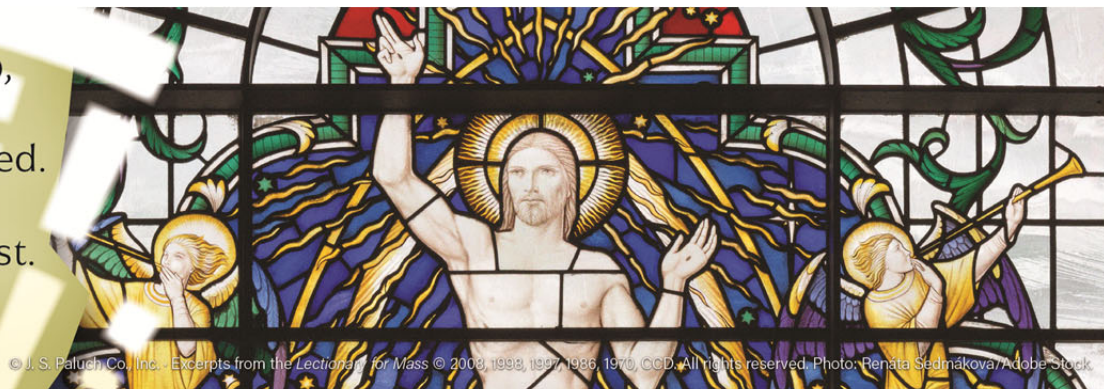


Our paschal lamb,
CHRIST,
has been sacrificed.
Therefore, let us
celebrate the feast.

I CORINTHIANS 5:7-8



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EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 4, 2021

TRANSFORMED BY THE RESURRECTION

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Imagine the flood of emotions that Mary of Magdala must have experienced on that first Easter morning. Grieving and yet determined to visit the place where Jesus' body had been laid, Mary would have been stunned to find the tomb empty. Imagine Simon Peter and the other disciple who, upon hearing Mary's announcement, ran to see for themselves. On Easter, we hear the story of Jesus' resurrection as though for the first time, through the account of Mary's discovery and the testimony of Peter who powerfully shared Christ's Paschal Mystery. We, too, have come to believe through their faithful witness. We are called to seek what is above, turn away from sin, and live as people who are forever transformed by the Good News of Jesus' resurrection.

STEP OUT IN FAITH

Mary ran to tell Simon Peter and the other disciple that the tomb was empty. No doubt confused and concerned, Peter and the other disciple set aside whatever fear might have occurred to them and ran to see the tomb for themselves. We do not always understand God's ways. We too are confused at times; our lives are marked by moments of uncertainty, and at times we are afraid. We can learn from Mary, Simon Peter, and the other disciple and step out in faith, trusting that we will find the Lord in the midst of the circumstances of our lives. When life gets complicated, as it often does, the best thing to do is step out, perhaps even run to the Lord!

BEAR WITNESS

We may not have opportunities to address crowds of people and share the gospel with them. Still, we are called to bear witness to our faith in the ways that we are able, in word and in deed. We cannot share what we have not fully embraced ourselves, however. The Easter season is the perfect time to reflect on Christ's Paschal Mystery, the unfathomable love of Jesus who shows and shares God's love perfectly. Our Lord gave his life so that we might have life, and have it to the full. Christ's victory over sin and death is our victory, our promise of eternal life with God in the fullness of time. See in Christ's life, passion, death, and resurrection the sign of God's mercy. Let this Easter day be a moment in which you allow yourself to be touched by Christ's incredible, undying love. Then, renewed in faith, look for ways to bear witness to the mercy, forgiveness, compassion, and love of the Lord with others.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Mon: Monday within Octave of Easter
Tues: Tuesday within Octave of Easter
Wed: Wednesday within Octave of Easter;
(Holocaust Remembrance Day)
Thurs: Thursday within Octave of Easter
Fri: Friday in Octave of Easter
Sat: Saturday within Octave of Easter

