

The Resurrection of the Lord Holy Saturday

Doing the Right Thing

They said to one another, "Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?"

Mark 16:3

Early Sunday morning the women set out for the tomb to anoint Jesus. Their gesture was a remarkable testament of faith, since they had no idea how they were going to get into the tomb; secured with a large rock.

Still, they did not intend to let the problem of a huge rock stand in their way. They were going to do the right thing by anointing the body of Jesus, and they hoped that someone would remove the obstacle for them.

The story could have been very different. The women could have stayed back with the others, helpless and remained bound up in their misery and mourning. Instead, they chose to follow their religious customs, believing somehow they would get the rock removed.

Like the women, we are invited to step out in faith today. Whatever inspiration or task you feel God has given us these forty days, do it. Do the right thing; act out your small part in God's grand scheme. Seeing your faith, your Heavenly Father will do the heavy lifting.

The Resurrection of the Lord Easter Sunday

He is Risen

Think of what is above, not of what is on earth.

Col 3:2

What better day than Easter to think about Heaven? For most of us, it is natural to think of heaven in physical, bodily terms. For example, when we lose a loved one to a terminal illness, there is a tendency to focus on their release from suffering. But there is more.

Imagine an eternity of meeting people who all feel like a best friend. Wouldn't that be incredible? They feel that way because they have been purified of their sinful faults, either while on earth or after death in purgatory. Self-centredness, insecurities, lust, gossip, greed, - you name it - will have been washed away. Think of the joy you feel when you see an old friend. Now imagine that joy multiplied by everyone you encounter in heaven. "Happy" does not begin to describe what that new life will be like.

But we need not wait to taste this happiness, for today is Easter, the most joyous day of the year. At Mass today, give yourself over to thoughts of heaven. Take the advice of St. Paul and "*think of what is above*". (Colossians 3:2) The goodness of God is all around us.

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

La Risurrezione del Signore Domenica di Pasqua

Sorpresi dalla gioia (Marco 16,1-8)

Passato il riposo del sabato, tre donne, discepoli, si mettono in cammino al levar del sole per ungerne con unguenti il cadavere del maestro. Un gesto che esprime compassione, amore, venerazione, che però rimane nell'orizzonte umano. Mentre sono così in cammino, si domandano come potranno entrare nel sepolcro, dovevano trovare qualcuno che possa aiutarle.

Immerse in queste considerazioni arrivano al sepolcro. Qui però i loro pensieri vengono ribaltati, come quella pietra che, stranamente, non chiude più l'ingresso. Entrano in fretta, vogliono capire meglio, e questa volta il rovesciamento è completo, la sorpresa diventa proprio spavento. Un giovane vestito di bianco annuncia una notizia sconcertante: "*voi cercate il crocifisso, è risorto!*"! Tutto questo le sconvolge, le fa addirittura tremare, sono fuori di sé.

Purtroppo banalizziamo spesso l'annuncio pasquale, al punto che quasi non ci fa più effetto. Ma si tratta davvero di un annuncio sconvolgente, che ribalta tutti i nostri riferimenti umani: "*vedranno un fatto mai ad essi raccontato, apprenderanno ciò che mai avevano udito*". (Is 52,15) Siamo talmente abituati alla vittoria della morte! Siamo assuefatti alla prevalenza delle cattive notizie! Dobbiamo chiedere allo Spirito che spezzi il nostro cuore di pietra e ci faccia sentire un po' del salutare disorientamento di queste donne. Lasciamoci scombussolare dall'annuncio della Pasqua! L'amore non è sconfitto dalla morte. Appare inutile, illusorio, perdente? Lo è solo per chi è cieco. Cristo è risorto. L'amore è indispensabile e fruttuoso, la croce è vittoriosa.

Easter Message - Fr. Kessete Hammad

Dear Parishioners of St. Ann,

Warm prayers for a Happy Easter! Our devotional investment into the practice of Lent, merited us a joyful Easter celebration.

Washed and cleansed by the sacrifice of Christ, the world celebrates Easter and so we echo the angelic hymn: "Alleluia! Glory to God in the Highest Heavens!"

The dark world of Good Friday is overcome by the sacrifice of Christ's love for us. We are not orphaned by Christ's crucifixion on the Cross, but we have become children of Light, chosen race of holy people because of Christ's Resurrection.

With wishes for a Happy Easter, I invite all parishioners to divest themselves of fear, doubt, and sin, and to envelope themselves with the spirit of love and joy.

