

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

March 27, 2016

Saturday, March 26 Easter Vigil

7:00PM St. Matthew Parishioners Living & Dec'd

Sunday, March 27 Easter

7:30AM Landon Vargas
9:30AM Josephine & Matthew Szumicki
11:30AM Sunny Maria Flocco

Monday, March 28

8:15AM Rose B. Kiger

Tuesday, March 29

8:15AM John Plower

Wednesday, March 30

8:15AM James Elwood Bernstiel
Margaret Munley

Thursday, March 31

8:15AM Eleanor Haus

Friday, April 1

8:15AM Bertha & John Kolbasowski
Joyce Borzelleca

Saturday, April 2

4:30PM Matthew Derfler

Sunday, April 3

7:30AM Lorraine Charlesworth
9:30AM Anne Price
11:30AM Joan Prendergast

Miracles OF LENT Tom Tone, David Talone, JoAnn LaSorsa, Marie Carney, Greg Atkinson, Sophie Grabowski, Msgr. Robert Grudowski, Anthony Bonanno, Joanne Toth, Theresa Lenczewski, Luke Birkhead, Erik Kozlowski, Marlene Salkowski, Roselie Partenheimer, John Walski, Carl Reiff, Joseph Blaszczak, Patrick Kelly, Sean McGonagle, Mary Pierce, Brian Dunlevy, Sr. Jean Streibig, Stephanie Hathaway, Charles Streibig, Theresa McGrath, Kylie Reiff, Nikki Dolan, Joseph Rozecki, Betty DiCola, Brother James Riley, Shawn Gallen, Eduardo Gloria, Molly Glick, Deb Smith, Ann Campbell, Francina Capolingua, Cathy Pierlott, Lynn Bowman, James Sousa, James Gauger, Emilia Bello Jones, Rita VanBuskirk, Joan Nasielski, Caroline Smerecki, Joan Pierce, Kevin Miller, Mike Ancin, Rylan Borys, Susan Minnick, Ann Greco, Jessica Jara, Leanne Purcell, Joe Lotito, Matt McNamee, Kendall Soltys, Concezio Lelii, William McGrath, Carl Pierce, Ursula Kozlowski, Benedetto McDaniels, Carolyn Hogan, Kevin Kelly, Emily Armstrong, Charles Lare, Rita Borkowski, Joanne Kalacinski, Marie DiMedio, Margaret Palmer, Sue Stephan, Anna Marie Ferrier, Mary Stoffel, Jeri McClennen



Joseph Galasso, Helen Bianco, Victor DiCicco



Staff Sgt Daniel Furtak, Lt. Michelle R. McNally, SSKC Terence J. McNally Jr., Sgt. Robert Bonneau, Andrew Midgett, Jonathan Staats, Col. Shawn McGinley, Lt. Col Evah McGinley, The 108th Wing McGuire AFB, Matthew Horning, 1st Lt. Stanley J. Reimer III, SR Brett Pellicciotti, LCPL Thomas Mazzochetti, Staff Sgt. Michael Alfonse, Robert Catapano U.S. Army 101st Airborne, Paul Brown, Marines, Corporal Andrew Teitjen, Michael Bondra.

CELEBRANTS MASS SCHEDULE
3/26 7PM Easter Vigil Msgr. Owens
3/27 7:30 Fr. Ryan 9:30 Fr.Heron 11:30 Fr. Heron

Prepare for Next Sunday

2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

Acts 5:12-16 Revelation 1:9-11 John 20:19-31

"To know the richness of mercy is to share the dispositions of the heart of our Redeemer by experiencing in ourselves something of the shuddering horror at the vision of the sins of the world which filled his heart" (Archbishop E. M. Guerry). At the same time, Divine Mercy transfigures us, filling us with the faith to cry out united with the risen Christ, "Once I was dead, but now I am alive forever." Of all of Divine Mercy's "many signs and wonders" that "were done among the people," the greatest of them all was that "they were all together." Mercy made the disciples into a People by giving them a unity that transcends every dissension, division, and diversity. The Scriptures testify that those who saw the followers of Jesus in Solomon's portico "esteemed them." This is the miracle of divine mercy.

