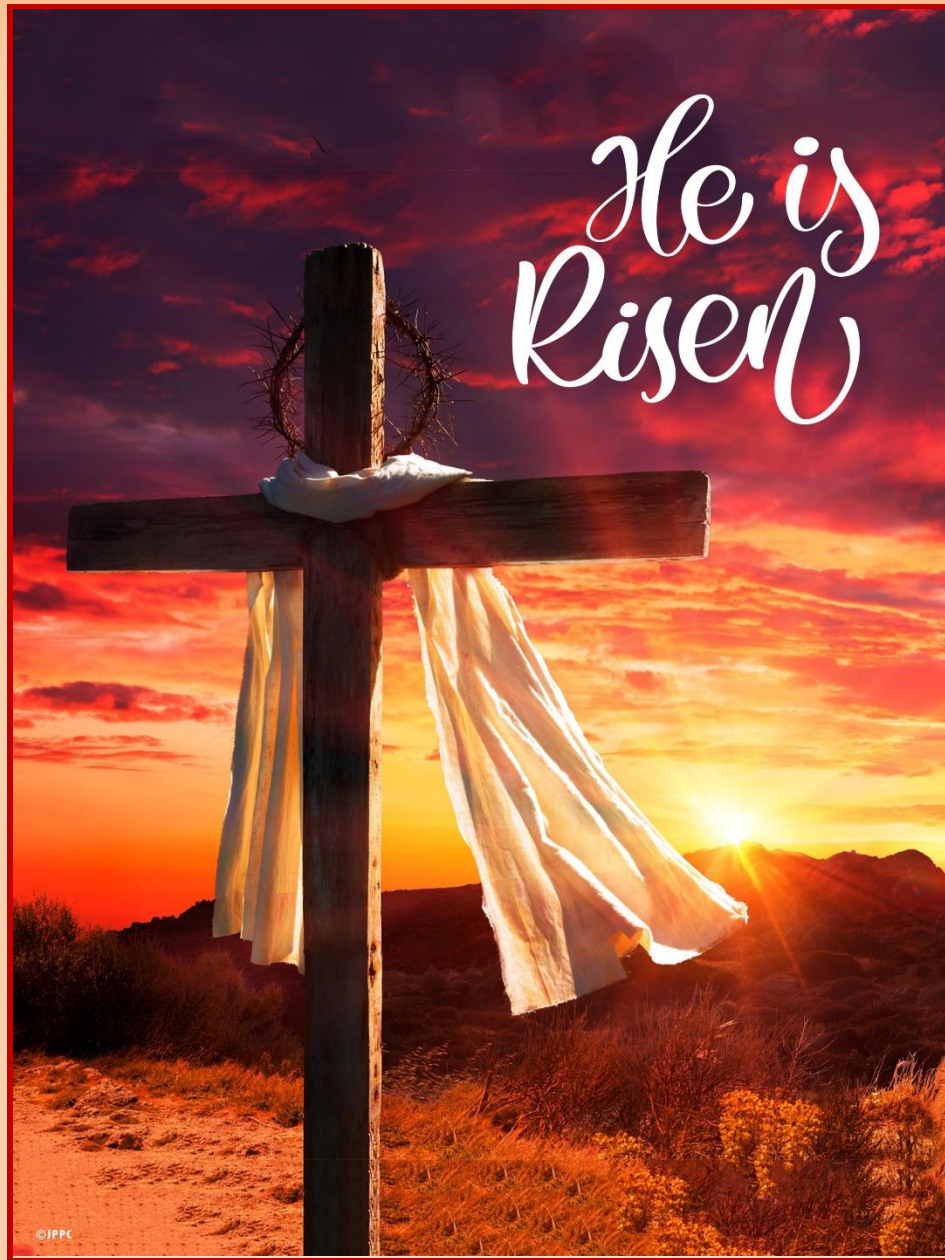


Easter Sunday of the Lord's Resurrection

March 31, 2024



Transfiguration of the Lord Parish

**Saint Mary 14 Park Street + Sacred Heart 58 Church Street + Saint Mark 105 Stanley Street
North Attleborough, Massachusetts**

