



The Resurrection

SAINT CASSIAN PARISH

187 Bellevue Avenue Upper Montclair, NJ 07043 • (973) 744-2850 • stcassianchurch.org



Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

March 31, 2024

MASS SCHEDULE

Lord's Day

Saturday: 5:30PM

Sunday: 7:30AM; 9:30AM; 11:30AM

Weekdays: Tuesday through Saturday: 8:15AM

Holydays: 8:15AM and as announced

Office Information:

Served by:

Rev. Steven D'Andrea, Parish Administrator
Rev. Msgr. Anthony Kulig, Weekend Assistant
Deacon Roberto Demetillo
Stephen Powers, Director of Music
Keri Misurell, Director of Faith Formation
Maria Llanes, St. Cassian School Principal

Parish Phone Numbers

Parish Office(973) 744-2850
Fax..... (973) 744-6187
Email.....parishoffice@stcassianchurch.org
Websitewww.stcassianchurch.org
Religious Education Office.....(973) 744-2850
Music Office(973) 744-7864
St. Cassian School.....(973) 746-1636
Fax.....(973) 746-3271
Email.....info@stcassianschool.org
Website.....www.stcassianschool.org

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 9:00am—3:30 pm

Office Closed 4/1, 4/2.

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation, formerly RCIA) Are you or someone you know interested in becoming Catholic? Were you baptized Catholic but never received First Communion or Confirmation? Call the parish office for details.

The **Sacrament of Baptism** is celebrated one Sunday each month except during Advent, Lent and the summer months. In order to baptize your child at St. Cassian, the family must be registered parishioners. Parents, and godparents if available, must attend a preparation class (7:00 PM) prior to the date of baptism (1:00PM). Once registered, contact the Parish Office, (973) 744-2850, to make arrangements for the date of baptism. See schedule within Scan here to download Parish Registration Form



Arrangements to celebrate the **Sacrament of Marriage** must be made at least one year before the desired date. Do not make firm plans for the reception prior to speaking with a priest. Call the Parish Office, (973) 744-2850, to speak with a priest.

The **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick** brings the Holy Spirit's gifts of peace and courage. It is not necessary to wait until the point of death for anointing. Contact a priest through the Parish Office, (973) 744-2850.

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is celebrated every Saturday between 4:15PM-5:00PM in the church or at another time convenient to the priest and penitent.

Dear Parishioners,



I remember growing up . The week before Easter there was shopping and preparing food, but not like at Christmas time. Easter didn't have the same stress that goes along with shopping for Christmas presents. The kids all got chocolate Easter bunnies with a bow tie around its necks made out of a 50-dollar bill. Nothing crazy. You just knew you were getting ready for something special to happen.

I remember, as soon as I was old enough, it was also the time when you were sent to visit the cemeteries with a rake, plastic garbage bags, shovels and hedge clippers to trim the grass and clean up the around the headstones and plant flowers.

For Easter, you got a new suit – for me it was from the Husky section. The best suits were the ones that had expandable elastic pants. Then Easter Sunday came, and we ate like kings. Dinner was at 1:00 o'clock sharp and my grandmother waited for nobody. Easter was always about meats and cheeses and bread and homemade wine. Which was probably why my suits were from the husky section. I spent many years sitting at the kids' table before I worked my way to the other end to sit with the adults. If the kids were passed out asleep on the couch by 5 o'clock it meant that the home-made wine accidentally made its way down to our end of the kids table.

What I might not have understood years ago I do understand now. When we sat down for dinner, we did so with the understanding that our loved ones and friends that had died were all together and in a safe place. We were together and we celebrated as people with hope. We were celebrating our faith in Christ, and we were expressing our gratitude.

If things had gone as expected that morning, the women would have closed the tomb, and gone away with only their grief.

However, things did not go according to their plan. It was to the two faithful women that the Easter message was first given. Jesus is not dead, He is alive. What they and the other disciples would find out is that Jesus would replace their pain and sorrow and the emptiness of the tomb with great joy. That is what Jesus continues to do for us.

What we celebrate in this great feast of Easter is God's love for us. You can celebrate Christmas with a tree and gifts, but if Christ isn't the reason for it, then it's just another empty holiday. It is the same for Easter. You cannot celebrate Easter without Christ. If you do, then it is meaningless. It is all about His resurrection and God's love for us.