Pre-Jordan Instructions: The Sacrament of Baptism is administered in church on the first three Sundays of each month following the 11:30 A.M. Mass. In preparation for having a child Baptized, parents are required to attend "Pre-Jordan Instructions." Classes are the 1st Tuesday of each month. **The next class will be Tuesday, April 5 at 7PM in church.** You will be required to attend a class if this is the Baptism of your first child. To schedule your Baptism go to www.stmatthewparish.com or call the rectory 610-828-0424 press 4 for the office to register.



Parishioners are invited to an Easter Dinner, Saturday April 2, 1 pm. Adult \$20. Children \$7.00; under 6, Free. St. Mary's Hall; Elm and Oak St. Conshohocken. **Tickets must be purchased by Monday, March 28.** No tickets can be purchased at the door.

Contact: *Felicia Rzeznik* 610-825-9027
David Swedkowski 610-630-0865
Leah Hepler 616-834-8538

THE RECTORY OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED EASTER MONDAY, MARCH 28TH.

Religious Education

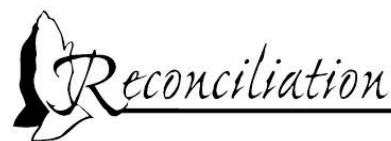
PREP

Being a parent assures most of us of the one constant in our lives - change! Our children change right in front of our eyes, almost daily it would seem. My "new" granddaughter has doubled her weight in a short 4 months! Many of you have experienced a change in your children's clothing or shoe size in a few short months! It seems one minute you are changing a diaper, the next you are changing furniture around in a dormitory room at college! We adapt! We have to! Why? Ultimately it is because we love. Love is the other constant that roots our capacity to change and adapt. Love is the fundamental precept of our faith in God, in the world and in each other! Just imagine how word of the Resurrection changed so many lives then, as it continues to do so now.

We are on the crux of a resurrected order. New life is about to breathe into the old elementary school building. Perhaps I am overly enthusiastic, or just down right ready for change, but come September we will see a thriving daycare, early childhood center, religious education program, social hall and Parish Center burst on the scene. Mirroring the incredulity of the early church to process the Resurrection, we will experience a change into a vibrant, merged, and unifying parish family. The excitement and expectation is palpable.

The Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) (also known as CCD) will change from Monday evening to Sunday morning. The parents and staff voted this change into being. Beginning Sept. 11, 2016 Classes from Grades 1 - 7 will be held in the Parish Center from 10:25 am - 11:25 am.

Registrations are being accepted now. The online form has been streamlined so you need only fill out a family form and list the names of each child. **The weekend of April 16th and 17th we will hold Registration Sunday** in the back of church after all the Masses. The fee has NOT changed from last year. One child \$110. Two \$165. Three or more \$195. This provides for all supplies and textbooks. Any concerns or questions contact Miss Mary Kay 610 828-0424 ext. 6 or mckennamaryk@gmail.com.



We congratulate our parish children and rejoice with them for the forgiveness they received on March 14, 2016. May they return many times to experience the forgiving love of our heavenly Father. Congratulations to:

1. Patrick Aloia-Ramos
2. Phoebe Balkiewicz
3. Thomas Baranowski
4. Owen Cababe
5. Hantun Carbajal
6. Daniel Dawgiert
7. Doris DeAngelis
8. Alyssa Etzel
9. Liam Flocco
10. Elaina Galleo
11. Faith Jones
12. Kieran Lamey
13. Brett Leflar
14. Sean Lindsay
15. Kiley MacNeal
16. Lizbeth Martinez Zavala
17. Samantha Moore
18. Raynah O'Connor
19. Lisa Rockett
20. Isabella Sciotto
21. Gabriella Skivo
22. Jessica Tracy
23. Austin Williams
24. Matthew Wright
25. Erin Ashton
26. Victor Ballesillo
27. London Beranza
28. Axel Carbajal
29. Jennifer Cruz
30. Jonathan Dean
31. Jocelyn Diaz-Cruz
32. Matthew Fazio
33. Bridget Fullerton
34. Grace Hamilton
35. Daniel Krolak
36. Lucas Latterner
37. Derek Leflar
38. Katie Lumpkin
39. Daniela Martinez
40. Joseph Monastero
41. Jacob Piersol
42. Rosalee Rico-Vallejo
43. Isaac Sampieri
44. John Sciotto
45. Cody Sutcliffe
46. Mia Van Collie
47. Ryan Wittig
48. Shane Zakrewski

