

# *St. Edward the Confessor*

205 Jackson Avenue, Syosset, New York 11791

*Growing in Faith, Love, and Christ*



*Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord*

*March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021*

## **THE PASTORAL TEAM**

Rev. Michael T. Maffeo, Pastor  
Rev. Hyacinth Jemigbola, Associate Pastor  
Rev. Celestine Nwosu, Associate Pastor  
Msgr. Donald E. Beckmann, Sunday Priest  
Deacon James F. Murphy  
Deacon Barry P. Croce



## **Administration**

Deacon Thomas Wm. Connolly, Director

## **Pastoral Center Offices**

Mr. Miguel DeLeon, Finance Director

## **RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)**

Sister Sheila Browne, RSM, Director

## **St. Edward the Confessor School**

Mr. Vincent Albrecht, Principal  
Ms. Taylor Moran

## **Parish Social Ministry**

Mrs. Donna Zaino, Coordinator

## **Office Staff**

Mrs. Maryann Waite  
Mrs. Luisa Ondocin

## **Music Ministry**

Mr. Jeffrey Fox  
Mrs. Marilyn Fox

## **Youth Ministry**

Ms. Michelle Sena - Vision

## **Religious Education**

Mrs. Rosemary Pettei, Director  
Ms. Mary Calabrese, Director of Confirmation  
Mrs. Ann Braun, Secretary

# Quick Guide to St. Edward's Parish

Not registered? Please stop by our Rectory during office hours to be included in our parish family!

## Telephone Numbers

|                                  |                   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Rectory.....                     | 921-8030 ext. 150 |
| Rectory Fax.....                 | 921-4549          |
| St. Edward Confessor School..... | 921-7767          |
| Religious Education Office.....  | 921-8543          |
| RCIA.....                        | 921-8030 ext. 135 |
| Administration.....              | 921-8030 ext. 136 |
| Bulletin Editor.....             | 921-8030 ext. 137 |
| Facilities Scheduler.....        | 921-8030 ext. 137 |
| St. Vincent De Paul Society..... | 516-218-7837      |
| PSM/Pantry.....                  | 921-8030 ext. 140 |
| Music Ministry.....              | 921-8030 ext. 150 |
| Youth Ministry.....              | 921-8030 ext. 127 |
| Pastoral Center Offices.....     | 921-8030 ext. 132 |

## Rectory Hours

The rectory will be open during the following times:

|                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Mondays - Thursdays:  | 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM |
| Fridays:              | 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM |
| Closed for Lunch M-F: | 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM |
| Saturdays - Sundays:  | 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM |

Outside of these hours, please call: 516-921-8030

## When Attending Mass

While attending Mass during the coming weeks please remember to wear your face mask at all times and to maintain social distancing. After Mass has ended you are requested to depart from church immediately afterwards, and not congregate in the gathering area. Thank You.

## Weekly Mass Schedule

|                  |          |               |
|------------------|----------|---------------|
| Monday - Friday: | 9:00 AM  | In the Church |
| Saturday:        | 5:00 PM  | In the Church |
| Sunday:          | 7:30 AM  | In the Church |
|                  | 9:30 AM  | In the Church |
|                  | 11:30 AM | In the Church |

## Our Weekly Offering

|                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| March 21, 2021   | \$ 11,489.00 |
| # of Envelopes   | 189          |
| Automatic Trans. | \$ 1,773.00  |
| # of Envelopes   | 37           |
| Total            | \$ 13,262.00 |

## Next Week's Presider Schedule

|                   |                                    |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| Saturday, April 3 | Easter Vigil                       |
| Sunday, April 4   | Easter Sunday - see separate sheet |

We thank all who contributed to the support of our Parish! Fr. Mike

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays - 12:30 to 1:30 PM in the Church

You may also make an appointment by calling the rectory at: 516-921-8030.