Praying to be instruments of peace, let us make our parish a source of hope, a source of joy and a fountain of blessing! Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

Fr. Kessete – Parish Priest

Messaggio Pasquale – Padre Kessete

Carissimi Parrocchiani di Sant'Anna,

Pregchiere affettuose per una Buona Pasqua! Il nostro investimento devozionale nella pratica della Quaresima ci ha meritato una gioiosa celebrazione della Pasqua.

Lavato e mondato dal sacrificio di Cristo, il mondo celebra la Pasqua e per questo facciamo eco all'inno agelico: "Alleluia! Gloria a Dio nell'alto dei cieli!"

Il mondo oscuro del Venerdì Santo viene superato dal sacrificio dell'amore di Cristo per noi. Non siamo orfani della crocifissione di Cristo sulla Croce, ma siamo diventati figli della Luce, razza eletta di persone sante a causa della Resurrezione di Cristo.

Auguro una Buona Pasqua e invito tutti i parrocchiani a spogliarsi della paura, del dubbio e del peccato e ad avvolgersi con lo spirito dell'amore e della gioia.

Pregando per essere strumenti di pace, facciamo della nostra parrocchia una fonte di speranza, una fonte di gioia e una fonte di benedizione! Cristo è risorto! Alleluia!
Padre Kessete - Parrocho

EASTER MESSAGE - From Bishop Bergie

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I am sure that many are familiar with the phrase, "my word is my bond". It simply means that this person will always keep a promise. This seems a rarity these days.

Many promises are made each day with little sincerity or effort to fulfil what is being promised. It can be extremely discouraging and painful when someone does not keep his or her word.

In the Gospel of St. Matthew, Jesus makes the following promise to his disciples, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified; and on the third day he will be raised." (Matthew 20:18-19). Jesus states clearly that, although he will die, on the third day he will rise from the dead. On Easter Sunday he fulfilled this promise.

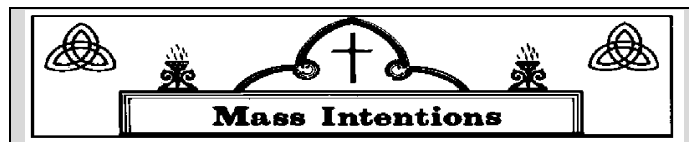
Jesus also states that there can be no Resurrection without His suffering and death. The passion leads to paradise and the trials of this life prepare us for the joys of eternal life.

In a world where we are bombarded with so many insincere words and empty promises, we can feel overwhelmed and confused. Life can seem burdensome. This is why it is so important to focus on Jesus and His Resurrection.

When we do this, we find hope. We are reminded that the word of Jesus is His bond, and it is also the Truth. He offers the words that lead us to eternal life. Jesus also helps us to be more faithful so that we are better able to keep our promises.

Where we find discouragement, may the promise of the Resurrection give us hope. May our Risen Lord be a constant source of encouragement for you!

Please be assured of my prayers and best wishes for a Blessed Easter. *Yours Sincerely in Christ - Bishop Gerard Bergie*



Mar. 30 Saturday - Easter Vigil

8:00pm For All Parishioners and Benefactors

Mar. 31 Sunday – The Resurrection of the Lord

10:00 For All Parishioners and Benefactors

11:30 For All Parishioners and Benefactors

April 1 Monday - NO MASS

April 2 Tuesday - Saint Francis of Paola

**8:00 Irma & Tony Castrilli – by Olga Fiello
Nicola Romagnano – by moglie Maria
Stella Casucci – by Lina Fazio & family**

April 3 Wednesday – Saint Benedict of African

8:00 Jeannie Pagano – by friends

April 4 Thursday – Saint Isidore of Seville

8:00 Frank & Elizabeth Simmonds–by son Michael

April 5 Friday - Saint Vincent Ferrer

**8:30 Rosary (Italian) – Gruppo Ora di Guardia
9:30 Maria Saporito – by family
Erminia Saporito-Sirianni – by family
Mychasiw Family – by Michael Simmonds
Giaconda Merante – by Marianna Formica
Porfirio Concepcion – by Emma Romos & fam.**

