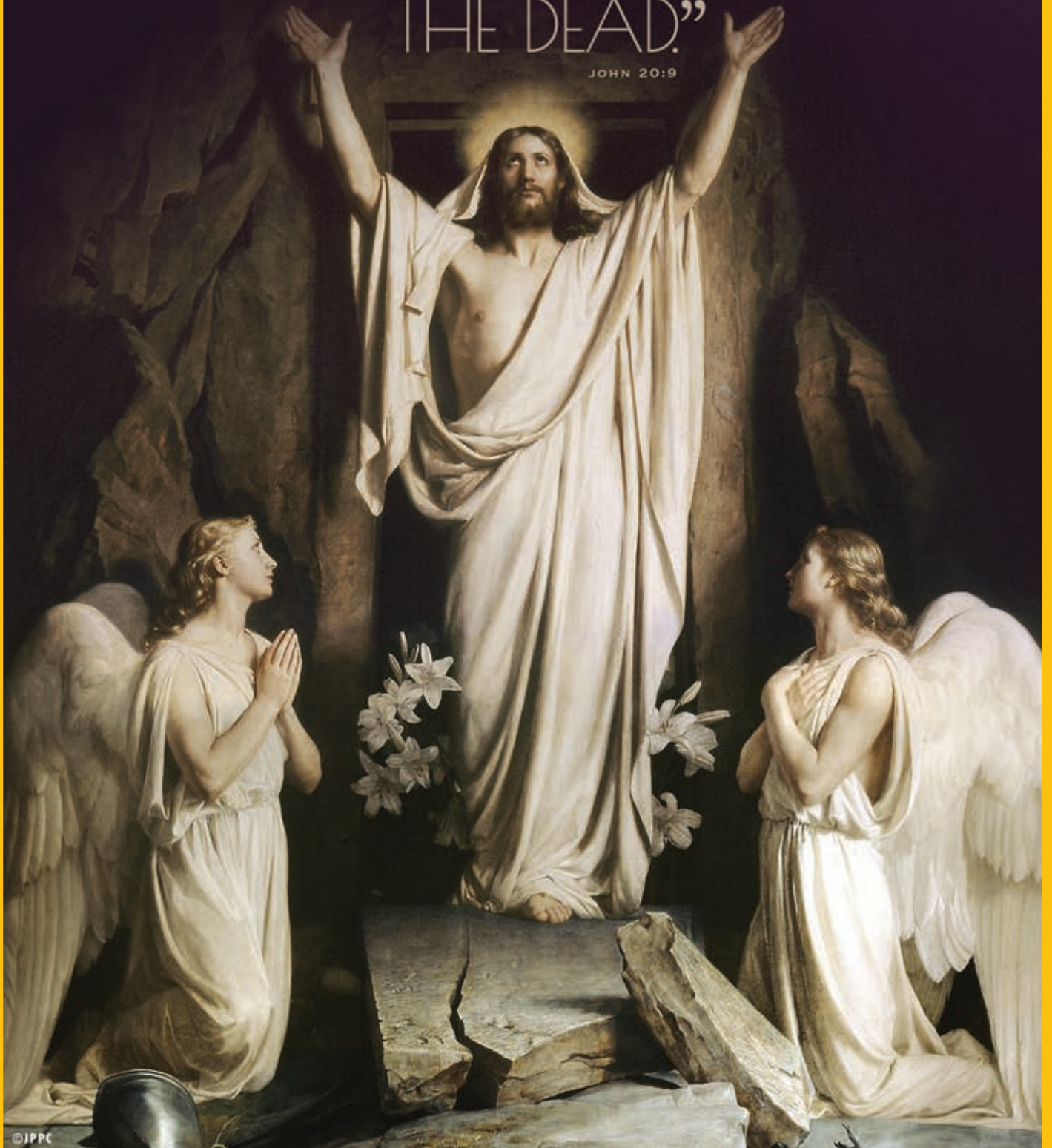


“HE HAD
TO RISE
FROM
THE DEAD.”