## Websites / Social Media

**Parish:** [www.st-edwards.org](http://www.st-edwards.org)  
**School:** [www.stedwardconfessor.org](http://www.stedwardconfessor.org)  
**Religious Ed:** [www.saintedwardre.com](http://www.saintedwardre.com)  
**Facebook:** [stedwardsyosset](https://www.facebook.com/stedwardsyosset)  
**Twitter:** [stedwardsyosset](https://twitter.com/stedwardsyosset)  
**Instagram:** [stedwardsyosset](https://www.instagram.com/stedwardsyosset)  
**Formed:** [formed.org](http://formed.org)

## Protect Our Children Hotline

If you or someone you know has experienced an incident of sexual abuse by clergy, an employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, please **contact law enforcement and the diocesan's Office for the Protection of Children and Young People**. The Diocese maintains a special phone number for these situations:

**Tel.: 516-594-9063**

## St. Edward's Mass is Online -

The St. Edward's 7:30 AM Sunday Mass is recorded and posted online, both on YouTube and Facebook, and is available for viewing at any time.

**YouTube** - St. Edward the Confessor Church - Syosset  
**Facebook Page** - St. Edward the Confessor Church

*“Lord God, be my refuge and my strength.”*

## Mass Intentions

**Mon. - 3/29- Monday of Holy Week**  
9:00 am Victor Casagrande

**Tues. - 3/30 - Tuesday of Holy Week**  
9:00 am Mary Pristina

**Wed. - 3/31 - Wednesday of the Holy Week**  
9:00 am Catherine Elizabeth Guidone

**Thurs. - 4/1 - Holy Thursday**  
9:00 am Morning Prayer  
8:00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

**Fri. - 4/2 - Good Friday of the Lord's Passion**  
9:00 Morning Prayer

**Sat. - 4/3 - Holy Saturday**  
9:00 am Morning Prayer  
7:30 pm Easter Vigil

**Sun. - 4/4 - Easter Sunday The Resurrection of the Lord**  
7:00 am People of the Parish  
8:15 am Parishioners Who Died in 2020  
9:30 am James Krieg  
10:00 am For Those Suffering from Covid  
11:00 am Elizabeth Campbell-Velardae  
Carmelina Castorina  
Vincent De Vuono  
Sara Spatola  
Michael Arato  
Dolores Arato  
12:30 pm For Those Who Care for the Sick  
2:00 pm Kathleen Maiforth

Please remember that the church will be open daily for your own private devotions, which may include: An Act of Spiritual Communion, Praying the Divine Office, Praying the Rosary, or writing down your own intentions in the book found at the rear of the church.

## The Altar Bread & Wine

*For the week of March 28 - April 3, 2021*  
Is Given in Loving Memory of

*Peter T. Carnesi*

By: Carnesi Family

## The Sanctuary Candle

*For the week of March 28 - April 3, 2021*  
Is Lit in Loving Memory of

*Sr. Jackie*

By: Father Mike and Staff

## Military List

*“Lord, hold our troops in your loving hand. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen”*

Lt. Cmdr. Jameson Adler, U.S. Navy SEAL  
Cpl. Matthew V. Balestrieri, U.S. Marine Corps  
Maj. Joel Bernazzani, U.S. Air Force  
Pvt. John J. D'Amico, U.S. Army Airborne  
Ens. Ryan Dunleavy, U.S. Navy  
Sgt. Noah C. Estey, U.S. Marine Corps  
Pvt. Joseph Evola, Jr., U.S. Army  
SSgt. Michael Gregory, U.S. Army Special Forces  
Petty Officer 3rd Class David Griffin, U.S. Navy  
Lt. John Hagerman, U.S. Navy  
Pvt. Gary Harris, U.S. Army  
Lt. Amanda Hine, U.S. Navy  
Sgt. Christopher Hofer, U.S. Air Force  
Maj. Christian Kapey, U.S. Marine Corps  
Sr. Airman Michael LiBretto, U.S. Air Force  
Cpl. Erik Liebergall, U.S. Marine Corps  
Pvt. Jonathan Maldonado, U.S. Army  
Seaman Liam Pieper, U.S. Navy  
2nd Lt. Richard Martin Prestegaard, U.S. Army  
Petty Officer Sean T. Sattler, U.S. Coast Guard  
Lt. Brian Shields, U.S. Coast Guard  
SSgt. Paul Smith, U.S. Army  
Maj. James Tom, U.S. Army  
2nd Lt. John P. Trainor, U.S. Marine Corps  
1st Lt. Michelle Turcios, U.S. Army  
Lt. Cmdr. Andrew Vann, U.S. Navy

