

**† EASTER MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR †**

***“Simon Peter arrived and went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there and the cloth that had covered his head rolled up in a separate place.”***

The empty tomb, of course, was quite startling to Jesus' followers. We have to remember that, despite all they had been taught, they still did not fully comprehend what Jesus had prophesied concerning His resurrection on the third day. Ultimately, however, their faith and ours is not based on the phenomenon of the **empty tomb**. Instead, our Christian faith is rooted in the numerous post-resurrection appearances of Jesus to His followers. The Risen Lord was actually **seen** by Mary of Magdela. He was **seen** by the apostles who were hiding in the locked room. Thomas was invited to actually touch Him. He also appeared to the two men walking along the road to Emmaus, and broke break with them. Remember, no sane person would have willingly sacrificed all they had, including their very lives, to carry on the *cult of a dead man*. No normal person would have ever been willing to forego a family; a personal career; a more comfortable life style and, ultimately, undergo persecution and a martyr's death for the sake of a dead man they once admired and followed. In fact it would be quite reasonable to assume that in the face of Jesus' death, they would have been distraught, beaten down and ready to run off in different directions. They would have gone back to their former ways of life as fishermen or laborers or tax collector. So we, the believers of today, base our faith on the eye-witness testimony of the apostles and other followers who experienced not only the empty tomb, but, most importantly, the **Risen Christ**. Saint Paul made a critical point when he wrote, ***“If Christ is not risen from the dead, our preaching is empty, your faith is worthless and we are the most wretched of people.”***

Having just completed Holy Week, it might surprise some of you to know that the last three days of Holy Week, the Triduum, were considered as one. It might be even more surprising to note that today and the next six weeks are also considered as one, as **Easter**. Today, in fact every Sunday, our parish family gathers to celebrate **the glory of the risen Christ**. The cross of unspeakable pain and death has now been transformed into the **triumphant cross**. Outside our church, with its white shroud gently blowing in the breeze, the **triumphant cross** will stand throughout the entire length of the Easter season. It will be our constant reminder of Christ's great love for us and of His total victory over sin and death and His promise to, one day, lift up all of His faithful ones from the darkness of the grave into His own wonderful light.

Saint Paul so eloquently describes to us Jesus' loving obedience to death on the cross. He hinted at what we celebrate today for ***“...when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.”*** Because of Jesus perfect obedience to the Father's will, ***“God highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every other name, that at the name of Jesus, every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of the Father.”***

Through our baptism, we have all shared in the suffering and death of Christ and were transformed into sons and daughters of God. As Christians, it is our firm belief that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, **we** who are also sons and daughters of God, will one day be raised from **our** graves and experience the newness of life promised by Christ to all who believe in him, are obedient to his teaching and faithfully *take up the cross* and follow in His footsteps.

Today, we gather as an **Easter people** to celebrate our belief not just in an empty tomb, but rather, in a **Risen Jesus** who is Lord and Savior. Because we have been blessed with the vision of faith, we not only **believe** but boldly **proclaim** to our community and to the whole world our Easter proclamation ***“Jesus Christ is Risen Today, Alleluia!”***

***“Lord, by Your cross and Resurrection, You have set us free,  
You are the Savior of the World.”***

**EASTER SUNDAY:  
THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**

“Do not be frightened: he is not here. He has been raised exactly as he promised. Come and see the spot where he was laid. Then go quickly and tell his disciples. ‘He has been raised from the dead and now goes ahead of you to Galilee where you will see him.’ That is the message that I have for you.”... “Do not be afraid! Go and carry the news to my brothers that they are to go to Galilee, where they will see me.”

Well it is Easter. It is the time we have been preparing for. It is the most important day for all Christians. We look back over the weeks of Lent, our prayer, fasting and good works. We relive the paschal mystery of Jesus’ dying and rising. We look at our lives today. Jesus still lives.

The message is one thing, what to do with it is something else. The visitors to the tomb are told ‘go quickly’, ‘tell the disciples’, and if you go to Galilee ‘you will see Him.’ Easter calls us all to witness. Why hesitate or delay? Are we afraid of such joyful news?