RCIA: Betsy Kirkbride, Derek Leflar, Alicia Mulholland, Sabina Fernandez, Tanya Fernandez

ST. MATTHEW BOOK CLUB:

Fiction with a Christian Twist - Do you enjoy a good story and some fine literature? The Christian "twist" is that some element of the tale involves faith or morals, belief or unbelief, God or no god. This is a good time to join the group. We had just selected three more titles for Wednesdays in April, May and June. On **April 13** we will discuss *The Children Act* by Ian McEwan; on May 11, *The Painter of Silence* by Georgina Harding; and *Stones from the River* by Ursula Hagi will be the subject of discussion on June 8. To join contact Monsignor Tom Owens at stmatt2014@gmail.com or 610 - 828 - 0424 ext. 112



St. Matthew Cemetery: A recent survey of the cemetery property revealed enough unused land to accommodate 133 burial lots. This land was originally a tract identified as St. Patrick's Road. It will remain titled as the "St. Patrick Section". For any information on securing one of these lots please contact: Deacon Mike Kubiak at 610-828-0424 or email deacon.mike.kubiak@comcast.net.



God's Plan for Giving

March 20, 2016

WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR
YOUR OFFERTORY

GIFTS LAST WEEKEND:

\$15,013.50

Electronic giving \$954.00 + \$14,059.50 = \$15,013.50



ELECTRONIC GIVING: Parish Giving is convenient for you and there is **NO COST** for you to participate. Contact Deacon Mike

Kubiak at deacon.mike.kubiak@comcast.net to register www.parishgiving.org or www.stmatthewparish.com

ST MATTHEW'S SENIORS will meet every third Wednesday of the month.

The next meeting will take place on **April 20th**, in the convent at 12:30pm. Also, Membership dues (\$10) will be collected for 2016. ALL ARE WELCOME!

ST. MARY'S GOLDEN AGE CLUB: Meets every Thursday at St. Mary's Church Hall. Three dollar fee. Play Cards 9:00 AM Snacks 10 AM Lunch 11 AM Play Bingo 12 – 2:30 PM. Dues for members due 2016 is \$10.00 for the year.

Casino Trips: are scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month: **April 12 & May 10**. Bus leaves 9:00 AM from 11th & Fayette, 9:15 AM from 3rd & Fayette, and at 9:30 AM from St. Mary's. Call Joe (610-825-4596).



St. Matthew Prayer Shawl Ministry: We most 'warmly' invite you to be a part of this Ministry by meeting with us in the St.

Vincent DePaul room **Tuesday, April 12 at 7PM**. If you know of someone who might like to receive a shawl, please let us know-or make one yourself for someone special to you. Contact Alice O'Connor acaoc@verizon.net

Are You Called to Be a Deacon?

Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Minister of the Word· Minister at the Altar· Minister of Charity

While all of the baptized are called to share in the mission of Jesus Christ according to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, those who are ordained also offer service in a way proper to the Sacrament of Holy Orders. A deacon's ministry entails proclaiming, preaching and teaching God's Word, assisting the bishop and priest at the Liturgy, assisting at funerals, ministering to the sick and dying, leading the community in prayer and in sacramental liturgies, baptizing, witnessing marriages, and exercising administrative leadership in the Church. **A permanent deacon, who may be married, is a member of the clergy and shares in the hierarchy of the Sacrament of Holy Orders.** Through the Sacrament of Holy Orders, the deacon is configured to Christ the Servant. It is Christ the Servant who acts through the ministry of the deacon.