## Pray For The Sick

|                |                 |                  |
|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Joseph Kempton | John Lamb, Sr.  | Julianna Key     |
| Kathy Rooney   | Robert Philipps | Susan Giambalvo  |
| Michele Wesch  | Renata Sorace   | Alexandra Reuter |
| Katy Monte     |                 | John Hynson      |

## Death to New Life



*Marie Stallone*

## Newly Baptized



*Kiley Ann Bagatta*  
*Graham Hudson Angelillo*  
*Rocco Robert Cornelia*  
*Dean Marco Vinaccia*

# Holy Week and Easter Sunday Schedule

**Monday of Holy Week** – Mass at 9:00 AM

Confessions from 3:00 to 9:00 PM

**Tuesday of Holy Week** – Mass at 9:00 AM

**Wednesday of Holy Week** – Mass at 9:00 AM

**HOLY THURSDAY** - Morning Prayer at 9:00 AM – Sr. Sheila

Mass of the Lord's Supper at 8:00 PM – Fr. Mike

**GOOD FRIDAY** - Morning Prayer at 9:00 AM – Deacon Jim

Stations of the Cross at 12:00 PM (Noon) – Deacon Jim

Passion of the Lord at 3:00 PM – Fr. Hyacinth

**HOLY SATURDAY** – Morning Prayer at 9:00 AM – Deacon Barry  
(Blessing of the Food)

The Easter Vigil at 7:30 PM – Fr. Mike

## **EASTER SUNDAY -**

7:00 AM - Mass in the Church – Fr. Hyacinth

8:15 AM - Mass in the Gym – Fr. Mike

9:30 AM - Mass in the Church – Fr. Celestine

10:00 AM - Mass in the Gym (if needed) – Fr. Mike

11:00 AM - Mass in the Church – Msgr. Beckmann

12:30 PM - Mass in the Church – Msgr. Beckmann

2:00 PM - Mass in the Church – Fr. Mike



***CHRIST HAS RISEN, HE HAS TRULY RISEN***

## Fr. Mike's Letter for Week 53 of the Corona Virus Crisis

The following letter was posted last week, prior to the Fifth Sunday of Lent, on the St. Edward's website as well as on Flocknote.

This past week we celebrated St. Patrick's Day, and there was much rejoicing. Likewise, this past Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated the feast day of Saint Joseph, the foster father of Jesus. Saint Joseph is the patron Saint of the Universal Church, unborn children, fathers, workers, carpenters, a happy death, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, the Philippines, Sicily and so much more. As you may know, Italians claim a very special love and relationship to St. Joseph, and I always wondered why this is true since St. Joseph was from Israel. As the story goes, during the Middle Ages there was a terrible drought and famine in Sicily. The people prayed for their patron saint to bring rain. They promised that if God answered his prayers, they would prepare a large feast. The rain came and they followed through with their promise and the feast began. They erected a great altar with three levels to honor the Blessed Trinity, and they made sure the poor were provided for. There are traditional foods, blessed bread for the poor, pastries, especially a Neapolitan pastry called a zeppola (created in 1840).

While this is a wonderful tradition and celebration, there is more important work for St. Joseph, as he was officially named Patron Saint of the Universal Church by Pope Pius IX in 1870. In 1869 the Pope opened the 20<sup>th</sup> ecumenical Council also known as Vatican Council I. More than four years in preparation the Pope called the council because of terrible forces that had been unleashed. In the middle of the council, it had to be cancelled because of the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian War. The war caused the French Army, which was providing protection for the Vatican to withdraw, leaving the Vatican in peril by the forces of Italian Unification. A wave of anti-Catholic persecution spread throughout Italy and the rest of Western Europe. This was accompanied by philosophical and political movements and chaos. The Pope believed that the Church was in peril from all sides, and who better to protect the Church than the one who protected Jesus when He was a child. So, on December 8, 1870, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Pope Pius IX declared St. Joseph the Patron and Protector the Universal Church.

