



*He is not here:*

for he is risen, as he said.

Come, see the place  
where the Lord lay.

Matthew 28:6

CHRIST *is* RISEN

**MASS INTENTIONS****SATURDAY, April 3rd**

7:30 pm Easter Vigil

**EASTER SUNDAY, April 4th**

8am Easter

10am Easter

**MONDAY, April 5th**

8:00 Paul &amp; Sue Leger by their children

**TUESDAY, April 6th**8:00 Rene, Henry, Lillian & Richard Brousseau  
by Jane Brousseau**WEDNESDAY, April 7th**

8:00 Manuel Francisco Costa by Maria Costa

**THURSDAY, April 8th**

8:00 Rosalie Mezzanotti by husband Robert

**SATURDAY, April 10th**4:00 Ronald "Pete" LeBlanc (b'day) by wife Carol  
& family

4:00 Alfred &amp; Cecile Lamoureux by the family

4:00 Paula Goodchild Gastonguay by Deacon Jim  
& Ruth Couture

4:00 Roger Leger by Deacon Jim &amp; Ruth Couture

4:00 Alice Caron by Pete &amp; Brenda

4:00 Domingos Carreiro by the family

4:00 Richard Isabelle by David &amp; Gale

4:00 Richard "Dick" Isabelle by cousin Susan  
& family4:00 James Gilbert (b'day) by Camilla Gilbert  
& family**SUNDAY, April 11th**7:00 Conrad Boudreau by Maurice & Patricia  
Boudreau

9:00 Freddie Niles by Deacon Jim &amp; Ruth Couture

11:00 Everett &amp; David McNamara by wife &amp; mom

**Divine Mercy Sunday Devotions**

All are welcome to join  
Annunciation Parish in  
Celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday  
on April 11th at Holy Rosary  
Church 135 Nichols St. in  
Gardner. Confessions will be  
heard from 2 until 3. The Chaplet  
of Divine Mercy will be prayed at  
3 p.m.

**St. Cecilia Parish** will host a  
**Chicken Fricot Lenten Supper**  
**Take Out Only** on Wednesday,  
March 31 from 4 to 6:30 PM (or  
until we run out) in the Parish  
Center at 190 Mechanic Street in  
Leominster. Light supper in-  
cludes 16oz. bowl of chicken fricot  
with bread and dessert. A \$6  
suggested donation, all proceeds  
to benefit the St. Vincent de Paul  
Society. All are welcome.

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation** will  
be heard Mon - Thur mornings by  
appointment only.

**Sunday Collection:**

The weekly collection for the weekend of 3/6 & 3/7  
was:

Sunday Collection: \$2392.00 Fuel: \$98.00

Cap. Imp.: \$268.00

Church in Latin America: \$55.00

**The Easter Praise of Christ** We should understand, beloved, that the paschal mystery is at once old and new, transitory and eternal, corruptible and incorruptible, mortal and immortal. In terms of the Law it is old, in terms of the Word it is new. In its figure it is passing, in its grace it is eternal. It is corruptible in the sacrifice of the lamb, incorruptible in the eternal life of the Lord. It is mortal in his burial in the earth, immortal in his resurrection from the dead.

The Law indeed is old, but the Word is new. The type is transitory, but grace is eternal. The lamb was corruptible, but the Lord is incorruptible. He was slain as a lamb; he rose again as God. *He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, yet he was not a sheep. He was silent as a lamb, yet he was not a lamb.* The type has passed away; the reality has come. The lamb gives place to God, the sheep gives place to a man, and the man is Christ, who fills the whole of creation. The sacrifice of the lamb, the celebration of the Passover, and the prescriptions of the Law have been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Under the old Law, and still more under the new dispensation, everything pointed toward him. Both the Law and the Word came forth from Zion and Jerusalem, but now the Law has given place to the Word, the old to the new. The commandment has become grace, the type a reality. The lamb has become a Son, the sheep a man, and man, God. The Lord, though he was God, became man. He suffered for the sake of those who suffer, he was bound for those in bonds, condemned for the guilty, buried for those who lie in the grave; but he rose from the dead, and cried aloud: *Who will contend with me? Let him confront me.* I have freed the condemned, brought the dead back to life, raised men from their graves. Who has anything to say against me? I, he said, am the Christ; I have destroyed death, triumphed over the enemy, trampled hell underfoot, bound the strong one, and taken men up to the heights of heaven: I am the Christ. Come, then, all you nations of men, receive forgiveness for the sins that defile you. I am your forgiveness. I am the Passover that brings salvation. I am the lamb who was immolated for you. I am your ransom, your life, your resurrection, your light, I am your salvation and your king. I will bring you to the heights of heaven. With my own right hand I will raise you up, and I will show you the eternal Father. From an Easter homily by Melito of Sardis, bishop

## Easter 2021

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Imagine the joy of Christ's grieving followers gathered in the Upper Room when on Easter the Risen Lord suddenly appeared and said, "Peace be with you." Their joy and peace at Christ's Victory must have been unbounded as they recognized Him in their presence.

But not all of Christ's followers shared that joy. Saint Thomas, who was absent, experienced not joy but doubt. Two other disciples after hearing of Christ's Resurrection, instead of immediately joining the others, departed Jerusalem and were downcast. Even when Jesus drew near and spoke to them of the Scriptures, they did not recognize Him. Only in the breaking of the bread (the Eucharist) did they recognize Him. Only then did they return to Jerusalem to join the disciples assembled in the Upper Room and share in the joy of Easter.

On this Easter Sunday, after a year of COVID isolation, when we seek peace and joy amidst doubts and losses we can profitably reflect on the importance of gathering at the Eucharist. As Jesus came to the disciples gathered together in Jerusalem so, too, He is most present to us, not in our individual reflections upon the Scriptures, but when the Scriptures and Eucharist are celebrated at Mass.

It has been a long year with necessary and prudent precautions keeping many of us from Sunday Mass. Given the extraordinary circumstances of the COVID pandemic, personal prayer, reading the Scriptures and watching the Mass live-streamed have been prudent choices for many. However, such choices are all inferior to being present at Sunday Mass and receiving the Holy Eucharist, which the Second Vatican Council proclaimed as the source and summit of the Church. Like St. Thomas and the disciples on the road to Emmaus, it is harder to recognize Jesus, ward off doubts and avoid being downcast by the trials and tragedies of life when we are not nourished by the Eucharist at Sunday Mass.

As signs of progress in the COVID pandemic begin to give way to hope for a return to a more normal life, and as vaccines become more widely available, it may be time to begin to consider prayerfully a return to Sunday Mass. Certainly, everyone needs to consult family and doctors and use prudence taking into account one's own circumstances and health. Our parishes will continue to require masks and social distancing and employ sanitary precautions. As society moves towards reopening, may the Holy Spirit guide you, along with prudent medical advice, in your consideration about coming back to Sunday Mass in the weeks and months ahead.

With every prayerful best wish for a joyous Easter, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus  
Bishop of Worcester

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