Transfiguration of the Lord Parish

Rev. David A. Costa, Pastor
Rev. Deacon Joseph E. Regali, Parish Deacon
Sister Kathleen A. Corrigan, S.U.S.C., Pastoral Associate
Rev. Kenneth R. Sicard, O.P. & Rev. R. Gabriel Pivarnik, O.P., Weekend Assistants
Mrs. Martha O'Neill, Administrative Assistant
Mrs. Jean Howard, Business Manager
Mrs. Elaine Corvese, Director of Religious Education
Mrs. Lisa Serak, Principal, Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School
Mr. Adam Turcotte, Director of Music
Mr. Miguel Peixoto, Buildings Supervisor
Mr. James Kitsock, Building Maintenance

Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School

Mrs. Lisa Serak, Principal
57 Richards Avenue,
North Attleborough, Massachusetts 02760
(508) 695-3072 FAX (508) 695-9074
smsh@smsh.dfrcs.org www.smshschool.com

Saint Mary Cemetery

Mr. Jarrod Ward, Superintendent
Towne Street
North Attleborough, Massachusetts 02760
(508) 695-1173 or email ripco@comcast.net

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saint Mary Church • Saturday 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated on designated Sunday afternoons at 12:30 pm, with a limit of four families at each baptism. Please contact the office at stmaryna@noozi.com for more information and available dates/locations.

Sacrament of Marriage

Marriage is usually celebrated on Saturday morning and afternoon. Please contact the Parish Office at least nine months in advance to begin preparation.

Sacrament of the Sick

Pastoral care to those in need of the sacrament of the sick is arranged through the parish office. Please call to arrange a visit.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is offered on the first Friday of each month in **Saint Mark Church** beginning at 9:00 am and ending at 6:00 pm with Benediction.

Parish Offering

If you are attending in person, you may drop your contribution in the collection basket. You are welcome to mail your budget envelope to the parish office, at 14 Park Street, North Attleborough, MA 02760. You may also leave your envelope in the drop box located outside the parish office door, to the right on the landing. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Weekend Masses

Saturday 4:00 pm **Saint Mary Church**
Sunday 8:00 am **Saint Mark Church**
Sunday 9:30 am **Saint Mary Church**
Sunday 11:00 am **Sacred Heart Church**

Weekday Masses

Monday 8:00 am **Saint Mark Church**
Tuesday 4:30 pm **Saint Mark Church**
Wednesday 8:00 am **Saint Mark Church**
Thursday 8:00 am Communion Service
Saint Mark Church

Links to: Transfiguration of the Lord Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/Transfiguration-of-the-Lord-Parish-North-Attleborough-106529317647894/>

YouTube at <https://tinyurl.com/ysfaxaty>

Parish Office

14 Park Street
North Attleborough, Massachusetts 02760

Parish e-mail • stmaryna@noozi.com
Parish website • www.saintmaryna.com
Phone 508-695-6161 Fax 508-695-5248

Faith Formation • TransfigurationRelEd@gmail.com
Faith Formation • 508-695-3823

Music Ministry • transfiguration.na.music@gmail.com



March 30/31 – Easter Sunday

<u>Saturday</u>	<u>March 30 – Vigil (St. Mary)</u>
7:00 pm	Easter Flower Memorials
<u>Sunday</u>	<u>March 31 (St. Mark)</u>
8:00 am	Easter Flower Memorials
<u>Sunday</u>	<u>March 31 (St. Mary)</u>
9:30 am	Easter Flower Memorials
<u>Sunday</u>	<u>March 31 (Sacred Heart)</u>
11:00 am	Easter Flower Memorials

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<u>Monday</u>	<u>April 1 (St. Mark)</u>
8:00 am	Duffy Giglio
	Tracy Siok (surgery)
<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>April 2 (St. Mark)</u>
4:30 pm	Kyle Johnson
	Joseph P. Harney
<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>April 3 (St. Mark)</u>
8:00 am	Tracy Siok (surgery)
<u>Thursday</u>	<u>April 4 (St. Mark)</u>
8:00 am	Catherine Lontok

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April 6/7 – The 2nd Sunday of Easter