As our bishop, Bishop John O. Barres writes in his recent pastoral letter to honor the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this proclamation, *"we find ourselves once again terribly worried about the world...we have come through a global pandemic resulting in the deaths of many, the sickness of many more, an economic crisis, and worldwide self-isolation. We have seen civil unrest, racial tensions, rioting and violence..."* *"In the midst of all these difficulties, the Church herself has been weakened by scandals that produce a feeling of hurt and betrayal."* With all of this and so much more, Bishop Barres recommends that we, **"Go to Joseph."** Pray to him and ask for his guidance and protection for yourselves, your families, and for the Church. We can use all the help we can get!

Happy Saint Joseph's Day, 2 days later!

*Fr. Mike*

## From Fr. Mike's Desk

Our Lenten Journey is rapidly coming to an end as we begin this last week of Lent, also known as Holy Week. Today we will read and participate in the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark. We will read about the Last Supper and the Institution of the Eucharist as Jesus transforms the Passover Covenant into the new Covenant in His Body and Blood. We will remember Jesus' Agony in the Garden, the betrayal of Judas, His arrest and trial and Pilate's handing down the death sentence for this innocent man. We will again hear about the pain Our Lord endured for our salvation and we will be left contemplating Jesus' lifeless body as it is taken down from the cross and laid in the empty tomb. As we go through Holy Week we will relive each of these events on their own proper day of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, and of course next week when we gather here, our sadness will be turned to great joy!

What we are recalling (especially at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night) is God's plan for our salvation, and how the time of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and the Passion took place during the Passover Season and was part of that plan. The Law required that every Jewish male who lived within fifteen miles of Jerusalem had to go up to the city to celebrate the Passover. This was the desire of so many Jews even those from other countries, who likewise were required to spend at least one Passover of their life in Jerusalem. We are told that every year at this time the city and the surrounding towns were packed with devout Jews. Therefore, many people were on hand to witness Jesus' entry into the city and many of the visitors were equally interested in seeing Him. Mark wants us to know, that they witnessed Jesus' love for God and humanity. This love was

manifested fully in the fact that Jesus takes up His cross and despite the tempting of the religious leaders, He does not come down from the cross using the power of His divinity. No, Jesus makes the ultimate sacrifice and gives up His life so that death could be destroyed. To quote Jesus, "Those who have eyes should see", and those who could see saw more than just the death of a carpenter from Nazareth. The question for this Holy Week, is will we?

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Please consult the bulletin for the times for Confessions, Services and Prayerful Moments during this Holy Week and for next Sunday Easter Sunday. Again use this week well, so that when we assemble here next weekend we can truly all rejoice.

*Happy Palm Sunday!*

*Fr. Mike*

## Next Week's Readings

*Easter Sunday*

**March 28, 2021**

**First Reading - Acts 10:34a, 37-42**

**Psalms - 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23**

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

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

## The Readings for Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

### Reading 1 - Isaiah 50:4-7

The Lord GOD has given me  
a well-trained tongue,  
that I might know how to speak to the weary  
a word that will rouse them.

Morning after morning  
he opens my ear that I may hear;  
and I have not rebelled,  
have not turned back.

I gave my back to those who beat me,  
my cheeks to those who plucked my beard;  
my face I did not shield  
from buffets and spitting.

The Lord GOD is my help,  
therefore I am not disgraced;  
I have set my face like flint,  
knowing that I shall not be put to shame.

### Responsorial Psalm – Psalms 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24

#### **R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?**

All who see me scoff at me;  
they mock me with parted lips, they wag their heads:  
“He relied on the LORD; let him deliver him,  
let him rescue him, if he loves him.”

#### **R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?**

Indeed, many dogs surround me,  
a pack of evildoers closes in upon me;  
They have pierced my hands and my feet;  
I can count all my bones.

#### **R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?**

They divide my garments among them,  
and for my vesture they cast lots.  
But you, O LORD, be not far from me;  
O my help, hasten to aid me.

#### **R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?**

I will proclaim your name to my brethren;  
in the midst of the assembly I will praise you:  
“You who fear the LORD, praise him;  
all you descendants of Jacob, give glory to him;  
revere him, all you descendants of Israel!”

#### **R. My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?**

### Reading 2 – Philippians 2:6-11

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
something to be grasped.