I can assure you once again, Easter and the Resurrection of Christ was the single most important event to ever happen to the world. The world has softened the meaning of Easter with cute bunnies and marshmallow chicks. But I assure you, when Jesus was on the cross dying for our sins, he wasn't thinking about chocolate eggs and bunnies. He was thinking about us and saving us from our sins and gaining for us eternal life. He did not abandon us, and leave us to die in our sins, but gives us the chance to live forever with Him. He thought we were worth dying for.

We celebrate not only the eternal life that awaits us, but also the eternal life that God has given to all our loved ones and friends who have died. They are still alive and live a real and beautiful life with God in his Kingdom. For those who have died, life is changed, not ended. They closed their eyes on this earth, and they opened them again in paradise. They celebrate Easter - Christ's resurrection, every day for all eternity. For Jesus, there could be no Easter without first suffering. What we must remember is that before Jesus tasted the sweetness of Victory, He had to endure the pain of the cross. Easter joy should be about being grateful for God's love and for all that Jesus endured for us. But until our time comes, Easter joy should be about rejoicing in the beautiful gift of life that God has given to each of us. Jesus dying for our sins shows us that there is no limit to His love for us.

May the Resurrection of Christ bring each of you the gift of hope. May this Easter provide all of you an opportunity to revitalize your relationship with Christ.

On behalf of all the priests, Monsignor Doran, Monsignor Kulig and myself, along with Deacon Roberto and the whole Parish staff, we extend to you and your families our best wishes as we begin to celebrate this magnificent and beautiful Easter season.

Father Steve

The symbolism of Easter plants



The **Easter lily** is the obvious choice to top our list since it's named for the holiday. Easter lilies are white with trumpet-shaped flowers. Traditionally, they are associated with *purity and resurrection*. This comes from Christian legend, which says that after Jesus' death and resurrection, these flowers were found growing in the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus prayed the night before the crucifixion

Easter cacti are getting more and more popular and their colorful blooms—which can be white, orange, red, pink or purple—arrive in spring, just in time for Easter. The Easter cactus is similar, but not to be confused with the Thanksgiving cactus or the Christmas cactus (which are also succulents). Not only does the name associate them with Easter, but they're also a symbol of *rebirth*, too.



Daffodils are often the first flowers you see blooming in early spring. They're how gardeners know that a new gardening season has come, and because they bloom close to Easter, they've become a holiday symbol, too. As an early spring bloomer, daffodils represent the arrival of *new life*. In England, they're known as "Lent lilies" because they've long been associated with Lent.

The **Crocus** is another early spring bloom, characteristic for its delicate purple and gold flowers that you'll sometimes see poking up through the last of the snow. These are an all-time Easter favorite, perfect for joyous celebrations since they symbolize *youth and happiness*.



As with many Easter flowers, **hyacinth** blooms early—and in shades of purple, pink and white. These annual flowers traditionally symbolize *constancy and sincerity*.

Spring flowers like **tulips** carry a meaning of *rebirth* since they're among the first flowers to emerge from winter dormancy. They also represent *love, belief and forgiveness* and—because they're so colorful and somewhat egg shaped—people sometimes associate them with Easter eggs.



Hellebore is perhaps the earliest bloomer on the list, emerging in the later parts of winter and early spring. Because of that, this perennial goes by several names: winter rose, Christmas rose, and Lenten rose. It's associated with Lent, in particular, because in many areas, it emerges during this season, and as with many early spring flowers, it represents *rebirth*

Azaleas are among the earliest spring blooming shrubs—most of the rest of the early spring bloomers are bulbs. They come in all sorts of colors, and the flowers are quite popular during Easter as a symbol of *temperance, moderation and love*.



Because Easter happens around the same time gardens everywhere are beginning to bloom, there are many more types of flowers that have associations with this holiday. The ones we've listed above are a selection of the most popular traditional favorites. You'll find them not only in springtime landscapes, but in holiday gifts and as Easter dinner centerpieces, too.

The History Behind Traditional Ukrainian Pysanky Eggs



BY [KATE MCGREGOR](#) PUBLISHED: MAR 3, 2024

Many cultures have their own version of Easter eggs—some in pastel Easter colors or even hand-painted floral designs—but Ukrainian pysanky eggs elevate the tradition to an art form. Named after the Ukrainian word *pysaty*, which translates as "to write," pysanky eggs have intricate patterns that stop you in your tracks. The craft has been passed down from mother to daughter since well before the 10th century, when Ukraine adopted Christianity and the Easter holiday. "They could bring good luck, health, wealth, and a bountiful harvest. People believed that by making patterns on the eggshell, they could send tributes and entreaties to the pagan gods. While the Ukrainian eggs are less of a pagan offering and more of a classical art form these days, they've taken on new meaning as a prayer for peace.

