

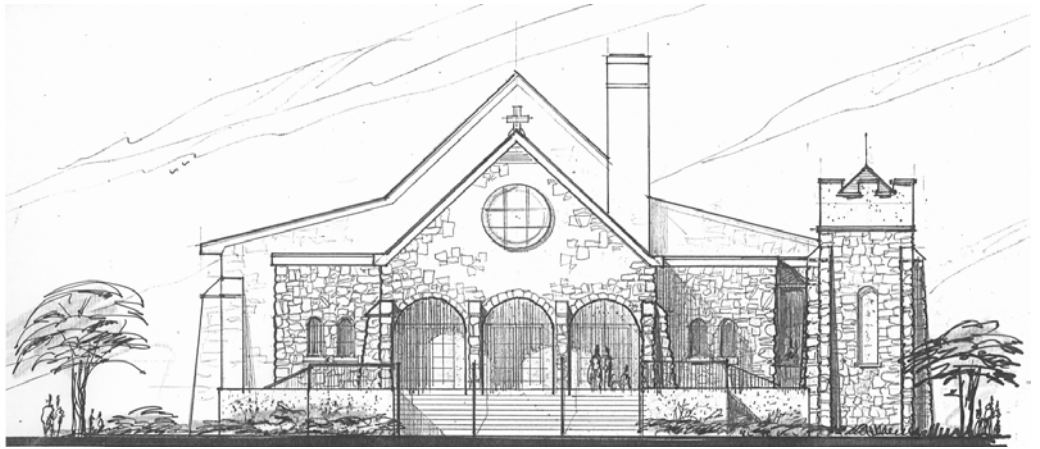
HIS WORD TODAY
by Rev. William J. Reilly

**Easter Sunday of the
Resurrection of
the Lord
April 12, 2020**

“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 have put him.’ So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb.... Then the other disciple went in, and he saw and believed. For they did not understand the Scriptures that he had to rise from the dead.”

We can search for the Lord as did Mary of Magdalena. We can run as did Peter and John, and find linen cloths and an empty tomb. Our search continues. We can reflect on our favorite post resurrection stories as recorded in the scriptures and share our belief and Easter joy.

More importantly, we need to look into our own hearts, renew our Easter faith and discover the presence of the Risen Lord in our hearts for the kingdom is near and is within you. May we mirror the joy of the first witnesses of the Risen Lord, as we live Easter every day.




CHURCH OF ST. DENIS

MANASQUAN, NEW JERSEY

STAFF

Reverend William J. P. Lago, Pastor
Rev. Joseph Miele, Weekend Assistant
Rev. Lewis Papera, Weekend Assistant
Mr. George R. Kelder, Jr., Deacon
Mr. Gary J. Pstrak, Deacon

Mrs. Eileen Ziesmer, Pastoral Associate
Mr. Mark Mataranglo, Director of Music Ministry
Sr. Mary Guyer, SSJ
Mr. Denis Campbell, Trustee
Mr. Gregory W. Boyle, Trustee

BEACH CHAPEL	554 East Main Street		
RECTORY	90 Union Avenue	732-223-0287	FAX 732-528-1901
CONVENT	117 Virginia Avenue		732-292-0772
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE	119 Virginia Avenue		732-223-1161
ST. DENIS CONFERENCE OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY			732-223-1383
CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESS		st.denis@verizon.net	
PASTOR'S E-MAIL ADDRESS		wlago@dioceseoftrenton.org	
WEB PAGE ADDRESS		http://www.churchofstdenis.org	

MASS SCHEDULE:

Weekday Masses: 7:30 AM (Mon.-Tues.-Wed.-Fri.) – St. Denis Church
Saturday: 8:30 AM – St. Denis Church
Saturday Evening: 4:30 PM (fulfills Sunday obligation)- St. Denis Church
Sunday: 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM- St. Denis Church
Sunday: 10:00 AM - Our Lady Star of the Sea Chapel
Holy Days: Evening before: 7:00 PM & day of: 7:30 AM & 7:00 PM-St. Denis Church

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Every Saturday from 3:30 until 4:15 PM - St. Denis Church. Also by appointment.

