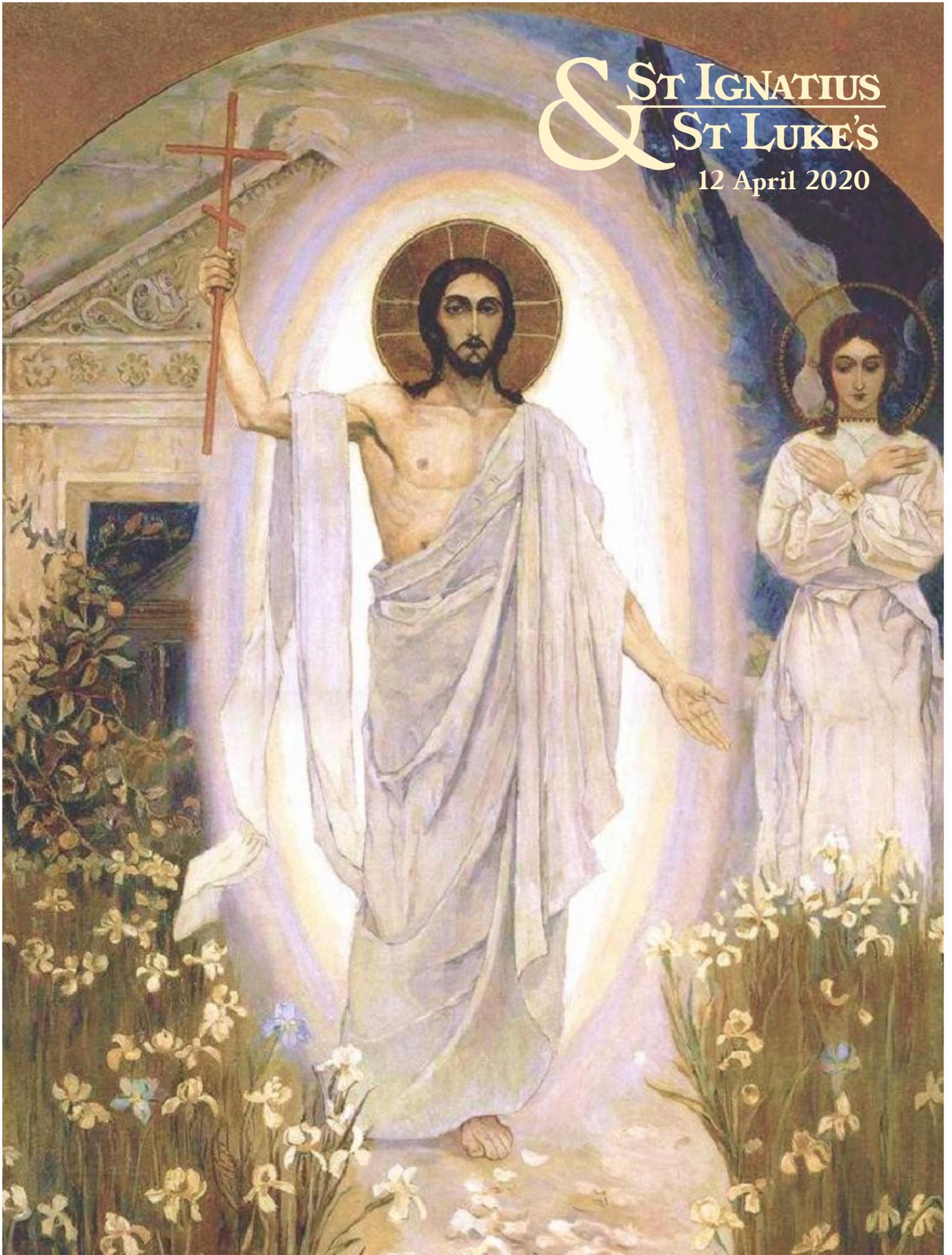


ST IGNATIUS
& ST LUKE'S
12 April 2020



SERMON FOR THE PASCHA

by St. John Chrysostom

This classic Paschal or Easter Sermon is from Saint John Chrysostom, fifth century Church Father and one of the greatest preachers of all time. This homily for Holy Pascha exhorts all, even those who have not kept the Lenten fast, to rejoice and enter into the Easter feast of the Resurrection.

If any be a devout lover of God, let him partake with gladness from this fair and radiant feast. If any be a faithful servant, let him enter rejoicing into the joy of his Lord. If any have wearied himself with fasting, let him now enjoy his reward.

If any have laboured from the first hour, let him receive today his rightful due. If any have come after the third, let him celebrate the feast with thankfulness. If any have come after the sixth, let him not be in doubt, for he will suffer no loss. If any have delayed until the ninth, let him not hesitate but draw near. If any have arrived only at the eleventh, let him not be afraid because he comes so late. For the Master is generous and accepts the last even as the first. He gives rest to him who comes at the eleventh hour in the same was as him who has laboured from the first. He accepts the deed, and commends the intention.

Enter then, all of you, into the joy of our Lord. First and last, receive alike your reward. Rich and poor, dance together. You who fasted and you who have not fasted, rejoice together. The table is fully laden: let all enjoy it. The calf is fatted: let none go away hungry. Let none lament his poverty; for the universal Kingdom is revealed. Let none bewail his transgressions; for the light of forgiveness has risen from the tomb. Let none fear death; for the death of the Saviour has set us free. He has destroyed death by undergoing death. He has despoiled hell by descending into hell. He vexed it even as it tasted of His flesh.