Rather, he emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
coming in human likeness;  
and found human in appearance,  
he humbled himself,  
becoming obedient to the point of death,  
even death on a cross.

Because of this, God greatly exalted him  
and bestowed on him the name  
which is above every 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 God the Father.

### Gospel – Mark 14:1-15:47

See the following pages.

## Prayer to St. Michael

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle,  
be our protection against the wickedness and  
snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we  
humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heav-  
enly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Sa-  
tan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the  
world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

# THE PASSION OF THE LORD

N. – Narrator

V. - Voice

+ - Christ

C. – Crowd

*(Include bracketed text for Long Form)*

N. The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

[The Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread were to take place in two day's time. So the chief priests and the scribes were seeking a way to arrest him by treachery and put him to death. They said,

C. "Not during the festival, for fear that there may be a riot among the people."

N. When he was in Bethany reclining at table in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of perfumed oil, costly genuine spikenard. She broke the alabaster jar and poured it on his head. There were some who were indignant.

C. "Why has there been this waste of perfumed oil? It could have been sold for more than three hundred days' wages and the money given to the poor."

N. They were infuriated with her. Jesus said,

+ "Let her alone. Why do you make trouble for her? She has done a good thing for me. The poor you will always have with you, and whenever you wish you can do good to them, but you will not always have me. She has done what she could. She has anticipated anointing my body for burial. Amen, I say to you, whenever the gospel is proclaimed to the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her."

N. Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went off to the chief priests to hand him over to them. When they heard him they were pleased and promised to pay him money. Then he looked for an opportunity to hand him over. On the first day of the feast of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, his disciples said to him,

C. "Where do you want us to go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?"

N. He sent two of his disciples and said to them,

+ "Go into the city and a man will meet you, carrying a jar of water. Follow him. Wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, "Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?'" Then he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready. Make the preparations for us there."

N. The disciples then went off, entered the city, and found it just as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover. When it was evening, he came with the Twelve. And as they reclined at table and were eating, Jesus said,

+ "Amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me."

N. They began to be distressed and to say to him, one by one,

V. "Surely it is not I?"

N. He said to them,

+ "One of the Twelve, the one who dips with me into the dish. For the Son of Man indeed goes, as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed. It would be better for that man if he had never been born."

N. While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, and said,

+ "Take it; this is my body."

N. Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them,

+ "This is the blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many. Amen, I say to you, I shall not drink again the fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

N. Then, after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them,



+ "All of you will have your faith shaken, for it is written: I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be dispersed. But after I have been raised up, I shall go before you to Galilee."

N. Peter said to him,

V. "Even though all should have their faith shaken, mine will not be."

N. Then Jesus said to him,

+ "Amen, I say to you, this very night before the cock crows twice you will deny me three times."

N. But he vehemently replied,

V. "Even though I should have to die with you, I will not deny you."

N. And they all spoke similarly. Then they came to a place named Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples,

+ "Sit here while I pray."

N. He took with him Peter, James, and John, and began to be troubled and distressed. Then he said to them,

+ "My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch."

N. He advanced a little and fell to the ground and prayed that if it were possible the hour might pass by him; he said,

+ "Abba, Father, all things are possible to you. Take this cup away from me, but not what I will but what you will."

N. When he returned he found them asleep. He said to Peter,

+ "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak."

N. Withdrawing again, he prayed, saying the same thing. Then he returned once more and found them asleep, for they could not keep their eyes open and did not know what to answer him. He returned a third time and said to them,

+ "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough. The hour has come. Behold, the Son of Man is to be handed over to sinners. Get up, let us go. See, my betrayer is at hand."

N. Then, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, accompanied by a crowd with swords and clubs who had come from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. His betrayer had arranged a signal with them, saying,

V. "The man I shall kiss is the one; arrest him and lead him away securely."

N. He came and immediately went over to him and said,

V. "Rabbi."

N. And he kissed him. At this they laid hands on him and arrested him. One of the bystanders drew his sword, struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his ear. Jesus said to them in reply,

+ "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs, to seize me? Day after day I was with you teaching in the temple area, yet you did not arrest me; but that the Scriptures may be fulfilled."

