Withers Margie Jirous
Cup	Rob Rander Lori Rander Butch Schoenborn Rose Mary Schoenborn	Janette Ney Geary Farrell Need Two
Hospitality Ministers	Mary Karr Jeff Schneider Lisa Potts Madison Potts	Leonard Horter Bruce Kamp Marcia Kamp Need One
Lector	Nicolette Looks	John Klein
Music	Bernie Stanko	Bernie Stanko

Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday, is the greatest of all Sundays, and Easter Time is the most important of all liturgical times. Easter is the celebration of the Lord's resurrection from the dead, culminating in his Ascension to the Father and sending of the Holy Spirit upon the Church. There are 50 days of Easter from the first Sunday to Pentecost. It is characterized, above all, by the joy of glorified life and the victory over death expressed most fully in the great resounding cry of the Christian: Alleluia! All faith flows from faith in the resurrection: "If Christ has not been raised, then empty is our preaching; empty, too, is your faith." (1 Cor 15:14) The word "Easter" comes from Old English, meaning simply the "East." The sun which rises in the East, bringing light, warmth, and hope, is a symbol for the Christian of the rising Christ, who is the true Light of the world. The Paschal Candle is a central symbol of this divine light, which is Christ. It is kept near the ambo throughout Easter Time and lit for all liturgical celebrations. (<https://www.usccb.org/prayer-worship/liturgical-year/easter>)

Prayer for Easter Sunday:

We give you praise for an even greater sign of new life: the resurrection of your Son, We praise you in this Easter season. Change our lives, change our hearts to be messengers of Easter joy and hope. We make our prayer through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord forever. Amen

Cluster News and Community News and Events

ATTENTION! ALL EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST:

As part of the Eucharistic Revival, Bishop Walkowiak has mandated retraining for all Extraordinary Ministers in the Diocese of Grand Rapids. This training will include updated Diocesan Norms. Our nearest training session will be offered at **Saint Mary's/Spring Lake on Saturday, April 29 at 10:00am.**

If you are unable to attend on this date a full schedule of trainings from which you can choose are available on the webpage of the diocesan Office for Worship at <https://grdiocese.org/ministries/worship-3/>

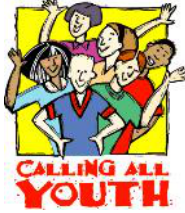
Whether you serve during Mass or minister to the sick, we are all asked to register at that website for the session you plan to attend. If you are not yet a Eucharistic Minister but are being led to this ministry, this session will be an excellent introductory training. Contact Kevin at St Michaels or Gary at St Marys for more details or with help registering.

Youth Ministry



Summer Activities for Youth

This summer youth may engage in a Mission Trip, Steubenville Trip, help with Vacation Bible School, engage in Parish service projects and other fun day trips! Some of these options are for High School aged Youth and some are for Middle School Youth and some are for both. After May 21, Middle School Youth are those entering 6-8 grade next fall and High School Youth are those entering 9th grade through 12 grade next fall, as well as, those newly graduated. For more information and/or dates please contact Rebecca.



High School Youth Ministry (9-12 Grade)

Weekly gatherings: are offered and help teens grow in faith. These gatherings include, food, games, topic and activities. Friends welcome!

Questions or comments

Please contact Rebecca Chicklon at 616-677-5065 or dre@saintmarysmarne.org

Please Pray for our Engaged Couple

Marissa McDonald & Christopher Barczak

October 7, 2023 (St Mary)

Lord God, the source of all love, the wise plan of your providence has brought these young people together. As they prepare themselves for the sacrament of marriage and pray for your grace, grant that, strengthened by your blessing, they may grow in their respect for one another and cherish each other with a sincere love. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen



Fr. Mike's Musings



Happy Easter! He is Risen! This week I'm going to take a little break from detailing the why's and wherefores of our shared Catholic faith so that we may all reflect on this glorious event in that faith, the very moment when we became new. New in faith, new in hope, and new in a charitable outlook for all of mankind. This of course is the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from death, the undeniable revelation of the promised Messiah to the world.