Pysanky eggs are real, raw, un-hollowed-out eggs that have had symbols written on them in beeswax and then been dipped by hand in richly colored, sometimes natural dyes.

Pysanky eggs were made in the dead of night as each intention and manifestation imbued in the symbols was highly personal and kept secret. Historically, it didn't matter if the lines were straight or the design was symmetrical; it was the intent of the maker while crafting the eggs that determined their significance. There's a legend that says that for as long as people write pysanky, the world will continue to exist. The original inhabitants of what is now Ukraine used to carry a pysanka egg with them everywhere in hopes of warding off evil.

Pysanka are made using a copper funnel, called a *kistka*, and a wax-resistant process. Think of the *kistka* as a heated fountain pen that uses melted beeswax "ink." The beeswax, which turns black when heated, is used to write symbols directly onto the eggshell. The wax acts as like masking tape—anywhere you put it won't get dyed. Today, the maker might trace the design onto the eggshell in pencil, then go over it in beeswax. After finishing the design, the maker dips the egg into a light color of cool dye, hardening the wax. Then more wax is applied and the dye process repeated to add progressively darker colors. At the end, the egg is heated to remove the wax, leaving an intricate white pattern surrounded by different colors.

Thousands of years ago, the agrarian people living in the area now known as Ukraine depended on the sun for survival and successful crop-growing seasons, so the eggs were made as offerings for the sun to return after a long winter and sustain them through the summer. Traditionally, the egg yolk represented the sun, so the eggs were used whole, never hollowed out. The intricate symbols on the eggshell were intended as prayers to the gods. Some shifted in meaning as the culture evolved from pagan to Christian—the fish went from a sign of harvest to a symbol of the Christian church, and the equal cross became better known as a symbol of Christ himself than of the sun—while other common motifs like flowers and wheat still stand for prosperity and luck. Traditional Ukrainian eggs are dyed in many colors, each one conveying a specific meaning.

White: purity, light, birth **Yellow: sun, stars, moon, harvest, warmth, youth, happiness**
Orange: endurance, strength, ambition **Red: happiness, hope, passion**

<https://www.housebeautiful.com/entertaining/holidays-celebrations/a46976353/pysanky-pysanka-eggs/>



Father John Gordon, of the Office of Evangelization from the Archdiocese of Newark, spoke on Relevant Radio. His topic was **Stations of the Cross for Training for Greatness**. You can hear his podcast at <https://omny.fm/shows/morning-air/stations-of-the-cross-training-for-greatness>. Father Gordon has preached at our church's prior Lenten lecture series. He was also one of the speakers at the Eucharistic Revival Conference in Jersey City, Saturday, March 16, 2024. His topic was "Joining in the Sacrifice: The Liturgy of the Eucharist."

Easter Celebrations Around the World



AUSTRALIA

Trade in your chocolate bunnies for bilbies this year! In an effort to raise awareness about endangered species, Australians promote chocolate bilbies instead of bunnies, contributing to wildlife conservation.

AUSTRIA

In Austria, people celebrate Holy Saturday night by lighting bonfires on hillsides. This tradition symbolizes the end of winter and the triumph of light over darkness.



BERMUDA

Good Friday KiteFest, Bermuda

Easter celebrations don't get lost in the Bermuda Triangle. In fact, on Good Friday, the island nation enjoys one of the jollier manifestations of this springtime festival, kissing the sky with thousands of colorful kites.

Bermudians make their own kites out of bamboo, wood and tissue paper. Some are simple, some elaborate, and many have long tails to help the kite stay up in the air. But one thing that the kites share in common is a cross-shaped central structure, which is said to be a nod to KiteFest's origins, when a teacher demonstrated with a kite how Jesus ascended to heaven after his crucifixion. The event, run by the Chewstick Foundation, includes awards for the best kites in a number of categories.

CORFU

In the Greek island of Corfu, old pots are thrown out of the windows on to the streets as an Easter Saturday morning tradition. It's thought the tradition was copied from the people of Venice, in Italy, who throw out their possessions.



FRANCE

According to legend, French children receive chocolates on Easter morning not from the fables bunny, but from flying church bells. It's said that when the bells do not ring from Good Friday to Easter Sunday (to mourn Christ's death), they are flying to Rome to fetch the goodies. In Alsace, charming markets are whimsically decorated and teeming with fluffy rabbits, goats, and ducks you can pet. Meanwhile the village of Bessieres makes a giant omelet each year from 15,000 eggs and a dozen cooks. Once complete, it is sliced into thousands of portions and served with bread to villagers.