2016 Permanent Diaconate Information Night Thursday, April 21, 2016 - 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM - Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary Vianney Auditorium - 100 East Wynnewood Road Wynnewood, PA 19096. To register or for more information, email Laura Nimmons at lnimmons@archphila.org

REFLECTIONS FROM MY ROCKING CHAIR

Dear friends,

My Easter message is an ancient homily whose author is unknown. It is a reflection on what it must have been like just before the stone was rolled away miraculously.

Something strange is happening – there is a great silence on earth today, a great silence and stillness. The whole earth keeps silence because the King is asleep. The earth trembled and is still because God has fallen asleep in the flesh and he has raised up all who have slept ever since the world began. God has died in the flesh and hell trembles with fear.

He has gone to search for our first parents, as for a lost sheep. Greatly desiring to visit those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death, he has gone to free from sorrow the captives Adam and Eve, he who is both God and the son of Eve. The Lord approached them bearing the cross, the weapon that had won him the victory. At the sight of him Adam, the first man he had created, struck his breast in terror and cried out to everyone: "My Lord, be with you all." Christ answered him: "And with your spirit." He took him by the hand and raised him up, saying: "Awake, O sleeper, and rise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

I am your God, who for your sake has become your son. Out of love for you and for your descendants I now by my own authority command all who are held in bondage to come forth, all who are in darkness to be enlightened, all who are sleeping to arise. I order you, O sleeper, to awake. I did not create you to be held a prisoner in hell. Rise from the dead, for I am the life of the dead. Rise up, work of my hands, you who were created in my image. Rise, let us leave this place, for you are in me and I in you; together we form only one person who cannot be separated.

Rise, Let us leave this place. The enemy led you out of the earthly paradise. I will not restore you to that paradise. I will enthrone you in heaven. The bridal chamber is adorned. The banquet is ready, the eternal dwelling places are prepared, the treasure houses of all good things lie open. The Kingdom of Heaven has been prepared for you from all eternity.

May the Peace of Risen Christ be with you, Msgr. Tom Owens

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD CUPBOARD: We are in need of cereal, cans of fruit – peaches, pears, fruit cocktail, chunky soups, peanut butter & jelly. Donations can be left in the vestibules of the church. The food cupboard is open every Friday at 1PM it is located between the church and the convent the second door in the driveway.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society: visits Towne Manor East & West, Brandywine Senior Suites, Regina Nursing Home, Powerback Rehabilitation and Suburban Woods every week -- if someone in your family or a friend is in one of these facilities and you would like the St. Vincent Group to stop in and say "hello" please contact Alice O'Connor at 610-828-5992 or acaoc@verizon.net. If you would like to volunteer to help us visit the sick please contact Alice.



Boy Scout Troop 140 was chartered in 1928. The Troop has 80 years of service to scouting and the youth of Conshohocken. We meet Monday nights from 7 to 8:30 PM at St. Mark's Lutheran Church at 5th and Harry St., Conshohocken. Any boy interested in joining please stop by and check us out!

Fr. Tom Heron's Weekly Reflection

Acts 10:34a, 37-43 Psalm 118 Colossians 3:1-4 John 20:1-9

My friends, I bring you tidings of great joy: It is the Passover of the Lord, the night so long-desired, the blessed Vigil of Easter.

Easter is the feast of feasts. Easter is a time for fresh water rather than blood; a time for flowers rather than nails; for peace in place of pain; for open fields rather than the hill of the skull. Easter heals Calvary and reveals what happens when hope is steadfast unto death. How we all need the healing hope of Easter!

Jesus is our New Dawn! Jesus is our New Light! Jesus is our Hope in the victory over sin and death!

Easter is the very heart of our faith. Resurrection involves us in a complete transformation of life. Let Him Easter in us! Tonight, we celebrate the truth that there lives in each of us the "dearest freshness deep down things." Despite hardship, despite suffering, despite sin, despite death, He is risen. Jesus is alive. He came to share new life with us. The fruit of the new life is Light, Peace, Joy, Hope. The dry, barren desert of Lent gives way to the fertile, flowing water of Easter.

