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EASTER SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S RESURRECTION APRIL 4, 2021

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 3

Easter Vigil	
7:30PM	The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy
SUNDAY, AF	PRIL 4
Easter Sundo	ay of the Lord's Resurrection
7:30 AM	The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy
9:00AM	The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy
10:30AM	The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy
MONDAY, A	PRIL 5
Monday with	hin the Octave of Easter
7:30AM	Stephen H. Kavanagh, Jr. —1st Anniversary
TUESDAY, A	PRIL 6
Tuesday with	hin the Octave of Easter
7:30AM	George Bonaski—1st Anniversary
WEDNESDA	Y, APRIL 7
Wednesday	within the Octave of Easter
7:30AM	Elizabeth Callaghan—Birthday Remembrance
THURSDAY,	APRIL 8
Thursday wi	thin the Octave of Easter
7:30AM	Mark Quinton—Memorial
FRIDAY, APP	RIL 9
Friday within	n the Octave of Easter
7:30AM	Diane Randolph—Memorial
SATURDAY,	APRIL 10
Saturday wit	thin the Octave of Easter
8:30AM	Deceased Members of Rosary Group—Memorial
Mass of Anti	icipation for the 2nd Sunday of Easter
5:00PM	Stephen H. Kavanagh, Jr.—1st Anniversary
SUNDAY, AP	PRIL 11
Second Sund	lay of Easter-Divine Mercy
7:30 AM	The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy
9:00AM	Maureen Mary Lee—Month's Mind
10:30AM	Robert Garafano—Memorial



946 Our Lady of Mercy-2

Mercy Musings



Dear Parishioners:

At the Easter Vigil Mass, the *Exsultet* is sung. It is a triumphant hymn and wonderful sacramental that is the prelude to the solemnities of the Mass. It says: "Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her, ablaze with light from her eternal King, let all corners of the earth be glad, knowing an end to gloom and darkness."

Indeed we are glad and we rejoice that the Lord is Risen. But we are also "glad" because there is an end of the "gloom and darkness" of the last year's lockdown and the closing of our churches last Easter. On Easter 2021 let us rejoice as we are able to gather together and celebrate our Lord's victory over sin and death.

We also rejoice as a parish family as we welcome so many new members who are baptized and confirmed in the Catholic Faith at the Easter Vigil. We sing joyfully with the Psalmist: "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad."

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. Fifty days to celebrate with gladness and joy.

Easter is a "Passover" from death to new life. In some languages, the connection between the Jewish Passover and Christian Easter is explicit. The Hebrew word for Passover is *Pesach*. In French, Easter is *Paques*. In Italian it's *Pasqua*.

In many other languages, the word for Easter is simply a

transliteration of the Greek word for Easter, *Pascha*. Our English word, Easter, is German in origin, coming from the archaic word for new life, which is to say, resurrection.

In whatever language, Easter is a time of resurrection and rebirth, a time to celebrate the risen Christ and God's promise of eternal life. All faith flows from faith in the resurrection. St. Paul says: "If Christ has not been raised, then empty is our preaching; empty, too, is your faith."

In Italy, Easter Monday is known formally as *lunedi dell'Angelo*, or "Monday of the Angel," and informally as *Pasquetta*, or "little Easter." After celebrating Easter Sunday by attending Holy Mass and sharing a delicious meal of lamb and ham, many Italians continue to celebrate the day after on Easter Monday, *Pasquetta*, with great joy.

The reference to an angel evokes the Gospel scene of an angel encountering several women outside Christ's empty tomb, where they had gone to perfume his dead body with oils. According to the Gospel of Mark, they instead encountered an angel, who told them: "Don't be afraid! You're seeking Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified one. He is risen, he's not here."

On *Pasquetta* (Easter Monday) all the Easter leftovers are packed up for an outdoor picnic with family and friends. Often Italian families go to the local cemetery and spread their blanket and then eat their Easter leftovers near the graves of their beloved dead.

For us as Catholics, cemeteries are reverent, hopeful,

and prayerful places. For much of the world today, cemeteries are associated with scary ghosts and viewed as spooky places.

However, as Catholics we honor and revere our dead. We continually pray for them and have Masses offered for them. Therefore, for the Catholic a cemetery is a reminder of the promise, and the hope, of the resurrection in Jesus Christ. So be sure to stop by and pray with, and for, your beloved dead at Easter. Bring Easter flowers to the grave and perhaps even enjoy a picnic with them on *Pasquetta!*

As Catholics, we believe that the grave is not the final destination. With St. Paul, we proclaim to the world: "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" While we look back upon this last year and reflect on the pains and sorrows of death, the sufferings of sickness and deprivation of this worldwide pandemic as Christian disciples on Easter 2021 we proclaim that suffering and death do not have the final word.

Let us rejoice with faith, hope and love in the Resurrection of Christ. St. John Paul the Great said: "Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song!"

the In name of Fr. Barrow. Fr. Connors. Sr. Lourdes. Sr. Emma. Sr. Soledad and Sr. Jeanne we wish you a Happy and Holy and God's choicest Easter Blessings!

Father Her

946 Our Lady of Mercy—3



Why the Easter Bunny?

Fr. Healey is oft to say: "It would not be Easter without Peeps." We all know that little marshmallow treat, deceptively tasty looking on the outside (at least to me, but then again there is no judgment concerning taste), which represents the Easter Bunny. Why is Easter associated with the Easter Bunny? It goes back to Easter Eggs. In Germanic and Anglo-Saxon countries it was the bunny which would bring the eggs. The egg is the symbol of fertility and rebirth which Christians associated with the Resurrection. Eggs were originally painted to represent Christ's blood.

