

OUR LADY OF PEACE PARISH

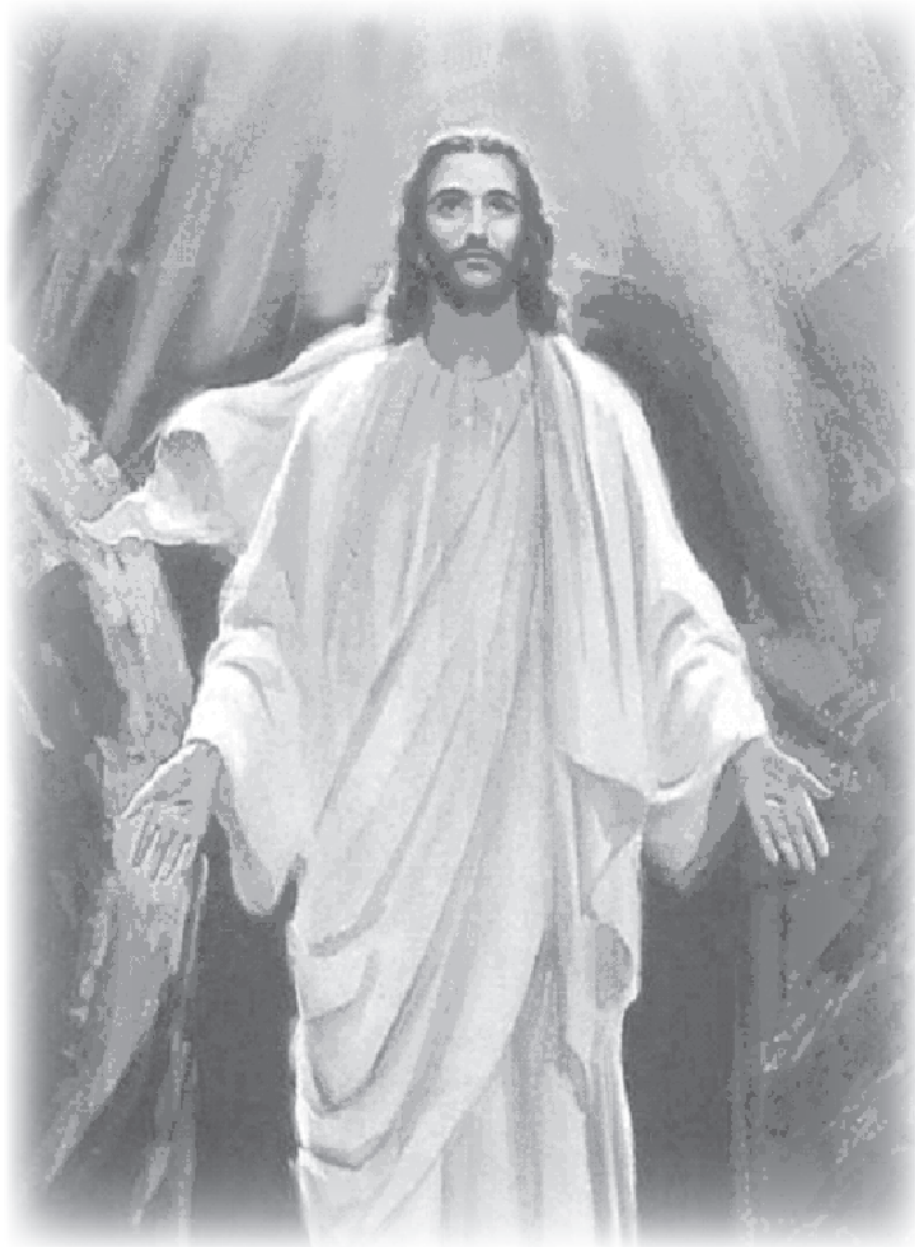
A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

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Christ is Risen!

CHRIST IS RISEN! ALLELUIA!

We have been following Christ through Lent, with fasting, prayer and almsgiving. We have tried to keep close to him through Holy Week, his betrayal, scourging and mocking, his sentence of crucifixion, his carrying of the cross and his agonizing death. And now we joyfully and gratefully share with him in the victory of the Resurrection.

Without the Resurrection, his life and sufferings would have been meaningless. His death reveals the tragedy of human life when it is in conflict with God; but it also reveals God's compassion towards us despite our sin. And Christ's Resurrection shows that the love and forgiveness he displayed in his death leads to glory and new life. In him, death and resurrection cannot be separated.

But though we have followed Jesus through the last week of his life, it was not the same for us as it was for the Apostles. As we went through Holy Week over the past few days, we knew how the story would end. The Apostles did not. All along we knew that on the third day he would rise again. They had no such comfort. For them, his death was the end; they would never see him again. They had let him down at the very moment when he needed them; and now they would never be able to ask his forgiveness.

