



Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

April 4, 2021



# EASTER SUNDAY

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**WEEKEND MASSES:  
SATURDAYS AT 5PM  
SUNDAYS AT 10:30AM**

**DAILY MASSES:  
TUESDAYS &  
THURSDAYS 8AM**

**RECONCILIATION:  
SATURDAYS 3:30 - 4:30PM**

**HOLY HOUR:  
WEDNESDAYS 6 - 7PM**

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**THE PARISH OFFICES  
ARE CLOSED UNTIL  
FURTHER NOTICE.**

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Marc Horner

## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, April 3**

7:00pm: Parishioners of Immaculate  
Conception Parish

**Sunday, April 4**

8:00am: Parishioners of Immaculate  
Conception Parish  
10:30am: Parishioners of Immaculate  
Conception Parish

**Monday, April 5**

8:00am: Rev. David Cortesi

**Tuesday, April 6**

8:00am: Rose Mastro

**Wednesday, April 7**

8:00am: Jerome M. Stachniw

**Thursday, April 8**

7:00pm: Romano Bacci

**Friday, April 9**

Sonya Lamarr

**Saturday, April 10**

8:00am: Deceased Parishioners of  
Immaculate Conception Parish  
5:00pm: Silvio Nudo  
Jay Rubin

**Sunday, April 11**

10:30am: Parishioners of Immaculate  
Conception Parish  
Anna Cortesi  
Margaret Vena  
Romano Bacci

**CALLING ALL GARDEN ENTHUSIASTS**

We are in need of volunteers to help with the Meditation Garden. The plan is to help beautify and maintain this garden throughout the season. What a great way to bring our IC community together outdoors, observing current restrictions.



We will be beginning this project the week after Easter. Please consider giving your time, resources and gardening talent for this project. You don't have to be a gardener to participate.

All ages are welcome. Confirmation students will have an opportunity for service hours.

If you are interested, please contact Midge Berardi.  
midgeberardi@comcast.net or 224-619-5864

## Father Mike's Homiletter – April 4, 2021 Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

*Happy Easter!* When we started our preparation for today's feast in February, our world was covered in white, seemingly lifeless under a frozen blanket. Lent was looking long indeed. Yet here we are at Easter – with several inches of blade-shaped green serving notice that the daffodils will soon be trumpeting the arrival of spring. What looked lifeless was actually, silently, preparing not only to come to life, but to burst into it with energy and enthusiasm.

This last year has made us focus more intently on the “normal”. So much of what we take for granted, what had become a habit, was suddenly canonized as “normal” when it was taken away. Much of life resembled winter, regardless of the calendar. Of course, the normal can be positive – something that makes habitual those actions and words which lubricate the gears of everyday life, saying “please” and “thank you,” having a routine in the grocery store, organizing the weekend around a particular Mass. But if we allow “normal” to become a current taking control of us, it can be more like sand in the daily grind of life.

Jesus understood the value of normal: He enjoyed parties like the wedding at Cana; He understood the dangers of the sea faced by His fishermen disciples; He valued the familiar friendship of Mary, Martha and Lazarus; He understood the sorrow and hardship faced by the widow of Nain when her son died (as He would understand that of His own mother); He “normally” kept the Sabbath and worshipped in the synagogue. Yet He did not let the “normal” become a straight-jacket which prevented Him from doing good – which sometimes meant thinking “outside the box” as we would say today. In changing water to wine, He understood the predictable embarrassment of the host, but His generosity trumped the usual practice of serving the best wine first. In calming the sea, He encouraged Peter to walk to Him on the water. In comforting Mary and Martha on the death of their brother and empathizing with the grieving widow, He restored their loved ones to life, rather than merely offering the usual sympathies. In worshipping at the synagogue and at the Temple in Jerusalem, He saw the real purpose of worship – to give glory to God – rather than to preserve rules and regulations, positions of authority, and insure comfortability for those in power. Jesus got in a lot of trouble because He didn't do “normal” they way others thought He should.