More action follows. ‘Do not delay’ and ‘go and carry the news’. Our willingness to carry out these commands might reflect how meaningful was the Jerusalem event of two thousand years ago or our own fear or disbelief.

Notice the message is directed to an unnamed ‘you.’ Notice too that the message is to be brought to waiting brothers and sisters, who need to know that Jesus lives today. He lives in the most vulnerable, the hurting, the poor, the marginalized, and our task is to help them recognize Him. Accept the gift of the message and take action.

A blessed and joy filled Easter.



**EASTER SUNDAY:  
THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**

**First Reading: Acts 10:34a, 37-43**

In this passage, Peter testifies that he and his followers saw the miracles performed by Christ, witnessed His death, and believe in His resurrection. Now they will proclaim to all that Christ is the Son of God.

**Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4**

Paul tells the Colossians that they will appear with Christ in glory. They should be mindful of things above rather than things on earth.

**Gospel: John 20:1-9**

In vivid detail, John tells us that when Mary Magdalene visited Christ’s tomb, the tomb was empty. She told the apostles, who ran to the tomb, and saw the “wrappings” on the ground. The disciple who entered first “saw and believed.”

**PARISH NURSE OFFERING PRESCRIPTION &  
OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICATIONS!**

Please join your fellow parishioners on **April 28th** at 7PM in the lower parish house community room for an interesting discussion on the side effects and action of prescription medications and “over the counter medications.”

Our guest speaker will be Mr. Joseph Pinto, Director of Pharmacy at Nyack Hospital. There will be time for questions & answers.

**YOUR EASTER GIFT TO OUR PARISH**

Your Easter contribution to Saint Catharine’s should be something which truly reflects your love of God and your parish. As we all struggle through these very trying economic times, may we respectfully ask that, this Easter, you challenge yourself to give as generously as your financial means allow. If you did not receive your Easter envelope in the monthly mailing, there are special envelopes available on the usher’s tables in the rear of the church on your way out of Mass. Thank you and God bless you and your loved ones with a truly Blessed Easter.



**2011 STEWARDSHIP APPEAL UPDATE**

To date, **317** families and individuals have made their commitment to this year's Stewardship Appeal effort here in our parish. We currently have pledges in the amount of **\$72,380.00** which represents about **66%** of our overall parish goal. It would be wonderful if we could both raise our overall goal of **\$109,000.00** and make a strong showing with the number of families who have committed to the Appeal. The Appeal needs all of us to play a role in order for it to be successful. Lots of really good, deserving people are counting on us. Please be as generous as your own financial means will allow. Thank you.

**ST. CATHARINE'S PREP:  
NEW FAMILY REGISTRATION**



New families to our PREP program should come to the PREP Office on **Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>** from 7:00-9:00 PM to register their children for the 2011-2012 school year. For more information, call 845-359-4014.

**MANY GIFTS BUT THE SAME SPIRIT  
SAINT CATHARINE'S NEEDS YOU!**

Our parish is still looking for some of our active parishioners to step forward and offer their time, talent and love to one of our parish ministries. We are in urgent need of **USHERS** at many of our Masses. We also need new recruits for our Ministry of **LECTOR** or Reader and **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTRY** both at Mass and in service to the homebound of our parish. Additionally, we are looking for some new voices in both our **ADULT and CHILDREN'S CHOIRS**.

If interested, please consult the directory in the front of the bulletin for more information and contact numbers.

**UPCOMING SENIOR RETREAT**

On **Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>** from 10 AM-3 PM, there will be a Senior Retreat at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in West Nyack. Registration forms will be available in all the parishes in April. Forms will be mailed to all previous participants. For more information, call the Catholic Community Services of Rockland 845-942-5791 ext. 17.