<u>Saturday</u>	<u>April 6 – Vigil (St. Mary)</u>
4:00 pm	Joseph Maione
	Joshua Ferns
	Erick Eaton
<u>Sunday</u>	<u>April 7 (St. Mark)</u>
8:00 am	People of the Parish
<u>Sunday</u>	<u>April 7 (St. Mary)</u>
9:30 am	Stephanie Nason
	Emma Zimmer Fitzpatrick
	Beverly Laliberte
<u>Sunday</u>	<u>April 7 (Sacred Heart)</u>
11:00 am	Leo J. Wagner
	Dorothy Simon
	Sister Denise Pinsonnault

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Parish Contributions

Collection for March 23/24:

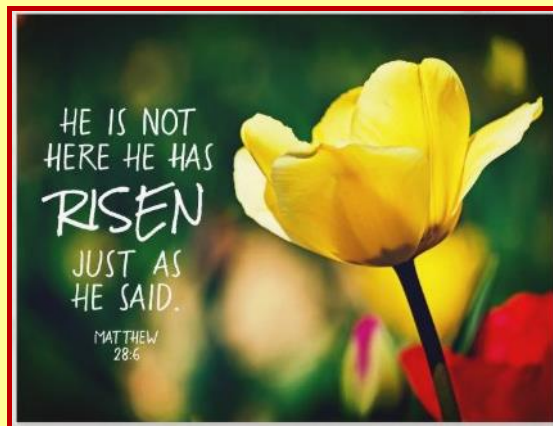
Not available due to early publishing deadline.

The figures will be printed in next weekend's bulletin.

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Easter Blessings!



*May you know peace, joy, and hope
as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus!*

Fr. Dave, Fr. Ken, Fr. Gabriel
Deacon Joe, Sister Kathee,
and the entire staff of Transfiguration Parish

Please Note: Easter Collection

This Sunday, Easter Sunday, there will be two collections taken during the Preparation Rite at Mass. As is the custom in the Diocese of Fall River, the second collection taken on Easter Sunday helps support the retired priests of the Diocese. The first collection that is taken will be for the continued support of Transfiguration of the Lord Parish.

You, our faithful parishioners, are so supportive and generous. As we celebrate the Lord's Resurrection, please know my sincere gratitude for your continued generosity!

New Website & New Online Giving Platform



Please note that we are in the process of redesigning our parish website and plan to roll out our new online presence within a few weeks. As part of this process (and it is a lengthy process, for sure!), our online giving platform will also change.

At present, our parish uses two distinct online giving companies. These were both used before the merging of the parishes into the new Transfiguration Parish. The new website company has an online component which ties directly into our parish census allowing for more streamlined financial recording and tracking. There are many threads that need to be woven together before this process is up and running.

When all of these moving parts are in place and ready to work for us, we will be doing a full roll-out of the new website and the new online giving platform. Your patience is GREATLY appreciated!

Lenten Charity:

Holy Union Sisters in Tanzania, Africa

As announced at the beginning of Lent, our common, parish charity for Lent will be the ministries of the Holy Union Sisters in Tanzania, Africa. The people of North Attleborough have had a connection with the Holy Union since the Sisters first arrived 100 years ago to staff the new Sacred Heart School. That relationship continues in the person of Sister Kathee, our pastoral associate. Kathee also serves on the two person Leadership Team for the United States area of Holy Union and has met the Sisters who serve in Tanzania and can attest to both the great need for financial support and assistance and the exciting potential for growth and development in this African nation.

The Tanzanian area of the Holy Union congregation was founded in 1973, when two Sisters from the Anglo-Hibernian Province arrived to do education work. The number of Sisters and the works they are conducting have increased significantly over these fifty years. Our financial sacrifices/gifts will be used specifically for three projects the Sisters have designated during this their Jubilee year: an Autism Unit at the Matumaini Center the Sisters conduct for children with physical disabilities; a Novitiate House for the growing number of young women who are seeking to become Holy Union Sisters. At present there are 16 native Tanzanians in formation; and a Health Centre in the village of Churwi, adjacent to a primary school (2,000 pupils) the Sisters conduct.

White envelopes marked, "Lenten Collection 2024," may be found at the doors of each of our church buildings. You are invited to use this envelope when making your Lenten sacrifice donation for the good works of the Sisters in Tanzania. Envelopes may be dropped in the collection basket at weekend Mass, dropped at the parish office, or sent through the mail. **If you are writing a check, please make the check out to Transfiguration of the Lord Parish.** When all the funds are collected, the parish will write one single check to the Holy Union Sisters.