Christians believe that true life comes through death and that Jesus paid the price of suffering and dying with counting the cost. What is commemorated this week, beginning with Palm Sunday, is that just as Jesus passed from this life to eternal life, through His suffering and dying for us, we also hope to pass from this world into God's Kingdom by means of our own sufferings and physical death. Our Lord desires to return us to Himself. This is at the center of the 'Good News' of the Gospel message. God wants to be one with His children eternally.

The Gospel narrative is a simple faith-filled story of God hearing us and answering our pleas by sending His Son to show the world how much He truly cares. The secular world constantly tells us not to believe, gives examples time and again that we are not saved but condemned—wars, famine, hatred, disease, so on and so forth, assail our sensibilities daily. Instead of crying 'ALLELUIA!' we are more inclined to mutter; "My God, My God. Why have you forsaken me?"

However, when we awakened this morning, the great revelation of Easter was waiting in visage of the risen Christ, and the promise of a new world flooding our battered and weary hearts. We are presented with the same sight that the Apostles and Mary Magdalene saw that first Easter morning. Nothing else should capture us more this day but an overwhelming sense of joy. The joy of promises fulfilled, that our trust is God, in spite of the world's pessimism, is rewarded beyond measure. We can dispose of our cynical outlook and skeptical reasoning, toss-out our distrust of others and lack of love and forgiveness. Why? Jesus Christ has risen for all to see. His promises to mankind are proven to be true. Sin and death can no longer hold us back from journeying to the full experience of eternal life with Our Father.

But the message of Easter is yet incomplete, and difficult. To fully receive and live the 'Good News' is to probe deep within our being and rid ourselves of any remnant of those things that hold us back, that keep us from transforming into a new creation through Christ. The Easter message requires us to renounce Satan's temptations that cause to separate ourselves from Christ and to reattach the chains of sin and death. Unless we do this, we deny the saving power of the Resurrection and cast ourselves back into the realm of doubt and hopelessness. Easter compels us to see where we need to be cleansed of any and all sins, rooting out our vices and allowing the boundless love of Jesus Christ to overtake us completely. In return, we gain a rebirth to a life in this world and in the next, a life that is greater than anything we have a right to hope for or our feeble minds could imagine. This promised life is so far beyond our capacity for words that the best we have been able to do over the centuries is to joyfully shout 'ALLELUIA!'—but that, my friends, seems to be enough.

May the peace of Christ and the bounteous grace of our God be with you and yours on this blessed Easter Sunday. AMEN, ALLELUIA!

INTO THE MYSTERY

Saturday, June 10 | 9:30 – 5:30 p.m. | Aquinas College

The Eucharistic Revival is happening and YOU'RE INVITED!

Join Catholics from across the diocese for Mass with Bishop Walkowiak, talks from dynamic speakers, and a Eucharistic Procession. This event marks the transition into the parish year of the National Eucharistic Revival. Please join us for this daylong celebration and stay afterward for a festival with live music and food available from local food trucks! Registration is \$10/person or \$40/household.

To learn more, visit grdiocese.org/eucharistic-revival



Meal Train for Fr Mike

The office has received many requests to provide Fr Mike a homecooked meal, (Don't worry, he is not sick or have an accident) we have created an online MEAL TRAIN to coordinate this effort. If you would like to cook a meal for Fr Mike, please sign up here: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/8vv97n> (or call the parish office) This is great opportunity to show our appreciation to Fr Mike for all he does for our Parish Cluster.



April 9, 2023 ~ Easter Sunday of The Resurrection of The Lord

Religious Education



Thank you to all who donated candy for the Easter Egg Hunt!

The Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Easter Sunday following the 10:30 a.m. Mass. All children are welcome!

Children's Liturgy of the Word:

Will resume on April 16.

Religious Education:

Classes will resume on April 12

This Sunday's Gospel Reflection:

Many women and men followed Jesus from the beginning of his ministry, heard his teaching, and witnessed his healing actions. Jesus' crucifixion and death destroyed their hope that he was the messiah. Easter blows the minds of Jesus' followers. They experience Jesus risen and alive. These disciples become eyewitnesses of Jesus' new life. Mary Magdalene brings the beloved disciple and Peter to see that Jesus' tomb is empty. The beloved disciple sees the empty tomb and immediately believes Jesus is risen. Mary Magdalene can't stand to leave Jesus' tomb with his body missing; she hears the Risen Jesus speak her name and believes. Mary Magdalene becomes the witness to Jesus' other friends. She announces to the whole community: "I have seen the Lord." Peter and the whole community of Jesus' followers pray together, still afraid and locked together in a room. Jesus comes and gives them peace and forgiveness. They believe and become his witnesses. Thomas doubts that Jesus is risen until he sees and touches Jesus for himself and believes. Jesus' friends become witnesses that God raised up Jesus to new life. Today it is our turn to be witnesses to Jesus' new life. Let us go into our first week of Easter and share the Good News of Easter with others.