JOHN 20:9



Mass Intentions

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The OLM Parish Priests are offering private Mass daily for the Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church. In particular, we remember this week these intentions:

Monday within the Octave of Easter, April 13

Hans B. & Hans F. Loeffler—Memorial

Tuesday within the Octave of Easter, April 14

Special Intention

Wednesday within the Octave of Easter, April 15

Fay Masterson—Birthday Remembrance

Thursday within the Octave of Easter, April 16

Carol Millmather—Memorial

Friday within the Octave of Easter, April 17

Special Intention

Saturday within the Octave of Easter, April 18

Special Intention

Rita McGoff—Birthday Remembrance

Second Sunday of Easter, April 19

The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church

Joanne Freeman—Memorial

Stephen J. DeBlois—Memorial

Doris Wise—Memorial

HAPPY EASTER

With deep appreciation and affection for your support, you and loved ones are remembered in daily prayer and at the Celebration of Easter Mass. May all the blessings of the Risen Christ be yours this Easter and throughout the year.

The Clergy and Religious of Our Lady of Mercy



Dear Parishioners:

“Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song.” These words of Saint Pope John Paul II certainly speak to us this Easter Sunday. The ongoing pandemic prevents us from celebrating the great feast of our faith together at Mass. It has prevented the initiation of candidates into the Church at the Easter Vigil. We won't be celebrating Easter Dinner with our family and friends this year. Yes, the joy and glory of Easter seems very muted this year.

Despite the Coronavirus Pandemic, and the tragic suffering and death we have witnessed these past weeks, we must not give into despair. For as a people of faith who believe that Christ rose from the dead and destroyed sin and death, we must resist the temptation to lose hope.

The Psalmist sings on Easter: *“This is the day the Lord has made, Let us be glad and rejoice in it!”* Yet on that first Easter morning it was neither gladness nor rejoicing that Mary Magdalene experienced as she went three days after the death and burial of Jesus to visit His place of burial. She was full of fear and uncertainty, and no doubt much sadness and despair after the event of Good Friday.

However, on Easter she arrived to find the Lord not in the tomb. And sent for the apostles to join her. They run to the burial site and enter the tomb and see the burial cloths folded neatly. They see the tomb empty. Their doubt converted into belief! Their despair converted into hope. *“Alleluia! He is risen as He said, Alleluia!”* This

Easter Sunday is not just an anniversary of that first Easter morning. Nor, is this Easter simply a memorial – a remembrance of that first Easter Sunday morning. Today is Easter. Today is the Day the Lord has made. Today, Christ is Risen!

While we must remain safe and isolated in our homes on this Easter Sunday, we are not simply recalling what happened to Jesus, nor the events of the first Easter. We are not simply spectators watching the reactions of the three disciples – Mary Magdalene, Peter and John. Rather, as people of faith and hope this Easter Sunday we share in the triumph and victory of God.

As the Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote, *“Let Him Easter in us.”* We must let the victory and triumph of Easter touch our lives. Today, in the safety of our own homes as we celebrate this most unique of Easter Sundays, we must allow Easter to refresh and renew us with the joy and the triumph that emanates from Christ whom no tomb could hold in death.

An ancient symbol for Christian Hope is the anchor. The anchor steadies the vessel and safely holds it secure. The Risen Christ holds us steady when life gets rough. Christ the anchor secures us closely to God when the waves of life crash over us. We are glad and rejoice today because Christ our Hope is Risen! The tomb is empty!!

Easter is the culmination of everything we believe as Christians and the virtue of Easter is hope. Timothy Cardinal Dolan of New York says the best definition of hope is this: *“Hope*

is the virtue that keeps us going when we are tempted to think that Jesus is asleep.”

We may be tempted to think the Lord is asleep this Easter given the current crisis and the uncertainty of our future. We might also be tempted to give in to despair and lose hope. Easter calls us to resist such temptations. It celebrates that Christ conquers darkness and despair by his resurrection. St. Bernard of Clairvaux said: *“You can fight with confidence where you are sure of victory. With Christ and for Christ victory is certain!”*

Easter reminds us that every Good Friday has an Easter Sunday. With Easter the Risen Christ invites us to share the power of His Resurrection. Each time we love others, we share in the Resurrection. Each time we forgive a betrayal, we share in the Resurrection. Each time we continue to hope – even when our hope seems unanswered – we share in the power of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In short, the message of Easter is that nothing can defeat us – not pain, sin, rejection or death, not even a pandemic – because the Risen Christ conquers all and we too can conquer them if we put our faith and hope in Christ. St. Padre Pio reminds us: *“The most beautiful Credo is the one we pronounce in our hour of darkness.”* Be well. Do Good! Stay safe! God Bless. *Alleluia, He is Risen!!* Have a Holy and Happy Easter!

Father Healey



Why do we look forward to the Resurrection?