Many, many thanks for your consideration and participation in this parish Lenten project. By supporting the ministries and formation of the Sisters in Tanzania, we are remembering that we belong to a global Church – A Church that is MUCH larger than North Attleborough. In this international Faith community, we support each other with our prayer and our resources. We are so blessed here in North Attleborough. Let us share our blessings – generously – with this growing, enthusiastic, and energetic region of our Church!

On behalf of the Sisters and those they serve throughout Tanzania:

Mungu awabariki sana!
(May God bless you abundantly!)



Please Remember our Deceased Parishioners:

William H. "Red" McCormick, Sr.

Marie C. Nameth

H. William "Bill" Donnelly

Mary L. (Tally) Curran



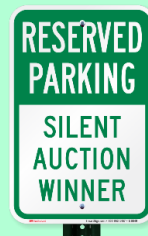
*Eternal rest grant unto our beloved dead, O Lord.
Let perpetual light shine upon them.*

2024 Mass Intention Book

The 2024 Mass Intention Book is open. The current Mass schedule provides for fewer opportunities for parishioners to remember their beloved dead at weekend Masses. For this reason, we will schedule, when necessary, multiple intentions for weekend Masses. There is no limit on the number of daily Mass intentions. Please contact the office via email, phone, or in writing with your requests.



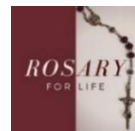
Reminder: Reserved Parking Spots for the Year



NOTE: Both reserved parking places at St. Mary Church were auctioned off in our silent auction at this year's Christmas Fair. Please remember to keep both of these spaces free for our winners at all times (and most especially when attending Mass) at St. Mary Church. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding!

Rosary for Life

The Respect Life Committee of Transfiguration of the Lord Parish is pleased to announce that we will lead a Rosary for Life at 4:00 pm, prior to the 4:30 pm daily Mass in **Saint Mark Church** on the *first, second, fourth, and fifth Tuesday* of each month. The communal Rosary is also livestreamed for any participants who wish to join us remotely.



Tuesday Communal Rosary Schedule



Tuesday, April 2, 2024: Rosary for Life (4PM)

Tuesday, April 9, 2024: Rosary for Life (4PM)

Tuesday, April 16, 2024: Prayer & Pizza (5PM)

Tuesday, April 23, 2024: Rosary for Life (4PM)

Support Janet's Mafia in the Pan Mass Challenge!

Help support the Pan Mass Challenge team of Janet's Mafia and get a chance to win a MacBook Air 13" with M2 Chip. Raffle tickets will be sold after all Masses on the weekend of April 6/7. Tickets are \$10 each, with 100% of sales supporting funding for research to change breast cancer protocols to include brain MRI's as part of the initial screening diagnosis. Janet's Mafia team thanks you for your support. John, Matt and Ed Kent, Michael, Maura, Maddy and James Thursby and Kelsey Rode.



Transfiguration of the Lord Parish Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Inspired by Gospel values, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a Catholic lay organization, leads women and men to join to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to those who are in need or are suffering, in the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, and patron, St. Vincent de Paul. The Society meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month in the parish hall in Saint Mary Church. Please join us!

Call for Assistance:

If you need assistance, please call the help line for our parish Saint Vincent de Paul Society. They can offer information about the types of assistance available. Please call 508-212-4755 for help or more information.

Friends of SSMH Outing

As announced in our parish bulletin a few weeks back, the Friends of SSMH is offering various one day and multi-day outings. Join us on Wednesday, April 24 for *The Beach Boys Ultimate Tribute* show, at Lake Pearl in Wrentham, MA. Price per person is \$89.00 and includes luncheon, tax and gratuity, and show ticket. Information flyers are available at the doors of the church or you may contact Nancy Chapman or May Courbron at 508-243-2904 or by email: friendsofsmsh@gmail.com for more information.

Transfiguration of the Lord Respect Life Group

Abundant Hope Baby Bottle Drive: Thank You!

Thank you for your generous donations totaling \$5,309.60 received from the Baby Bottle Drive in January. The kindness and generosity of parishioners is very much appreciated. Your contributions will benefit many women, men, and babies in our local community.

Monthly Meeting:

The next meeting of the Respect Life Group will take place on Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 6:30 pm in Sacred Heart Church's Library. We hope to see you there!

