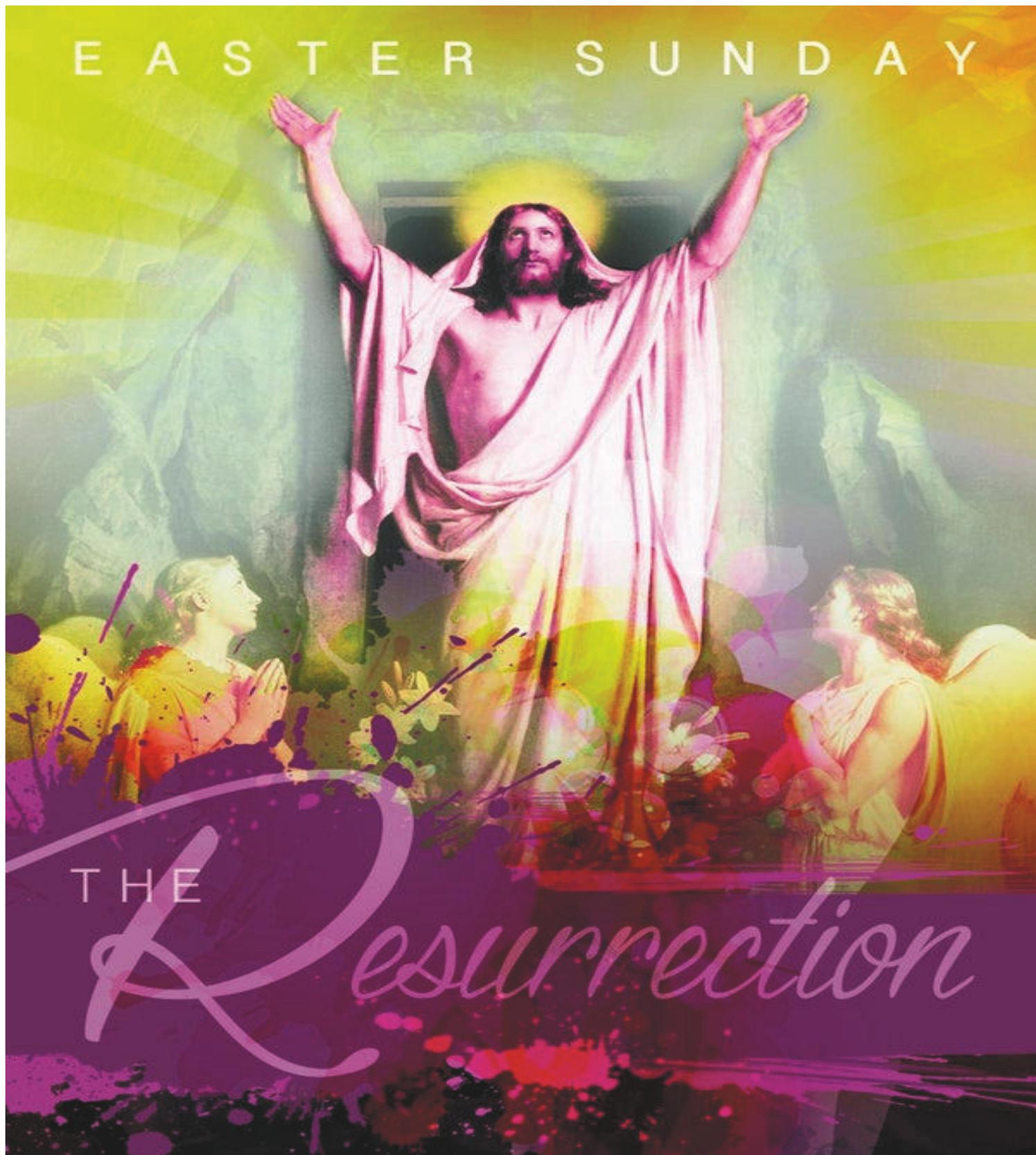


***The Parish Family of
Saint Mary of Czestochowa Church***

Rectory: 79 South Main Street, Middletown, CT 06457

Church Entrance: 28 Hubbard Street (GPS Directions)