Question of the Week: How will you share the Good News of Jesus' Resurrection with others?

Questions or comments:

Please contact Rebecca Chicklon at dre@saintmarys.marne.org or 616-677-5065

High School Youth Ministry

SEE CLUSTER PAGE FOR MORE DETAILS



St Mary Parish Prayer Line

If you would like to request a prayer for our parish prayer line please contact the parish office or Linda at 677.3269. For evening requests call Darlene 453.0157 or email: bfa1414@yahoo.com Please continue to pray for all of our sick, hospitalized & homebound parishioners and all of the personal intentions that St Mary's Parish parishioners hold close to their hearts.

Easter Flowers

Special thanks to those of you that contributed to the Easter Flower Fund.

Please remember in your prayers through out the Easter Season the following people in whose honor and/or memory the flowers were donated.

Chet & Val Aksamitowski	Howard Dewayne Martin
Allan Boomgaard	Jim Mast
Floyd & Mary Bradley	Robert & Lilian Mathews
Paul Brown	Ray McWilliams
Catherine Crowley	Jerred & Jane Parris
Mary Loan Do	Anthony Alexis Duc Pham
Steve & Kathryn Frantz	Joseph Con Pham
Bernard Fritz	Merrill Roberts Family
Philip Fritz	George & Bonnie Schippers
Louis & Rose Goosen	Holly Farrell Szost
Rita Goosen	Edward & Elizabeth Voss
Warren LaDuke Family	



Robert Wetherbee
John H. Zolinski
John S. Zolinski



Wishing our St Mary's Parish Family a Happy and Blessed Easter Season. May the joy of Jesus' Resurrection and Christ's message of eternal life fill your heart with love and peace. Your Parish Staff, Fr. Mike, Deacon Tom, Todd, Gary, Rebecca, Bernie, Jim, Marian & Cathie.

Welcome to our Parish Family

We are pleased to welcome our newest member of Christ's family. **Julia Corrinne Delaney.** During the Easter Vigil, Julia was baptized and after making a solemn Profession of Faith was received into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church, celebrating the sacrament of Confirmation and sharing in the Holy Eucharist. God Bless You Julia, May your Faith continue to grow in the love of Jesus Christ!



Knights of Columbus #11581 News

Upcoming Events:

April 13 - Monthly Meeting 7PM-Parish Hall

PLEASE NOTE: DATE CHANGE

October 8 - Community Breakfast and Blood Drive Register here: https://donate.michigan.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/149333

For more info please contact Grand Knight Rob Rander: roblander82@gmail.com or visit: <https://www.saintmarys.marne.org/knights-of-columbus>



Giving Back to God

April 1/2	
Regular Contributions	
Capital Improvement	
Online Contrib	Unavailable at this Time
Children's Contributions	\$735.00
Total	

Thank you for your continued support and generosity!

St. Mary's Sponsor of the Week
ZOKOE TEAM ~ FIVE STAR REAL ESTATE
616.901.9632 ~ zokoeteam.com
THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR BULLETIN!

Welcome to the Cluster Parishes of St. Mary and St. Michael

St. Michael's Parish News



Scrip News— Scrip totals from last week: Thank you to our 14 families that purchased Scrip this week. Our total profit was \$90.07.

St. Michael's Ladies' Tea Party —

for women of all ages. Saturday, April 22th 10:30-12:30pm in the Family Center. Come for brunch, entertainment and some Spiritual tea. Seating is limited. Pre-registration is required no later than April 18. Contact the parish office to register.



Help Wanted — St. Michael's is looking for someone interested in a part-time general/preventive maintenance position. Duties include light general/preventative maintenance, basic repair and the coordination of outside contractor support.