The Easter Bunny has become ubiquitous in America, but at least in Italy rabbits and bunnies are most often associated with stews. The richer symbol for Easter is the lamb. For the Jewish people the lamb was the symbol of sacrifice. In the Book of Exodus, God commanded the Israelites to sacrifice a lamb or a goat and place its blood over the lintel of their home. By doing so, they were passed over and saved from death. God commanded that this event be commemorated in the Passover feast. It was the blood of the sacrificial lamb which forgave the sins of the people in the Temple.

The sacrifice of a lamb was merely the prefigurement of the greatest and final sacrifice: the sacrifice of the Son on the Cross. In Isaiah's famous prophecy the Suffering Servant he writes: "Though he was harshly treated, he submitted and opened not his mouth; like a lamb led to the slaughter or a sheep before the shearers, he was silent and opened not his mouth." Behold, Jesus is the Lamb of God who offers the perfect sacrifice of obedience and love on the Cross to free us from sin, recapitulate God and man, and transform us into his Body (to become sacrificial lambs ourselves). In his resurrection Christ passed over from death into life and this Passover has been extended to us. We partake of this sacrifice in the Mass when we partake of his body and blood.

In many of the ancient churches of Rome the apostles are depicted as lambs. This is not a coincidence (just as many of the parables Jesus gives depict His people as sheep without a shepherd). Jesus asks us to imitate him, take up our crosses, and be transformed into the sacrificial lamb offering up sacrifices of praise, thanksgiving and love. Finally in Revelation, and at every Mass, the heavenly liturgy and banquet is depicted as the worship of the Lamb of God, out of whom flows blood and water. To visualize this image I ask everyone to look up "The Adoration of the Lamb" by brothers Hubert and Jan van Eyck.



Collection results are unavailable due to the Easter print deadline.

Please remember Our Lady of Mercy Church in your will or estate.

W.



Saturday Evening Mass of Anticipation

The 4:00PM Saturday Evening Mass moves to 5:00PM and Saturday Confessions from 3:00pm to 4:00PM <u>on</u> Saturday, April 10, 2021.



The OLM Parish Office is closed on Easter Monday, April 5th and reopens on Tuesday, April 6th at 8:00AM.

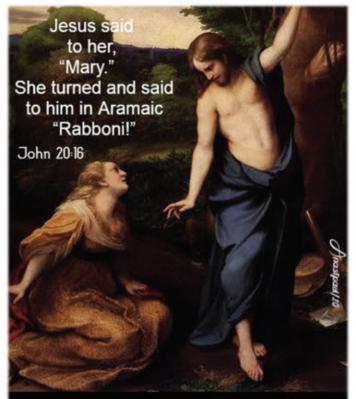
> Please support the Catholic Charity Appeal, make your pledge today



2021 OLM Parish Goal= \$190,000 2021 Pledged (to date)=\$97,041 2021 Total of Pledges (to date)=221

2020 Goal= \$200,000 2020 Amount Pledged= \$131,236 Total Number Parishioners Pledges=290

Thank you for your support.



The Risen One cannot be seen like a piece of wood or stone. He can only be seen by the person to whom He reveals Himself. And He only reveals Himself, to the one whom He can entrust with a mission. He does NOT reveal Himself, to curiosity but to LOVE, LOVE is the indispensable organ if we are to see and approach Him."

JOSEPH CARDINAL RATZINGER (POPE BENEDICT XVI)



Dear OLM Parishioners and Friends of OLM: Easter Blessings and sincere thanks to all those who support our good works and outreach efforts! We are grateful for your generous financial support and bountiful charity to the poor. Doug Green OLM Outreach Director



Striving to be Saints & Scholars!

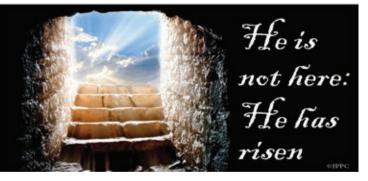
A Happy Easter to our OLM faculty, staff, students, families, alumni and benefactors! Patrick McNabb OLM School Principal

Discover the OLM Advantage at www.olmschool.org



A Happy and Holy Easter to our OLM Religious Education students, families and volunteers! Mickey St. Jean & Doug Green OLM Religious Education Coordinators

<u>Sunday, April 11:</u> Mass at 5pm & Class following Mass. Topic: "Holy Eucharist". Mass is for First Communion students and their families only. <u>Sunday, May 2</u>: Mass at 5pm & Class following Mass. Topic: "Receiving the Real Presence." Mass is for First Communion students and their families only. <u>Saturday, May 8:</u> First Communion



946 Our Lady of Mercy—4

Regina Cœli

Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia. For He, whom thou did merit to bear, alleluia. Has risen, as He said, alleluia. Pray for us to God, alleluia. Rejoice and be glad, O virgin Mary, alleluia. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray. O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Thy son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the virgin Mary, His mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen

Anastpaul/19



A Gift for Easter

We are grateful to an OLM Parishioner who generously donated this terrific new book by Catholic Evangelist Matthew Kelly They are being given out at Easter Sunday Masses as a gift! If they run out, order your copy on Amazon or at dynamiccatholic.com



Nothing will *change your life* so completely, absolutely, and forever like really learning how to pray.





STAY INFORMED ABOUT OLM VIA TEXT OR EMAIL! SIGN-UP TODAY FOR FLOCK NOTE AT OLMPARISH.ORG STAY CONNECTED TO OLM!

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