



March 31, 2024 The Resurrection of the Lord

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With the Cathedral, on the celebration of Chrism Mass last Monday, brimming with faithful from across the diocese and over 160 priests renewing their vows, we were a testament to the vibrant spirit of our Church.

Reflecting on this momentous occasion, I am struck by the swift passage of time. It has been nearly a year since the announcement at last year's Chrism Mass that I would be joining you at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish. I am grateful for the warm welcome, support, and understanding you have shown me. Together, we have embarked on a journey to deepen our connection with God and each other through various ministries, emphasizing the importance of truly knowing Jesus and the teachings of our Church.

Engaging with our youth and ensuring their integration into the life of the Church has been a priority for me. I have been blessed to witness their curiosity and faith through visits to our Catholic schools, welcoming students to Mass in our Church, or celebrating significant sacraments like Confirmation. Our efforts to engage young people are vital, especially in a society where secularization challenges traditional religious practices and beliefs. The enthusiasm and questions of our younger members are not signs of disconnection but opportunities for renewal and deeper understanding.

During this time, we have joyfully welcomed 16 new members into our faith through the sacrament of Baptism, witnessing the beginning of their spiritual paths within our community. Conversely, we have also bid farewell to five cherished members through the celebration of Christian burial, entrusting them to the Lord's loving embrace. These moments of joy and sorrow weave the fabric of our communal life, reminding us of the cycle of life and faith that binds us together.

Financial sustainability is another aspect of our communal life that requires our attention and stewardship. The support, acceptance, and understanding you've shown have been the bedrock upon which we can build a future for our Church community that is both spiritually enriching and materially viable. Your generosity enables us to maintain our beautiful church and fund initiatives that bring the message of Christ to all.

This Easter, we are reminded of the hope that comes with the Resurrection of Christ. It is a hope that transcends the challenges of secularization, energizes our engagement with the youth, and strengthens our resolve to ensure the financial health of our parish. The joy of Easter inspires us to look beyond the immediate to see the potential for renewal and growth in every challenge we face.

As we move forward, let us carry the spirit of Easter in our hearts, committed to fostering a vibrant, inclusive, and engaging community of faith. May we continue to support one another and remember those we have lost in our prayers.

Thank you for being a part of this journey, especially those who have taken roles in our Church- readers, communion ministers, sacristans, and children's liturgy facilitators. Your faith, love, and support are the bedrock of our parish community. Let us rejoice in the promise of Easter and look forward to what we can achieve together in the coming year.

Christ is Risen! He is truly Risen! Alleluia!

Wishing you all a blessed and joyful Easter,

Fr. Arpee

Tips of the Month

Parents are the most influential people in their children's lives. Even in the teen years, when peers become so important, parents are still influencing their children in almost every way. As their role model, it is important to ask yourself if what your children are seeing and hearing from you is how you would like them to act and speak. Do you speak kindly to family, friends and strangers? Do you limit the amount of time you engage on your phone and/or tablet/computer? Do you show them that you rely on God through prayer, attending Mass and talking about times God has helped you through? Your children are watching you to know how to act and behave, so look inward at how you act and speak and be sure you are the person you want your child to become.

When we marry, we gain a spouse and his or her family. It is essential that we agree to ensure that we, as a couple, have the most important connection and that we remain united as a family unit when stresses with extended family arise. This means coming to agreement with each other on items such as how to celebrate holidays and traditions, the raising of children and other areas that directly impact us as a couple, even when family wants to have input. Our families can provide wonderful support to our marriage, but we must remember that the essential relationship is between our spouse and ourselves.

Wishing you all a
very Happy and
Blessed Easter!

He Is Risen!



Mass Intentions: April 2nd—April 7th

<u>Tuesday 6:30 p.m.</u>	Dianne Butler—Mary Purdy
<u>Wednesday:8:30 a.m.</u>	Marcel Costin--Darlene and Mike
<u>Thursday: 8:30 a.m.</u>	Intentions of Chris, Al & family—Jim & Helen McGrath
<u>Friday: 8:30 a.m.</u>	Intentions of Paul—Jim & Helen McGrath
<u>Saturday 5 p.m.</u>	Leo & Maria Catarino & Amadeu Madaleno—The family
<u>Sunday 9 a.m.</u> 11 a.m.	Our Parishioners