MIRACULOUS MEDAL DEVOTIONS: Tuesday morning after the 7:30 AM Mass-St. Denis Church

BAPTISM: The sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 12:15 pm at St. Denis Church. Parents must complete the required preparation with the priest or deacon and obtain godparent eligibility letters before a date for Baptism will be given. Please call the rectory for further details.

MARRIAGE: Please contact the rectory office for more information about weddings. All couples contemplating marriage are asked to give the priests one year prior notice in order that all the requirements for marriage can be satisfied. Do not reserve the reception hall before contacting the church; your requested date may not be available.

CARE OF THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND: We will gladly bring Holy Communion to anyone who is ill or otherwise unable to get to Mass. Please call the rectory to make arrangements. The priests and deacon make regular visits to the local hospitals. Please call the rectory if any loved one is hospitalized.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL: At such times of deep pain and loss, we seek to offer our bereaved families comfort and hope as they commend their loved ones to God. Please note that, in accordance with Church regulations, eulogies are not permitted during Funeral Masses.

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS: Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM. There are no office hours on Saturday & Sunday. Evenings are by appointment only.

NEW PARISHIONERS: Welcome! We encourage new families moving into the area to stop in or call the rectory to arrange for registration.

CELIAC SPRUE PARISHIONERS – Saint Denis provides a low gluten (<0.01% gluten content) host. Parishioners who are gluten-intolerant should see a deacon or priest prior to the start of Mass in order to be included in the reception of the Eucharist.

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK- Saint Denis Parish Facebook page: www.facebook.com/churchofstdenis. You don't need to have a Facebook account to read parish news and updates, but would need one to leave comments and feedback.

THIS WEEK'S
MASS
INTENTIONS

Saturday, April 11, 2020-Easter Vigil

7:30 pm For the People of the Parish

Sunday, April 12, 2020-Easter Sunday

8:00 am Julius & Josephine Bogdziewicz by Carol Bogdziewicz
 8:00 am Madeleine Maccarone by Angela Miller
 8:00 am Virginia & Angelo Taborelli by the Family
 9:30 am John & Jack Kolon by the Family
 9:30 am William Bertscha by the Family
 9:30 am Emil & Anna Taborelli by the Family
 10:00 am Matthew Trengrove by his Family
 10:00 am Mr. & Mrs. Strigliabotti by the Family
 10:00 am The Intentions of Sr. Josephine Wade by St. Denis Parish
 11:00 am John & Irene DeGenova by the DeGenova Family
 11:00 am Anna Vastola by John & Eleanor Iannelli
 11:00 am Cathleen McCusker by Dorothy (Dotsy) Devaney

Monday, April 13, 2020

7:30 am Mr. & Mrs. Strigliabotto by the Family
 7:30 am Emil & Anna Taborelli by the Family
 7:30 am Virginia & Angelo Taborelli by the Family

Tuesday, April 14, 2020

7:30 am Patricia O'Keeffe by the Family
 7:30 am Fred Weeks by Paul & Fran Weeks
 7:30 am Emil & Anna Taborelli by the Family

Wednesday, April 15, 2020

7:30 am Maryann Russo by Michael & Pamela Budalich
 7:30 am Louis & Lucienne Merrill by Sharon Knight
 7:30 am Frank Arena by the Family

Thursday, April 16, 2020

No Mass

Friday, April 17, 2020

7:30 am Ferdinand Schandel by John & Ellie Fox
 7:30 am William "Bill" Bresnahan by Betty Bresnahan & Family
 7:30 am Alba Leone by Eileen Leone Catalano

Saturday, April 18, 2020

8:30 am Mr. & Mrs. Strigliabotti by the Family
 8:30am Emil & Anna Taborelli by the Family
 8:30 am Virginia & Angelo Taborelli by the Family
 4:30 pm Grace DiCairano by Ginger Feola
 4:30 pm Russell Hilbert by his Wife
 4:30 pm The Pertras & Parr Families by the Family

