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My dear parishioners:

Easter this year has taken on an ever-greater spiritual richness for me as I had the privilege of spending some days in the Holy Land this past November. I joined 42 other pilgrims to walk in the footsteps of the Lord in Israel and Jordan. Although it was my seventh time to be in the land of our Lord, each pilgrimage is unique and brings its own spiritual blessings. It was most humbling for me as a priest to be able to celebrate Mass in the churches which mark so many of the sacred sites of the life of our Lord: Church of the Annunciation, Church of the Nativity, Church of the Beatitudes, Church of the Transfiguration, and so many more. But without a doubt, the most spiritually memorable of all days was the one where I was able to celebrate Mass at the Chapel of the Tomb in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

That day began at 5 am where we gathered in the Old City of Jerusalem to walk the Via Dolorosa, the Way of Sorrows. The city is unusually quiet at that hour. We pilgrims walked the Stations of the Cross, stopping at each to pray. The Stations are placed as close as possible to the exact location where our Lord was at that point in his passion. It was an awe-filled experience.

The 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> Stations of the Cross are within the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. For within the church are preserved the sites of the crucifixion (Stations 11-12), his reposition (Station 13) and his burial (Station 14). We concluded our praying of the Stations of the Cross in time to participate in Mass. Because the Church of the Holy Sepulchre is shared by the Greek Orthodox, Armenian Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches, the only time of the day the Catholics are able to celebrate Mass at the tomb of the Lord is at 6:30 am. On the day we were there, for the fourth time in my life, I had the privilege of being the main celebrant of the Mass.

For the last few hundred years the Lord's empty tomb is enshrined in a very small chapel in which only three people can enter at a time. For Mass, the Liturgy of the Word takes place in front of the Chapel of the Tomb. For the Liturgy of the Eucharist the priest enters the chapel and consecrates the bread and wine on a small altar directly above the tomb. Though I spoke loudly so the people participating in the Mass could hear, no one could see me. At the moment of the Great Amen, I exited the tomb chapel and holding aloft the consecrated host and chalice sang the doxology to which the congregation sang Amen. I never feel such a shudder of awe overtake my body as I do while exiting the tomb chapel with the Body and Blood of Christ in my hands. From a spiritual perspective it was like being at the resurrection of the Lord on the first Easter Sunday. For in that Mass, as in every Mass, where we celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ, I had the profound privilege of stepping out of the tomb of the Lord holding the real and abiding presence of the Lord in my very hands. In that one morning, from 5 to 7 am, my fellow pilgrims and I walked with the Lord in his passion, his death and his resurrection. It was a day I will remember the rest of my life. It was a day that has made this Easter Sunday even more spiritually enriching.

If you are a visitor to Our Lady of the Pines Catholic Church today, we welcome you. If you are a Catholic who does not attend Mass as often as you should but who made a special effort to be here today, we are grateful for your effort. If you are an active parishioner who kindly accepted that someone new is sitting in "your" pew, we humbly thank you. To each of you, our parish church is enriched today by your presence and prayer, and I thank you so very much for celebrating your Easter Mass at Our Lady of the Pines Church.

**April 21, 2019 - April 28, 2019**  
**Readings and Mass Intentions**

**Easter Sunday, April 21** 9:00am—Mass  
 Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 [24]/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Lk 24:1-12 or Lk 24:13-35  
*Mass intention for the People of the Parish*  
**Monday, April 22** 4:30pm—Communion Service  
 Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 [1]/Mt 28:8-15  
**Tuesday, April 23** No Mass  
 Acts 2:36-41/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22 [5b]/Jn 20:11-18  
**Wednesday, April 24** 4:30pm—Mass  
 Acts 3:1-10/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 [3b]/Lk 24:13-35  
*Mass intention for Michelle Duncan*  
**Thursday, April 25** 8:30am—Mass  
 Acts 3:11-26/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9 [2ab]/Lk 24:35-48  
*Mass intention for Karen Jacobs Strong*  
**Friday, April 26** 9:30am—Communion Service  
 Acts 4:1-12/Ps 118: 1-2 and 4, 22-24, 25-27a [22]/Jn 21:1-14  
**Saturday, April 27** 4:30pm—Mass  
 6:30pm—Spanish Mass  
 Acts 4:13-21/Ps 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21 [21a]/ Mk 16:9-15  
*Mass intention for Annie Jacobs*  
**Sunday, April 28** 9:00am—Mass  
 Acts 5:12-16/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 [1]/Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19/Jn 20:19-31  
*Mass intention for the People of the Parish*

**This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad. (Ps 118)**

Questions for Family Discussions  
**Adults:** What change could the hope of the Resurrection of Christ inspire you to make?  
**Children:** What bad habit would you like to "clear out" during the hopeful time of this Easter season?