But Jesus' failure to do the “normal” is our salvation. His “abnormal” willingness to suffer and die for our sake in His humanity has given us the opportunity to rise with Him in His divinity. The Gospel accounts of His public life record the normal and the not-so-normal ways Jesus responded to the unfair and unjust, the distorted and the so-called perfect, the happy and the sad, the fearful and the confident. And underneath and behind all of the Gospels is Jesus infusing life into all who would accept it.

Today, we celebrate Jesus' resurrection from a death imposed by the “normal,” by fear of His life-giving message. He gave everything He had in His humanity, and promised to be with us still, telling His disciples to go to Galilee, where He would see them again. He is telling them to go back to where it all began, with their new understanding born of their experience of Him, and go forward again from there. He has given them a new “normal” – as He has given us a new normal. Every year, we can go back to the beginning, and start again with a new understanding of the Easter message and of Jesus' love for us. Christ is risen, alleluia!

I wish you all peace and joy in your new beginning.

Father Mike

## THANK YOU

Heartfelt   
**THANKS**  
**TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!**

Thank you to all of our volunteers for your dedication to Immaculate Conception Parish. Your actions help make our community a safer place. We are incredibly grateful for and humbled by your continued efforts, and we want you to know that your work has not gone unnoticed, and we could not do it without you!!

Thank you, to all Immaculate Conception Parishioners who have come back to in-person Mass or are watching at home. We are a joyful, loving community that supports one another and inspires others to seek an encounter with our Lord. This is why we are called together as a parish family.

*Thank  
you*

**We cannot give up  
in the face of evil.  
God is Love and he has  
defeated evil through  
Christ's death and  
resurrection.**

— Pope Francis —

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**LET US  
*rejoice*  
AND BE  
*glad.***  
PSALM 118

# Support Your Parish this EASTER

Christ is Risen, He is Risen Indeed! Our Lord conquers death and despair and gives us an eternal source of life and hope. Alleluia!

Our Lenten journey together now gives way to an Easter joy that is meant to be shared with the world around us. Just as with the sending forth after every Mass, we are called to go forth as a joyful, loving community that inspires others to seek an encounter with our Risen Lord.

Your Easter gifts are an important part of bringing our parish's mission to life. The contributions of parishioners during the Easter season constitute a sizable portion of our annual budget to fund vital ministries and areas of operation for our parish.

Prayerfully consider making a one-time Easter gift to ensure that our parish ministries and operations can continue. You can send your gift to our parish office, or online at <https://www.givecentral.org/location/109/event/1294>.

Please know that you are a gift to our Immaculate Conception family. Your presence, whether in spirit or in person, mean more to our local Church than you can imagine.

## What's in Your Closet?



### PLEASE DONATE:

Your barely used, freshly laundered or dry cleaned men's and women's designer apparel, accessories, fine jewelry, handbags, and shoes to Catholic Charities Encore Fundraiser to benefit Mary's Closet!

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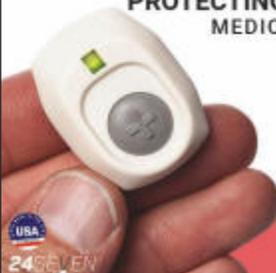
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# Happy EASTER

**Dear Parishioners,**

**Christ is Risen! Alleluia! The past year has been difficult for all of us and we have lost much, but we have not been deprived of our faith. God has been with us in thousands of ways, many of them unnoticed: the note or phone call which arrived at exactly the moment we needed a lift, the negative test after exposure to Covid-19, the discovery of vaccines, the many essential workers who have taken risks for the benefit of others. For some, He has been present to console them in moments of sorrow.**

**Easter celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from physical death at the hands of those who didn't know Him. But Jesus knew them, and He knows every one of us – deeply, completely, and delightedly. As we celebrate Easter this year, let us remember we are not re-enacting the events of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Rather, we are celebrating the redemption they herald, and responding to the call to conversion to the ways of our Savior as it is happening in our lives today. In doing so, we can anticipate the joy of eternal life with Him. As we celebrate Christ's Resurrection and grow in our understanding of what it means for us, let us also resolve to do all that we can to deepen our relationship to our Risen Savior.**

**On behalf of all the Parish staff, I wish you all a happy and blessed Easter!**

**Yours in Christ,**

**Father Michael F. McMahon**

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