GERMANY

Not only is St George the patron saint of England, Georgia, Ethiopia and many other world regions, he also features heavily in various traditions. In the Bavarian town of Traunstein, the Georgiritt – a large horse pilgrimage on Easter Monday – commemorates his legendary dragon slaying. Horses are decorated with plaited manes and tails, and bedecked with flowers, plants and ribbons. Some pull carriages. Riders don traditional rural clothing and there's even a St George, suited in armour, with a shield and sword. The day begins with a schwertertanz, or sword dance, symbolising the victory of spring over winter. The procession, backed by the gaiety of a Bavarian oompah band, then loops around Ettendorfer Church and culminates in blessings of the farm animals for the year ahead.



GREECE

Eastern Orthodox communities in Greece follow the Julian's calendar's holiday schedule instead of Gregorian's. The Holy Fire, which is said to emit from the tomb of Jesus every Holy Saturday, is flown from Jerusalem to Athens and then delivered throughout Greece. During the Midnight church service, the flame is passed from the priest to worshippers' candles, illuminating the dark spaces with light. Easter marks the end of 40 days of fasting, and the dishes served that day are appropriately indulgent (and symbolic). Roasted lamb stands for Christ, sweet and fluffy braided bread called tsoureki represents the Holy Trinity, and red hard-boiled eggs symbolize Christ's blood.

Easter Celebrations Around the World (cont'd)

HUNGARY

In Hungary on Easter Monday, it's tradition for men to sprinkle women with perfume or cologne. This custom is believed to bring good fortune and beauty.



ITALY



Home to many a world-renowned cathedral and some of the most spirited revelers, Easter celebrations in Italy are extraordinary. Florence holds a ritual called Scoppio del Carro, in which white oxen carry a centuries-old wagon to Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore. After mass, the archbishop sends a mechanical dove into the wagon, which explodes in a spectacular fireworks display (pictured). A parade through the city follows, and most Easter celebrations don't stop when the night ends. Easter Monday, called Pasquetta (or little Easter), is for packing picnics of leftovers and getting outside to relax. Or, in the Umbrian village of Panicale, rolling four-kilogram wheels of cheeses through an obstacle course. Traditional Easter cakes, called colomba di Pasqua, are shaped like doves, dotted with candied fruit, and topped with pearl sugar and almonds. Eataly sells one that ships nationwide.

In Florence, Italy, locals celebrate a 350-year-old Easter tradition known as Scoppio del Carro, or "explosion of the cart" that dates all the way back to the First Crusade, according to Visit Florence. An ornate cart is loaded with fireworks and then led through the streets by people in colorful 15th century costumes. Once the cart reaches the Duomo, the Archbishop of Florence lights a fuse from inside the church during Easter mass, sparking a lively fireworks display.

UNITED KINGDOM and UNITED STATES



In the U.K. and the U.S., rolling Easter eggs down a hill is a popular tradition. Participants decorate hard-boiled eggs and then roll them down a slope, with the egg that travels farthest without breaking declared the winner. It's even an annual event at the White House, dating back to 1878.



The tradition of wearing Easter bonnets in the United States dates back to the 19th century and became especially popular in the 20th century. Women craft elaborate and decorative hats, often adorned with flowers and ribbons, to wear to Easter church services and parades as a symbol of renewal and birth.

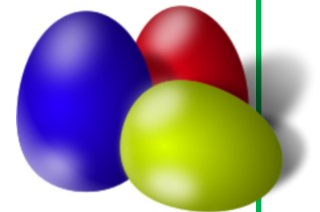
The History of the Easter Egg

Easter is a magical time with many traditions, especially the coloring of Easter eggs. The tradition of coloring Easter eggs began with Mary Magdalene.

~Here is the history why we color Easter Eggs ~

For centuries, it has been the custom of many Christians to share dyed and painted eggs, particularly on Easter Sunday. The eggs represent new life, and Christ bursting forth from the tomb. Among Eastern Orthodox Christians this sharing is accompanied by the proclamation "*CHRIST IS RISEN!*"

One tradition concerning Mary Magdalene says that following the death and resurrection of Jesus, she used her position to gain an invitation to a banquet given by the Roman Emperor Tiberius. When she met him, she held a plain egg in her hand and exclaimed, "Christ is risen!" The Emperor laughed, and said that Christ rising from the dead was as likely as the egg in her hand turning red while she held it. Before he finished speaking, the egg in her hand turned a bright red and she continued proclaiming the Gospel to the entire imperial house.