The Gospels do say he warned the Apostles that he would suffer and die, and then rise again. But the Gospels also say that they simply did not understand what he meant. So it is not surprising that the first reaction of the disciples to the report of the Resurrection was not joy, relief, gladness and rejoicing. In all the Resurrection appearances in the Gospels there is this mixture of belief and unbelief, of slow recognition and incredulity, of being sure but not yet sure. He was the same and yet transformed. They hesitated; it was all too good to be true.

If our experience of the Risen Christ is unlike that of the Apostles, it is much nearer to that of St Paul. He knew how the story had ended. He had heard, like us, that Jesus had been crucified. And he had also heard, like us, the report that Jesus had risen from the dead. But he resisted this, fiercely, passionately, so that he persecuted the followers of Jesus even to death. Then suddenly the light broke in on him too. He was blinded, literally and metaphorically, dazzled by the light that shone on his eyes and in his mind. 'Who are you, Lord?' ... 'I am Jesus who you are persecuting'. The crucified, risen and glorified Jesus identified himself with those whom Paul was persecuting – and therefore also with all of us. Instantly, he recognized Jesus as Lord, and his life could never be the same again.

I think our celebration of the Resurrection is missing something here. We tend to associate fear and bewilderment with the Cross, and joy and new life with the Resurrection. And in a sense that is true. But the Gospels tell us that those to whom the resurrection was announced experienced bewilderment, terror and incomprehension. Perhaps we domesticate the Resurrection; we talk about it in a safe and comfortable way, like the glory of a beautiful sunrise. But this does not do justice to the overwhelming, blinding irruption of the God of glory made present to us in the face of the risen Christ.

The resurrection is continually happening for us. The light, the vision, is pouring into us. Our eyes may be dazzled by the light or blinded by seeing it. We try to open our blinded eyes to see him in Himself and in one another. At the same time the Resurrection is not yet, for us. It is still awaiting us. We are still in the darkness, and we walk towards the light in awe and trembling, hoping for courage. It is all too good to be true.

Mass Intentions

Holy Saturday March 30th

8pm

Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday March 31st

10am & 11:30am

The Resurrection of the Lord – Easter Day

Monday April 1st

No Mass

Tuesday April 2nd

9am

†**Jorges Cortes** Requested by Imelda Lopez

†**Barrie Fodhan** Requested by Jane & Ted Wallbridge

11:30am

Funeral Mass:

For the Repose of the Soul of †**Buenaventura (Ben) Galvez**

Wednesday April 3rd 9am

†**Lisa Sbrocchi** Requested by Elizabeth Karczuga

Thursday April 4th 9am

†**Melanio Lopez** Requested by Imelda Lopez

First Friday April 5th 9am

†**Cecilia Plut** Requested by Plut Family

Eucharistic adoration following the 9am Mass until 10:15 a.m.
Closing with Benediction.



Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Christ is risen!

Wishing you all a blessed and joyous Easter celebration, filled with the peace and presence of the risen Lord.

Sanctuary Candle Intentions

Sacred Heart: In memory of †**Daniella Zaleski**
Requested by the Zaleski Family

Sanctuary Candle: In memory of †**Daniella Zaleski**
Requested by the Zaleski Family

St. Joseph: In memory of †**Daniella Zaleski**
Requested by the Zaleski Family



Save the Date
Bingo & Pizza Night
Friday May 3rd 2024
More details to come



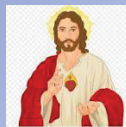
Please pray those who are sick:

Edward Staudinger
Leo Mazzecco

Please pray those who have died recently:

† Ellen Divers
† Giuseppe (Joe) Luca
† Buenaventura (Ben) Galvez
† Marg Webb

May they Rest in Peace



FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION –

April 5th

First Fridays have traditionally been associated with the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. To appropriately observe First Fridays there will be Eucharistic adoration following the 9:00 am Mass until 10:15 a.m. Closing with Benediction.

Pastoral Letters of Reference

If you anticipate needing a pastoral letter of reference from the pastor for applying to a position within the Catholic School Board, such as a Teacher or a Lunch Supervisor, or for roles like a Confirmation Sponsor or a Godparent, it is crucial to establish an early connection with the pastor. This ensures that the pastor has the opportunity to become acquainted with you. The reference letter aims to confirm that the candidate is a practicing Catholic, actively participating in the parish community by regularly attending Sunday Mass. Please note that a request for a letter of reference may not be fulfilled if the pastor lacks sufficient familiarity with the individual making the request.



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Let's talk

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