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ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

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*A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg
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Rev. Marlon Pates, Pastor
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Rev. Arnel Patayon Tadeo
Shared Parochial Vicar
atadeo@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Masses in Masontown

Monday, Wednesday, Friday ..8:00 am
Saturday6:00 pm
Sunday.....8:00 am & 11:30 am

Confessions: Saturday 5:00-5:30 pm

Adoration: Wednesday 5:00 pm

Masses in Footedale

Tuesday & Thursday8:00 am
Saturday:4:00 pm
Sunday.....9:30 am

Confessions: Saturday 3:00-3:30 pm

Adoration: Friday 11:00 am

Office Hours: Monday through
Friday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Bulletin Articles: The deadline
for placing articles in the bulletin
is Monday at Noon.

New Parishioners, Welcome!
Please register as soon as possible.

Communion to the Homebound is
provided on a regular basis. Call the
Parish Office to be added to our list.

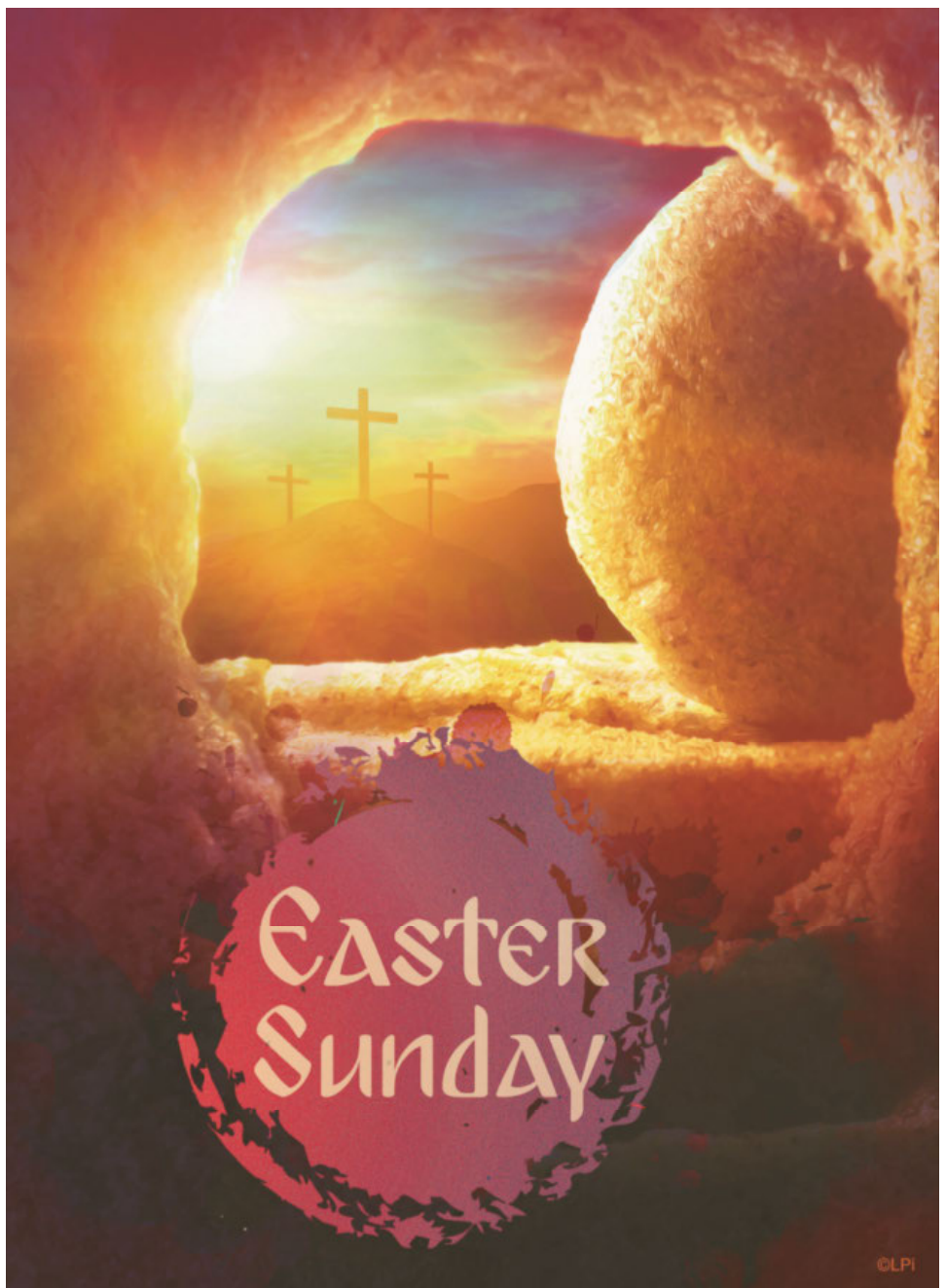
Sacrament of Baptism: By
appointment. Prior to your baby's
Baptism, you must be a registered,
practicing member of this parish.

