

All Saints NCC Newsletter March 2024



Easter Sunday March 31st

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EASTER CELEBRATION 2024

On **Sunday, March 31**, after another winter season, the celebration of **Easter** will bring an end to this year's **Lenten Observance** and bring us into that season of **Resurrection and Hope**. Once again, the spiritual world will celebrate the **Resurrection of Jesus** from the dead - that **promise of eternal life**.

The spirit and the hand of God will be busy at work restoring the world of nature around us. The brown carpets of grass are starting to come alive, the spring flowers are already poking their heads above ground, the frozen ice has loosened its grip from streams and ponds.

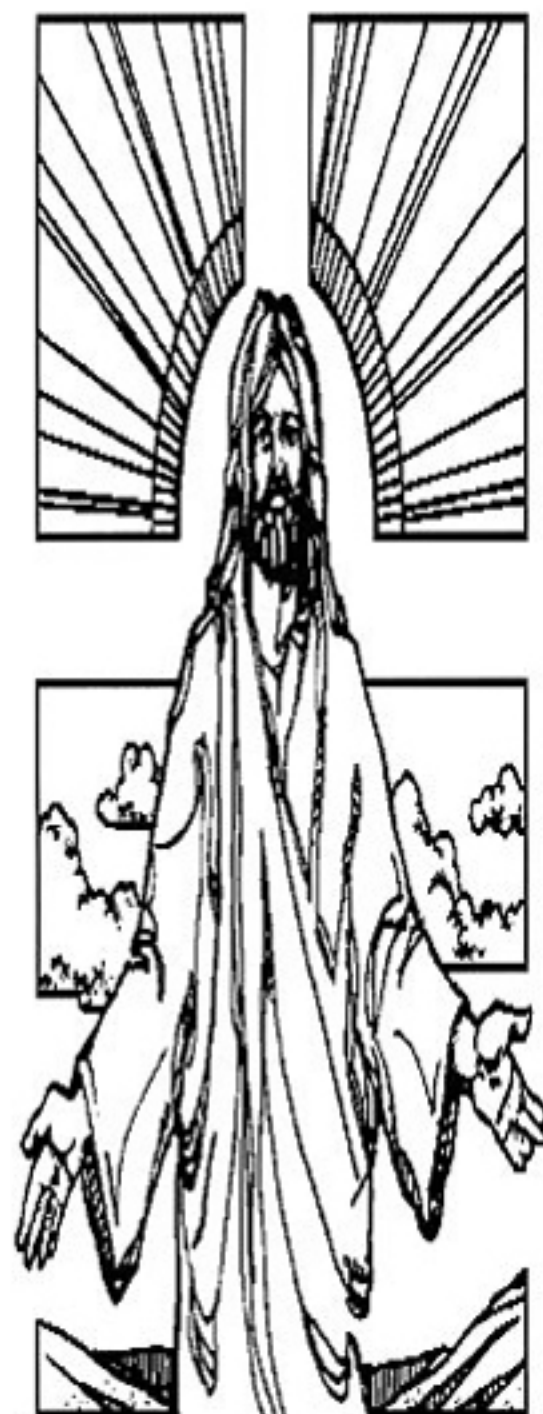
In our personal lives, it will remind us once again of the promise of life after death and that, as creations from the hands of our heavenly Father, we must strive to make ourselves worthy of this great promise.

Easter is the oldest and most sacred of Christian holy days for a good reason. From its earliest days to present, the Christian Church has never hesitated to stake her whole case on the claim that this event really happened. "If Christ had not risen," the apostle Paul told the Corinthians, "then our gospel is null and void, and so is your faith." [1 Cor. 15: 14.

Without Easter, the Christian religion might long ago have withered and died, as did many faiths that preceded it. But Easter's theme - hope, revival and survival - is indestructible.

So, on this upcoming **Easter Sunday and Season**, abound in the joy to which you are entitled. It is the day and time of glory and victory. We, too, must be raised from our spiritual faults and negative ways that we may walk in a new life full of love and respect.

Easter not only brings us the joyful memory of the victory of Christ, but also brings a solemn reminder of the truth of our faith. *Let us join as a parish family on Easter Sunday, March 31, at 9:00 a.m., along with family members, relatives and friends. **INVITE THEM !** And be a part of the celebration !*



**"Why do you look for the living
among the dead?
He is not here but has risen."
Luke 24:5**

† PARISH FAMILY MASS AND SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR MARCH †