For those who are ill:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Noel Jordan | Elizabeth Leuven |
| John Anderson | Cassie Lopolus |
| Alesia Maria Andras | Charles W. Mahal |
| Michael Andrews | Marcia Mann |
| Ray Aumack | Leigh Major |
| Mary Blatz | Sr. Idoia Martinez |
| Leo Botwin | John McCarthy |
| Frank Briamont | Patricia Melo |
| Gustavo Caceres & family | Mary McGuire |
| JoAnne Callahan | Frank Mongioi |
| Dominek Capela | Maria Mongioi |
| Frank Caprio | Thomas Nelson |
| Marilyn Castellano | Dr. David Pallotta |
| Rose Ciafullo | Mildred Pasino |
| Joe Cultrara | Rosemary Raleigh |
| Agnes D'Aria | Ronald Rego |
| Tony De Vito | Dr. Lorraine Reyes |
| James Gannon | Jaxson Rivera |
| Mae Garcia | Rhonda Sen |
| Deirdre Egan Graham | Elizabeth Smith |
| Dan Greiner | Olaf Stechow |
| Steve Grube | Lindsay Trembulak |
| Jennifer Gullace | Amelia Zoino |
| Joyce Hakimian | |
| David Hogan | |

Mass Intentions for the Week of March 31

Sunday Mar. 31st Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord	8:00PM 7:30AM 9:30AM 11:30 AM	For the People of the Parish For the People of the Parish For the People of the Parish For the People of the Parish
Tuesday - Saturday morning Masses are celebrated at 8:15AM; Monday morning Mass is private		
Monday April 1st Monday within Octave of Easter	Patricia Mueller	
Tuesday April 2nd Tuesday within Octave of Easter Holy	Edward F. Gaffney	
Wednesday April 3rd Wednesday within Octave of Easter	Theodore Constantino	
Thursday April 4th Thursday within Octave of Easter	Christine Arena	
Friday April 5th Friday within Octave of Easter	Walter V. Sherwood	
Saturday April 6th Saturday within Octave of Easter	Eleanor & Joseph Brizzollara	
Sunday April 7th Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)	5:30PM 7:30AM 9:30AM 11:30AM	Pat Forbes People of the Parish Janet T. DeStefano Scalzi & Pontoriero Families

For those who have died: Gregg Dickey

THE ALTAR BREAD IS OFFERED IN MEMORY OF ANN CONROY

THE SANCTUARY LAMP BURNS IN MEMORY OF ANN CONROY

Please remember these names in your daily prayers.

ROSARY INTENTIONS...

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| <i>Monday</i> | For safety and freedom for the people of Ukraine |
| <i>Tuesday</i> | All military and protective services especially in areas of violence; protect them, grant peace to their loved ones |
| <i>Wednesday</i> | Respect for sanctity of life from conception to natural death |
| <i>Thursday</i> | Unity among churches and nations |
| <i>Friday</i> | Vocations to the priesthood and religious life; all parishioners living and deceased |

Baptism Schedule

April 2024	Baptism	April 14th
	Class	April 9th

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MON.	Acts 2:14, 22-33 Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 Mt 28:8-15
TUES.	Acts 2:36-41 Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22 J n 20:11-18
WED.	Acts 3:1-10 Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 Lk 24:13-35
THUR.	Acts 3:11-26 Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9 Lk 24:35-48
FRI	Acts 4:1-12 Ps 118:1-2 and 4, 22-24, 25-27a Jn 21:1-14
SAT.	Acts 4:13-21 Ps 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21 Mk 16:9-15
SUN.	Acts 4:32-35 Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 1 Jn 5:1-6 Jn 20:19-31

May 2024	Baptism	May 12 th
	Class	May 7 th
June 2024	Baptism	June 9 th
	Class	June 4 th

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

Jelly Bean Prayer

Red is for the blood He gave.
 Green is for the grass He made.
 Yellow is for the sun so bright.
 Orange is for the edge of night.

Black is for the sins we made.
 White is for the grace He gave.
 Purple is for the hour of sorrow.
 Pink is for the new tomorrow.

A bag of jelly beans is yummy to eat. It's a picture, a promise, a special treat

To help us remember Jesus' work complete.

Gives us hope beyond any earthly sweet.



PLEASE HELP HOWEVER YOU CAN!

We will be collecting cereals and any of the usual items we collect on the weekends of Apr 6/7 and Apr 13/14.