Immaculate Conception Parish

Immaculate Conception Church & St. Joseph Church

Pastor: Rev. James J. Ward • Deacon: Mr. Jack Mroz

Immaculate Conception Rectory: 570-325-2791 • iccjt@ptd.net • www.iccjimthorpe.org
St. Joseph Rectory: 570-325-3731 • stjosjt@ptd.net • www.saintjosephchurch-jimthorpe.org

St. Joseph Church side entrance is open daily for private prayer

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Tuesdays after 8 a.m. Mass, & Wednesdays, 6:30pm @ ICC;

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator: Wendy S. Krisak, MA, NCC, LPC Direct Phone: 800-791-9209; Diocesan Secretary for Youth Protection: Pamela J. Russo, MSW, MS Phone: 610-871-5200, Ext. 2204; If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop, please contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service ReportBishopAbuse.org or by calling 800-276-1562.

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Sat. April 3

8:00 pm (ICC) **All Police, Fire, & Ambulance Personnel of our Community**

Sun. April 4

9:00 am (SJC) **All Our Parishioners, Living & Deceased**

Mon. April 5

No Mass

Tues. April 6

8:00 am (ICC) **James Straubinger** (Thomas & Kathleen Straubinger) /
Betty Ohl and the Ohl & Benyo families (Betsy Ohl Searfoss)

Wed. April 7

(private)

Elizabeth Morgans (Flo & Ann Marie Janis) / **All Our Parishioners, Living & Deceased**

Thurs. April 8

8:00 am (SJC) **John & Mary Milan** (Family) / **Ilona Wildoner** (Tom & Family)

Fri. April 9

(private)

Mary Ann & Jack Ritnour (DelRay & John McArdle) / **Lisa Holland** (Hoppes Family)

Second Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday

Sat. April 10

9:00 am (SJC) *Rosary for Life*

4:30 pm (ICC) **Linda Brown** (Husband & Children) / **Frank Jacobs** (Patti & Tim Herman)

Sun. April 11

9:00 am (SJC) **Tracy McElmoyle** (Mary Ailis) / **Thomas Sheehan** (Louise Goldman)

EASTER VIGIL RESPONSORIAL PSALM ~ LORD, SEND OUT YOUR SPIRIT, & RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

EASTER SUNDAY RESPONSORIAL PSALM ~ THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE;

LET US REJOICE & BE GLAD.

*May you and your families have a Blessed
& Healthy Easter Season!*

From Father Ward & Parish Staff

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH CANDLES

SANCTUARY: In Loving Memory of *Kenneth Hoppes* (Requested by Wife, Wilma)

SAINT JOSEPH: In Loving Memory of *Wilma & Austin Bott* (Requested by The Bott Family)

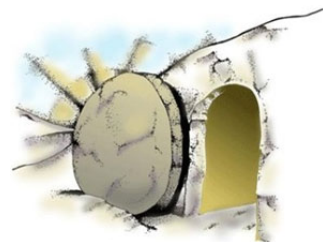
HOLY FAMILY: In Memory of the *deceased of the Paul & Dorothy Kattner Family* (Requested by Family)

BLESSED MOTHER: *Special Intention*

BLESSED MOTHER: In Memory of *Anna Mae Kasten* (Requested by Sister)

BLESSED MOTHER: In Loving Memory of *Edward & Anna Lienhard* (Requested by Daughters)

BLESSED MOTHER: In Loving Memory of *Ilona Wildoner* (Requested by Tom & Family)



Alleluia!

PARISH STEWARDSHIP: 3/14/21: \$ 5,412.00
Thank you for your continued support & generosity.

THE PARISH RECTORY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED on Easter Monday, April 5th.

ADORATION @ SJC: Tues., April 13 - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament beginning at 9am (except when there is a funeral Mass and then it will start after the Mass). Adoration will conclude with Rosary & Benediction at 5:30pm. Time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is a tremendous blessing!

