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NEWSLETTER

APRIL

2014



THEY ATE THEIR MEALS WITH EXULTATION AND
SINCERITY OF HEART

The scripture quote above comes from Acts 2. This reading will be heard on Low Sunday - the first Sunday after Easter. The joke is that it is called Low Sunday because almost no one shows up at church after the big Easter rush.

Acts points to the collective commitment of the members of early Church. The early Church was joy filled and committed to responding to the gospel every day. People were moved to commit based on the powerful preaching of the apostles. The early Church had unity and intimacy, commitment to apostolic teaching, fellowship, broke bread and prayed together.

We can count four key activities in the early Church: (1) the teaching of the apostles, (2) fellowship, (3) the breaking of bread, and (4) prayer. These four activities arise from the Church members' two main commitments—a commitment to apostolic teaching and a commitment to fellowship.

The Christian community is

first marked by its commitment to Jesus' revelation uniquely entrusted to and taught by the apostles and their successors. We learn to live as Jesus asks. Next, it is marked by fellowship. In Greek this is called *koinonia*, a commitment to each other characteristic of a perfect marriage. The members shared in everything as family.

All of this is brought to perfect reality in "the breaking of bread." The Church is made perfect and joyful by sharing Word and the Eucharistic feast - recommitted to Jesus and each other every Sunday.

It is Easter, a time to renew our commitment to coming together on the Lord's day (even on Low Sunday), our attention to the teaching of the apostles, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayer. We should be careful not to look back to the early Church and say - 'if only it were so today.' Instead, let commit to being that Church. We are then true witnesses to the joy and promises we possess in the resurrected Jesus as we break bread

Deacon Jim's Easter Wishes

My dearest family in Christ,

On behalf of my family, I extend to you every blessing for this Easter and throughout the Easter season. May the resurrected Christ continue to reign in your heart and in your life as you follow Him and adhere to a faith both ancient and new.

We have a wonderful Lord and Master, a Savior who understands our needs. He is filled with love for us. In turn we, His people, His family, reflect His love in all we do. It is a great blessing to have been called into the Lord's service. He called me into His field, to do His work. I have been so greatly blessed because the portion of His field, here in Schenectady, is filled with people who so desire to live within His body, the Holy Church, in fellowship, as the family of faith doing good for each other and for all we encounter. You have blessed me greatly and I love you with all the joy of the resurrected Christ.

Życzenia radosnych Świąt Wielkanocnych pełnych wiary, nadziei i miłości, Wypełnionych nadzieją budzącej się wiosny. Pogody w sercu i radości płynącej z faktu Zmartwychwstania Pańskiego, oraz smacznego świeconego w gronie najbliższych szczerze przesyła.

Join us for everything Easter

We so look forward to seeing you as Passiontide starts on April 6th. April 13th is Palm Sunday. The times of services during Holy Week and for Easter are included in this newsletter. We reach the highpoint of the year's joy on Easter Sunday, April 20th with our Resurrection service at 8am - a glorious time in the life of faith, our faith community, and the Holy Church.

Walk with Jesus in the weeks leading up to Easter so as to rejoice with Him in His resurrection.

Then... join us for the 50 days of Easter

We so look forward to seeing you as we continue to celebrate the Easter season from April 20th through June 8th (for 50 days!). Continue to rejoice in His resurrection with the apostles, your Holy Church, and your family in faith.

Movies, movies, movies

There are several great Christian movies out right now. Take some time to doing something different from the ordinary and become part of the extraordinary. See "Son of God," "Noah," and "God's Not Dead" in local theaters.

Soup on Sunday

Our next Soup on Sunday event is Sunday, April 20th, Easter Sunday along with our Easter breakfast.

We offer free soup and more for anyone in need - whether its warmth, food, friendship, or just some company. Please continue to help spread the word. Grab a flyer and post it in local markets and shops. Tell your friends.

God bless all who work so hard to serve those in need - without cost or requirement. We especially thank Bob & Stephanie Dominy for their leadership!!!

Basket Social

Our ever popular Basket Social with over 80 baskets is ready to go. Thank you for your generosity and creativity!!! Thank you to Donna Panfil and all who assisted her in getting everything ready - Larry, Liz, Marilyn, Shirley, and Marianne. God bless you.

As always, you know the baskets are great when everyone visiting the church hall has dibs on several baskets - 'I'm going to win that one...'

The Basket Social will be held Sunday, April 6th, starting at noon, at the VFW Hall, 1309 Fifth Ave., Schenectady. Be sure to invite friends and family to attend.