Thank you for your continued generosity.



Pope advances sainthood causes, including daughter of US author

Nathaniel Hawthorne, who authored "The Scarlet Letter" and other classics in American literature, is also the father of a woman whose cause for sainthood has taken a big step forward. Pope Francis today signed a decree attesting to the heroic virtues of Rose Hawthorne, a convert to Catholicism, who founded the Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne, who have provided free care to cancer patients in need for more than a century.

ANNUAL APPEAL PROGRESS

THE 2024 ANNUAL APPEAL IS UNDERWAY!

WE HAVE \$54,632 ALREADY PLEDGED. THIS IS APPROXIMATELY 66% OF OUR GOAL OF \$82,246.

THE OUTPOURING OF SUPPORT FROM MANY PARISHIONERS LIKE YOU HELPS SUSTAIN THE IMPORTANT MINISTRIES ACROSS THE ARCHDIOCES OF NEWARK. THESE PROGRAMS HELP TO MAKE OUR OWN PARISH A MORE VIBRANT PLACE OF WORSHIP.

IF YOU HAVE YET TO GIVE, PLEASE VISIT WWW.RCAN.ORG/SHARING OR SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT.



SIGNS OF STEWARDSHIP	Gift of Treasure
	3/9-3/10
Minimum weekly needed	\$16,250
Regular Weekly Collection	\$4,598
Faith Direct Average	\$6,765
Weekly Total	\$11,363

Rachel's VINEYARD
 Healing the pain of abortion - one weekend at a time

April 5-7, 2024

For more details, please call Cheryl Riley, Director of the Respect Life Office at 973.497.4350 or via email at cheryl.riley@rcan.org

Home Visits

If you are unable to come to church or if you know a relative or friend who finds it difficult to come to church, let us know. We have many dedicated and caring Eucharistic Ministers who would be happy to bring Communion to you or to your loved ones who are homebound. Fr. Steve would be more than happy to make a visit to someone's home if they wish to go to confession, receive communion or receive the anointing of the sick. Call the Parish Office if you would like someone to visit you at home.

Part-Time Parish Job Opportunity

Seeking a qualified candidate to support the weekly bulletin, parish website, and parish communications. To learn more about this opportunity, please contact Keri Misurell at (973) 744-2850 or by email at kmisurell@Stcassianchurch.org



Haiti Update: Week of 3/20/2024

Dear Lamp Supporters,

This is the second in a series of updates on the crisis in Haiti.

The security situation in Port-au-Prince continues to deteriorate. Gang activities have greatly increased in the wealthier area of the city, known as Petionville. There is a strong police presence at the international airport but gangs have not withdrawn and continue to surround the area. Areas close to Lamp’s service centers are becoming the targets of more activity.

Unfortunately, the rest of the country is also facing a crisis, namely food security crisis. All goods coming into the country via the ports, airports, and land routes are now subject to gang control, and many traders are simply waiting for security to return. In previous times, perhaps 50% of foodstuffs were imported from the Dominican Republic but significant problems at the land border have greatly impacted this trade. In September 2023, the DR government closed the border due to a political dispute (involving use of the river—that comprises the physical border– for irrigation). Over time, some trade resumed but there are now fears that the border will again be sealed completely. The DR has greatly increased its military presence at the border crossings due to security concerns. Even now, the amount of goods coming over the border is a tiny proportion of its previous level.

At Lamp, we continue to prepare for the day when we can re-open both of our service locations. We are taking time to update our electronic medical record system and to review each aspect of our programming. Dr. Metellus, our In-Country Medical Director , writes: “ Despite the security situation we are not idle because we continue to develop our plans in order to provide a high standard of health care to this poor population left to its own devices and facing a disastrous health situation. Also, we continue to improve our patient registration system to be able to optimize our patient-centered care. We continue to hope for a rapid resolution of this situation in order to continue serving this population, thirsty for health care. Haiti will not perish!”

I will just add, because many have asked, a word about our staff. As late as two weeks ago, our service location at Haiti Communiteres was open and functioning. Most of our staff were able to leave their homes and travel to work. But each day, some of them experienced difficulties. Some of these difficulties were extreme, Salita, one of our Community Health Workers, had her (tiny) home burned and belongings taken. Benoit, our Program Manager, was forced to move, as the area he lived in became the center of a gang conflict. Others have been threatened and robbed. We are very relieved to say, however, that none has been hurt. We hope, fervently, that this will remain the case until the end of the crisis.