The paschal imprint which we celebrate is death and resurrection. Without death, resurrection becomes a completely meaningless term. Without resurrection, death becomes hopeless.

Many years ago (16th & 17th centuries) the Easter liturgy used to include the *risus paschalis*, the Easter laughter. The Easter homily had to include a story which made people laugh, so that the church resounded with joyful laughter.

An ancient custom of the Greek Orthodox Church reserves the day after Easter for laughter and hilarity. On this day the sanctuary is filled with festivity and joking to celebrate the cosmic joke God pulled on Satan in the resurrection. The resurrection is the source of joy and peace, the music to which we ceaselessly dance, the song which we forever sing.

Easter never tires reminding us that we are loved. We are passionately, intimately, wildly, madly loved long before our parents, family members, friends, teachers, and spouses loved us or wounded us. That is the truth of our lives. To live our lives out of the awareness that we are beloved is to say that God's love is unconditional and has the power to overcome sin and death itself.

In this Eucharist, we are closer than face-to-face with the mercy of God in Christ. We are one with that mercy. The question is—consider it a good Lenten test question—"can we go forth and be that mercy in the world?" So, what do you say?

EASTER REFLECTION

C.S. Lewis said, "If you read history, you will find out that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next world.... Aim at heaven and you will get earth thrown in. Aim at earth, and you will get neither."

The Fathers of the Church liked to stress that grace appears not only in the Saints' words but also on their faces.

"Nature gives you the face you have at 20; it's up to you to merit the face you have at 50." (Coco Chanel)

In the Breaking of the Bread, the Disciples not only see a change in

Jesus, they come to see the whole world as changed—radically transformed.

"The Christian view of the world can be reduced to a simple formula: one, the world is good; two, the world is fallen; three, the world will be redeemed. Creation, Fall, and Redemption—that's the Christian story in a nutshell.

As I reflect on life experience, I recognize a common pattern: what begins with a burst of excitement often settles into familiarity and ends in disappointment. For example, falling in love, bringing home a newborn from the hospital, a child's first day of school, the thrill of learning to read—hallmark events in our lives so vivid with promise at the time, all too often lose their luster. How can you keep that initial excitement from fading into familiarity and finally souring as disappointment?

"The Blessed Trinity's graceful giving has the last word. Paradoxically, life is found in death. Less paradoxically, life is found in a love that holds on through death. Our knowledge of the unity of the Cross and Resurrection does not remove the darkness of the Cross. Although we can talk about it from the outside, the passing over remains a mystery that we must live into. Real suffering is always a surprise. We undergo not simply temporary pain but real loss. There is no guarantee that any given crisis will turn out well, that our sacrifices will not be in vain, or that we are holding on to anything more than a delusion. In the Paschal Mystery, we are given the strength to look in the eyes of the overwhelming needs of the world—suffering, disability, misfortune, injustice and the courage to respond somehow in love.

At Baptism we begin a lifetime of growing into redemptive death with Jesus. We keep hidden our pain, our suffering, the injustice we suffer, the loneliness, the bitter disappointments in other people, ourselves, the Church. We do not hide the good we do, but we do not parade it either. We rely on Jesus to be with us as we walk with Him on our own road to Calvary.

We have no choice about physical death, but the other dying is up to us: we decide whether we will die with Jesus. We are not doomed by our circumstances. The choice is ours. Will we live from our heart with Jesus, pouring ourselves out in love? Or will we shield ourselves from the world's pains in fear and self-protection?

Frequently when I visit a person in a nursing home who is in a desperate condition, I am amazed by the faith and peace that come from that person's smiling eyes. Love pours forth from the dying of Jesus within. I recall Hemingway's description of the fisherman, Santiago: "Everything about him was old except his eyes. They were the same color as the sea and were cheerful and undefeated."

As the interior death grows, resurrection life also grows. Death and life are intertwined. Saint Paul said this magnificently: "Always carrying about in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our body. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh." (2 Corinthians 4:10-11) The word for "death" here is used only twice in the New Testament, both times by Saint Paul and it carries the nuance of "dying." We carry about in our living bodies the dying of Jesus.

End of Bulletin