Milestones to Celebrate:

Birthdays

- 1 Kendell and Shirley Maliszewski
- 3 Patricia Gustuvson, Mark Caulfield
- 4 Timothy J. Olsen
- 5 Kathleen Caulfield
- 7 Albert Rios
- 9 Lisette Rios
- 10 Timothy DeCocco
- 11 Julia White
- 14 Trevor Wheelock
- 16 Debbie Martucci
- 19 Philip Jorczak
- 22 Kathy Smith, Nancy Heins
- 23 Michael Wienclawski
- 30 San D'Amico, Stefan Węglinski

Wishing you many years! Sto Lat!

God bless you!

To all who continue to pray, sacrifice, abstain, join in Lenten devotions, engage in acts of charity, and practice acts of Christian love and concern throughout Lent.

Gracias
MERCI
ARIGATO
thank you

To all who attended our annual budget meeting. You honor the sacrifice of our ancestors who built this democratic model of Church and keep their hope alive by your participation.

To all who invited friends and family to church on Friendship Sunday. We had a phenomenal turnout and several people reconnected with friends they haven't seen in years.

A special thank you to Bob and Stephanie for preparing a wonderful breakfast for our budget meeting and on Friendship Sunday.

To our wonderful altar servers, our organist and choir director Liz Battaglia, and to Ed Bertasso and all who have contributed to coffee hours and the ministry of hospitality.

To every parishioner, visitor, and member -- you are a blessing and a treasure. Thank you!!!

How to say Happy Easter

The Paschal greeting is an Easter custom among Christians. Instead of saying "hello," "good morning," or some other greeting we are to greet each other with "Christ is Risen!" The proper response is "Truly, He is Risen." In some cultures, such as in Russia it is also customary to exchange a triple kiss on the alternating cheeks after the greeting (what a great custom!). Here is the Pascal greeting in several languages:

- English: Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!
- Spanish: ¡Cristo ha resucitado! ¡En verdad ha resucitado!
- Italian: Cristo è risorto! È veramente risorto!
- Polish: Chrystus zmartwychwstał! Prawdziwie zmartwychwstał!
- Swahili – Kristo Amefufukka! Kweli Amefufukka!
- German: Christus ist

auferstanden! Er ist wahrhaftig auferstanden!

- Norwegian: Kristus er oppstanden! Han er sannelig oppstanden!
- Rastafarian – Krestos a uprisin! Seen, him a uprisin fe tru!
- French: Christ est ressuscité! Il est vraiment ressuscité!
- Greek: Χριστός ἀνέστη! Ἀληθῶς ἀνέστη!
- Russian: Христос воскрес! Воистину воскрес!
- Gaelic: Tá Críost éirithe! Go deimhin, tá sé éirithe!
- Scottish: Tha Crìosd air èiridh! Gu dearbh, tha e air èiridh!

Join us for Good Friday Crosswalk

Our Parish will participate in Mont Pleasant's Ecumenical Crosswalk on Good Friday, April 18th starting at

10am. There will be a brief (approx. 15 Min.) message or prayer at each Church along the way, with a



theatrical performance and refreshments at the conclusion of the crosswalk.

1. 10am Begin at New Day Christian Empowerment Center, Chrisler Ave. at Vermont Ave. with Rev. Marc Thompson;

2. 10:25am Holy Name of Jesus National Catholic Church, 1040 Pearl St., Deacon Jim Konicki;
3. 11am New Creation in Christ Worship and Healing Ministries, 1073 Howard St., Rev. Eloy Binnon;
4. 11:25am Global Prophetic Worship and Healing Ministries, 859 Crane St., Rev. Paul Mangroo;
5. 11:55am St. Adalbert Roman Catholic Church, 550 Lansing St., Deacon Joe Cechnicki;
6. 12:30pm The Bridge Christian Church, 735 Crane St., Rev. James H. Bookhout.

M&E, Summer Activities, Music, More

Hard to believe, but the national Mission & Evangelism Conference and the Track and Field Meet are around the corner. Also planning is underway for the summer events including the Acolyte Retreat, KURS, and CONVO. See Deacon Jim and sign-up to go.

Need Rental Space?

Family gathering, a party, meetings? Check out our Parish Hall. Discounted rental rates are available to parishioners.

Lenten Directed Giving - Final Weeks

Passion Week, Apr. 6-12, BABY MAKES THREE Disposable Diapers, Baby Wipes, Liquid Formula, Jars of Baby Food.

Holy Week, April 13-19, SPECIAL NEEDS DIET Low Sodium Soups, Canned Fruit in Juices (not syrup), Canned Tuna in Water, Low Sodium Crackers, Natural Applesauce.