Sunday, April 19, 2020

8:00 am For the People of the Parish
 9:30 am John Knight by Sharon Knight
 9:30 am Lena & Leonard Rhodes by Kevin & Fran Kearns
 9:30 am Henry Middleton by Evelyn Middleton
 10:00 am Theresa Fabian by Clare & Dan McAloon
 10:00 am Virginia & Angelo Taborelli by the Family
 10:00 am Emil & Anna Taborelli by the Family
 11:00 am Beatrice Bonner by the Family
 11:00 am Cathleen McCusker by Colleen & Jim Craig
 11:00 am Otto Eggert by the Ernish Family

DIOCESAN RESPECT LIFE WEBSITE- Please visit the Respect Life website of the Diocese of Trenton at respectlife-today.org. You will obtain important information concerning respect life issues in our diocese and our world.

LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS – Those in need of these specially approved Communion hosts at Mass are invited to receive from the deacon (if present at Mass) or the priest. Look for the small cup attached to the minister's ciborium, in order to receive the sacramental Body of Christ with a low-gluten host.



especially Mary Moran, Steve Ford, Elizabeth Ann Linden, Peggy Andrigh, Mary Damico, Eileen Byrne, Amanda Castro, Dolores Palmisano, Holly Boyd, Mary Conlon, Albert Wood, Maiya Andrews, Velma Andrews, Stella Thompson, Katie Holbrook, Claire Meachum, Mike Pierce, Thomas Hayes, Jr., Thomas Evans, Catherine O'Connor, Edith Bean, Phyllis Van Salders, Joanne Panzarella, Taryn Rotondi, Kathy Wicks, Michael McNulty, Mary Jane Schaaf, Lisa Pirrello, Joseph Bick, Mary Collins, Ken Kleinlein, Robert Kelleher, Stephen Byrne, Denise Frank, Lucy Falco, Marie Tashjian, Angeline Hart, Joan Tumbas, Cathleen Brenner, Nick Ljuljana, Patricia Blumenstock,

Sue O'Connor, Baby Cayden Joseph, Thomas Fahey, Baby Kelly Grace, Nair Messias, Jennifer Noble, Scarlet Slotnick, Belle & Ashton, John Najar, Tina Pilot, Karen Brown, Elizabeth Morgan, Frank Lopez, Christina Roundtree, Eugene Karpinski, Charlotte Pentek, Phillip Graceffa, Christian Russo, Rose DeMarco, Dee Vulgaris, Michael McGonigle, Baby Evelyn Mizer, Herbert "Butch" Wolfe, Leanna Rawson, Nannette Forkan, Nicole Giambrone, Lisa Dunfee, Albert J. Cifelli, Brian Alberse, Stanley Bevan, Windell Rainey, Sadie Svenson, Barbara Magda, Paul Tuyp, Nancy Murphy, Bernadette Bevan, George Leonard, Teresa Hayes, Jeanne Hayes, Irene Hayes, Ronnie Micciulla, Cindy Tomkins, Joseph Fiamingo, Baby Colton Gardella, Anita McCudden, Catherine Kelleher, Baby Siena Grace Pizzillo, Samara Pirrong, Donna Schwear, Helen McGowan, Karen Williams, Timothy Michal Przywara, Christopher Kurtanick, Wes Pal, Neil O'Callaghan, Siobhan Vuono, Linda Lowery, Tanner Koch, Linda Custode, Marty Pirrong, Bridget Korn, Vincent Azzollini, Scott Burdett, Joan Lipscomb, Kathy Kleinlein, Baby Lucy, Stephen Whyte, Victoria Margadonna, Christine Fields, Chris Faraca, Kathy Larkin, Gordon Justin, John Jonason, Estelle Jonason, Jim Kazenmayer, Frank Meidenbauer, Sean Campbell, Joel Rivera, Jimi Hood, Al Ricciardi, Eileen Beesley, Beverly Heinz, Pauline Naturile, Haley Keating, John Fossani, Paul Borden, Mary Daidone, Donna Morgan, Jonathan Miller, Dennis Datillo, Bill Koch, Jennifer Pindar, Doris Abruzzo, Sandy Heitner, Randy Farmer, Joseph Pastore, Christine Coburn, Julianna Grusso, Frank Dugan, Lori Hurd, John Gondek, Lois Borton, Roddy Pilot, Frances Pilot, the Borgias, the Pilots, the Nesbitts and the Campbells.