Sunday, March 3 at 9:00 a.m. - Departed members of the Biskup & Gidzinski Families by Barry Biskup
Sunday, March 10 at 9:00 a.m. - +Dolores Mitchell, offered by Vassil & Hall Families
Wednesday, March 13 at 7:00 p.m. - Stations of the Cross
Sunday, March 17 at 9:00 a.m. - +Frances Butora, offered by Steven & Kayleigh Duke, Jennifer Laporto
Sunday, March 24 at 9:00 a.m. - +Vincent Sperski, offered by George Jr. & Carolyn Kolba
Thursday, March 28 at 7:00 p.m. - Holy Thursday Mass and Liturgy
Friday, March 29 at 7:00 p.m. - Good Friday Evening Service
Saturday, March 30 at 11:00 a.m. - Blessing of Fire, Candle & Water
Saturday, March 30 at 12 noon - Blessing of Easter Food & Baskets in church
Sunday, March 31 at 9:00 a.m. - Easter Resurrection Mass

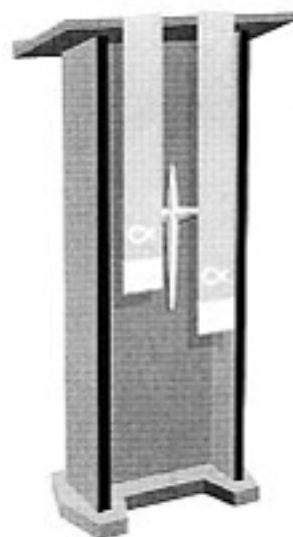


Please remember the following in your prayers & thoughts, with an Easter card or call:

Wanda Raychel Broczkowski, Jeanette Samuelson, Mike Cushner, Peter Dyman III, Dolores Butora Duke, Erica & Charlotte Blakeslee, Theresa Borkowski, Annie Kaczmarek, Dave Plahanski, Steven Ottman, Sally Cooper, Diane Fiacco, Patricia Vaughan, Carolyn Kolba.

If you are hospitalized, please call the rectory. Privacy laws do not allow hospitals or nursing homes to inform priests of admission.

Pastor's Comments



I acknowledge the following who have given of themselves in time, labor and material offerings to our parish:

- ☺ to the family and friends of the late Vincent Sperski who have donated \$3,500.00 in his memory to our church.
- ☺ to Grace Fell for her \$50.00 church donation.
- ☺ to our Men's Society for treating the parish family at Jonathan's Restaurant.
- ☺ to Julianne Ludka & Maria Olsen/Little Oak Restaurant & Bistro for donating one case of take out containers for the Men's Society upcoming chicken barbecue.
- ☺ to Judy Dyman and Betty Ruda for donating their time and labor washing and ironing the altar cloths and linens.
- ☺ to Bob Blakeslee Sr. for donating his time, labor and expertise helping with computer problems.
- ☺ to Dan Derkowski, Peter Dyman III & Riley Fiacco for helping as sacristans.

Those of you who would like to purchase a live Easter Lily or Mum Plant as a donation or in the memory of a departed one will be able to do so. A sign up sheet will be posted in the vestibule, and will remain up until filled.

Cost of these live plants this year is \$11.00 for a lily and \$11.00 for a white or colored mum. For lilies or colored mum donated in memory of loved ones, a mass will be celebrated at a later date in their memory.

The parish council was considering purchasing silk lilies and mums as we did for Christmas but were unable to find a realistic looking plant for the Easter season. Hopefully, maybe for next Easter we will find them.





Do not neglect
to **do good** and to
share what you have,
for such **sacrifices**
are **pleasing** to God.

HEBREWS 13:16, NRSV

We should **consider removing the following** from our lives not only for **Lent**, but the **rest of our lives**:

Fear of Failure - You don't succeed without experiencing failure. Just make sure you fall forward.

Your comfort Zone - It's outside our comfort zones where new discoveries are made.

Blame - I am not going to pass the buck. I will take responsibility for my actions.

Guilt - I am loved by Jesus and he has forgiven my sins. Today is a new day and the past is behind.

Over commitment - Do less better and accomplish more.

Negativity - I will put the best construction on everything when it comes to other people.

Giving up - God never gives up on us.

The Quick Fix - Rarely does true transformation happen overnight.

Ungratefulness - You have been blessed in a way greater than you realize.

God has so much in store for us. But so many of the above things are holding us back from walking in that full destiny of our potential. Today is a new day.

The first **Chicken Barbecue** of the season will be held on **SATURDAY, APRIL 20.**

We are changing our volunteer work philosophy due to changing times. Instead of having just workers from the Men's Society for their fund raisers we are asking for workers from the entire parish family to give a helping hand.

Here is the reasoning for this change of philosophy: Our Men's Society is very generous with their funds toward the parish family - *sponsoring free breakfasts, social night out, purchasing supplies for the weekly coffee fellowship after mass etc.* They would just like some extra hands with the work that has to be done in order to have these successful events.

We would like to institute this type of a volunteer work policy not only for our Men's Society barbecues but for any scheduled parish fund raiser.



A part of the **Lenten Schedule of the church** during the 40 day period of Lent is the conducting of the devotion of the **Stations of the Cross.**

This service traces the last earthly steps of Jesus before His crucifixion on the cross.