In closing, please od consider a donation—either now or when we launch our Spring Appeal in April—because we are determined to mount as vigorous a response as we can to this disaster. And a crisis like this does not make expenses less. For example, for more than a year now we have been unable to get donated medicines into the country due to the security situation. We have, somewhat amazingly, been able to purchase medicines in-country, but those are also much mor expensive than in the past.

The need of our services is exponentially bigger than before—we must pushforward!

In solidarity,

Jim, Henry, and Kelli



***Our National
EMMAUS Moment***



Throughout the National Eucharistic revival, local communities are gathering tinder in response to God’s invitation for renewal. In keeping with this vision, The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage will accompany Jesus from city to city, lighting hearts on fire along the way.

There are 4 routes spanning the entire country: north, south, east and west. We are the eastern route (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton) .

On May 22-26, the eastern route of the pilgrimage (St. Elizabeth Seton) will be moving through the Archdiocese of New York at St. Patrick Cathedral , 5th Ave, NYC,NY. On May 27 & May 28 , the pilgrimage will be in the Diocese of Metuchen.

Explore the interactive map for the eastern route at www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org - Route Seton Route (East). If you know which event(s) you would like to sign up for, click the “Register” button. More details to follow. Mark your calendar.

The Mass is the central act of worship in the life of a Catholic. We believe that heaven and earth meet in the Mass. As we lift our hearts to God, He comes to meet us, accompanied by the angels and the communion of saints. We offer our praise and worship, and we receive grace—we partake in the Divine Life of God.

The Eucharist is the Source and Summit of the Christian Life. The reason we gather together every Sunday is not just for the community or for the spiritual lessons we might learn in the homilies. Those things are good and necessary, but the reason why we are able to gather in the first place is the Eucharist.



The Mass is built around and builds up to the moment when we all participate in the changing of the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ. At the heart of the Catholic Church is the Eucharist, because it unites us to God by allowing us to participate in His sacrifice together through the Mass. We can only truly understand the gift of the Eucharist if we can understand why we gather for Mass.

For the next several weeks we will walk through the entire Mass and we will begin to notice that every single detail of the Mass point to and find their full meaning in the Eucharist. The Eucharist is the real Presence of Jesus Christ among us and within us; everything about the Mass revolves around it, and Christ gradually reveals His presence more clearly and more deeply to us throughout the Mass until the moment of Consecration. We in turn become Christ to others when we receive Him into our hearts and we are called to “Go forth”.

Now that we have celebrated Holy Thursday, the timing is right to start on our study of the Mass. Christ Himself instituted the Mass at the Last Supper and handed it down to us, but we can experience His words and actions at the Last Supper now in the present moment. Because the Mass comes to us directly from the Christ, each part of it indicates how we can find Him, love Him, know Him, and share Him to the world. The night before He died, Jesus celebrated the Last Supper with His apostles. This was the Passover meal, a feast the Jewish people have always celebrated to remember the night God freed them from slavery to the Egyptians. But Jesus was to give this celebration a whole new meaning. He chose the last Supper as the way in which He would remain with His disciples forever.

At the meal, Jesus took some bread, broke it and said: “This is My Body, which will be given up for you.” Later, when the meal was ended, He took some wine and said: “This is the chalice of my Blood, the Blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of me.”

These are the same words we hear spoken at every Mass. When the priest says them, he is acting in the person of Jesus: the bread and wine really do become the body and blood of Christ. The Church calls this amazing change Transubstantiation. It is a mystery, beyond our understanding, but accepted in faith. It means that when we come to Mass, we are in the presence of Jesus, just as much as His apostles were at the Last Supper. Excerpts: “Understanding the Mass”, Fr. JM Punzalan



St. Peter's HAVEN

For the Hungry and Homeless

Scan to register



SC 5K

St. Cassian 5K Run & Kids Fun Run Saturday, April 13, 2024

Brookdale Park, Bloomfield NJ 07003

START:

Kids Fun Run – 9:00am 5K – 9:30am

ENTRY FEES:

5K – \$30 on or before March 1, \$35 after
Kids Fun Run – \$25 on or before March 1, \$30 after

PRE-REGISTRATION:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/NJ/Bloomfield/SaintCassian5K>

RACE DAY REGISTRATION:

8:00am – 9:00am – Brookdale Park

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

USATF Certified Course - 3 loops of the inner course at Brookdale Park

AWARDS:

5K Medals for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, overall male and female finishers.
Medals for the top 3 male and female finishers in each age group.
Kids Fun Run – Ribbons for all!

T-Shirts for all registered before March 19th!

