

April 1, 2018 The Resurrection of the Lord

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 31 Easter Vigil

5:00 p.m. **Easter Mass Remembrance**

Sunday, April 1 Easter Sunday Divine Mercy Novena

8:00 a.m. **Easter Mass Remembrance**

10:30 a.m. **Easter Mass Remembrance**

Monday, April 2 Divine Mercy Novena

8:45 a.m. **+Della Rebinski**
By Henry Rebinski

Tuesday, April 3 Divine Mercy Novena

8:45 a.m. **+Robert Gross and Charles Folk**
By Angela Gross

Wednesday, April 4 Divine Mercy Novena

8:45 a.m. **+Jean Moran**
By Tim & Ginny Moran and Children

Thursday, April 5 NO MASS

First Friday, April 6 Divine Mercy Novena

8:45 a.m. **+Theresa Rebinski**
By Henry Rebinski

First Saturday, April 7 Divine Mercy Novena

8:45 a.m. **+Jon Akins**
By Ginny & Tim Moran & Children

5:00 p.m. **Blessings for Healing for Kokila Doshi**
By A Friend

Sunday, April 8 Divine Mercy Novena

8:00 a.m. **Altar Rosary Society**

7:30 a.m. **Parishioners of Saint Theodore Church**



Dear Parishioners,
The women who went to the tomb early this morning returned with an astonishing report. So astonishing that everyone who heard it thought their report was nonsense. It is important for us to share in both

of those emotions. Otherwise, we risk taking Jesus' resurrection for granted. Of course, Jesus rose from the dead. He said he would rise (as the men in dazzling garments reminded the women). He said he would rise, and he did. We have heard this from our youth, we have seen the paintings. We have read the Gospels and seen the movies. Like the sunrise and the early growth of springtime, we remember the resurrection and we are comfortable with it.

Every time we hear the news of the resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth we need to be astonished, amazed, delighted. It's like waking up and suddenly remembering it's our birthday, or that today is the first day of summer vacation - even though we already knew it when we fell asleep. In fact, that is a good way for us believers to hear the news of the resurrection. When we walked into church on Easter we were asleep, unconscious, distracted. But now we have heard the Alleluia, the Exultet, the Gloria, and the Good News of the Resurrection. Now we are finally awake; we are finally alive because of the Good News of Jesus' resurrection.

The Good News is never old news. God didn't create us once; God is creating us always. God didn't save us once; God is always saving us. Peter hustled himself out to the tomb that same morning and saw that it was empty. I wonder if Peter did that very same thing every day from then on. That's what we should do. Every morning when we get up, we should run ourselves out to the tomb and peek inside. Wow. The tomb is empty. Alleluia. Jesus is raised from the dead!

If we did receive the Good News again with every new day, a whole lot of other things would also change for us. That is of course the reason for doing it: everything has indeed changed for us. Everything is new for us. Christ is risen: we are saved. Death no longer has the last word over us. Weakness and failure and sin no longer determine our future and we dare not let them determine our present.

No more is it Jesus' resurrection that is nonsense; now it is nonsense to keep this Good News to ourselves. It is nonsense to remain fearful or depressed. Yes, things will still fall apart for us. Friends and family members will die. We will still miss opportunities to do good and sometimes we will choose to do things that are wrong. Evil and sadness will seem to pile up our life as in a tomb. But the women will still come back from that tomb and report that they find it to

be empty. God's love for us does not make sense; it is a miracle, a gift, and always a surprise. Let it be a surprise again tomorrow and next week and next month. Jesus is risen from the dead. Alleluia!

Theodore Church Fundraisers

- **Vacation Raffle (April 8):** Offering a choice of one destination from five distinct packages from which to choose. Options include: air or driving travel, with or without children accompanying you. Price per ticket: \$20. Parishioners will be receiving tickets in the mail. Additional tickets will be sold by the Altar Rosary Society before and after all the weekend Masses or Monday through Thursday, 9 am to 1 pm in the Parish Office.
 - **50/50 Raffle: (May 27):** Parishioners will be receiving in the mail soon a book of tickets for our annual 50/50 Raffle. As in the past, the books are \$100-\$10 per ticket. These chances will be sold before and after the weekend Masses in the Parish Center.
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REQUESTS FOR PRAYER

Stephen, Bridget M., Savannah Paine, Bobby Gross, Keira Hedges, Peter, Zachary, Logan Peter Saksa, Anna Saksa, Lauren Lane, Jay Mildrum, Philip Kinney, Peter S., Mary Supple, Mary Rupell, Susan Reynolds, Robert Dicheck, Christian, Tara, Zoe, Teagan, Eric Harding, Kathy & Bob Y., Irma Marquart, Dolores Staiano, Gerard Schnaars, Glenda L., The Rasimowicz Family, Michael Dante, Joseph Boyle

Bishop's Annual Appeal 2018

To date, the Bishop's Annual Appeal has received from parishioners: \$3,560 Pledges; \$3,015 in Payments from 29 parishioners. This represents 50.9% of our goal of \$7,000.

Sunday collection needed to meet weekly expenses: \$3,637.

March 18: \$2,711.
March 11: \$2,309.
March 4: \$2,199.25
February deficit: \$4,582

Easter Flowers

Donations toward the cost of Church Easter flowers may be made in memory of your family and friends. Please remember to write their names on the envelope.



It comes as no surprise to you, parishioners, that *Dutch Valley Florist* has been donating flowers to us on a weekly basis since 2008 (which means we only have to purchase flowers for Easter, Christmas, Confirmation and First Communion). Also, in the no surprise category is without their generous donation we would struggle financially to purchase flowers weekly to adorn our Sanctuary. Bottom line: please show your gratitude for their kindness by patronizing their business. *Pay it Forward!*

Dutch Valley Florist
479 St. Hwy. 31
Hampton, NJ 908-537-1003

April Calendar

Bible Study Every Tuesday @ 6:30 pm:
March 30 thru April 8: Divine Mercy Novena
Sundays 8 a.m.; weekdays 8:45 a.m.
April 1, 11:30: Easter Egg Hunt
April 4, 7 p.m.: Altar Rosary Meeting
April 8, 11:30 a.m.: Vacation Raffle
April 9, 6:15 p.m.: 3rd & 4th Grade in Church for Confessions
April 11, 6:30: Trustee /Parish Council Meeting
April 23, 6:15 pm: 2nd Grade in Church
April 30, 6:15 pm: 2nd Grade in Church for First Communion Rehearsal

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