



**Pastor's Easter Greetings**

Dear Parishioners & Friends,

Certain unbelievers of days gone by have tried to discredit the Resurrection we celebrate today by proposing that Jesus didn't actually die and that he regained consciousness after his burial and escaped from the tomb. Imagine that. Yet anyone who knew the details of Jesus crucifixion would instantly scrap such a story as totally preposterous. The historical evidence we have surrounding Jesus' crucifixion assures us beyond doubt that Jesus was absolutely not buried alive!

On the other hand, I want to suggest that we as humble followers of his sometimes DO get buried alive and we find ourselves confined to tombs from which we find it almost impossible to escape. We want desperately to come out of our tombs, but who will roll away that very large stone that seals the entrance?

Figuratively speaking, the large stone may be the loss of a loved one that we can't get beyond. It may be the depressing news of medical reports about our advancing illnesses. Perhaps it's the heartache of rejection by someone upon whom we poured our deepest love. The brokenness of a marriage can effectively keep us sealed in a tomb. Our failure to overcome habitual sin and moral weaknesses can keep us in a state of spiritual death. Our refusal to forgive one or more persons, who brought us grave emotional pain can also keep us buried. This is to say nothing of addiction or any dysfunction in our families of origin. There could be a hundred realities that keep us buried alive.

Today we celebrate Jesus' victory not only over tomb and stone, but over sin & death itself. He who promises to raise us up one day from our graves, surely can raise us up from what buries us here and now. He wants us in this life even now to experience that risen life, so that our journeys may continue with hope and joy. During the fifty days of the Easter Season, look for the everyday victories as well as the joyful signs that HE IS RISEN and always with us along the way!

*Happy Easter to one and all, Msgr Madus*

**The Octave of Easter**

The octave of Easter comprises the eight days which stretch from the first to the second Sunday of Easter. It is a way of prolonging the joy of the initial day. In a sense, every day of the Octave is like a little Easter. The word "Easter" comes from Old English, meaning simply the "East." The sun which rises in the East, bringing light, warmth and hope, is a symbol for all Christians of the rising Christ, who is the true Light of the World. The Paschal Candle is the primary symbol of Christ as divine light. It is kept near the ambo throughout the fifty days of Easter and lit for all liturgical celebrations.

**"Our life must be centered on what is essential, on Jesus Christ. Everything else is secondary." - Pope Francis**



**Memorials April 17 - 23, 2017**

**Tabernacle Lamp**

In Memory of Josephine Arato by Judy Neri

**Altar Candles and Bread & Wine**

In Memory of George & Dolly Safko by son George

**Mass Intentions April 17 - 23, 2017**

**Monday, April 17**

6:50 am Ceci Family by Lisena Romitelli

**Tuesday, Apr 18**

6:50 am Veronica Konecny by Theresa

**Wednesday, Apr 19**

6:50 am Fr. Gus Kapinus by Audrey Hanuscik

**Thursday, Apr 20**

6:50 am Margaret Ann Marotta by Kathy Simone

**Friday, Apr 21**

6:50 am Andy Castellani by Lloyd & Joyce Swoyer

**Saturday, Apr 22**

4:00 pm Joseph & Maria Ghilardi by Eleanor Ghilardi

**Sunday, Apr 23 – Divine Mercy Sunday**

8:00 am Anna & Carlo Bianchi by Joseph Albiero

10:00 am Edward Miles by family



**Remember in Your Prayers**

Please pray for the sick, the suffering, the bereaved, and the recently deceased: Jane McDonald, Ann Mahon.

*The parish office will be closed on Monday, April 17*

**Collection for Last Weekend: April 9, 2017**

400 Sunday Offertory Envelopes \$7,324.30

**Confirmation News**

Sun, April 30 at the 10am Mass: Confirmation Enrollment for Confirmation candidates with their sponsors.

**Divine Mercy Novena ~ April 14 - April 22**



Divine Mercy Sunday is next Sunday, April 23rd. In the *Diary of St. Faustina*, Jesus asked that the Feast of Divine Mercy, known today as Divine Mercy Sunday, be preceded by a novena to the Divine Mercy. In the case of the novena to the Divine Mercy, we pray the chaplet of the Divine Mercy each day for a specific intention.

Our Lord told St. Faustina, "I desire that during these nine days you bring souls to the fountain of My mercy, that they may draw ... strength and refreshment and whatever grace they need in the hardships of life, and especially at the hour of death" (*Diary*, 1209). Let us bring to our Lord various intentions during these days of prayer.

**More Greeters Needed**

Our hope is that each person that comes through our church doors on Sunday feel welcomed and know the presence of the Lord Jesus. Greeters help our members and guests form their first impression of our parish. If you're outgoing and like interacting with people, greeting is for you! Like to start small? Try it out and see how simple it is to help transform parish life. Commitments can be temporary and based on your availability. We are in particular need



of greeters for the 10am mass. Please see one of the greeters at the church entrances or call the parish office today to try this ministry out! Hospitality plays an important role in parish life. Will you answer the call today to make Sacred Heart of Jesus a place where all feel welcome?