Knights of Columbus Council #330



**Knights of
Columbus®**

Monthly Meeting:

Council #330 of the Knights of Columbus has been serving the Catholic Community of North Attleborough for 125 years. The Knights meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7pm, in the St. Mary Church Hall. Please drop by on meeting nights if you'd like to learn more about the Knights. Council #330 is committed to assisting local charities that align with the values of our Faith such as the Parish, the Parish school, and Abundant Hope. Please contact Jim Schromm via email with any questions: jim.schromm@verizon.net.

Knights of Columbus Diaper Drive:

The Knights of Columbus are organizing a Diaper Drive, to benefit Abundant Hope Pregnancy Resource Center. We are requesting donations of diapers in all sizes, but especially larger sizes. We are also requesting donations of diaper wipes. We will have containers at each of the three North Attleborough churches, starting the weekend of April 14, and continuing into the month of May. Thank you very much for your support of Abundant Hope and the Knights of Columbus!

From the Diocesan Office of Child Protection:

Did you know... All members of the clergy, Directors of Religious Education and teachers in our schools are Mandated Reporters in Massachusetts and required by law to report any suspected child abuse. Many children will not tell anyone they are being abused. Because the Diocese believes in our moral obligation to protect children, we extend the safe environment training to all who minister, work or volunteer. Watch for signs of abuse and, if you are concerned about a child, share those concerns with a mandated reporter at your parish or school. Let us all be a voice for children who may not be able to speak for themselves.



Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta once said:

"Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration with exposition needs a great push. People ask me: 'What will convert America and save the world?' My answer is prayer. What we need is for every parish to come before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament in holy hours of prayer."

Please join us at **Saint Mark church** on Friday, April 5th, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 6:00 p.m. with Benediction. Remember, as we share in the work of Redemption, so will we be rewarded with our own redemption. For more information call Joanne Regali (508-643-3821) or Arlene Hall (508-801-2243). Please leave a message if the call is not answered immediately.

Faith Formation Program 2023-2024

Director of Religious Education ~ Mrs. Elaine Corvese
508-695-3823; transfigurationreled@gmail.com

Faith Formation Office hours:

Monday – Thursday: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Date of Confirmation:



CONFIRMATION

April 7, 2024: 1:00 p.m. Saint Mary Church

Dates of First Communion:



HOLY EUCHARIST

May 4, 2024: 10:00 a.m. Saint Mary Church

May 4, 2024: 1:00 p.m. Saint Mary Church

May 11, 2024: 10:00 a.m. Saint Mary Church

Employment Opportunities:

Our parish school – Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School – will have openings in the 2024-2025 school year for three teaching positions. We are currently accepting applications for:

- (1) a music teacher for Grades pre-K to 5;
- (2) a Spanish teacher for Spanish enrichment in Grades pre-K to 5 and a curriculum in Grades 6-8;
- (3) a physical education teacher for Grades pre-K to 8.

These three faculty hires are all part-time positions.

For more information on each position please consult the Catholic Schools Office website of the Diocese of Fall River: catholicschoolsalliance.org or contact the school directly at: (508) 695-3072.

Flourish with FAITH, Family and Fundamentals!

catholic
education



catholic
education

Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School: Celebrating 100 Years of Catholic Education in North Attleboro



SMSH provides a caring, Catholic learning environment – one that promotes cognitive, social, emotional, and spiritual development of all children. We invite you to learn more about our school's strong curriculum by visiting our website www.smshschool.com. If you want your student to attend a school that balances faith with education, consider joining the Saints community of learners.

SAINTS

SAINT MARY-SACRED HEART

**Experience a Day as a SMSH SAINT:
Shadowing Opportunity for Middle School Students**



Prospective middle school students are invited to join our vibrant SMSH community as they shadow and embody the spirit of being a SMSH Saint for a Day!

During this special day, your student will immerse themselves in the SMSH community by making new friends among our SMSH Saints, attending classes, sharing lunch and engaging with our amazing faculty and staff. Your student will have the opportunity to ask questions of all kinds, or simply observe and absorb the unique atmosphere of SMSH.

Participating in this program provides a firsthand experience of community life at SMSH and a chance to see what it's like to be a part of our Saints community.