MASS INTENTIONS for the weekend, as well as the coming week, can be found on our parish website www.churchofstdenis.org on Friday mornings.

DOWNEY SIDE– Do you want to make a difference in the life of a foster care child? If so, apply to adopt through Downey Side and give foster care children a permanent home. The children are school-age and up. For information contact Sister Elizabeth Engel at 732-359-8434 or email your interest to sister.engel@gmail.com.



Sanctuary
Candle

WEEK OF APRIL 12, 2020
IN LOVING MEMORY OF
JULIUS & JOSEPHINE BOGDZIEWICZ
REQUESTED BY CAROL BOGDZIEWICZ

CATHOLIC CHARITIES is fully operational at a heightened state of precaution, accommodating social distancing. To access our services or learn how the changes affect our clients via the internet type <https://www.catholiccharitiestrenton.org/catholic-charities-coronavirus-pandemic/> or call our Help Line 1-800-360-7711

HOME DEVOTION– Please visit AscensionPress.com for special resources and events to help Catholics with home devotions throughout the coming weeks.

FOR YOUR MARRIAGE- Check out this great resource for you and your family during this time: www.foryourmarriage.org and there is a specific blogpost at <https://www.foryourmarriage.org/blogs/family-life-in-a-pandemic/>

DON'T FORGET ST. DENIS PARISH WHILE SHOPPING ONLINE - AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. **Instructions to support St. Denis: Go to smile.amazon.com Choose your charity: Church of St. Denis, Manasquan Click on the box marked "yes". You must start at smile.amazon.com so that the charity gets donations. Then click on the "start shopping" button. It's that simple!**



our military, especially Navy Lt. Rachael M. Honrath, Navy MIDN Nora N. Honrath, Army Captain Christopher Cauda, Army Captain Matthew Cauda, Navy LL. Edward P. Windas, Marine Lance Corporal Laura Licata, Contractor

Benjamin Ostrow, Air Force Captain David Smith, Army Major Sean Fessenden, Army Lt. Nikkole Crosson, Navy Captain Colin S. Walsh, Army Captain Dr. Justin Eisenman, Army Lt. Brian Quinn, Navy E4 Patrick Moynihan, Army Major Michael Potoczniak, Air Force 1st Lt. Dominic Celiano, Air Force Academy Cadet 2nd Class Slade Kelling, Air Force Academy, Coast Guard Petty Officer Joseph Beattie, Navy CM Taylor Nesbitt, Airman Devon Webster, Army Private 1st Class Cody Svenson, Lt. Jg. Mary T. Herman, Matthew Van Pelt, Army, USMC 2nd Lt. Philip Cahill, USMC 2nd Lt. Joanna Smith-Cahill, Navy MIDN Michael Zimmerman U.S. Naval Academy, Air Force 2nd Lt. Jason Trischitta, Allison M. Ingraham at West Point Academy, Lt. Col. Ivan Ingraham USMC, PFC Joseph J. Foley, Jr. USMC, Airman Andrew Halmi, Robert Halmi, U.S. Army, Corporal Jordan Basile USMC, PFC Neil Horenburg USMC.

2019 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

If you wish to receive a statement of your 2019 contributions, please complete and return this form to the rectory by way of the collection basket or by mail (attention: Betsy). You may also email your request to st.denis@verizon.net or call 732-223-0287.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone number _____

Email address _____

(if you would like to receive your statement via email)

MOVING? Please inform the rectory office if you are moving out of the area or if you have a change of address, so the envelope company can be notified. Thank you!