**UPCOMING SOCIAL ACTIVITIES**

**-JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup>:** Friday, Citi Field- Mets vs. Braves. Seats are in the Pepsi Porch. Bus will leave our parking lot at 4:30 PM. Cost of trip is \$68. **SOLD OUT**

**-JUNE 18<sup>TH</sup>:** Saturday- Sightseeing trip of Lower Manhattan with licensed tour guide. Sites include World Trade Center site, City Hall, Vietnam Veteran's Memorial, St. Elizabeth Seton Church, inside the Police Museum and others. Dinner will follow at S.P.Q.R. in Little Italy. Bus leaves our lot at 7:45 AM. This trip will cost \$98.

**-JUNE 29<sup>TH</sup>:** Wed., Yankee Stadium- Yankees vs. Brewers. Seats are in Right Field Terrace Reserved. Bus will leave our parking lot at 4:30 PM. Cost of the trip is \$62.

See all trips in the parish on the yellow sheet in back of the church. For further info, call Joe at 646-648-0823;845-365-5115. Checks payable to St. Catharine's Church & mail them to Joseph Onativia (139 Moison Road N, Blauvelt, NY 10913)

**ROMANESQUE LODGE- UPCOMING EVENTS**

The Romanesque Lodge will be having a bus trip to Atlantic City's Showboat Casino on **Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>**. Bus leaves South Orangetown Middle School lot on Erie Street at 9:15 AM. Cost is \$38 per person which includes transportation and refreshments on the bus. Call Judith Scandiffio (845-359-1023) to reserve a seat.

The Annual Communion Breakfast will take place on **Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>**. Mass will be 10:30AM at St. Catharine's Church. Following mass we will go directly to Del Arte Restaurant in Orangeburg. Cost is \$25 per person. Please contact Doreen Ascatisno at 845-365-0282 or Judith Scandiffio (845-359-1023).

**CANCER SUPPORT GROUP**



St. Catharine's Cancer Support Group will meet every third Tuesday of the month at 7 PM at the Parish House. All are welcome at attend.

**ATTN ST. CATHARINE'S SENIOR CITIZENS**

Senior Citizens, living in Blauvelt/Orangeburg, needing a ride to Mass (10:30 am) should leave their name, address and telephone number at the Parish Center Office. Someone will contact them thereafter with the drivers' schedule, telephone numbers and further information.

**THORPE VILLAGE DONOR DAY  
SATURDAY, APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup> AT 2PM  
PARK AVENUE THORPE  
Sister Lori DeGiorgio, RDC  
406 East 184 Street, Bx., NY 10458  
[Idegiorgio@thorpefamilyresidence.com](mailto:Idegiorgio@thorpefamilyresidence.com)**



The **Tabernacle Candle** was donated by Anne Buchan

In Memory of

**Dr. William J. Buchan**



The **Altar Flowers** were donated by Hector May

In Memory of

**Richard Bell and John May**

APRIL BAPTISMS



*Claire O'Shea*

*Lilliana O'Shea*

*Matthew Kay*

ALTAR / TABERNACLE FLOWERS  
MEMORIAL REQUEST FORM

If you would like to participate, please fill out this form and return it in an envelope to the parish office.

PLEASE BE SURE TO GIVE A 2<sup>ND</sup> CHOICE.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory / Intention of \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday Date Requested \_\_\_\_ (1<sup>st</sup> choice) \_\_\_\_ (2<sup>nd</sup> choice).

\_\_\_\_ Tabernacle Candle offering of \$15.00 is enclosed\*

\_\_\_\_ Tabernacle Flower offering of \$50.00 is enclosed

\_\_\_\_ Altar Flower Offering of \$ 50.00 is enclosed

*\*Tabernacle Candle Requests Not Available Until May*

2011 ANNOUNCED MASS BOOK OPENINGS

The following dates are immediately available for announced Masses: **April 29; May 3, 5, 9, 10, 13, 23, 30, 31<sup>ST</sup> (6:45 AM only)**. Please stop by our parish house to reserve an announced Mass date for a deceased loved one or for a special intention.

+PARISH PRAYER CORNER+  
+WE PRAY FOR THE LIVING+

Our parish family prays for God's continued blessings and healing graces upon all of our loved ones who have experienced serious health issues during the past month. In particular, we remember the following faithful who have been prayed for from our altar and are still in need of your prayers.