Middle Schoolers interested in taking part in the SMSH Saint for a Day shadow experience can easily sign up by contacting Mrs. O'Heir in the main office at 508-695-3072. Schedule your day now!

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The Verdict is in-Grades 5 & 6 are SmaSHing Saints!



Last week a special guest, Michael Ryan, from the Office of The Jury Commission in Boston, visited our 5th & 6th grade Saints. Mr. Ryan enthusiastically shared his message about why it is important to go to jury duty when you are summoned. In addition to his slideshow about the history and significance of the jury, Mr. Ryan led a mock trial using a script with roles including potential jurors, a judge, a court officer, a defendant, the defendant's lawyer, a prosecution, a clerk and witnesses. After such a powerful presentation, we are confident that these students will commit to jury duty when they are summoned now that they have further insight on this important citizen responsibility!

More Than a Day: What the Easter Octave Teaches Us

Happy Easter! Don't forget that Easter is more than just one day — it's an entire *season* of the Church year that begins with the Easter Octave. The Gospel readings during the Octave include some of the most beautiful passages of scripture from the time after Jesus' Resurrection and his first encounters with his friends and disciples. These readings remind us of the importance of Jesus' Resurrection and the power of living out his message here on earth. Jesus appeared to his friends and disciples so that they might continue to share the Good News in word and deed with everyone they meet. We reflect on these readings every Easter Octave to strengthen our own faith and to connect with stories of Resurrection and hope that can inspire how we live our lives and practice our faith every day.

Easter Sunday: Jesus' tomb is empty

John 20:1-9

Luke 24:1-12

Spiritual essence: Death is not the end of the story.

Monday: Jesus meets up with the Marys after he is risen

Matthew 28:8-15

Spiritual essence: Our God is a God of surprises!

Tuesday: Mary Magdalene does not recognize Jesus

John 20:11-18

Spiritual essence: Walk by faith and not by sight.

Wednesday: Jesus meets two disciples on the road to Emmaus

Luke 24:13-15

Spiritual essence: Always look for Christ in others.

Thursday: Jesus shows his wounds to his disciples

Luke 24:35-48

Spiritual essence: Look for Christ in the midst of the mess.

Friday: Jesus helps his disciples fish and feeds them

John 21:1-14

Spiritual essence: Build your hopes on Christ.

Saturday: Jesus tell his disciples to proclaim the Gospel

Mark 16:9-15

Spiritual essence: True strength is sharing joy, love, hope, and kindness.

Divine Mercy Sunday: Thomas puts his hand into Jesus' wounds so that he may believe Christ is truly risen

John 20:19-31

Spiritual essence: Doubt is not an enemy of faith, but disengagement is.



The Easter Prayer: Regina Caeli



The Easter season is fifty days – from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday. During this season, we swap out one of the Church's traditional prayers for another.

While Catholics pray the Angelus for the vast majority of the year, during Easter we pray the Regina Caeli. The Angelus prayer dates back to the Middle Ages and commemorates the Incarnation of Christ in the womb of the Virgin Mary, and is usually prayed at 6am, noon, and 6pm. Regina Caeli is Latin for "Queen of Heaven". This prayer dates back to the 12th or 13th century and its author is unknown. It is a tribute to our Blessed Mother and an exclamation of joy at the Resurrection of our Lord.

While the Angelus remembers the Angel Gabriel's message to Mary and her Fiat to God's plan for salvation, the Regina Caeli celebrates that 'yes' through which the Redeemer entered the world and subsequently rose from the dead. After the immense sorrow of the Mother of God at witnessing the suffering and death of her Son, this prayer acknowledges her joy at His rising from the dead. From now through Pentecost, pray the Regina Caeli!

Regina Caeli

V. Queen of Heaven, rejoice! Alleluia!

R. For He whom you did merit to bear. Alleluia!

V. Has risen, as he said. Alleluia!

R. Pray for us to God. Alleluia!

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary. Alleluia!

R. For the Lord has truly risen. Alleluia!

Let us pray:

O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech you, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life, through the same Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

2023 Donation Statements Are Now Available

The 2023 year-end tax reports are available, PER YOUR REQUEST, for those parishioners using the budget envelope system. **Loose checks mailed or placed in the collection are not recorded by the budget company.** Please contact Martha in the office at stmaryna@noozi.com or call 508-695-6161 and leave a message with your name and address if you would like your statement. Contribution letters will be mailed. Thank you for your support of our parish community.