No strollers, skateboards, headphones or pets permitted on course.

Race will be held rain or shine!

For more information: 5krun@stcassianschool.org

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Kids' Corner



Today we celebrate the greatest feast day in the year! Jesus has come back to life! Alleluia!

Jesus died on the cross on Good Friday to take away our sins. But He didn't just die- He came back to life again so that we could come back to life one day too.

The Apostles were afraid when Jesus was killed. They were very sad and tried to comfort each other. Imagine their surprise when Mary Magdalene came rushing in and told them that the body of Jesus was gone from the tomb! Peter and John ran to see. When they saw the empty tomb they knew what had happened.

Jesus had come back to life!



John 20:1-18



What are we celebrating on Easter?
Unscramble the letters to fill in the blanks!

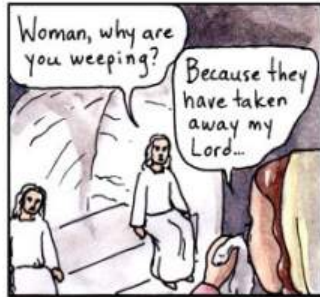
Alleluia!

Answer to puzzle on front:
Jesus is Alive!
Answer to Word-Find Puzzle: Jesus was raised from the dead.

EARLY IN THE MORNING AFTER THE SABBATH, MARY MAGDALENE WENT TO SEE THE TOMB WHERE JESUS HAD BEEN BURIED, AND FOUND IT EMPTY!



Woman, why are you weeping?
Because they have taken away my Lord...



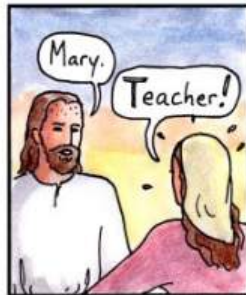
Woman, why are you weeping? Whom do you seek?



Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him and I will take Him away!



Mary.
Teacher!



Do not hold on to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father, but go and tell my brethren.



I HAVE SEEN THE LORD!



Easter Word-Find

J G A R D E N E A R L Y
L E J E S U S I M O N S
O D U S T O N E M A R Y
O I B U R I A L O W M S
K S C R I P T U R E A W
I C A R T O M B N E G S
N I R E A I P O I P D S
G P E C D F E D N I A E
C L O T H S T Y G N L M
B E L I E V E D R G E P
O M T O D A R K H E N T
D E A N G E L S A D E Y

See if you can find all the words in CAPITALS. Use the leftover letters to fill in the blanks at the end.



EARLY in the MORNING, while it was still DARK, Mary MAGDALENE had gone to see JESUS' TOMB. But when she got there she found it EMPTY! She ran and got SIMON PETER and the other DISCIPLE to show them. The STONE had been rolled back. The two men went in and saw that the BODY was gone, and only the BURIAL CLOTHS were sitting there. They BELIEVED although they didn't yet understand what the SCRIPTURE said about the RESURRECTION of Jesus. Mary stayed WEeping outside, but when as she stood LOOKING in, she saw two ANGELS. Then she saw a man in the GARDEN. She thought He was the gardener until He said, "MARY!" Then she knew who it was:

-----!



Varsity Boys Basketball Team wins second place
in the Archdiocesan Championship

COUGAR SPORTS NEWS

At St. Cassian School, we encourage physical fitness and recognize the importance of the lessons learned by playing on a team. Through participation in school's team sports, we aim to build athletic skills, collaboration, confidence, self-esteem and a well-balanced lifestyle, which we believe increases academic performance.

The winter basketball season was no exception. The students in grades 3 through 8, who participated in our athletic program, demonstrated great growth and enjoyed wonderful experiences throughout the season. We are so proud of all of our teams and the individual students! We want to express our gratitude to the volunteer coaches for their commitment to excellence and for their dedication to the Cougar Sports Program.

In addition, we congratulate our boys varsity team and their coaches for earning second place in the Archdiocesan Championship on March 10th.

Team Members: Jason Tolliver, Simon Streit, Ben Schestag, Ryan Cohen, Karl Krajewski, Julian Vasquez, Henry Meyers, Ben Caldwell, Jacob Chalet, Andrew Costa, Bennett Tam, Alex Tannous, Alexander Choe, Ben Caldwell, Elias Adams, and Ethan Bedoya

Coaches: Michael Streit (Head Coach), Eugene Tolliver, Shawn Schestag and Elie Chalet

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Father Steve we wish you the best of luck and all of God's blessings as you begin your new ministry at St. Cassian's Parish

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