



TO GUIDE. TO INSPIRE. TO SERVE.

March 31, 2024 | VOLUME 54 NUMBER 13 | Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

CHRIST INDEED FROM DEATH IS RISEN,



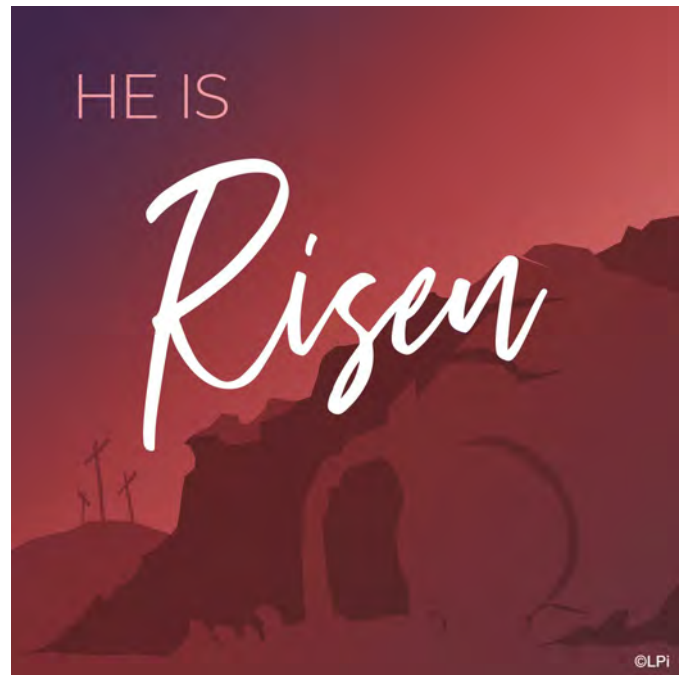
OUR NEW LIFE OBTAINING. ALLELULIA.



Outside Chicago, there is a small cemetery in the woods behind Mundelein Seminary, where I was a student. One night I was exploring it. I looked up and was shocked to see an imposing seventeen-foot angel towering over me and preparing to blow a trumpet. Adrenaline rushed through me. I gasped and uttered, “Oh my God!” Quickly I realized it was in fact a massive bronze statue. I tried to calm myself down. But it still freaked me out.

As we begin to celebrate Easter today, this image might seem a bit unnerving. But please recall that for the first disciples on the morning of the resurrection, it was precisely that. It wasn’t joyful at first, it was terrifying. It wasn’t peaceful, it was unsettling. In that Jerusalem cemetery, something otherworldly had happened. Angels announced that he was no longer dead, but alive. They had blown their trumpets, so to speak, and Jesus had risen. Soon the disciples’ shock in that dark cemetery would turn into joy.

We all have our own places of the dead, too, don’t we? Deceased loved ones. Our tired patterns of blame.



Relationships stuck in resentment. Indifference to the poor. Lost dreams. Despair about our future. Fear of sickness and death. These are our “cemeteries” where we don’t expect much to happen. Today we enter — if we dare — those places with the disciples. See the mighty angel standing there, trumpet ready to blare!

— Father John Muir, ©LPi

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

A Happy Ending Isn’t the Whole Story

“Is there a happy ending?”

When my kids were young, we never made it past the first whiff of any narrative tension before I got this question. As soon as whatever princess or furry woodland animal who was the hero of the story got into any small scrape, they wanted that reassurance, “Is there a happy ending?”

I can’t say I blame them. Don’t we all feel that way sometimes? We enter into a relationship with someone or some situation, and we just want to protect ourselves. We want to know it’s not going to go badly — or, if it does, that we will be able to come back from it. It’s a human instinct, a reflex. Our inclination to protect ourselves makes it so that we sometimes want to press fast-forward on the bad stuff and skip straight ahead to the happily-ever-after.

Easter is the ultimate happy ending. It’s the day of miracles. The day when all the stones roll away and all the sins are forgiven. It’s the day that puts everything right.

But if we learned anything from this week — from the Passion and death of the Lord — it’s that we can’t press fast-forward on the hardships of life. That tension, that loss, that fear — it’s crucial, isn’t it? As Catholics, we are who we are because of Easter. But Easter doesn’t happen without Good Friday.

So, does the story of salvation have a happy ending? We know it does. But we also remember that the ending isn’t all that matters.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS, ©LPi



HAPPY EASTER



May the resurrection of Jesus Christ
bring light to all of us.

Fr. Michael and the church staff

Divine Mercy Sunday - April 7

From Creation, God has revealed his nature as love itself, in Sacred Scripture and most perfectly in the life, Passion, death and Resurrection of his Son, Jesus. Saints have also borne witness to God's unfathomable love, e.g., in the writings of Augustine, Aquinas, Catherine of Siena, Francis of Assisi, Margaret Mary Alacoque and Thérèse of Lisieux.

Mankind's need for the message of Divine Mercy took on dire urgency in the 20th Century, when civilization began to experience an "eclipse of the sense of God" and, therefore to lose the understanding of the sanctity and inherent dignity of human life. In the 1930s, Jesus chose a humble Polish nun, St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, to receive private revelations concerning Divine Mercy that were recorded in her Diary. St. John Paul II explains:

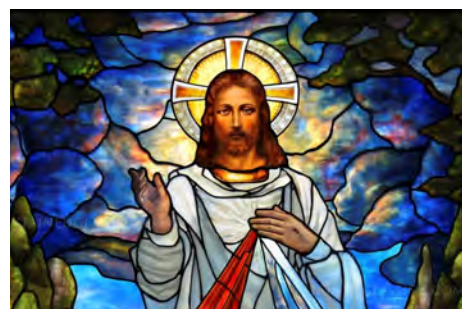
This was precisely the time when those ideologies of evil, nazism and communism, were taking shape. Sister Faustina became the herald of the one message capable of off-setting the evil of those ideologies, that fact that God is mercy—the truth of the merciful Christ. And for this reason, when I was called to the See of Peter, I felt impelled to pass on those experiences of a fellow Pole that deserve a place in the treasury of the universal Church.