Easter Sunday of the Lord's Resurrection - March 31, 2024

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Excerpts from the *Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America*, second typical edition © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. Used with permission. All rights reserved. No portion of this text may be reproduced by any means without permission in writing from the copyright owner.

First Reading

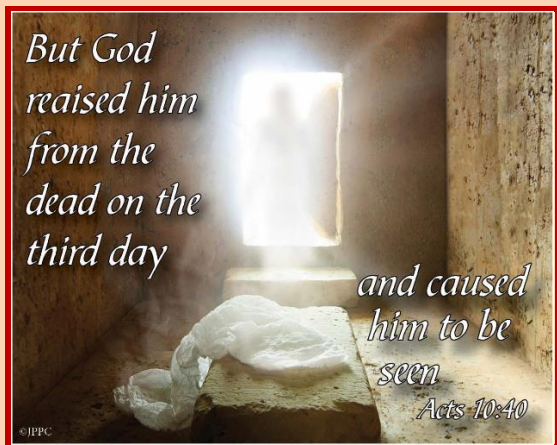
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter proceeded to speak and said:

"You know what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Responsorial Psalm

R. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever. Let the house of Israel say, "His mercy endures forever."

R. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

"The right hand of the LORD has struck with power; the right hand of the LORD is exalted. I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD."

R. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. By the LORD has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes.

R. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.



Second Reading

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians

Brothers and sisters:

If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed;
let us then feast with joy in the Lord.*

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

The Lord be with you.

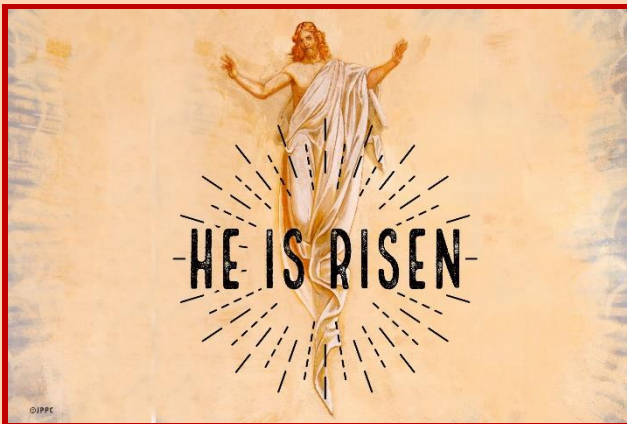
And with your spirit.

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
Glory to you, O Lord.

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him." So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



EASTER SUNDAY

The Day of the Lord:

The antiphon from today's responsorial psalm proclaims, "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad." This, indeed, is a brand new day, the first of days. This day unlocks the meaning of all our days. Sin is banished, death conquered, and life opens onto life. The day celebrates new creation. This day, the tree of destruction has become the tree of life, whose first blossom is Christ, whose fragrance gives life, and whose blooming sets us all free.

Comment:

Although the reading from the Acts of the Apostles serves as a powerful recapitulation of Jesus' ministry, its final verse also provides a definition of the meaning of the resurrection. Namely, Peter and the other apostles found the Resurrection to be an experience of forgiveness and reconciliation. Peter and the other followers of Jesus—all but a few of whom had abandoned Jesus in his final hours—experienced the Resurrection as healing, reconciliation, and wholeness restored. Peter, then, urges his listeners to faith so that they might also experience resurrection in their lives.

The passage from Paul's letter to the Colossians reminds us to delight in the fullness and newness of life that abides within us. Fear and alienation should be things of the past. Anxiety, dread, and apprehension should no longer afflict or concern us. Glory is ours, the same glory that is Christ's. Nothing should inhibit us from unfettered joy. Since we are resurrection people, we must recognize that the risen Christ is present in the nitty-gritty of life and choose to act and live now as people who truly have died and risen to new life. The resurrection of Jesus is God's way of restoring our humanity to us. Perhaps that is why the Gospel is far more concerned with what happens to Jesus' followers than it is in detailing what happened to Jesus. The good news of the Resurrection is much more than a happy ending to a violent tale. It is the beginning of a whole new way of life and living—our living and our lives. Like the disciples in the Gospel, all we need do to share in this life is to believe.

