



SAINT ANNA PARISH

Founded 1937

Happy Easter
April 11th and April 12th

Fr. Carlos Ruiz, Pastor
fathercarlosruiz@gmail.com
Mrs. Beth Donlan, Administrative Assistant
Deacon James Graves
Deacon Paul Carrier

HAPPY EASTER

CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION



Contact Us

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St. Anna Catholic School

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Principal Mrs. Kelly Veilleux, Administrative Assistant Marian Priddy

Safety Environment Notice: Our parish follows the guidelines of the national charter for the protection of children & young people approved by the US Bishops & Diocese of Worcester policies. Contact Judith Audette, Victim Services Coordinator, at 508-929-4363 (direct & confidential.) Claire Freda is St. Anna's Safety Environment Coordinator



From the Pastor's Desk

Fr. Carlos' Pill of Faith

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad. Alleluia, alleluia!

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his mercy endures forever.
Let the house of Israel say,
"His mercy endures forever."

The right hand of the Lord has struck with power;
the right hand of the Lord is exalted.
I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the Lord.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
By the Lord has this been done;
it is wonderful in our eyes.

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad. Alleluia, alleluia!

Psalm 118

My brothers and sisters, today is the day that all of us together as a Christian family celebrate life, the victory of Christ over sin and death. This is the time when we should stop looking among the dead for the One who is alive. This is the day in which we should cease doubting. The stones of our graves of fear have been removed and we are invited to experience a new life. The life that brings healing, consolation, and peace. A new beginning. This is the time to celebrate the presence of Jesus in our hearts and families as he comes to bless us, and protect us. This is the day of the victory of our Divine Physician. This is the day without shrouds, without evil. Today we proclaim to the world that our Lord is more powerful than any evil, more powerful than death. This is the day on which we open our hearts to God and allow Him to enter and fill us with his grace, his merciful power, his love. This is the time to feel more loved than ever because our God is not dead, he lives, lives for us, and in us. And together as a parish family we say,

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad. Alleluia, alleluia!

Thank you so much to all of you and your families for being part of this wonderful and vibrant community of Saint Anna.

A very special thank you to our deacons Jim and Paul, our parish choir Mike and Samantha, our parish staff and all volunteers who made this Holy Week possible and so beautiful.

May the Lord be with you and all your families as He embraces you with all his graces and peace. I wish you all a Happy-Blessed Easter!

Parish News



PARTNERS IN CHARITY UPDATE

Partners in Charity encompasses three specific areas in our Diocese: Charity, Education and Ministry. These vital ministries are staffed by people who act in the spirit of our 2020 patron ~ Saint Oscar Romero.

Oscar Romero was born August 15, 1917. He served as the fourth Archbishop of San Salvador and spoke out against poverty, social injustice, assassinations and torture amid a growing war between left wing and right wing forces. He was assassinated on March 24, 1980 after delivering a sermon in which he called on Salvadoran soldiers, as Christians, to obey God's higher order and to stop carrying out the government's repression and violations of basic human rights. On October 14, 2018, Pope Francis canonized Romero as a saint.

As of mid March, St. Anna has received \$6,320 towards its goal of \$55,900. To make a donation online, visit www.partners-charity.net. Please make sure to specify St. Anna Parish so we receive the credit for the gift. Thank you!

PARISH COLLECTIONS

Thank you for your support! During this time, we encourage you to donate online. It is a simple, easy process that can be set up for weekly or monthly donations and may be canceled at anytime. Visit www.stannaparish.org.

REGULAR COLLECTIONS	\$ 5,195.00
EASTER FLOWERS, GOOD FRIDAY, EASTER	\$ 501.00
CANDLES, MAINTENANCE, FUEL	\$ 787.00
TOTAL	\$ 6,483.00

ST. ANNA PARISH REMINDERS

- ⇒ The office is closed to the public. Please contact by calling the office or through email.
- ⇒ St. Anna School is closed through May 4th. There are no religious education classes through May 4th.
- ⇒ Adoration is postponed until further notice.
- ⇒ Confessions are by appointment only.
- ⇒ Funerals and other parish services or sacraments such as weddings or baptisms are limited to the immediate family no more than 15 or 20 people.
- ⇒ The parish is open for personal private prayer from 8am—3:30pm every day.

PRAYER IN TIME OF PANDEMIC

O God, whose Only Begotten Son bore the weight of human suffering for our salvation, hear the prayers of your Church for our sick brothers and sisters and deliver us from this time of trial.