N. And they all left him and fled. Now a young man followed him wearing nothing but a linen cloth about his body. They seized him, but he left the cloth behind and ran off naked. They led Jesus away to the high priest, and all the chief priests and the elders, and the scribes came together. Peter followed him at a distance into the high priest's courtyard, and was seated with the guards, warming himself at the fire. The chief priest and the entire Sanhedrin kept trying to obtain testimony against Jesus

in order to put him to death, but they found none. Many gave false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. Some took the stand and testified falsely against him, alleging,

C. "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with hands and within three days I will build another not made with hands.'"

N. Even so their testimony did not agree. The high priest rose before the assembly and questioned Jesus, saying,

V. "Have you no answer? What are these men testifying against you?"

N. But he was silent and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him and said to him,

V. "Are you the Christ, the son of the Blessed One?"

N. Then Jesus answered,

+ "I am; and 'you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven.'"

N. At that the high priest tore his garments and said,

V. "What further need have we of witnesses? You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?"

N. They all condemned him as deserving to die. Some began to spit on him. They blindfolded him and struck him and said to him,

C. "Prophesy!"

N. And the guards greeted him with blows. While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the high priest's maids came along. Seeing Peter warming himself, she looked intently at him and said,

C. "You too were with the Nazarene, Jesus."

N. But he denied it saying,

V. "I neither know nor understand what you are talking about."

N. So he went into the outer court. Then the cock crowed. The maid saw him and began again to say to the bystanders,

C. "This man is one of them."

N. Once again he denied it. A little later the bystanders said to Peter once more,

C. "Surely you are one of them; for you too are Galilean."

N. He began to curse and to swear,

V. "I do not know this man about whom you are talking."

N. And immediately a cock crowed a second time. Then Peter remembered the word that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice you will deny me three times." He broke down and wept. ] As soon as morning came, the chief priests with the elders and the scribes, that is, the whole Sanhedrin, held a council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate questioned him,

V. "Are you the king of the Jews?"

N. He said to him in reply,

+ "You say so."

N. The chief priests accused him of many things. Again Pilate questioned him,

V. "Have you no answer? See how many things they accuse you of."

N. Jesus gave him no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed. Now on the occasion of the feast he used to release to them one prisoner whom they requested. A man called Barabbas was then in prison along with the rebels who had committed murder in a rebellion. The crowd came forward and began to ask him to do for them as he was accustomed. Pilate answered,

V. "Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?"

N. For he knew that it was out of envy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate again said to them in reply,

V. "Then what do you want me to do with the man you call the king of the Jews?"

N. They shouted again,

C. "Crucify him."

N. Pilate said to them,

V. "Why? What evil has he done?"

N. They only shouted the louder.

C. "Crucify him."

N. So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas to them and, after he had Jesus scourged, handed him over to be crucified. The soldiers led him away inside the palace, that is, the praetorium, and assembled the whole cohort. They clothed him in purple and, weaving a crown of thorns, placed it on him. They began to salute him with,

C. "Hail, King of the Jews!"

N. and kept striking his head with a reed and spitting upon him. They knelt before him in homage. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him out to crucify him. They pressed into service a passer-by, Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. They brought him to the place of Golgotha – which is translated Place of the Skull - . They gave him wine drugged with myrrh, but he did not take it. Then they crucified him and divided his garments by casting lots for them to see what each should take. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." With him they crucified two revolutionaries, one on his right and one on his left. Those passing by reviled him, shaking their heads and saying,

C. "Aha! You would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself by coming down from the cross."

N. Likewise the chief priests, with the scribes, mocked him among themselves and said,

C. "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe."

N. Those who were crucified with him also kept abusing him. At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice.

+ "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?"