CATHOLIC RADIO- Tune into 89.3 FM to hear the Gospel message, live call-in shows, devotions, speakers, inspirational music and more. WFJS 89.3 FM Catholic Radio is an EWTN affiliate reaching Monmouth and parts of Ocean Counties. Listen on-line at www.DomesticChurchMedia.org. Free apps are on your iPhone and Blackberry. Call or write for your FREE Program Guide: WFJS PO Box 7509 Trenton 08628.

ONLINE GIVING- To help support our parish more easily we offer **Online Giving!** For additional information or to sign up, go to our parish Website www.churchofstdenis.org and click on "Online Giving". For those who wish to use the online giving service but do not have Internet access, please contact the Parish Office at 732-223-0287 for assistance.

DEBT REDUCTION COLLECTION– Next weekend our second collection will be used to reduce the parish debt. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



March 22, 2020

Regular Collection- \$3,185.00
Average Envelope Donation- \$83.81

March 29, 2020

Regular Collection- \$5,330.00
Average Envelope Donation- \$71.98

Online Giving (2/2/20-3/30/20) - \$18,781.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY !



RECTORY OFFICE HOURS- As previously scheduled, the Rectory Office will be closed on Easter Monday. If you have a need, please call Fr. Bill at 732-223-0287.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION- Due to the conditions at the time of this bulletin, please check our parish regularly for updates.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

First Communions will be rescheduled.

Confirmation interviews will be rescheduled. At this time we do not know if Confirmation itself will be rescheduled. It is to be determined.

ALL WEDDINGS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL WILL BE POSTPONED.

Please pray for all people who are affected by these changes.

THANK YOU- Local business and food establishments have taken a huge economic blow. Notably, many of these owner/operators and their employees are St. Denis parishioners and have been staunch supporters and donors to our parish and especially to our food pantry during this time. **Blend on Main, Corner Bagelry, Jersey Mike's Subs, Squan Tavern, and Sweet Tease** in Manasquan; **Jimmy's Cucina** in Brielle, **Dukes Tavern & Tap** and **Mileto Polish Italian Gourmet** in Point Pleasant; and **Joe Leone's Gastronomia** in Sea Girt. * *Please note: If a business was unintentionally omitted, kindly let us know as many of our food pantry donors have remained anonymous!* If you find yourself struggling while awaiting your relief check, please consider utilizing the services of the **St. Vincent De Paul Society's Food Pantry** which is located in the basement of St. Denis Church. All are welcome for contactless curbside pickup. Call 732-223-1383 for further information.



St. Vincent De Paul Society's Food Pantry

**At St. Denis Church
Manasquan, NJ 08736
Phone: 732-223-1383**

Location: Msgr. O'Connor Hall
(lower level of church)

Until further notice: Curbside pick-up of prepackaged food with appropriate social distancing. Questions or special food needs? Please call our hotline number at 732-223-1383

Please note adjusted pantry hours:
Tuesdays: 1PM – 3PM and
3rd and 4th Saturdays from 10AM – 12noon

At this time, donations may be dropped off curbside by the pantry during regular pantry hours or on the front porch of the rectory, under the overhang.

Items requested for food pantry donation:

Depleted: ketchup, mayonnaise, box milk (like Parmalat), canned green beans, crackers (like Ritz or saltines), Spam, canned chicken, pancake syrup, pancake mix, cookies, sugar, small bottles of vegetable oil, hot chocolate, regular tea, microwave popcorn

Very Low: canned pasta meals, microwavable pasta meals and mac & cheese cups, microwavable meals (like Hormel), canned vegetables (corn, carrots, peas), grape jelly, dish liquid, paper towels

Thank you for your generosity!

