

The Work of the People

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

The celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ begins at the Easter Vigil and continues into Easter Sunday morning. Easter Sunday marks the end of the Triduum and is the first day of the Easter Octave. The celebration of the Triduum concludes after Vespers and the great fifty days begin. Forty days of fasting yield to fifty days of feast. Throughout the Easter Season, the first reading at Sunday liturgies is taken from the Acts of the Apostles, the second book of Luke's Gospel and the story of the development of the faith life of the people of the early church.

On Easter Sunday morning, the First Reading takes us to the home of Cornelius, a devout man who was also a Roman centurion. He has had a vision in which he has been instructed to send for Peter. Peter also has had a vision that called into question the Jewish food purity rules which divided animals into clean versus unclean. In this passage, we hear Peter recount the story of the life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. While all he has accomplished has been witnessed to by the prophets, the redemption of the Risen Christ has been accomplished for all people, including the Gentiles. Anyone who believes and bears witness to him will be redeemed.

Today there are two possibilities for the Second Reading, both of which exhort the followers of Jesus Christ to set aside the old self and old life in favor of the new life they have been given in Christ. In the letter to the community in Corinth, Paul utilizes the metaphor of leaven. The image of yeast, a small bit of which can raise a great deal of flour, is one of the predominant images for the role of the laity in the Constitution of Vatican II. Laypeople are called, through their faith and holiness, to "work for the sanctification of the world from within as a leaven" (*Lumen Gentium, 31*).

On Easter, we proclaim not the presence of the Risen Christ, but the empty tomb. Mary of Magdala, Peter, and the "other disciple whom Jesus loved" are the key characters, as is the empty tomb. The beloved disciple gets there first but waits for Peter to arrive before entering. Both Mary and the beloved disciple seemed to acknowledge Peter's priority status among the disciples. Peter arrives and enters the tomb followed by the beloved disciple. Both see the burial cloths but no body. The beloved disciple sees and

believes. Peter does not yet appear to believe for "they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead."

Like the disciples, we acknowledge that belief in the Resurrection is a mystery. Scripture continues to sustain us in that belief. The living witness of those who believe, however, concretized in lives of care, concern, and reconciliation, is the clearest proof that Jesus is risen and active among us. Let us always continue to intensify our witness to the Resurrection by continuing the Risen Lord's ministry.

One way in which we can continue the ministry of Christ is to bring the same love and enthusiasm to those that are set apart from the community as did Jesus. His interest in and welcome to Zacchaeus, Levi (later Matthew), the Syrophenician mother, the Samaritan woman at the well, and other marginalized people in the gospel accounts can be our example. Let us choose to live that ministry to those who are most in need every day of our lives. This truly is our Easter Season and our Easter celebration.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/Mt. 28:8-15

Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41/Jn. 20:11-18

Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10/Lk. 24:13-35

Thursday: Acts 3:11-26/Lk. 24:35-48

Friday: Acts 4:1-12/Jn. 21:1-14

Saturday: Acts 4:13-21/Mt. 16:9-15

Sunday: Acts: 4:32-35/1 Jn. 5:1-6/Jn. 20:19-31

CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME

AN INVITATION FOR CATHOLICS WHO HAVE BEEN AWAY 2024 SPRING SCHEDULE

- April 3 - Welcome with overview of Series
Sharing by team and attendees
- April 10 - Video "Stories of Faith from Catholics Returning Home"
Discussing and Sharing
- April 17 - The Church Today: Changes since Vatican II
Explanation of Major Changes
(Mass in English, Involvement, Bible Study)
- April 24 - Walk through of the Mass
(along with explanation and historical overview)
- May 1 - Tips on Sinning -
Explanation of the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- May 8 - The Creed: What Catholics Believe

The sessions will be held at 6:30 pm at St. Brigid's, Meadville. Please check the bulletin boards at both entrances of the church for further information.

WORSHIP

Monday, April 1
8:00 am + NO MASS
Tuesday, April 2
8:00 am + NO MASS
Wednesday, April 3
8:00 am + NO MASS
Thursday, April 4
8:00 am + Gary Parkin (Susan Parkin)
Friday, April 5 - FIRST FRIDAY
8:00 am + Dec. Members of Weidner Family
(Ginger (Weidner) and Dick Kester)
Saturday, April 6
4:30 pm + Liv. & Dec. Members of St. Anthony of Padua and St. Bernadette Mission
Sunday, April 7
8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
Genung-Hutch-Proudfoot Families
(Pat & Richard)
9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
Dec. Members of Leo, Ferlice & Merritt Families
(Gloria House)

AN EASTER PRAYER
*Heavenly Father and God of mercy,
we no longer look for Jesus among the dead,
for he is alive and has become the Lord of life.
From the waters of death you raise us with him
and renew your gift of life within us.*
*Increase in our minds and hearts
the risen life we share with Christ
and help us to grow as your people
toward the fullness of eternal life with you.*
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
On Friday, April 5th the First Baptist Church of Cambridge Springs will be showing the documentary film *The Ark and The Darkness* at 6:30 pm. Tickets are required. An age appropriate movie will be available for the younger ones free of charge.
If you have questions call Debbie Dine, First Baptist Church at 814 398-4243.

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Thursday, April 4
After Mass - St. Anthony Novena
Saturday, April 6
3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession
Sunday, April 7
AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
Before Mass - Confession
AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
After Mass - Confession
10:30 am - Faith Formation Classes
(First Reconciliation)

SPORTS RAFFLE
Seton School will be holding a Sports Raffle on Saturday, April 27, 2024. Tickets can be purchased at Seton School, The Epiphany of the Lord Parish office and Tamarack Armory.
For further information check the poster at both entrances of the church.

WHEN GOD MOVES
Join the Diocese of Erie on a pilgrimage to the National Eucharistic Congress in July. Deadline to register is April 17th. Please check both bulletin boards for information regarding registration. Questions call Jo at 724 699-3340.

*“Jesus,
I rejoice in your resurrection!”*

ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP	
Offertory	477.00
Maintenance	100.00
Good Friday	30.00
TOTAL	\$607.00

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP	
Offertory	\$1,426.00
Maintenance	449.00
CSA	1,290.00
Altar Flowers	60.00
Initial	10.00
Easter Offering	30.00
Solemnity of Mary	20.00
Rice Bowl	22.00
Good Friday	65.00
Candles	42.00
Easter Rolls	1,450.20
TOTAL	\$4,864.20
Catholic Services Appeal	
Pledged: \$32,325.00 Paid: \$18,091.00	

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