—Pope Saint John Paul II, *Memory and Identity* (2005)

St. Faustina's Diary records 14 occasions when Jesus requested that a Feast of Mercy (Divine Mercy Sunday) be observed, for example:

My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. ... It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy.

On May 5, 2000, five days after the canonization of St. Faustina, the Vatican decreed that the Second Sunday of Easter would henceforth be known as Divine Mercy Sunday.



Divine Mercy Weekly Chaplet

Day 9

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

Follows 6 pm Communion Service

Divine Mercy Sunday

Sunday, April 7, 2024

Divine Mercy Chaplet @ 4:00 pm





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May 3, 4, & 5, 2024

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St. Thomas More Parish Festival Schedule

Friday, May 3, 2024

5:00 pm Opening Prayer & Rides Begin.

5:30p – 7:30 pm Fruge Funk Band

8:00 pm – 10:00 pm Dominick Michael

11:00 pm Rides End & Field Closes.

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Saturday, May 4, 2024

10:00 am Rides Open.

5:00 pm - 6:30 pm Fruge Funk Band.

7:00 – 10 pm Parish County Line.

11:00 pm Rides End & Field Closes

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Sunday, May 5, 2024

11:00 am Rides Open

11:30 am STM School Performances

12:00 pm All Raffle Drawings

12:30 pm STM School Performances

4:00 pm Rides Close, STM Festival Closing Ceremony

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 17 - 21, 2024

Registration will open on May 1st.

We are now signing up adult volunteers -
contact Jeanne Mancuso at mancusoj@stmbr.org
if you can help.





Pope Francis
@Pontifex



I express my closeness to all our brothers and sisters who are celebrating Easter today. Dear brothers and sisters, may the Risen Lord be with you and fill you with His Holy Spirit! Happy Easter to all of you!

WEEKLY READINGS/OBSERVANCES

Readings for the week of March 31

Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 (24)/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8; Jn 20:1-9 or Mk 16:1-7

Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/Mt 28:8-15

Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22/Jn 20:11-18

Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 24:13-35

Thursday: Acts 3:11-26/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 24:35-48

Friday: Acts 4:1-12/Ps 118:1-2, and 4, 22-24, 25-27a/Jn 21:1-14

Saturday: Acts 4:13-21/Ps 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21/Mk 16:9-15

Next Sunday: Acts 4:32-35/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 (1)/1 Jn 5:1-6/Jn 20:19-31

Observances for the week of March 31

Sunday: Easter Sunday

Monday: Monday within the Octave of Easter; April Fools' Day

Tuesday: Tues. within the Octave of Easter

Wednesday: Wed. within the Octave of Easter

Thursday: Thurs. within the Octave of Easter

Friday: Fri. within the Octave of Easter

Saturday: Sat. within the Octave of Easter

Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)



Support our priests!

The Diocese of Baton Rouge has been blessed by the men who have given their lives to serve our communities since the diocese's inception in 1961. As the life of a priest changes, so does their needs. Join fellow Catholics in helping those who have blessed us so generously; make a meaningful gift to the **Retirement Fund for Diocesan Priests** collection this weekend. Use your special collection envelope, or donate online via Faith Direct, membership.faithdirect.net/LA554. You may also write a check to STM Church with Priest Retirement noted on the memo line.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Apr. 2 - 6 p.m.: **Communion Service**; intentions moved to Apr. 16

Thursday, Apr. 4 - 6 p.m.: **Communion Service**; intention moved to Apr. 16

Saturday, Apr. 6 - 4:30 p.m.: Barbara Guidry

Sunday, Apr. 7 - 8 a.m.: STM Families, Friends, and Neighbors; **10 a.m.:** Melissa Meyers, Shirley Jackson, Nicholas Quartararo, Paul Salvant, Willie Maynor, Ann and Richard Brandt, Rosa Olivier; **5 p.m.:** Souls in Purgatory

SANCTUARY LIGHTING

The sanctuary light in the church will burn in memory of Jeannette Fresin Cutrer the week of Mar. 31 as requested by Frank Fresina.

PRAYER LIST

Please remember in your prayers these seriously ill persons: **Laurie Bolanos, Becky Cline, Diane Green, Tina Koon, John Mike Golmon, Kayleigh Mims, Hunter Pecoraro, John Pecoraro, Jr., Jim O' Rourke, Bob Sanchez, Marci Ferracci Sells, Dianne Tollett, Loressa Watts**

To add a name to the prayer list, contact Elise Moran in the church office (225.275.3940, morane@stmbr.org).

PRAYER LINE

For serious or urgent prayer requests, call Sharon Hebert at 225-978-1246 (leave your name and phone number if there is no answer), or send a request by email to prayerline@stmbr.org.

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Rev. Mr. Joe Scimeca

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April's Pottery Fun Social

TO BE RESCHEDULED - STAY TUNED

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	Listen to Father Michael's homilies: https://soundcloud.com/padrehooch

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Office Hours:
Mon.- Thurs.: 8 am - 12 pm and 1 - 5 pm;
Fri.: 8 a.m. - 12 pm

DAILY MASSES
Tuesday: 6:00 pm, and Thursday: 8:45 am
WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday: 4:30 pm Vigil
Sunday: 8 am, 10 am, and 5 pm

RECONCILIATION
Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.
Saturdays from 3:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.
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