A Message from Fr. Bill

Happy Easter! The clergy and staff of the parish wish you and your family God's blessings and peace. In this issue of the bulletin, as well as on-line, the clergy who serve the parish (otherwise known as Fr. Joe, Fr. Lew, Deacons Gary and George, and myself) all extend our heartfelt prayer intentions during this difficult time. I do hope that you can take some time to reflect on the reality of the resurrection and celebrate in some way. I ask you to check our Facebook page for some Easter Basket photos (including the basket of food my mother and I will share, if I cook it correctly). Our website includes a link to a blessing for your Easter food. I hope you can have some time to enjoy this Easter.

I want to thank you all for your continued support of the parish at this time. Even though the doors of the church remain closed and no gatherings can occur, at this time, the work of the parish still goes on and we are doing our best to keep everything moving forward. I am very thankful for all your donations and I am so grateful for the notes and cards you have sent which give so much encouragement and support of a different kind. Your positivity and genuine concern have truly impacted me and remind me daily of the real meaning of "parish." God bless you for your participation in making St. Denis Parish a vibrant and focused community of disciples of Jesus Christ. Happy Easter!

HARBOR HOUSE...A SAFE HAVEN FOR YOUTH- If you know of any youth between the ages of 10-21 who is homeless and/or in crisis, call the Shelter Hotline at (732) 929-0660.

CHAMPION FOR LIFE NOMINATIONS- Do you know an individual or family who is strongly Pro-Life and lives in support of the miracle of life? Nominations are currently being accepted from parishioners for this year's annual *Champion for Life Award*. Please send nominations to Mary Reilly at Mary33angels@aolcom by April 15, 2020.



**THE SOCIETY OF
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul wishes you the joyous and most blessed Easter—even though it is an Easter unlike any in our memories. But, our world has seen such calamities before. The 'miserable 14th century' saw the 'Black Death' carry off one third of Europe's population. So, what do we make of such events? It seems that the response is more important than the trouble itself. We need to respond not only as good and supportive citizens but as faithful Christians. We must continue to pray for the strength to persevere, to have hope and to have faith that God will see us through. The joy of the Lord is our strength and what gives *Jesus* joy is our love of one another. Members of SVDP are called on now more than ever to be aware of the needs of our neighbors and we are there for them.

Like the great cathedrals and churches in the 1340s, ours is empty this Easter but it is a vivid reminder to us of God's Glory and that we will gather there again soon.

If you need assistance, please call the St. Vincent de Paul hotline at 732-223-1383.

Easter Messages by the Clergy and Staff Serving St. Denis Parish

Fr. Bill

Happy Easter and God's Blessings upon you all as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. The empty tomb is the sign of Hope and the symbol of Everlasting Life through, with, and in Jesus. At all moments we can call upon the power of the Resurrection as we share in the constant memory of our Church, with its 2000 years of unbroken tradition. As St. Athanasius wrote, "The grace of the feast is not restricted to one occasion. Its rays of glory never set. It is always at hand to enlighten the mind of those who desire it. Its power is always there for those whose minds have been enlightened and who meditate day and night on the Holy Scriptures... This feast guides us through the trials that meet us in this world. God now gives us the joy of salvation that shines out from this feast ...uniting us all in spirit in everyplace. ...and brings together in unity of faith those who may be physically separated from each other." These encouraging and challenging words have helped me to celebrate this Easter, even in the face of the pandemic and the damage it has inflicted on our world. The dirge of the pandemic is, and must be, eclipsed by the Church's beautiful anthem: "Alleluia, Jesus is Risen, He has Risen indeed."

In the Prayer of Jesus at the Last Supper, our Lord prayed: "[I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me.](#)" (JN 17:22-23) Jesus prays this prayer with all His disciples so that they (and we) may realize the share we have been given in the glory of Jesus, and so that they (and we) may realize that the Father loves us even as the Father loves the Son. This prayer of Jesus happens before He goes to the Mount of Olives and prays in a more personal way to the Father after instructing his disciples to "watch and pray that you may not undergo the test." (MT 26:41)