Blessing of Easter Baskets/Foods

All are welcome — as always! Bring your baskets, eggs, cooked foods, uncooked foods to be blessed on Saturday, April 19th at 4 pm.



This service is a token of gratitude to God for all his gifts of both nature and grace. A reminder that the Lord is part of our daily life and is

always among us! Please bring a family member or a friend; help make this old but significant tradition new again!

Things for your basket:

Bread: A traditional round loaf signed with a cross symbolizes Jesus, the Bread of Life come down from heaven (John 6:35).

Paschal Lamb: Made of cake, butter

or sugar with a red and white banner, the Lamb proclaims Christ as final victor over death and evil (Revelations 12:11).

Smoked Meats: Kielbasa and ham symbolize the sacrifice of the new covenant. Jesus frees us from sin and eternal death bringing Exodus liberation to its final completion. Rings of sausage suggest family unity.

Easter Eggs: The colored eggshell represents Christ's tomb. It is often dyed in onion skin for a rich earth tone. The yolk is reminiscent of the radiant sun. Written eggs or pisanki proclaim the glory of the Resurrection.

Horseradish and Vinegar: The bitter herbs of Passover were fulfilled as Jesus drank sour wine while hanging on the cross. Traditionally, sweets are eaten only after tasting some horseradish as a reminder that Christ's bitter suffering opened the door to never-ending jubilation.

Wine: Psalm 104:16 extols the proposed use of wine, which gladdens the heart. For the baptized, wine points to the fullness of joy at the Eucharistic Table.

Salt: You are the salt of the earth (Matthew 5:13). The faith, hope and love of Jesus' followers give zest and meaning to daily life, preserving all that is good.

Babka, Placki and Sweets: Children make Lenten promises often by giving up candy. All Easter candy denotes the sweetness of the

heavenly kingdom. Yeast cakes iced with sugar allow all to taste the goodness of the Lord (Psalm 34:9). Cakes rising in the oven illustrate the warm spring sunrise and most especially, Jesus' rising from the tomb.

Parish Organizations and Ministries

Did you know that our Parish has many organizations that need you?

God calls us to work together for the good of our community, in support of each other, and for the needs of the Church. The YMSofR – Men's Society of the Resurrection, ANS – Women's Adoration Society, Choir, Parish Committee, and a hopefully reconstituted branch of the PNU (Spójnia) all need your help. We also need altar servers and lectors. Please see Deacon Jim.

Planning For:

- Apr. 6: Passion Sunday at 9am, Basket Social at noon
- Apr. 13: Palm Sunday at 9:30am
- April 14-19: Holy Week
- April 15: Holy Tuesday - clergy conference and Holy Mass of Chrism in Scranton
- April 17: Maundy Thursday - Holy Mass at 7pm
- April 18: Good Friday - Cross Walk. Devotional services all day. Liturgy of the Presanctified at 7pm

- April 19: Holy Saturday Liturgy of fire, light, blessing of Holy Water, renewal of baptismal promises, blessing of Easter baskets at 4pm.
- Apr. 20: Solemnity of the Resurrection - services and liturgies at 8am and 10:30am. Easter repast, Lunch on Sunday
- April 25: Feast of St. Mark the Evangelist
- **April 27: Low Sunday, 9:30am**
- April 30: Solemnity, St. Joseph the Workman
- May 1: Feast, Ss. Philip & James, Apostles
- May 2-4: Mission & Evangelism Workshop, Woonsocket RI
- May 3: Solemnity – Finding of the Holy Cross/Polish Constitution Day
- May 10: 63rd Anniversary, Martyrdom of Bishop Joseph Padewski
- May 11: Good Shepherd Sunday and Mother's Day, 9:30am
- May 29: Solemnity of the Ascension, Solemn Vespers at 7pm
- June 6-8: 69th Annual YMSofR Bowling Tournament, Sterling Heights, MI
- June 8: Pentecost Sunday

Why does the Date of Easter Change?

Easter always falls on a Sunday. Easter cannot occur earlier than March 22nd or later than April 25th,

and that is just in the Western churches (Catholic and Protestant churches). The Orthodox churches follow the Julian Calendar which differs by thirteen days, so their date of Easter occurs between April 4th and May 8th on our calendar.

It took centuries for the churches to agree on the date of Easter, finally settling on the definition that the date of Easter is the date of the first Sunday after the full moon after the vernal equinox, which is assumed to occur on March 21.