Sacrament of Marriage: Requires
parish membership by at least one of
the parties for six months prior to
making arrangements for marriage.

Weddings should be scheduled
one year in advance.

Prayer Chain: To request prayer,
please call Patty 724-245-9746
or Valeria 724-583-9460

The Resurrection of the Lord - April 9, 2023



Fr. Marlon's Reflections - EASTER SUNDAY (Acts 10:34, 37-43; Col. 3:1-4; Jn. 20:1-9)

Easter is the greatest celebration in the Catholic Church because it is the completion of the Holy week that ends with the resurrection of Jesus. Easter celebrates the beginning and foundation of Christianity. Jesus was raised from the dead, and it goes to show that He conquered sin and death. All over the world, Catholics have different ways of celebrating Easter. In my home country Philippines, Easter is a big celebration. At about 3:30 Easter Sunday morning, two processions coming from different assembly points begin in practically all parishes in the Philippines for the *encuentro* (meeting). One group composed of women follow the statue of the Sorrowful Mother while another group composed of men follow the statue of the Risen Christ. When the two groups converge at a designated place (usually the public plaza), an “angel,” a four or five year old girl dressed as an angel, is lowered from a makeshift arch and lifts the mourning veil of the Sorrowful Mother. Then the joyful hymn *Regina Coeli* is sung by a choir of little children:

*Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia! For he whom you were chosen to bear, alleluia!
Has risen as He said, alleluia! Pray for us to God, Alleluia!*

The two groups, now merged into one, then proceed to the parish church for the celebration of the Easter Dawn Mass. This practice is based on an early Christian tradition that after Jesus was raised from the dead, he first appeared to Mary. And why not? She loved him as only a mother could and suffered the most during his Passion and Death. Thus, he owed it to her that she be the first to receive the joy of his Resurrection and enjoy its fruits.

The gospel reading talks about Jesus' Resurrection in terms of the “mystery of the tomb.” When told by the women who went to the tomb early Sunday morning, Peter and John rushed to the tomb. On entering the cave where the tomb was, they saw everything as the women had told them. Confronted with this, John, the beloved disciple, speaking for himself in his gospel, saw and believed.

Some years ago, I saw (perhaps you did too), a religious poster which says: “Christ is the answer!” My first reaction after reading it was to ask, “If Christ is the answer, what is the question he is answering?” Some of these questions may be as follows: Why is there so much suffering in the world – trials, sickness, poverty, injustice? Why do innocent children suffer and die in war-torn countries, like Ukraine, Afghanistan, etc.? Why the tremendous waste of food in the West while people are starving in the third world countries? Is life just one series of trials and sufferings? What is life for? Finally, after death, what?

To answer these questions, we have to go back to what immediately happened after the Fall of our first parents when suffering, sin and death became part and parcel of human existence. Then God said to the serpent (Satan), I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike at your head, while you strike at his heel (Gen. 3:15). This is the first promise of the coming of the Savior of humankind.