*Matthew Costello, Walter Cahill, Nancy Lovett, Thomas Kelly, Julia Cosentino, Helen O'Brien, Matthew Mencher, Lucy Decilla, Bill Hayes, Florence Iervolino, Agnes Smith, Edna Baccari, Jenny Paci, Billy Fick and Matthew Von Dollen*

"Holy Mary Mother of God, Pray for us sinners..."

+WE PRAY FOR THE DEARLY DEPARTED+

Our parish family has prayed for the repose of the souls of many of our faithful departed who were a part of our parish and or community in the past as well as present. We remember all those who died and went home to the Lord recently.

*Joan Sheck, Leonard Curran, Antonio Marra, Allison Florio, Patricia Turi, Mary Becker, Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Veronica O'Neill, John Giusto, Kathleen Gallagher, Elise Polino, Mary Taylor, Ann Hodges, Barbara Braun, Margaret McCormack and Angela Hundgen*

*"Lord, by Your Cross and Resurrection, You have set us free, You are the Savior of the World."*



**Opens Friday, May 6th AMC Manhattan Village 7  
Tel. 888-AMC-4FUN  
[www.VitoBonafacci.com](http://www.VitoBonafacci.com)**

The above may be of special interest to members of our parish and local community as the lead actor, Paul Borghese, is a longtime resident of Orangetown and a former student of Msgr. Nevin at the Orangetown Middle School. Paul belongs to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart parish and is a member of our local Sons of Italy which is sponsoring a bus to the opening.

**PETITION OF THE WEEK**

*That each and every one of you enjoys a blessed and Happy Easter ... Let us pray*

**TITHING - GOD'S WAY OF SHARING**

*Last week's Collection.....\$11,926  
Last Year's Collection .....\$11,021*

**ALTAR DUTY**

Winnie and Jessica Icobelli

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**MONDAY, APRIL 25**

**6:45** Special Intention

**8:30** Laura Galdi

**TUESDAY, APRIL 26**

**6:45** Barbara and Martin Beglin

**8:30** Dorothy Mellett

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27**

**6:45** James Dooley

**8:30** Mary and James Clifford

**THURSDAY, APRIL 28**

**6:45** Dorothy Mellett

**8:30** Ann McLaughlin

**FRIDAY, APRIL 29**

**6:45** Elizabeth Soosaipillai and Ragakulanbran Ragendiram

**8:30** Harry McAuley

**SATURDAY, APRIL 30**

**8:30** Carl Baer



**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; Mk 16:9-15

Is 55:1-11; Bar 3:9-15, 32-4:4; Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28;

Rom 6:3-11; Mt 28:1-10

**+LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR MAY 1, 2011+**

<u>TIME</u>	<u>LECTORS</u> 	<u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS</u> 	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u> 
<b>5:00pm</b>	M. McCarroll	C. O'Brien, Ann O'Connor, L. Russell, M. DeSimone	A. Genovese, N. Malpeli, M. Shanley
<b>8:00am</b>	J. Foody	A. Angelini, M. Parisi	E. Kalappura, J. Kalappura, M. Mullens
<b>9:15am</b>	Family Mass	D. Kivlehan, N. Barrett	E. Diaz, L. Gavigan, G. Skywark
<b>10:30am</b>	E. McCaffrey	J. Langan, L. Langan, J. DelGatto, J. D'Andrea	K. Lennon, C. McGovern, B. Shapiro, S. Shapiro
<b>11:45am</b>	J. Hudson	A. Kapunan, A. Muttatth, J. McCaffrey, V. Blaine	J. McKiernan, K. McKiernan, S. McKiernan
<b>1:00pm</b>	S. Pinto	J. O'Connor, P. Lifrieri	E. Ahlf, W. Ahlf, C. Pinto
<b>4:30pm</b>	J. Nielsen	E. O'Brien, D. Schutz, F. Rumolo	M. Fraser, M. Hovagim, N. Hovagim