The hours would be approximately 5-10 hours per week, as needed. The schedule could be 2-3 hours a day, 2-3 days a week. This would be a great job for a retired person. Please call the parish office if interested.

CSA 2023 — Thank you for your gifts to 2023 Catholic Services Appeal! Your generous support funds essential diocesan ministries that strengthen us in Christ. Our parish goal for 2023 is \$59,280.00 and 100% participation, which means every parishioner should return their pledge card. Our updated pledge numbers will be updated next week. Please continue to pray for the success of this important effort.

Parish Prayer Line— If you would like to request a prayer for our parish prayer line please contact Chris Albrecht at 616-403-7110. We are also looking for more parishioners to help with our prayer line phone chain. If you are willing to help call others with prayer requests that come into our prayer line, please contact Chris.



St. Michael's Faith Formation

Children's Liturgy of the Word: Our program is offered during Sunday morning Mass. Children 3-9 years old are welcome to join us each week. In today's Gospel reading, the angel had a very important message about Jesus to share with the woman who came to the tomb: Christ is risen! **We will not have CLW today, Happy Easter! CLW will resume on April 16th.**

Elementary Faith Formation: This program is for students in grades 1-5. We meet on Wednesdays from 6:15- 7:30 pm. Christ has risen, Alleluia! Happy Easter! **Faith Formation will resume on April 12th.**

Middle School Faith Formation: Grades 6, 7 and 8 will meet on Sundays after the 8:30am Mass, from 9:45 to 11:15 in the Youth Room. The 8th Grade students will also receive Confirmation Preparation during that time. **We do not have class today due to Easter. Class will resume on April 16th.**

St. Michael's Parish Family

Remembers in Their Prayers: Kevin Johnson, Anne Pols, Alexandria Gordon, George Langlois, Brooke Campbell, Linda Abel-Carroll, Jackie May, Marvin Hecksel, Dennis Goosen, Jean Mayse, Ken Heflin, Winnie Spencer, Alice Goll, the victims of abortion, & the men and women in the military.



St. Michael's Sanctuary Lamp

for +Ron Racziewicz
by Pam Racziewicz



What is it? The PaperGator® is a fundraiser where St. Michael's is paid to collect paper products for recycling.

What CAN go in the bins?

Newsprint
Catalogs/Magazines
Junk Mail
Phone Books
Office/School paper
Hard and soft cover books

What CANNOT go in the bins?

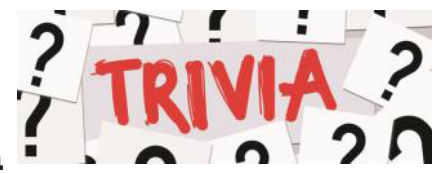
Paperboard
(Grocery Item boxes)
Plastic
Metal
Trash
Glass
Cardboard

St. Michael's Preschool

Have you considered St. Michael's Preschool for your child or grandchild? If not, you should! Come see what a great experience St. Michael's Preschool can provide. Come meet our Director/Teacher, Cindy Lindberg! Preschool meets on MWF from 8:45-11:45 am (Mon. 8:45am-2:30pm for 4-year-olds). For more info, call the Parish Office at 616-384-4026.



A Fun Night of Trivia



At St. Michael's, on April 15, 7-9 PM. Teams of 8 or less, please bring a snack to share and your own drink. Signup in the glass hallway.

Giving Back to God

April 2, 2023

Adult Envelopes

Loose Cash

Children's Envelopes

Total

...

Endowment Fund

Catholic Relief Services

Thank you for your continued support!

Not Available at This Time

April 9, 2023 ~ Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

View this bulletin online at www.DiscoverMass.com

"He Saw and Believed"

When John entered the empty tomb, he "saw and believed." The body of Jesus was not in the tomb. His body was risen. The Incarnate God, the Word-made-flesh is still alive and with us. This is our basic faith.

When Peter explained Christianity to the Romans at Cornelius's house, he called for faith in four basic truths: (1) Jesus is the Christ, the one anointed by God with the Holy Spirit and power; (2) he was sent to deliver us from the devil's oppression and reconcile us to God; (3) God raised Jesus from the dead and made him judge of "the living and the dead"; (4) the Church is commissioned to preach and bear witness to Jesus. All four of these truths are implicit in the Resurrection. John read them all in the "wrappings on the ground" of the empty tomb, which no longer held Jesus' body.