Reflection:

Interestingly, Jesus himself does not appear in these Easter readings. The witnesses do. We read their stories. They are transformed in the news of his resurrection. We know how thoroughly transformed they were by reading the accounts from Acts and from the letters of Paul. For today's second reading, the Church offers us the option of two readings, one from Paul's first letter to Corinth; the other, his letter to Colossae. Both affirm the reality and power of the Resurrection. Both call for action. Faith in the resurrection means acting as people risen with their risen Lord. In the letter to the Colossians, Paul reminds us that we who have risen with him have also died with him. For baptized Christians, the old unredeemed world holds no sway, has no validity, is not worth our time and attention. The first letter to the Corinthians says this in another way. The old, worn way is like old yeast in the dough. Life in Christ is new, all new. Though Jesus Christ does not appear as risen Lord in these readings, he is where the witnesses are. They who were once followers do not walk with him side by side or a little behind him. They live in him. They have passed from death to life in his death and resurrection. They are called to live as a new people. So are we.

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Reflections for the Week beginning Sunday, March 31, 2024



Invest time each week to
expand your vocabulary and
deepen your faith.

31 March 2024

WORD OF THE WEEK

Octave *ˈäk-tiv*

From the Latin for "eighth," a group of eight; in music, the eighth note; in the liturgical year, an eight-day celebration of the highest-ranking feasts, or solemnities, of Christmas and Easter. The **Octave** of Easter is followed by the Easter season, which lasts 50 days and ends with the feast of Pentecost.

Pronunciation: <https://tinyurl.com/Take5-octave>

CONTEXT

During the eight days that make up the **Octave** of Easter, the liturgy never ceases to remind us of the great mystery of the Resurrection of Christ!

—Hozana.org

Each day of the Easter **octave** is treated like a repeat of Easter Sunday, with all the feasting and liturgical trimmings.

—Brother Conor McDonough, O.P.

The eighth Sunday of Easter, or Pentecost Sunday, concludes what has been called the great **octave** of eight Easter weeks. —Richard McBrien

WHY IT MATTERS

Some feasts are so central to our Christian faith that a single day of celebration isn't adequate. The Incarnation of Jesus and his Resurrection are crucial to the story of our salvation. Both declare that, body and spirit together, humanity is significant to God and worthy of redemption in Christ. The Christmas and Easter **octaves** give us time to ponder the greatest mysteries and joys of our faith.

From *The Modern Catholic Encyclopedia*: During an **octave**, the feast being observed takes precedence over any other feast that may occur.

RELATED WORDS

Solemnity | Pentecost | Resurrection | Nativity

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Why is Easter Season so long?

The Easter Season is determined by the eight weeks it takes to get from the Resurrection to Pentecost. In Lent, we embrace penitential practices in anticipation of Jesus' Resurrection. What happens next is nothing less than the birth of the church. Easter itself is an **octave**, or eight-day feast. In liturgical practice, the **Octave** of Easter is like a week of Easters as we light the Paschal candle, sing the Gloria, and continue to contemplate the wonder that death has a door. Jesus passed through it, and so will we. Is a week too long to ponder this?

After Easter, Jesus continues to appear, teaching them more about God's kingdom for 40 days, a sacred number symbolizing completeness. Then Jesus returns to his Father in the Ascension. The disciples devote themselves to prayer from that hour until Pentecost, when the Spirit comes and the church is launched into prime time. What should we be doing from Easter through Pentecost? Imitating the disciples: celebrating, contemplating, learning, and praying to prepare for the mission ahead.

—Alice Camille, from *Questions Catholics Ask* <http://tinyurl.com/QCA-easter-octave>

REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

SOLEMNITY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD (EASTER SUNDAY) (MARCH 31)

Wide-eyed wonder

Today you witness something that opens your eyes to the power and glory of God's love in a way no other event could. Jesus raised from the dead? How is it possible? Only through the love of God, which makes all things possible. Spend this glorious day in fascination at the miracle you are witnessing.

READINGS: Mass of Easter Day: Acts 10:34a, 37-43: Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-9 (42 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/033124.cfm>). "When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory."

FAITH IN ACTION

Continue to keep your eyes and heart open, and you will see that God never tires of loving you and raising you up. What a miracle!



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