N. Which is translated,

+ "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

N. Some of the bystanders who heard it, said,

C. "Look, he is calling Elijah."

N. One of them ran, soaked a sponge with wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying,

V. "Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to take him down."

N. Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

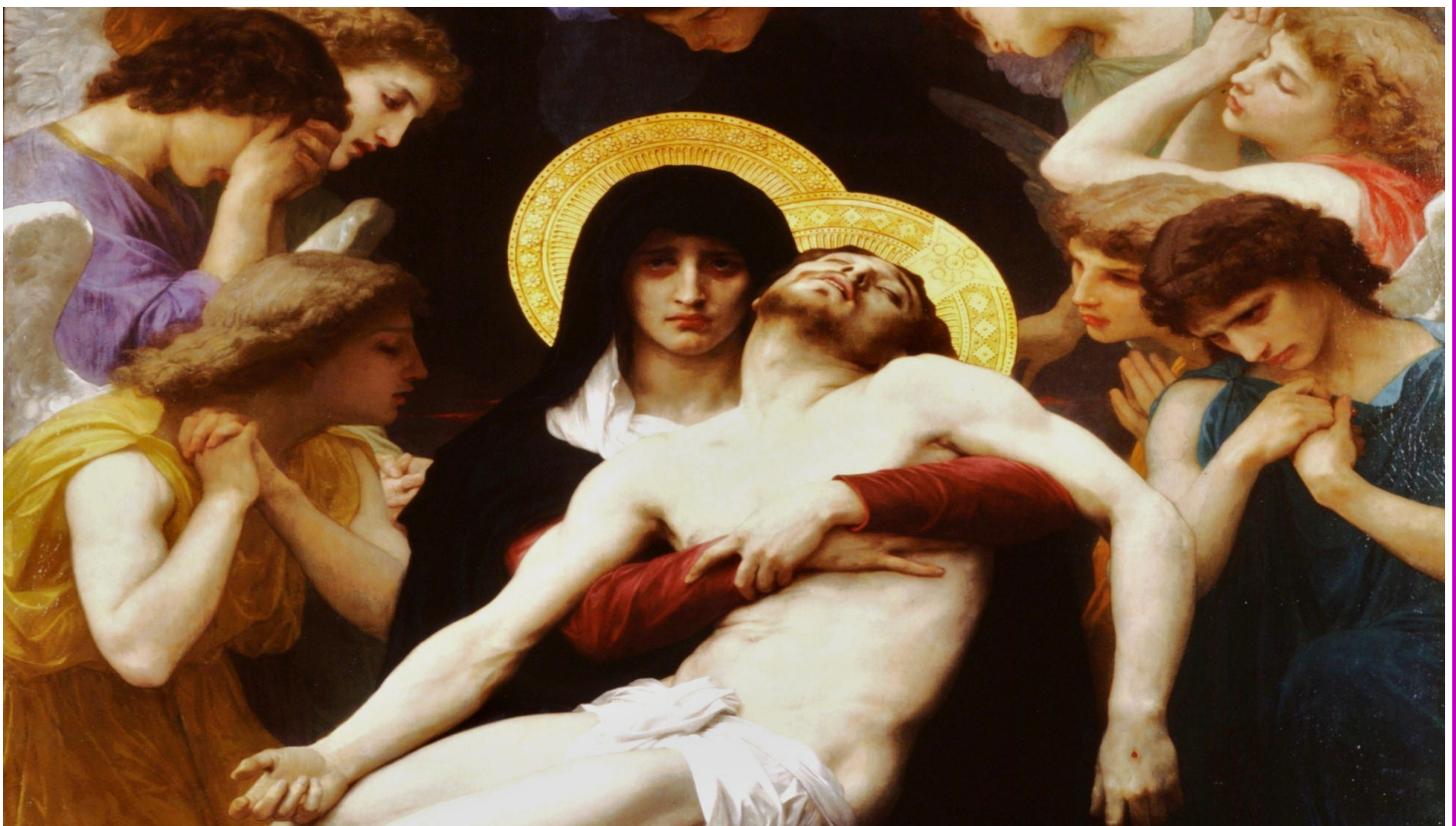
Here all kneel and pause for a short time.

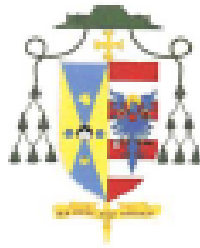
N. The veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he breathed his, last he said,

V. "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

N. [There were also women looking on from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of the younger James and of Joses, and Salome. These women had followed him when he was in Galilee and ministered to him. There were also many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem. When it was already evening, since it was the day of preparation, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a distinguished member of the council, who was himself awaiting the kingdom of God, came and courageously went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate was amazed that he was already dead. He summoned the centurion and asked him if Jesus had already died. And when he learned of it from the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph. Having bought a linen cloth, he took him down, wrapped him in the linen cloth, and laid him in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance to the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses watched where he was laid.]