Open our ears and our hearts to the voice of your Son: *Be not afraid, for I am with you always.*

Bless all doctors and nurses, researchers and public servants; give us the wisdom to do what is right and the faith to endure this hour, that we might gather once again to praise your name in the heart of your Church, delivered from all distress and confident in your mercy.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen



DO YOU BELIEVE IN EASTER?

Dr. Wil Phillips was a doctor in San Antonio and his favorite patient was Edith Burns. One morning he went to his office with a heavy heart and it was because of Edith. When he walked into the waiting room, there sat Edith with her Bible on her lap talking to a young mother. Now, Edith had a habit of introducing herself in this way: "Hello, my name is Edith Burns. Do you believe in Easter?" Then, she would explain the meaning of Easter, and many times people would be saved.

Dr. Phillips walked into the office and met with his head nurse, Beverly. Now, Beverly first met Edith when she was taking her blood pressure. Edith began by saying, "My name is Edith Burns. Do you believe in Easter?" Beverly said, "Why yes I do." Edith replied, "Well, what do you believe about Easter?" Beverly said, "It's all about egg hunts, going to church, and dressing up." Edith pressured her about the real meaning of Easter, and finally led her to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Dr. Phillips sighed and said, "Beverly, don't call Edith into the office quite yet. I need a moment."

After being called in, Edith sat down and asked, "Dr. Wil, why are you so sad? With a heavy heart he said, "Your lab report came back and it says you have cancer, and Edith, you're not going to live very long." Edith scolded him, "Why Wil Phillips, shame on you. Why are you so sad? Do you think God makes mistakes? You have just told me I'm going to see my Lord Jesus, my husband, and my friends. You have just told me that I am going to celebrate Easter forever, and here you are having difficulty giving me my ticket!" Wil thought to himself, "What a magnificent woman she is!"

Edith continued coming to Dr. Phillips then on day Edith called and said she would have to be moving *her story* to the hospital and said, "Wil, I'm very near home. Would you make sure that they put women here in my room next to me who need to know about Easter?" Well, he did just that and women began to come in and share that room with Edith. Many were saved. Everybody on that floor from staff to patients were so excited about Edith, that they started calling her Edith Easter; except Phyllis Cross, the head nurse.

Phyllis made it clear she wanted nothing to do with Edith, because she was a "religious nut." Phyllis had been a nurse in an army hospital and had seen and heard it all. She had been married three times, she was hard, cold, direct and did everything by the book. One morning the two nurses who were to attend to Edith were sick. Edith had the flu and Phyllis had to give her a shot. When she walked in, Edith had a big smile on her face and said, "Phyllis, God loves you and I love you, and I have been praying for you!" Phyllis said, "Well, you can quit praying for me, it won't work. I'm not interested." Edith said, "Well, I will pray – and I have asked God not to let me go home until you come into the family."



Phyllis said, "Then you will never die because that will never happen," and curtly walked out of the room. Then, one day Phyllis was drawn to Edith's room. She sat down on the bed and Edith said, "I'm so glad you have come, because God told me that today is your special day." Phyllis said, "Edith, you have asked everybody here the question, 'Do you believe in Easter?' but you have never asked me." Edith said, "Phyllis, I wanted to many times, but God told me to wait until you asked, and now that you have asked..." Edith took her Bible and shared with Phyllis the Easter story of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Edith said, "Do you believe in Easter? Do you believe that Jesus Christ is alive and that He wants to live in your heart?" Phyllis replied, "Oh, I want to believe that with all of my heart, and I do want Jesus in my life." Phyllis then prayed and invited Jesus into her heart. For the first time she did not walk out of a hospital room, she was carried out on the wings of angels.

A few days passed and Phyllis came in and Edith said, "Do you know what day it is?" Phyllis said, "Why Edith, it's Good Friday." Edith said, "Oh, no, for you every day is Easter. Happy Easter Phyllis!"

On Easter Sunday, Phyllis came into work, did some of her duties and went down to the flower shop to get Easter lilies for Edith. When she walked into the room, Edith was in bed with her Bible on her lap. Her hands were in that Bible. There was a smile on her face. Phyllis touched Edith's hand, and realized she was dead.

Edith's left hand was on John 14: "In my Father's house are many mansions. I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also." Her right hand was on Revelation 21:4, "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes, there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying; and there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Phyllis lifted her face toward Heaven, cried and said, "Happy Easter, Edith – Happy Easter!" Phyllis walked out of the room, and over to a table where two student nurses were sitting. She said, "My name is Phyllis Cross. Do you believe in Easter?"

***This is a true story by Russell Kelfer

