



**Mass Intentions
Easter Sunday
Resurrection of the Lord
April 11th & 12th , 2020**

4/11 SATURDAY VIGIL:

Holy Saturday

The People of the Parish

4/12 Easter Sunday - Resurrection of the Lord

Maria Lambert

John & Beatrice Smith

4/13 MONDAY

Pat Macherey

4/14 TUESDAY

Russell Gardella

4/15 WEDNESDAY

Poor Souls in Purgatory

4/16 THURSDAY

Sean Michael Edmondson

4/17 FRIDAY

Intentions of the Stirewalt Family

The Magnificat prayer book is offering free apps for your spiritual reading.

Please continue to say the rosary daily.

Mass with Bishop Robert Barron
www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass

Dear Parishioners,

HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!! I must admit that I had expected to be wishing each of you a Happy Easter this, our first year together, in a quite different and more exuberant way. One of my favorite moments of priestly life is how throughout the Easter Season, the rite of sprinkling takes the place of the penitential rite at the beginning of Mass, where the priest goes around the Church and sprinkles the congregation with holy water. Not only is it a powerful reminder of our new life in Christ through Baptism, but it is also incredibly fun (I may or may not specifically target those wearing glasses!).

As we find ourselves in continued isolation, maintaining social distancing, and being careful so as not to further the spread of COVID-19, we must rejoice because Jesus Christ has risen from the dead. This central claim of Christianity is where the whole belief system of our faith hinges. In the words of St. Paul, "If Christ did not rise from the dead, then our preaching is useless and your faith is in vain" (1 Cor 15:14).

You see, God is always at work – even when He is seemingly absent. When it seemed all was lost, and the 'Son of the living God' as St. Peter confessed, the Master, the Rabbi was dead and buried and the whole enterprise of Christianity seemed over before it started – Christ was at work. The three days he lie 'asleep in death,' were not days wasted, but days where the Spirit of God was already probing the minds and hearts of the disciples, "We thought he was the one?" On the third day, the Resurrection ushered forth a whole new way of living and being human, now patterned on the teachings and life of God-man Messiah, Jesus Christ and orients us to perfect life and happiness with the Trinity forever.

What about now? Is God absent to us during this pandemic? Where is he and what is he up to? Despite some differing perspectives from spiritual gurus, let's be clear about one thing: God did not *will* the corona virus. God is perfect goodness, and it is impossible for Him to actively will anything evil. The great mystery of evil and suffering poses the question, "Then why did God allow this to happen?"

Holy Week and Easter proclaim a way to get at this mystery of suffering and evil. In a quite unforeseeable way, God used the evil of humanity, the worst of human dysfunction manifested towards Jesus in His passion, as the way to conquer evil and sin. Do we know precisely what God is doing by allowing this pandemic? No. But we do know that God is a master of drawing out an even greater good from an apparent evil, that His purposes may be accomplished. This is precisely the Easter message of Resurrection – Out of the tomb, symbolic of the enslavement to sin and its consequence...death, rises forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

As we carry you in hearts to God each day in prayer, from Fr. Joseph and myself, we wish each of you a blessed and joyful Easter!

*With Mary,
In Christ,*

Fr. Jon

EASTER MESSAGE FROM

BISHOP COYNE

“So Peter and the other disciple (John) went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in.....”

John (20:3-5)

Why did John, the beloved disciple, pause outside the tomb? Why did he wait for Peter to catch up to him and then allow Peter to go in first? After all, John is the disciple who laid his head on Jesus' chest at the Last Supper, who stood steadfast at the foot of the Cross with the Blessed Mother and the other women. Was it simply out of deference to Peter as the leader of the apostles, the one Jesus called “the rock on whom I will build my Church?” Or was it something else? Perhaps John was afraid of what he might find. If he went in and Jesus' body was there after all, the finality of it all, the ultimate end to any hope, the truth that Jesus' promise to “rise in three days” was only empty words — not an empty tomb — would perhaps have been too overwhelming. Better to not know. Better to not know. Or what if he went in, and Jesus' body was not there, if the burial cloths were strewn all around and any evidence of a corpse was gone? If there were no clumsy footprints or clues that someone else like the Romans or the temple authorities had stolen the body, then what now, what now? Where is He? What does this mean? Nothing's the same any longer! Is it true? Did He really rise like He said He would? Can I really hope that the one I loved, the one I gave my life to follow and then watched die on the Cross is alive as He said He would be? And what does all this mean for me? What do I do now? Better to not know. Better to not know. Finally, the brash and bold Peter arrives, and he goes into the tomb. The one who left his boat and everything else behind goes in and sees the burial cloths rolled up in a separate place, the one who brazenly swore that he would never betray Jesus and then did so three times. He goes in and John follows. Perhaps Peter has more to gain. Perhaps he needs to know that his thrice-voiced betrayal is

not the last of his life's encounters with the person of Jesus. Perhaps he needs the promise of the resurrection to be true more than John does. He needs to know. You and I know Jesus did rise from the dead. We may not have seen Him, glorified and resurrected as did the early Church, but we are members of that same Church of which Jesus said, “Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.” And when we hear the Easter stories proclaimed anew each year — especially this year when so much in our lives is so frightening and uncertain — we say, “Better to know... what a blessing to know.”

Yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne
Bishop of Burlington

If you wish to continue to keep up with your weekly offertory during the church closure, you can mail it to Blessed Sacrament Church, P.O. Box 27, Stowe, VT 05672

Also, you can make a one time donation or monthly offertory on E-Giving, just contact Phyllis via email (blessedsacrament@vermontcatholic.org) to sign up or call the parish office (messages are checked frequently). On our website (bscvt.com) you can also donate through paypal. Thank you so much for your generosity! May God Bless all of you and we wish you a Blessed Easter!

Please check our Facebook page for updated information and resources.