I wish you a most blessed and joy-filled Easter. May the presence of the resurrected Christ celebrated on Easter Sunday (and in all Masses), increase your faith and fill your hearts with peace.

Sincerely in Christ,  
  
 Msgr. Frank H. Rossi  
 Pastor

Sun. April 21 <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> 9:00am—Mass 	Mon. April 22 4:30 pm— Communion Service	Tues. April 23	Wed. April 24 4:00pm—Rosary 4:30pm—Mass 5:00pm—Choir 6:00pm—CCE	Thurs. April 25 8:30am—Mass 9:00am—Divine Mercy Chaplet	Fri. April 26 9:30am—Communion Service	Sat. April 27 10:00am-3:00pm: Liturgical Formation for EMHC  3:45-4:15pm—Confessions 4:30pm—Mass 6:30pm—Spanish Mass
Sun. April 28 <b>2nd Sunday of Easter</b> <i>Divine Mercy Sunday</i> 9:00am—Mass	Mon. April 29 4:30 pm—Mass	Tues. April 30	Wed. May 1 4:00pm—Rosary 4:30pm—Mass 5:00pm—Choir 6:00pm—CCE	Thurs. May 2 8:30am—Mass 9:00am—Divine Mercy Chaplet	Fri. May 3 9:30am—Communion Service	Sat. May 4 3:45-4:15pm—Confessions 4:30pm—Mass 6:30pm—Spanish Mass

**Welcome**  
 New members of the Catholic Church

Wuisayo Kuciemba    Bob Boyd  
 Rusty Kuciemba    Tim Parker  
 Irene Johnson    Amber Tanton

**Liturgical Ministry Formation Day**  
**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**

April 27, 2019  
 10:00am-3:30pm  
 Our Lady of the Pines Family Center

Participation on this day is required for those that would like to become an Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist (EMHC) and as a refresher for those that are already EMHC.

This day is about Formation through the theology, history and spirituality of the ministry. There is also a review of the liturgy and the place of the liturgical ministries in the liturgy.

Registration is required by April 22, forms are in the vestibule.

There is no cost, lunch is provided.  
 Bring paper, pencil, a Bible, and bottled water.

Those who would like to become EMHC have guidelines to follow: be fully initiated with no impediment (be confirmed and if married must be in a Church marriage.)

**Bring your Rice Bowls by April 28, 2019**  
 Place in basket in the vestibule.  
**Winners of the children's Rice Bowl contest was the KG/1st Grade class.**

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

*Please pray for:* Bobbie Broussard, Bennie Mahaffey, Don Watt, Linda Dipuccio, Shirley Anderson; Sam Brocato, Lois Cuccia, Gina Medley, Jeannette Borque, Teresa Dale, Colin Donua, Jane Leger, Don Moore, Wayne Moore, Theresa Scaife; Vernon Gray, Leann Baker, Elaine Schriver, Susie Gaudet

*Repose of the soul:*  
 Names will remain on the prayer list for two weeks. You may list names in the Prayer book in the vestibule of the Church and your intention will be offered at daily Mass.

**Are You Being CALLED?**  
**Vocation Q&A for Women**  
**Sunday April 28, 2019**

Women (18-40) who are discerning a call to religious life are invited to an informal gathering at the Catholic Student Center at Lamar University.

Talk and Q&A 4-6pm  
 Mass at 6pm  
 Dinner to follow  
 RSVP by April 21, 2019

Lamar Catholic Student Center  
 1010 E. Virginia St.  
 Beaumont, TX  
 RSVP: Lindsey Parish, 409-924-4363  
[lparrish@dioceseofbmt.org](mailto:lparrish@dioceseofbmt.org)

**Upcoming Events**

April 27: Liturgical Ministry Formation, Ministers of the Eucharist, **OLOP Family Center, Woodville, TX**  
 April 28: Vocation Q&A for Women, Lamar Catholic Student Center, Beaumont, TX  
 May 10: Catholic Charismatic Renewal, St. Mary, Orange, TX