What the Resurrection says to us is that God has affirmed Jesus and all he taught; that he has accepted his death on the cross to "take away the sins of the world"; that he has glorified Jesus; that Jesus is "seated at the right hand of the Father" as Lord and King, with power to judge every human person and to share his glory with all who believe in him. To believe in the Resurrection is to know Jesus as the savior who has power over sin and death, can reconcile us to God, raise us from the dead, and give us the fullness of life and joy both in this life and forever. That is why Jesus' Resurrection is the source of the *hope* we have in our own resurrection and glorification.

When Jesus rose, he rose *multiplied*, like the grain of wheat that falls into the ground and dies. The Res-

APRIL 9, 2023

EASTER SUNDAY

Acts 10:34a, 37-43;
Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-9

urrection is the reality of the Church. Paul says we "died with Christ" and "were raised in Christ" because at Baptism we became the Body of Jesus offered and resurrected. We "offered our bodies" to him that he might live in us and continue his human, embodied presence on earth. Because Jesus is risen, he lives now in us, his Church. And in us he continues his "ministry of reconciliation."

*When Jesus rose,
he rose multiplied,
like the grain of wheat
that falls into the
ground and dies.*

Every letter attributed to Saint Paul has the words *grace* and *peace* in the greeting. *Peace* is the word Jesus used to greet the disciples after his Resurrection. Jesus is the source of our peace because it is through him and in him that we have been reconciled to God—not only in forgiveness, not only in love, but in that union of one shared life which we call *grace*—the favor of sharing in God's life. God's

love totally purifies us, embraces us and unites us to the Trinity in an unreserved sharing of mind, will and heart.

"All this," Saint Paul tells the Corinthians, "is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and



has given us the ministry of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:18). “All this” is implicitly expressed and contained in his Resurrection. “All this” is the reason why we should believe in God’s love for us and love him back with confidence, in unreserved surrender and abandonment of all we have and are to him.

And “all this” comes to us through Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave himself up for us. “All this” invites us to surrender our lives to Christ and to live in a loving relationship with him in everything we do.

Saint Paul told the Colossians: “If then you were raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.”

REFLECTING ON THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

Easter Week

***Pray daily:** May the risen Lord breathe on our minds and open our eyes that we may know him in the breaking of the bread and follow him in his risen life. Amen.*

Monday: Matthew 28:8-15. Jesus said, “Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.” Jesus told those who saw him after the Resurrection to tell others about him. Whom have you invited to come and see Jesus present and acting in his Church?

Tuesday: John 20:11-18. Jesus said, “Go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Do you treat everyone in a way that reflects your belief in the Father of Jesus—your belief that we are brothers and sisters to each other?

Wednesday: Luke 24:13-35. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” These two disciples immediately set

out and told the apostles how Jesus was revealed to them in the breaking of the bread, the Eucharist. Have you ever felt your heart “burning” inside you at Mass? In prayer? Have you shared this experience with others?

Thursday: Luke 24:35-48. Jesus told the apostles that it was written that “the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed...to all nations... You are witnesses of these things.” How do you share what you know about forgiveness of sins? Whom do you know who needs to hear it?

Friday: John 21:1-14. Jesus said, “Cast the net to the right side of the boat...” After they cast the net, they were unable to pull it in because of the number of fish. How are you trying to bring people into the boat that is the Church?

Saturday: Mark 16:9-15. Jesus told the disciples, “Go into all the world and proclaim the good news.” How do you share in that evangelizing ministry?

LIVING THIS WEEK'S GOSPELS

As Christian: In one or two lines write down what you have “seen and believed” of Jesus Christ.

As Disciple: Read a Gospel passage used this week and imagine how Jesus would explain it to you. See if your heart is “burning within you.”

As Prophet: Change something in your life-style to make it express better the truth that you are the risen Body of Jesus.

As Priest: Ask one or two Christians what makes Jesus real to them. Be ready to say what makes him real to you, if asked.

As King: Show your faith in the power of the risen Lord by trying to change some situation you are involved in—at home, at work, in your social life, in civic life.

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