The Gospel of the Lord.





DIocese of ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

## Easter 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*The Lord is truly risen, Alleluia!* Around the world and across Long Island, we proclaim this marvelous truth. Good news is ours. Sin and death have been vanquished. Christ has conquered. God is victorious!

In light of the suffering and death of the past year, how blessed we are to behold again the Mystery of the Resurrection. These months have been dark and bleak. They have been long and challenging. Yet, as we encounter Easter 2021, we are reminded that God has the final word. Indeed, *Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it* (John 1:5). This Light, Jesus Christ, illumines our path. He gives hope. As the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council said:

Through Christ and in Christ, the riddles of sorrow and death grow meaningful. Apart from His Gospel, they overwhelm us. Christ has risen, destroying death by His death; He has lavished life upon us so that...we can cry out in the Spirit: *Abba, Father.*<sup>1</sup>

With significant challenges facing us still on Long Island and across the globe, with darkness still afoot, perhaps the joy of Easter is difficult to embrace. Our hearts maybe like those of the disciples who went on Easter dawn to anoint the Lord's body. At the strange sight of an empty tomb and an apparently absent Jesus, instead of experiencing immediate joy, they were confused and distressed. Only in seeing the Lord face to face did they come to embrace His rising from the dead.

Like Mary Magdalene and the other disciples, we need to see Christ alive among us. We need to see the Resurrection in our midst. So, this Easter, let us ask, "Where is Christ alive?"

Christ is alive in the countless frontline workers, civil servants, and medical professionals who have served so faithfully and so heroically this past year. Their sacrificial love and Good Samaritan-willingness to help neighbors in need radiate the Lord Jesus!

Christ is alive in the catechumens who have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil. Their reception of the Sacraments reminds us of the power of our own Baptism – where each of us has died with Christ and risen with Him to new life.

Above all, Christ is alive in His risen and glorified presence in the Eucharist and in the transforming power of His Body and Blood that we receive in the celebration of the Mass. Christ

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<sup>1</sup> Second Vatican Council, Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World *Gaudium et Spes* (December 7, 1965), 22, in *The Documents of Vatican Council II* (St. Paul's Publications, 2009).

is alive, and therefore the Church is alive. The Eucharist is the source of this life – and its power has become perhaps more evident than ever, after months of separation from the weekly and daily celebration of the Mass. Together, we recall the disciples' recognition of Jesus following the Resurrection at Emmaus in the opening of the Scriptures and the breaking of the Bread. We are grateful for the many ways in which our parishes and schools have continued to foster creatively this Emmaus experience on Long Island, both in-person and virtually. May we continue to recognize the Sunday Eucharist as the source from which the life of the Resurrected Christ bursts forth into the world.

At his Sunday Angelus on January 3, 2021, Pope Francis beautifully reminded us of Christ's continued presence in our midst:

"I like to think that when the Lord prays to the Father for us, he does not merely speak: he shows him the wounds of the flesh, he shows him the wounds he suffered for us. This is Jesus: with his flesh he is the intercessor, he wanted to bear even the signs of suffering. Jesus, with his flesh, is before the Father. Indeed, the Gospel says that *He came to dwell among us* . He did not come to visit us, and then leave; He came to dwell with us, to stay with us."<sup>2</sup>

May we continue to encounter the presence of Jesus Christ who dwells in and through His Church. May we continue to experience signs of His Resurrection even amidst the challenges and crosses we embrace, and may this encounter continue to fill our hearts, so that our voices can confidently cry out: *The Lord is truly risen! Alleluia!*

Faithfully in the Lord,

  
+ Most Reverend John O. Barros  
Bishop of Rockville Centre

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<sup>2</sup> Francis, Angelus, 3 January, 2021. [http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/angelus/2021/documents/papa-francesco\\_angelus\\_20210103.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/angelus/2021/documents/papa-francesco_angelus_20210103.html)



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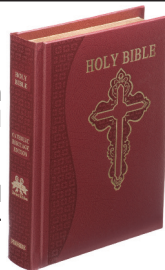
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