From this promise, we are made to understand that the descendants of the woman and Satan would be engaged in mortal combat. Ultimately, the woman's offspring would triumph, *He will strike at your head*, that is, deal Satan fatal blow, while Satan's offspring would merely strike at his heel. This last gives us an indication that the woman's offspring would be a “Suffering Servant” (a theme extensively developed by the Prophet Isaiah).

True enough, when the promised Savior came in the person of Jesus Christ, he came as the Suffering Servant. And at the appointed time, Jesus, Son of God though he was, underwent his Passion and Death to carry out in love his Father's will. For this reason, his Father raised him up from the dead. This signaled our redemption, too, for with Jesus raised, we too were raised up with him and thus were freed from the clutches of Satan.

Because of the Resurrection, we can now have the answer to life's fundamental questions raised earlier. It was Jesus' complete obedience to the will of the Father – even unto death on the cross – that led to his resurrection and victory over sin and death, over Satan himself. Uniting our pains and sufferings in faith and love to Jesus' own Passion and Death may also lead us to our own glorification, to a new life, to eternal life.

In other words, the message of Easter is this: Yes, we have suffered and continue to suffer. Yes, we have sinned and a long list of future sins still awaits us. But despite all these, we continue to hope, remain a hopeful people. And this because with Jesus' Resurrection we have become heirs of the fruits of his Resurrection.

Mother Mary, you were the first to enjoy the fruits of the Resurrection. Help us in our unbelief and questionings. Help us to put our faith and trust in your Risen Son so that we, despite or rather because of our pains, sufferings and sins, will also attain our own glorification.

A Blessed Easter to all of you! May God shower you with blessings, love, and peace this Easter.



THE SEASON OF EASTER

Our Easter celebration lasts *fifty days*, during which Resurrection joy should overflow the hearts of believers to refresh a parched and weary world with the re-vivifying waters of faith, hope and charity.

All season, at every Sunday Mass, we read Luke's *Acts of the Apostles*, charting the young church's Spirit-led journey, sometimes peaceful, sometimes persecuted, beset by enemies without and turmoil within, but this young church is always moving onward, from Jerusalem's familiarity to the strangeness of every place between there and Rome; and outward, from an inherited Judaism's comfortable uniformity to the Gentile world's challenging diversity.

A week after Easter, **Divine Mercy Sunday** invites us to renew our personal relationship with Jesus. On the **Third Sunday of Easter**, the disciples at Emmaus recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread and return to share the Good News even as modern-day disciples should. On **Good Shepherd Sunday**, the church prays for priestly and religious vocations. All the while, *Acts* shows people drawn to the early Church because they had seen the Risen Jesus not in person, but in persons, in disciples who still form Christ's living Body, the Church.

Each of us is likewise called to be the kind of disciple, personally and in communion with our brothers and sisters, in whom those who seek Jesus may at least glimpse His presence.



The month of APRIL is the month of the Blessed Sacrament. The faithful acknowledge and adore Jesus, true God and true Man, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament under the appearances of bread and wine. In this Sacrament, He perpetuates His sacrifice on Calvary.

During the month of April, please pray with Pope Francis **for a culture of peace and non violence.**

REGINA COELI LAETARE, ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!

This weekend and during the Easter season, our choirs will be singing the original version of M. Labat's *Regina Coeli Laetare*. This piece was first published in 1871 in the Catholic Youth's Hymn Book (Christian Brothers). Labat was a Professor of History at the Academy of Music in Paris and was an accomplished Tenor. He made his debut in the Grand Opera of Paris in 1860 and was also known as a music historian.