Isaiah foretold this when he cried:

Hell was filled with bitterness when it met Thee face to face below;

filled with bitterness, for it was brought to nothing;

filled with bitterness, for it was mocked;

filled with bitterness, for it was overthrown;

filled with bitterness, for it was put in chains.

Hell received a body, and encountered God. It received earth, and confronted heaven.

O death, where is your sting?

O hell, where is your victory?

Christ is risen! And you, o death, are annihilated!

Christ is risen! And the evil ones are cast down!

Christ is risen! And the angels rejoice!

Christ is risen! And life is liberated!

Christ is risen! And the tomb is emptied of its dead;

for Christ having risen from the dead,

is become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

To Him be Glory and Power, now and forever, and from all ages to all ages. Amen!



In the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius there is a contemplation of Jesus' appearance to His mother after the Resurrection. This meeting, though not recorded in Scripture, has been mentioned in the writings of Church Fathers since the 5th century. We know not everything that occurred is recorded in Scripture (Jn. 21:25), therefore just because it is not recorded does not mean it did not happen. As Dom Gueranger writes, in The Liturgical Year, "The Gospel does not relate the apparition thus made by Jesus to his Mother, whereas all the others are fully described. It is not difficult to assign the reason. The other apparitions were intended as proofs of the Resurrection; this to Mary was dictated by the tender love borne to her by her Son. Both nature and grace required that His first visit should be to such a Mother, and Christian hearts dwell with delight on the meditation of the mystery. There was no need of its being mentioned in the Gospel; the Tradition of the Holy Fathers, beginning with St. Ambrose, bears sufficient testimony to it; and even had they been silent, our hearts would have told it us."

Pious belief has also noted the absence of Jesus' mother on Easter morning. Why did she not go to the tomb? Why was Jesus already missing? When news of Jesus' resurrection spread amongst his followers why did Jesus' mother not follow them to the tomb? Pope St. John Paul II noted in one of his general audiences [21 May 1997]: "Indeed, it is legitimate to think that the Mother was probably the first person to whom the risen Jesus appeared. Could not Mary's absence from the group of women who went to the tomb at dawn (cf. Mk 16:1; Mt 28:1) indicate that she had already met Jesus?"

This meeting has been depicted in Christian art since the Middle Ages.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

All who are suffering or sick and all caregivers who minister to the sick: Deirdre McQuade, Danny Hart, Amy Howard, Mary Morehead and family, Curtis Bailey, Leondre Massey, Sister Constance Ward, George Cochran, Mark Anthony Turner, Rachel Fisher, Patricia Ransom, Jacqueline Chancio, Beverly A. Woods, Kerianna Prather, Victoria P.; M.M., R.M., K.M., C.M., C.A., E.D., E.G., W.B., J.M., and J.G.

*Please call or email the office to add a name to the prayer list. **Before calling, please be sure you have spoken to the person [or a member of his family] about adding the name—we do not want to inadvertently disregard someone's desire for privacy.***

Names of those who are sick or suffering will be kept on the list for one month; to keep a name on the list for longer, you must email the parish office.

MASS READINGS THIS WEEK

12 April EASTER SUNDAY

Acts 10: 34a, 37-43; Psalm 118: 1-2, 16-17, 22-23;
Colossians 3: 1-4; John 20: 1-96

13 April MONDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Acts 2: 14, 22-33; Psalm 16: 1-2a, 5, 7-11; Matthew 28: 8-15

14 April TUESDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Acts 2: 36-41; Psalm 33: 4-5, 18-20, 22; John 20: 11-18

15 April WEDNESDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Acts 3: 1-10; Psalm 105: 1-4, 6-9; Luke 24: 13-35

16 April THURSDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Acts 3: 11-26; Psalm 8: 2ab, 5-9; Luke 24: 35-48

17 April FRIDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Acts 4: 1-12; Psalm 118: 1-2, 4, 22-27a; John 21: 1-14

18 April SATURDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Acts 4: 13-21; Psalm 118: 14-15b, 16-21; Mark 16: 9-15

19 April SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER, *Divine Mercy Sunday*

Acts 2: 42-47; Psalm 118: 2-4, 13-15, 22-24;
1 Peter 1: 3-9; John 20: 19-31

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, 11 April

THE EASTER VIGIL

Pro populo

Sunday, 12 April

EASTER SUNDAY

Pro populo

Monday, 13 April

MONDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Pro populo

Tuesday, 14 April

TUESDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Pro populo

Wednesday, 15 April

WEDNESDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Pro populo

Thursday, 16 April

THURSDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Pro populo

Friday, 17 April

FRIDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Pro populo

Saturday, 18 April

SATURDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Pro populo

Sunday, 19 April

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER, *called Low Sunday*

Pro populo

Fr. Vidal will be saying private masses daily until the coronavirus protocols permit public celebration once more. Mass intentions will therefore be covered.

St. Ignatius Finance Council

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Jackie Chancio

Deacon Clark Glenn

Joseph Somerville

Clifford Woods

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Pastor, St. Luke's

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Connie Somerville

Patrick Delaney - *ex officio*

Susan White - *ex officio*

St. Luke's Finance Council

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