SAINT JOSEPH ECUMENICAL FOOD PANTRY: Located on the corner of 6th & North St will be open Wednesdays, April 7 & 21 & Saturdays, April 17 from 9am-11am.

HAPPY EASTER! We prayed, fasted and gave alms—and now we rejoice because Christ is risen! Our Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl challenges us as we begin the Easter season to share the joy of having a loving God that is alive and accompanies us always. Let's do the same by being present to our global family by caring for their material and spiritual needs. Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more or to donate online.



1000 HAIL MARY'S: Please join us on Friday, April 16 from 9 AM - 4 PM in St. Joseph Church. Masks are required as you enter and leave the building. You do not need to stay all day, just come spend an hour or as long as you can. Lunch will be provided.

GARAGE SALE: We will have our first Garage Sale of the year on Saturday, April 24 from 9am-1pm behind SJC church. Stop by and browse the hundreds of items from lamps, pictures, knick knacks, children's toys, dishes, glassware, furniture pieces, a kitchen table and so much more!

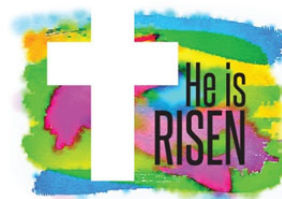


SJC MEN'S GROUP: Our collection for the children in Tanzania amounted to \$540.25. Thank you to all who support this mission each month. Our next collection will be April 18.

MARIAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL PARENT AMBASSADORS will be hosting a drive-in gift card Bingo on Sunday, April 18th. Lot opens at 12pm and games begin at 1pm. Event is rain or shine! \$25 package (15 regular games & 5 specials). Park in the rear lot, purchase your package, and play from your car! Hot food & Bake Sale- delivered to your car.

A GOOD DAY TO DIE: Do you remember your own baptism? I wish I could. I envy the adults I have seen baptized at the Easter Vigil. Hopefully, they experience what St. Paul says in the epistle we hear at the Vigil. For Paul, Baptism is a sign of dying and rising to new life. Does that mean we will rise from the dead, too?

Yes, but that is not his main point. If all we think about is our physical death, and hope we go to heaven afterwards, we're missing the point. The new life starts with our baptism, not just our physical death. The water is both cleansing and a sign of dying (symbolic drowning) that help us see we are free from sin. We are dead to sin when we begin to live in Christ. The fictional Klingons have a saying "today is a good day to die" to express courage in battle. But real Christians might say that Easter is a good day to die to sin and live in Christ.



How do we experience this dying to sin? First, we identify the sinful areas of our life. Do I watch movies, or video games that encourage promiscuity, revenge, or selfishness? What sins do I confess repeatedly and what can I do to avoid them? As for living in Christ: Can I spend less time entertaining myself and more time in prayer? Instead of complaining about what is wrong with the world, can I find ways to make it better? These are a few of the ways we begin our new in Christ. *Tom Schmidt, © J. S. Paluch Co.*

THE SPIRITUALITY OF HEALTHY & UNHEALTHY BEHAVIORS DURING COVID-19: Sat, April 24, 9:30am-12pm through St. Francis Center for Renewal. We are all aware of the unhealthy behaviors we can get into during times of stress — alcohol, drugs, weight gain, and many other addictions, not to mention COVID depression. How can we move out of these bad habits and enter into some healthy habits that help us to grow? What has helped you to cope this past year? Bring your own ideas to the day of retreat. Learn from others. This program will be conducted entirely online through Zoom. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Facilitator: Father Patrick Lamb; Suggested registration offering: \$25. To register online with a credit card, please visit <https://www.stfrancistr.org/sfcr-store/p/covid-behaviors>. If you prefer to pay by check, please call the office at 610-867-8890.

MEMORIAL FUND: We would like to acknowledge donations made: **In Memory of Emily Kattner** from Joe, Sally & Ken Bott.