**Evening of Reflection Series for Liturgical Ministers**

The Office for Parish Life will be offering a series of Evenings of Reflection for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors and those involved in Music Ministry. David Baloga, Director for Worship, will lead each evening and will help liturgical ministers enter more deeply into the spirituality of their ministry through prayer, song and reflection. All sessions begin at 6:30pm and will take place at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in Scranton. There is no cost to participate. To register for one (or more) of these evenings, please contact the parish office no later than the Friday morning before the Evening of Reflection.

**Tues, May 9:** *Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion*  
**Tues, May 16:** *Lectors.* **Tues, May 23:** *Music Ministers.*

**Diocesan Men's Conference**



**Mary calls us to do battle against the forces of evil that are threatening to engulf the world, the Church, our families & ourselves.**

But the message of Fatima ends on a high note: "My Immaculate Heart Will Triumph" and

"She will crush his head" The Third Annual Catholic Men's Conference entitled: "*Be A Man: Mary's Call to BATTLE*" will be held on May 6<sup>th</sup> at King's College. Come, young & old, & experience a prayerful, spirit-filled, life-changing day featuring keynote presentations by Father Andrew Apostoli CFR of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, EWTN host & Fatima Expert; Steven Ray, a Catholic Speaker, film producer & pilgrimage leader; Matt Fradd, Catholic apologist, author & executive director of *The Porn Effect*. Early bird fee \$30 by Apr 15, after \$35; Students \$15. Go to [www.beamanconference.com](http://www.beamanconference.com) or call 207-2213 to register.

**XLT "Exalt!"**

**XLT (Exalt!)** for young adults will be held Friday, April 28 from 7-9 p.m. at Divine Mercy Parish, 312 Davis Street, Scranton, PA. The event will consist of Eucharistic Adoration, praise & worship music by Francis Zelinka (from Full Armor Band), a talk by seminarian Ryan Glenn, reconciliation, and a social. All are welcome to attend. For more information, please contact Dominick Costantino at 570-780-2996.

**Valley Blood Council**

The Valley Blood Council of the American Red Cross will host a blood drive on Thurs, Apr 20: 12pm-5pm here at Sacred Heart. Sponsors of the drive are: Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Jessup/Peckville Knights of Columbus, and Valley Blood Council. Donors must be at least 17 yrs. and weigh 110 lbs. Please answer the call to donate. This drive is in memory of Agnes Naugin DePietro.

**Pro-Life Outreach Opportunity**

Holy Cross and Blessed Sacrament Parishes Social Concerns

Committee will hold a "Baby Shower" for St. Joseph's Center on Sunday, April 30 at 2pm at Blessed Sacrament Parish Hall, 216 Rebecca Street, Throop. Admission \$15.00 or comparable gift. Come and enjoy some food, desserts, beverages, party games, prizes, basket raffle and 50/50 raffle. Please RSVP by April 23 by calling 570-489-5125 or 570-383-0710.

**Scranton Mental Health Ministry ~ Spiritual Support**

The Scranton Mental Health Ministry at the Cathedral of Saint Peter provides a safe, supportive space for individuals in our community who are experiencing mental illness. We offer a spiritual support group open to anyone experiencing mental illness. Our goal is to ensure that no one feels alone in his or her struggle. This is the place to be heard in a safe, confidential, and non-judgmental environment, where isolation and stigma fade away as supportive community is created. The spiritual support group is a ministry in which members seek to support one another during their time of need and to grow spiritually in their relationship with God. One does not need to be Catholic to participate but Catholic prayers and devotions will be used. The group will meet 10am-12 noon on the second and fourth Saturday of the month in the lower hall of the rectory (rear entrance and down the stairs). Refreshments provided. Please spread the word. For more info, contact Deacon Ed Shoener-344-7231.

**VFW Sausage and Meatball Dinner**

Shopa-Davey VFW will conduct a ziti pasta sausage and meatball dinner at the post home on Electric Street in Peckville on Sunday May 7. Serving from 11am to 4pm or until sold out. Tickets are \$10 from a member or at the door.

**St. Joseph's Center Collection for Summer Festival**

St. Joseph's Center Auxiliary is Collecting items for the Summer Festival. Used books in good condition, paperback and hardcover, dvd's, audiobooks, gently used decorations for all holidays, frames, fandles, figurines, dishes, toys, etc. Never used is great!! No clothing please. Items can be dropped off starting this weekend until May 20 every Saturday morning from 10am-12pm and every Wednesday evening 5pm-7pm at DeNaples Family Community Services Building, 320 South Blakely St Dunmore (Across from CVS). Use Pine Street Entrance Next to Borough Building.

**Asked to Be a Sponsor?**

Registered parishioners who are asked to be a sponsor for Baptism or Confirmation (whether here or at any other Catholic Church) should call the parish office to request a meeting with the pastor to review the canonical requirements for being a sponsor.

**Parish Evening of Reflection – Save the Date!**

Bernadette Rudolph from the Office of Parish Life will be coming to Sacred Heart to offer an evening of reflection for all parishioners on Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. Refreshments will be served. Stay tuned for more details!

Wearing a cross is okay,  
but it's carrying our crosses that leads to salvation