In both the East and the West, the churches begin with March 21, the ecclesiastical (or church) equinox. Then, they look for the next full moon, then a Sunday. So--again, in the Western churches--the date of Easter occurs between March 22

(although it last occurred on that date in 1818 and will not happen again until 2285) and April 25 (last in 1943 and will not happen again

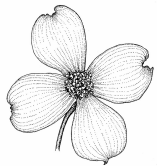


until 2038). The year-to-year sequence is so complicated that it takes 5.7 million years to repeat.

Because Easter moves, all the dates that depend on Easter move as well such as the weeks of Septuagesima, Ash Wednesday, the weeks of Lent, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, which includes Maundy Thursday and Good

Friday and Holy Saturday, Ascension Sunday, Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, and Corpus Christi.

The Legend of the Dogwood Tree



Two thousand years ago, few trees in the Middle East were big enough to construct anything. However, one tree was valued above the others for its thick

trunk and fine, strong wood. The Romans came to rule over Jerusalem, and their government used this timber to build crosses for execution. A group of workers were assigned to gather wood for the crosses from among those trees.

One day, the wood gatherers received a special request. An officer of the Roman court came and said, "The King of Jews is to be put to death. Deliver an extra-large cross made from your finest wood." So, a fresh tree was cut and the cross was assembled and delivered.











Three days after the death of Jesus the chief wood gatherer got alarming news: "All of our finest trees are withering!" The wood gatherer hurried to the forest and saw that it was true.

Several years later, the chief wood gatherer heard that, every spring, many people visited the old forest that had once made his job so easy. Despite his advancing years, he set

out to discover why. He saw the remains of forest, now destroyed with only a few trees still standing tall but bare, lifeless, and rotting. As he drew closer, he could make out people walking among thousands of beautiful, flowering bushes. Seeing one of his own workers there, the old man said, "No one could ever make a cross out of this twisted wood. Our finest tree has gone to the dogs!" He noticed the beautiful white flowers, each blossom looking as if it had been burned from the touch of a miniature cross.

At the time of Crucifixion the dogwood had been the size of the oak. So firm and strong it was the tree that was chosen as the timber for the cross. To be used thus for such a cruel purpose greatly distressed the tree, and Jesus nailed upon it, sensed this. In His gentle pity for all this sorrow and suffering Jesus said to the tree: "Because of your regret and pity for My suffering, never again shall the dogwood tree grow large enough to be used as a cross. Henceforth it shall be slender and bent and twisted. Its blossoms shall be in the form of a cross — two long and two short petals. And in the center of the outer edge of each petal there will be nail prints, brown with rust and stained with red, and in the center of the flower will be a crown of thorns, so all who see it remember."

April 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Birth of Bishop Francis Hodur (1866)	 2	3	 4 Stations of the Cross 7:30pm.	5 Basket Social Drop-offs 9:30am-1pm
6 Passion Sunday - Holy Mass Lenten Penitential Service, Exposition/Benediction, 9am Lector: Marilyn Heitala Basket Social, 12pm	7	8	 9	10	 11 Stations of the Cross 7:30pm.	12
13 Palm Sunday, Palm Sunday Liturgy, Service of Worship and Holy Communion, 9:30am Lector: Larry Panfil Parish Committee Meets	 14 Holy Monday	 15 Holy Tuesday Clergy Conference and Holy Mass of Chrism, St. Stanislaus Bishop & Martyr Cathedral, Scranton	 16 Holy Wednesday	 17 Maundy Thursday Holy Mass of the Lord's Supper, Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 7pm	 18 Good Friday Ecumenical Crosswalk 10am-1pm in Mont pleasant Church opens at noon Services at 1, 2, and 3pm Liturgy of the Pre- Sanctified, 7pm	 19 Holy Saturday Holy Saturday Liturgies, Blessing of new fire, holy water, renewal of baptismal promises, blessing of food, 4pm
20 Solemnity of the Resurrection/Easter - Procession and Solemn High Holy Mass, 8am, Service at 10:30 Soup on Sunday and Easter Breakfast 10:30am Lector: Larry Panfil	21 Monday of Bright Week Śmigus-Dyngus	22 Tuesday of Bright Week	23 Wednesday of Bright Week	24 Thursday of Bright Week	25 Friday of Bright Week Feast of St. Mark the Evangelist	26 Saturday of Bright Week
27 Low Sunday – Service of Worship and Holy Communion, 9:30am Lector: Claudia Bertasso	28	29	30 Solemnity – St. Joseph the Workman			

EVENTS

Basket Social, April 6th

Invite family, friends, and neighbors.

Holy Week

You will find great comfort beside Jesus in these days.