The piece has a connection to our parish. In 1958, *Regina Coeli* was arranged for the choir of the former Holy Rosary Parish by its Music Director, Mr. Joseph Kovalik. Mr. Kovalik and his three successor Music Directors used his setting at the parish for many years. Mrs. Kovalik shared her late husband's arrangement with me some years ago and I used it at the former Saint Hedwig, Smock and Saint Cecilia, Grindstone in the 1990s and early 2000s. The Latin text is translated: *Queen of heaven, rejoice! The Son you merited to bear, Has risen as He said! Pray to God for us. Alleluia!*

A second piece our choirs will sing this Easter season is *Today He's Risen* by A. Cull, published in the same 1871 collection. Mr. Kovalik's version of this piece was also used at Holy Rosary for many years.

Resurrexit, sicut dixit, Alleluia!

- Submitted by Eric Blanda

The **Greensburg Chapter of Magnificat**, A Ministry to Catholic Women, will hold a breakfast on Saturday, **April 29**, from 9am/Noon at Rizzo's Banquet Hall in Crabtree. Guest speaker, Father John-Mary Tompkins, OSB, will talk about his faith journey. Cost is \$25; registration is due by April 24 by calling 724-836-2094 or on online at www.magnificatgreensburg.com

The **Saint Vincent Archabbey Summer Retreat Program** will host three retreats in July. Benedictine Father Nathanael Polinski will conduct a **men's retreat July 14-16** on the topic "*Put Out Into the Deep (Luke 5:4).*" Benedictine Father Donald Raila will lead the **Benedictine Spirituality Retreat July 21-23** with the theme "*Avoiding the 'Evil of Grumbling': Living in Praise and Thanksgiving.*" Benedictine Father Alfred Patterson will speak on "*More Saints Alive!*" a continuation of a similar topic last year, during a retreat for women and men **July 28-30**. For information or to register, visit www.saintvincentretreats.org

The **Rosary for Peace in Ukraine** is prayed each Sunday at 4:00 pm at Saint John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church in Uniontown. All are welcome to participate.



April Faithful Challenge: **SELF-CARE**

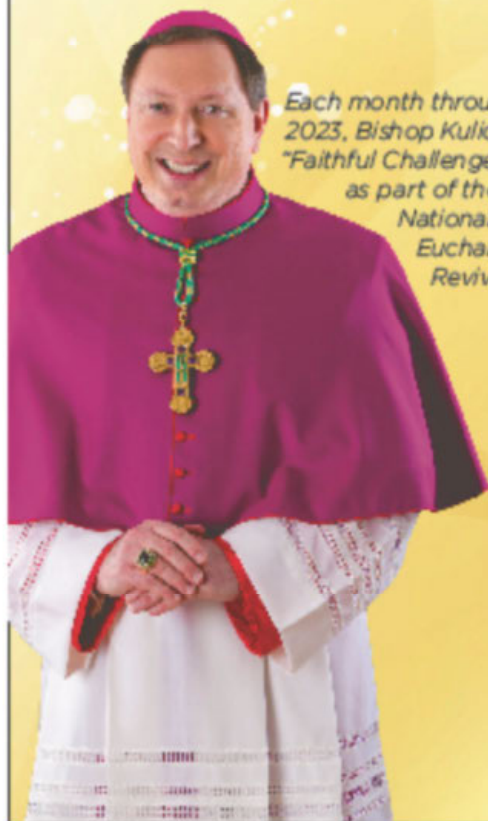
Be still and know that I am God

Psalm 46:10

Bishop Kulick's April Faithful Challenge is self-care. Be patient and kind with yourself. Nurturing your spiritual, mental, physical, and emotional health makes you stronger and enables you to better serve others. How we should serve God while taking care of ourselves is evident throughout the New Testament. There are many examples of Jesus spending time in prayer with God and doing so away from the crowds. Couldn't we all focus more on being still? Take time this Easter season to nourish yourself with His word.

Challenge yourself:

- Spend time with Jesus during Eucharistic Adoration
- Extend your time alone with God in prayer
- Make a day of rest and relaxation a priority this month



Each month throughout 2023, Bishop Kulick will issue "Faithful Challenges" as part of the National Eucharistic Revival.