Most people probably hope and do everything they can to get to heaven, but how many of us look forward to the Resurrection? One might say: “we are in heaven, what more do we need?” Answering this question brings to light the great significance and awe-filled event that is the Resurrection of Christ and the reality of heaven. Further, it makes us appreciate what we pray in the Creed every week: “I look forward to the resurrection of the dead.” Finally in these times the resurrection gives us hope that God can defeat any kind of evil or suffering in this life.

First of all, how do we know anything at all? We know things about ourselves and the world through our five senses; through our bodies. Without a body we cannot receive any new information. Many of us probably have an idea of heaven with clouds in which the saints are looking down on us, but this is only a poetic expression of heaven. The saints do not look down on us because they do not have their bodies yet. In fact, the only reason why saints know what happens here and are able to intercede on our behalf is because God directly infuses knowledge into them. They too, however, await the resurrection at the end of time when Christ comes again so that they will be supremely perfectly happy.

In order to be truly happy we need our bodies. Contemporary society depicts the human person as a soul trapped in a body (or for the materialists, a mind trapped in a body). This anthropology may be the source of many of the false dichotomies and gender debates in many circles. For Catholics we are a body/soul composite (while this is a Catholic outlook this also avoids many philosophical problems associated with dualism). Once in heaven, before the Resurrection, all of us will have the beatific vision; we will see God as clearly as possible for a human being. Embodiment is not necessary for this vision, but this is an unnatural state for the soul. A soul in heaven is not properly human, because to be human is to have a body. So to be supremely perfectly happy we need a body in heaven.

Just some last points: At the Resurrection we will have our same bodies we had on earth (not the same in the sense of the same atoms, since even our atoms change day to day). We are not transformed in any way into angels in heaven (angels do not have material bodies). In heaven our material bodies do not become spiritual in heaven. Instead they are completely subject to our souls (e.g. no temptations) and hence able to do spiritual things.



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• **For more information about OLM Outreach**, please contact OLM Outreach Director, Doug Green at 884-4410 or via email at outreach@olmparish.org



For the safety and well being of all, the **OLM Parish Office is closed to the public until further notice.** Please call the OLM Parish Office at 401-884-4968 or contact us via email at parish@olmparish.org for all parish business and spiritual bouquets.

For Sacramental Emergencies, confessions or to talk with a priest please call 401-884-4968. We are readily available to help, talk, pray or assist you.

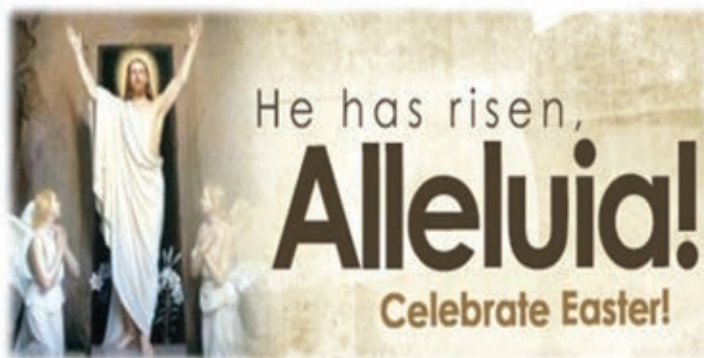
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Confession is always available by appointment, please call 401-884-4968 to schedule an appointment with a priest.

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THANK FOR YOUR COOPERATION.**



FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 12

Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-33; 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11; Mt 28:8-15
Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41; Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22; Jn 20:11-18
Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10; Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9; Lk 24:13-35
Thursday: Acts 3:11-26; Ps 8:2ab, 5, 6-7, 8-9; Lk 24:35-48
Friday: Acts 4:1-12; Ps 118:1-2, 4, 22-24, 25-27a; Jn 21:1-14
Saturday: Acts 4:13-21; Ps 118:1, 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21; Mk 16:9-15
Sunday: Acts 2:42-47; Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24; 1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31

Easter Sunday



Reforming our lives during Lent has led us to renewing our baptismal promises at this Easter celebration.

Each Sunday during the Easter season, we should recall our baptism through the rite of blessing and sprinkling holy water.

This is the ideal time of year to celebrate not only baptism but also confirmation and first communion, the sacraments which complete the Christian initiation process begun with baptism.



This bulletin insert was written by Marion Eagen, a liturgist and musician in the diocese of Scranton, Pa. © 2002 Resource Publications, Inc., 160 E. Virginia St. #290, San Jose, CA 95112, (408) 286-8505. All rights reserved.

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