The next devotion will be conducted on **Wednesday, March 13, at 7:00 p.m.**



STATIONS of the CROSS



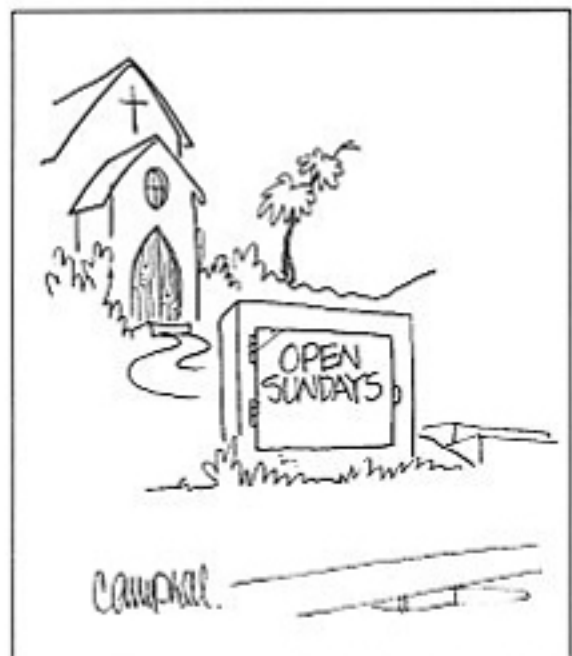
THE CROSS AND DOGWOOD BLOSSOMS

Legend has it that the material of the cross of crucifixion was dogwood, which at that time was as mighty a tree as the oak. But Jesus, in His own agony, sensed the distress of the dogwood timbers over the cruel duty they were compelled to perform. In His great compassion for all persons and things concerned with His crucifixion, He included the dogwood, saying:

"Because of your sorrow and pity for my suffering, you shall henceforth grow slender, bent and twisted so that your wood can never again be used as a cross. You shall bear blossoms that will appear as a crown of thorns, while the petals will carry at their outer edges nail prints, brown as rust and also stained with red, so that all who see them will remember."

In late April or early May, check out the dogwood blossoms on the two trees in front our rectory - FDR.

WHY GO TO CHURCH?



A church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. He wrote: "I've gone for 30 years now, and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time, the preachers and priests are wasting their time by giving sermons at all".

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column. Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today.

Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment!

YES OR NO ?

(but remember your answer)

In a few weeks the sacred season of Lent will bring us to Holy Week Services and of course Easter Sunday. These services have become increasingly forgotten and neglected by church members at our church and churches all over the world. It is very discouraging to have just a few faithful souls in the pews for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, people having their Easter food and baskets blessed on Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday.

What is most disturbing is people's attitude of the above holy days in the church.

Is there a solution or remedy to the problem? There is, but people are too lazy to reform and don't care.

I've have stated my disappointments - let,s see if anyone cares.....FDR



MUSIC MINISTRY

"O sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things!" - Psalms 98:1

The adult choir has been rehearsing music for Masses all the way through the end of the summer. With the addition of a few new voices, the choir is sounding even greater! You may listen to most of our Sunday anthems at www.jwpepper.com.

As always, our choir is in need of more singers! *Contact Betty for information.*

Thank you to David and Loreen Plahanski for their \$20 donation to our music fund for the purchase of a piece of music for a future Sunday Mass.

Hymn History

"Christ The Lord Is Risen Today" - Charles Wesley, the co-founder of the Methodist movement, wrote "Christ The Lord Is Risen Today" in 1739, where it was initially titled "Hymn for Easter Day". He based it on an older anonymous Bohemian hymn titled "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today". The new hymn was first performed at the first service at The Foundry Meeting House in England after Wesley had adapted it into the first Methodist chapel. Following this, Wesley published it in the *Hymns and Sacred Poems* hymnal of 1739, initially with eleven verses, which were later reduced to six, and early in the 19th century "Alleluia" was added to the end of each line. The hymn led to a more popular awareness of Alleluia being used for Easter to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus. We will be singing this hymn on Easter Sunday, March 31.

Easter is the most holy of holidays in Christianity. In the Christian doctrine it is the time when Jesus Christ was crucified, died and rose from the dead. But celebrating Easter has become more than a religious tradition. It has turned into a **celebration** of the spring - the happy, carefree feeling that spring brings along and family integrity.

The "blessing basket" is one of the essential Easter traditions. People prepare the "blessing basket" Saturday morning before Easter. They put into a basket colored eggs, bread, cake, butter, salt, pepper, a sample of Easter meats and other items of choice and go to church to have the basket and food blessed.

It is believed that the "Great Lent" - forty days of fasting before Easter - is over only after the blessing of the basket.

Everything in the basket has a symbolic meaning. The colored eggs symbolize the risen Christ, the bread reminds us of Jesus multiplying the loaves of bread, salt- good health and successful life. Meat expresses a wish for enough food during the coming Spring.

Easter baskets and food will be blessed in church on Holy Saturday, March 30, at 12 noon.





March 2024

EVENTS AT ALL SAINTS



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																							
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