Eucharistic Revival is a three-year process initiated by the USCCB to invite the faithful to reflect upon the mystery and meaning of the sacrament of the Eucharist in our lives. While much of year one involves providing devotional and formational opportunities for parish and Diocesan staff, you, too, can be a part of Eucharistic Revival right now! Visit the Diocese of Greensburg Facebook page every Thursday to participate in a Faithful Challenge, and hopefully you will feel yourself growing in a relationship with Christ. Visit the Eucharistic Revival resource page at DioceseofGreensburg.org/EucharisticRevival for videos, prayers and gathering dates. Consider Bishop Kulick's invitation to become an intentional disciple this year!

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, April 8 -- Vigil of Easter

8:00 pm-M (M) All Parishioners, Living & Deceased

Sunday, April 9 -- The Resurrection of the Lord

8:00 am-M (A) All Parishioners, Living & Deceased

9:30 am-F (M) All Parishioners, Living & Deceased

11:30 am-M (M) All Parishioners, Living & Deceased

Monday, April 10 -- Monday, Octave of Easter

8:00 am-M Brian Coll (Family)

Tuesday, April 11 -- Tuesday, Octave of Easter

8:00 pm-F Angela & Louis Pikulski (Walter Smith)

Wednesday, April 12 -- Wednesday, Octave of Easter

8:00 am-M Sylvia Volek (Family)

Thursday, April 13 -- Thursday, Octave of Easter

8:00 am-F Joanne Michalik (Janet Michalik)

Friday, April 14 -- Friday, Octave of Easter

8:00 am-M Bernard Rye (Alberta Sigwalt/Family)

Saturday, April 15 -- Vigil: Second Sunday of Easter

3-3:30 pm-F Confessions

4:00 pm-F (M) Mike & Ann Bernot (Children/Grandchildren)

5:00-5:30 pm-M Confessions

6:00 pm-M (M) Michael Zumerling Jr. (Wife, Irene)

Sunday, April 16 -- Second Sunday of Easter

8:00 am-M (M) John & Donna Chatlak (Lisa Chatlak)

9:30 am-F (M) Frank Palo (Philip Berisko)

11:30 am-M (M) Pro Populo

(M) Fr. Marlon / (A) Fr. Arnel



Rejoice! This is the day that the Lord has made. God's love and mercy have been poured out for all and to all. By His sacrifice on the cross, Jesus has conquered sin and defeated death. No longer do sin and death have power over us. A new day dawns, for new life has dawned for all of us: a life in God's tender loving care that survives sin and overcomes death. Jesus has shown us the way to the Father. The crosses we carry - our fears and our struggles, our sorrows and our traumas - are united with the cross of our Lord, which did not end in pain and death but with joy and life. May the promise of the Resurrection fill us with hope, enliven our lives, and lead us to life eternal. *Alleluia!*

Mass Readings for the Week Ahead

Monday: Acts 4:23-31; Jn 3:1-8
 Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37; Jn 3:7b-15
 Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26; Jn 3:16-21
 Thursday: Acts 5:27-33; Jn 3:31-36
 Friday: Acts 5:34-42; Jn 6:1-15
 Saturday: Acts 6:1-7; Jn 6:16-21
 Next Sunday: Acts 2:14-33; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35



Memorial Candles burn this week in loving memory of or for the special intention of:

† **Sanctuary** - Sylvia Volek
 requested by her family

† **Blessed Mother** - Mike & Betty Olesh
Birthday Remembrance requested by their family

Frank Palo
 requested by Dave & Cindy Madison

† **Saint Joseph** - Thomas Pevarnik
 requested by daughter, Priscilla

† **Saint Anthony** - Paul & Patrick Krokus
 requested by parents, Paul & Irene
Charles Kois 30th death anniversary
 requested by his family

† **Sacred Heart** - Mike & Ann Bernot
 requested by children & grandchildren

Wayne Edenfield
 requested by his wife, Elaine

Alleluia.
Christ is risen!



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