So what is the "test"? The "test" is that in the face of difficulty, we give in to the negative temptations to forget that we have been given a share in the glory of Jesus and we do not take to heart that the Father loves us even as the Father loves the Son, which is an infinite love! Through the grace of Baptism and Confirmation and sustained by the grace of Holy Communion, we are given a share in Christ's life, and so share the glory of Christ, as adopted children of God the Father. Jesus does not want us to succumb to the test, that He Himself faced on the Cross as those that taunted Him jeered, "He trusted in God; let him deliver him now if he wants him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" (MT 27:42) In the face of the agony of the cross, Jesus did not give in to the negativity and temptations of the "test". In the face of the "test" presented to us by the coronavirus, we also must not give in to the negativity and temptations, through our constant trust in and constant mindfulness of our relationship with Jesus, who is risen. May this the reality of the Easter event ever remind us that "This feast guides us through the trials that meet us in this world. God now gives us the joy of salvation that shines out from this feast. Again, I wish you all a Happy Easter.

Fr. Lew

A BLESSED EASTER FROM MY HOME TO YOURS!

My dear brothers and sisters, It has been several weeks since we have celebrated together, and God only knows when we will do so again. However, I feel united with you in our mutual concerns for the health of our family and friends as well as the uncertainties in the days ahead. And as we celebrate Holy Week/Easter in the isolation of our homes, I am especially united with you in our mutual faith in Jesus Christ. And finally, I am united with you in the "God of surprises". Over two thousand years ago, Jesus suffered a brutal passion and died on the cross for our sins. For the followers of Jesus, that was the end. However, three days later, God had a "Surprise". And in the darkness of 2020, as we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus, may we have the eyes to see at work in our day the "God of Surprises". Miss you, and in God's good time, I look forward to again celebrating with you.
HAPPY EASTER!

Fr. Joe

EASTER SUNDAY...

It was still dark when Mary of Magdalena came to the tomb where Jesus was laid. She had seen Him buried -- but in haste. She wanted to complete the work of anointing so that His body had at least some dignity and could rest in peace. Her desire was so great that she was prepared to go into a graveyard in the dark and, it seems, alone. There is little wonder, then, why she was so terrified to find that the stone had been rolled away and her beloved Lord's body taken away. Who had taken Him? Grave robbers? The authorities? Where had He been taken and why?

The possibility of resurrection did not even cross her mind as she ran to tell the other disciples what she had found.

The possibility of resurrection did not occur to the others either. They ran to the tomb to see what had happened -- and found it as Mary had said. The "other disciple" -- probably John himself, looked in and saw the grave cloths wrapped around Jesus on Good Friday now lying on the floor. It was left to Peter to go right into the tomb and to find not only the cloths on the floor -- but the cloth that had covered His head rolled up and put to one side. The truth began to dawn on them. His body had not been stolen, He had risen, as He Himself had said He would.

The events later in the day show that they had not really understood what resurrection meant. They presumed that Jesus had risen as a ghost -- or some kind of zombie -- coming back to haunt them. They had no real idea what the risen life of Jesus was to mean. For now, the struggle was to believe their eyes and begin to see Jesus risen from the dead.

It is a struggle that many people still have today. The Bible relates that authorities of the time maintained that the body of Jesus had been stolen away by the disciples -- and paid the guards handsomely to say that this is what happened. Some people still believe that this might be true. Others try to reason it out-- perhaps, He was not really dead after all -- though given the degree of His suffering on Good Friday, it is unlikely that Jesus would have been capable of going very far by Sunday.

It is a situation which we can discuss and question and worry over. Or, like the disciples, we can allow the truth to speak to our hearts in a way that may not always make sense to us to our heads ... Put yourself in the disciples shoes-- and try to imagine what their feelings were as the events of the first Easter Sunday unfolded. This Easter, take time to ask yourself: How do you know that Jesus is not dead? Remember Jesus loves you and I love you.