April 6 Saturday - Saint Crescentia Hoess

5:00 Andrew Rondinella–by daughters Andrea & Mary Lou

April 7 Sunday – SECOND Sunday of Easter

**10:00 Iole Orsini-Biamonte–by Gus/Anna Orsini
Lisetta,Rosa,Peppino Mauriello – by Mary
DelVecchio/Coladonato families – by
Pasquale & Anna DelVecchio
Jack & Nancy Golfi – by family
Esterina Stante – by family
Biagio Stante – by family**

**11:30 Aida Mendoza – by Ralph & Alita Elefante
Frank Elia & Deceased family – by
Assunta Elia & family
Giuseppe Gulla – by moglie Gilda & fam.
Natalina Splendiani – by son Giorgio DiRuscio
Giaconda Merante – by Mary Mauriello**

BLD (OSG) COVENANT COMMUNITY

In preparation for Pentecost Sunday, the BLD (OSG) Covenant Community of St. Catharines would like to invite you to a “Seminar on the Life in the Spirit” every Friday, from April 5th to May 17th 2024, at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria, from 8 – 10:30pm. Register free at www.bldstcatharines.org by March 29th.

**MONTHLY PARISH PASTA DINNER
FIRST THURSDAY of the MONTH**

Thursday 4th April

St. Ann Parish Hall

doors open 4:30 pm

Pasta & Meatballs - Salad & Dessert & Coffee

Take-out available – we supply containers

Tickets at the door: Adults \$14.00

Children (till 10 yrs.) \$6.00

Welcome one and all! Bring your family & friends

This month's event is being generously sponsored by Fred & Joanne Sacco

PROM DONATIONS.....We are looking for donations of gently used dresses (formal wear), men's shirts, pants/suits and accessories – to help out students at our local high schools. Anything is greatly appreciated. Donations are being collected until May 1st. For more information call Mary at 905-329-2975 mcsimplegirl@gmail.com.

Donations can be dropped off at Vincent's Store at 5970 Lundy's Lane (Tuesday-Saturday), or at St. Patrick Church any time.

**SEPARATED AND DIVORCED
HEALING MINISTRY**

The Diocesan Separated and Divorced Healing Ministry Support Group meets every second and fourth Monday of the month (except holidays) from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre – 7020 Stanley Avenue, Niagara Falls, ON For our pamphlet or information, please call 905-356-4113 or 905-684-0154. Meetings will be held both in person at Mount Carmel and virtually via Zoom platform.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE WINTER/SPRING 2024

April 8 th 2024	Identifying Our Losses
April 22 nd 2024	Coping with Grief
May 13 th 2024	Navigating Change
May 27 th 2024	Self Esteem

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY GROUP
EASTER PLAY – 'The Empty Tomb'**

On Sunday, April 7th 2024, during the 11:30am Mass, following Communion, the children of the Children's Liturgy Group will be presenting a short play (approximately 10 minutes) entitled 'The Empty Tomb'. The children are excited to be able to present to our parishioners.

COFFEE SUNDAY – DOMENICA DEL CAFFE

The next Coffee Weekends is on Saturday and Sunday, April 13th & 14th, offered by the Damiani & Scialdone families in loving memory of Francesco & Clementina Scialdone

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK
& THE HOMEBOUND**

Angelina Cameli, Rita Cameli-Roma
Angelina DiRienzo, Maria DiRienzo
Carmen & Maria Fabiani,
Marianna Formica, Flora Kennedy,
Emilia Romeo,
Vincenzina Pascuzzi, Gildo Luvison,
Mary Richard, Concetta Sirianni

**PRAY FOR ALL PRIESTS
OF THE DIOCESE**

Lord Jesus Christ, You love Your church and those called to share your priesthood. With our love and prayers, we join you in asking our Heavenly Father to continue to pour out his gifts of holiness, compassion and ardent zeal on your priests everywhere. Inspire each of them to offer his life as an “Ambassador of Christ”, bringing reconciliation and healing to the world. Mary, Mother of all Priests, inspire us to live in peace and joy and pray this prayer with us. Amen!

O Loving God, inspire your people to promote and to answer the call to Religious Life.

Remove fears and doubts from their hearts.

Give them the Spirit's gifts of wisdom and courage.

We ask this in Jesus's name. AMEN!

LEGACY DONATIONS

When you or your family are making arrangements for Wills and Legacies, we would humbly and kindly ask that you consider including St. Ann Church as one of the beneficiaries. Also, when making funeral arrangements through the various funeral homes in the Niagara Region, as parishioners, please consider directing donations to St. Ann Church. Your generosity is much needed and greatly appreciated.