Easter Messages by the Clergy and Staff Serving St. Denis Parish



Deacon Gary

Christ the Lord is Risen. Alleluia! Wow! He's ALIVE! I love Easter Sunday, because I can shout that out loud. We all have different ways we celebrate Easter. An Easter egg hunt, an Easter morning brunch, attending Easter Sunday Mass with the whole family or a traditional family Easter dinner. Unfortunately this year, we'll have to postpone those annual traditions for a few weeks. But did you ever notice how the Earth celebrates Jesus' resurrection? Since we're all staying safe and staying at home, we have the time to look around and see how the earth and nature are telling us that Jesus rose from the dead. The daffodils are blooming, some trees are starting to bud, other trees are showing off with their different colors, the tulips are getting ready to bloom, and, my favorite, the bright yellow Forsythias are shouting "He is Alive."

But, because of the Empty Tomb, the one thing that we all know is:

"He is Risen. He is Risen, Indeed!"

And, as my Lithuanian grandmother would say "Linksmu Velyku" – Happy Easter! and my Ukrainian grandfather would say "Khrystos Voskres" – Christ is Risen!

Deacon Gary

Eileen Ziesmer

He has Risen, He has Risen! Alleluia, Alleluia!

Easter reminds us about God's never ending love for us. We have spent the weeks of Lent in a most odd way this year. Social distancing and other directives of the COVID19 virus have thrown us off from the usual ways we gather as a community here at St. Denis, no public Mass, no ministry meetings, prayer groups, no CCD and postponed sacraments. And yet, as Pastoral Associate, I have seen so many ways that we have reached out to do our very best to maintain community and support to our parish family, and in this I can see Christ. I see Christ in the St. Vincent de Paul Society volunteers as they are able to still provide to those in need because of donations from parishioners. I see Christ in Father Bill and our priests and deacons finding new ways to help those who are in need of spiritual support, grief from the loss of a loved one, assisting those who had planned to marry, or providing confession and meeting the many cares of our parish. People are calling people to reassure and check on them to ward off loneliness and isolation. I see Christ recognized fully in every opened flower and Cherry Blossom branch that surrounds and decorates the church for His glorious feast. I see Christ because I see hope that cannot be extinguished. May, despite all that is going on, you uncover the renewal of hope, love and strength that only the Resurrection can bring.

Christ's light always dispels fear and darkness. May the Light of Christ be yours! Happy Easter to you and your family!

Eileen Ziesmer

Deacon George

As we conclude Holy Week and find ourselves pondering the empty tomb, pause and reflect upon the; jubilation and fear, celebration and withdrawal, suffering and resurrection that Jesus and his disciples felt, and that each of us emotionally, physically and spiritually may feel on this holiest of days.

May we who...

*Are temporarily inconvenienced remember all whose lives are at stake,

*Shown no signs of contagion remember those who are the most vulnerable,

*Can work from the safety of our home remember those who must choose paying their bills over preserving their health,

*Have the flexibility of caring for our children because their schools are shuttered, remember that many parents and caregivers have no such option,

*Have been inconvenienced in simply cancelling a trip or vacation remember those who have never had a place to go,

*Lose money in the chaos of the markets remember those who never had a single dollar to lose,

*Shelter in place, remember those who do not have a place in which to shelter.

Although we cannot physically wrap our arms around one another this Easter – may we find the ways in which our crucified one, our risen one, can help us embrace our neighbors and families in consoling, comforting, and joy filled helpful ways.

The resilient people of Saint Denis will come back, following the restrictions that we must all endure, as we do our part in curtailing the community spread of this virus.

The tomb is empty, He is risen, and we will arise, let each of us rejoice in this most unprecedented and unusual Easter celebration!

Be safe, Deacon George+

Betsy Rice

Easter is a special time when we share in the Lord's blessings. I hope even during these difficult days, your life is filled with the joy that Christ offered in his resurrection. He is our hope and strength, not just during this season, but every day.

Although we won't be together this Easter, please know that each and every one of you will be remembered in prayer by the entire clergy and staff of our parish. We truly appreciate your kind emails, notes and cards, but especially your prayers. We are looking forward to the day when we can all gather together once more to worship in our beautiful church.

On behalf of the staff of St. Denis Parish, I hope God continues to bless you and your families always.

Betsy Rice, Office Manager

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