Easter Sunday~ April 4, 2021

Mass Intentions

Saturday 12:30 pm 7:30 pm	<u>April 3~Holy Saturday</u> Blessing of the Food For the Intentions of Those Committed to Our Prayers
Sunday 7:30 am (Polish) 10:30 am	<u>April 4~Easter</u> For the Intentions of Those Committed to Our Prayers For the Intentions of Those Committed to Our Prayers
Monday 7:30 am	<u>April 5</u> NO MASS
Wednesday 7:00 pm	<u>April 7</u> +John Russo Offered by His Sister Annmarie Ruel, Brother-in-Law Ray & Nieces Michelle & Melissa
Thursday 7:00 pm	<u>April 8</u> + Anna Kendrek Offered By Kathy & Walt Kendrek
Friday 7:00 pm	<u>April 9</u> +Mary & Helene Pawelczak Offered By Mary Pawelczak
Saturday 3:15 pm 4:00 pm	<u>April 10</u> Confessions +Eugene Dunn Offered By His Loving Family
Sunday 8:30 am (Polish) 10:30 am 3:00 pm	<u>April 11~ Divine Mercy Sunday</u> +Adam Wilczynski Offered By His Loving Parents +Henry Tomaszewski 33rd Anniversary of His Passing Offered By Lea & Tippi Tomaszewski Divine Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Pray for your intentions through the intercessions of St. Jude, patron saint of difficulties and desperate cases.



Saint Mary of Czestochowa Church invites you to join us in praying the Saint Jude Novena every Wednesday at 7:00 pm, and concluding on April 14, 2021.

Weekly Collections

March 27-28

Due to an early publication deadline, offertory amounts will be reported at a future date.

stmarymiddletown.com/donate

Thank you for your generosity!

Rectory News

The Rectory will be CLOSED
Good Friday, April 2, and Monday, April 5
in observance of Easter.
There will NOT be a Mass celebrated on Monday.

If you wish to reserve masses or a Tabernacle candle for loved ones, please email or mail your list of intentions to the rectory office.

office@stmarymiddletown.com
79 Main St. Middletown, CT 06457

The Sanctuary Lamp

April 4-11

Is Lit in Prayer for

The Sliwinski Family





Easter Message, 2021

“The two recounted what had taken place on the way and how He was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.” Luke 24:35

MOST REVEREND
MICHAEL R. COTE, D.D.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Lord,

One of the most interesting and often puzzling aspects about the appearances of our Lord after His resurrection is that in most cases, those to whom He appears fail to recognize Him. Mary Magdalen, the Apostles, and the two disciples on the road to Emmaus all fail to recognize that it is Jesus with whom they are speaking, at first. The ways in which the Lord reveals His identity to them through these interactions can teach us about the power of the Resurrection, as well as give us some food for thought about our own encounters with the Risen Lord who continues to make His presence known to us!

In the particular appearance to the disciples journeying on the Road to Emmaus, Jesus draws near and begins to speak with them. St. Luke, who narrates the account for us, includes an interesting detail: “their eyes were prevented from recognizing him...” (Lk 24:16b) This sounds like Jesus deliberately concealed his identity from them. The Lord likewise seemed to conceal Himself or His intentions twice more throughout the interaction – both when He asked why they appeared to be upset, and when He “pretended” that He is going to continue His journey beyond the town itself. This can sound somewhat shocking to us: why would Jesus do that? The answer is that He wanted to inspire and strengthen their faith, not simply give an “easy” answer to their longing and questions. In other words, He had a deeper purpose in remaining “hidden” to them for the time being.

Jesus asked these disciples to recount what had taken place in Jerusalem so that He, the Word made flesh, could explain and break open the Word of God for them. Jesus gave the impression of going on farther so that, at supper, when the Lord took the bread, said the blessing, broke and gave it to them, the disciples would recognize Jesus in the Most Holy Eucharist – the way the Risen Lord Jesus has chosen to remain with us until the end of time, hidden to our senses, under the humble appearances of bread and wine!

What does this mean for us? By reflecting on this resurrection appearance on the first Easter as recounted in the Gospel, we too are called to recognize that although the Lord Jesus may be hidden from our physical eyes, it is the very same risen Lord who is present to us when we read Holy Scripture and gather together to celebrate the Holy Eucharist. This begs an important question: Do we really believe this? Do we not only live, but orient our lives, i.e., prioritize how we live and use the time we have been given us in a way that acknowledges this profound reality?

It seems that we are also reminded that when we are downcast because of the situation of our lives, wearied as we have been throughout the past year due to the ongoing pandemic for example, Jesus draws near and speaks words of comfort and hope to us. Sometimes Jesus conceals his presence among us as a way to challenge us to deepen our faith in Him, and in His enduring presence among us in both Word and Sacrament. But dear brothers and sisters, once we do recognize Him and encounter the power of His presence, most of all in the Holy Eucharist, we, like those first disciples, are called to go forth and tell others so that they might believe that Jesus is real; that He is alive; that He is truly risen, and that He continues to make Himself, and the redeeming grace He won for us present in so many ways!

Please be assured of my prayerful closeness to you all, particularly in these challenging times. May you and your loved ones have a truly blessed and grace-filled Easter!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Norwich

TODAY
IS THE DAY OF
ALLELUIA

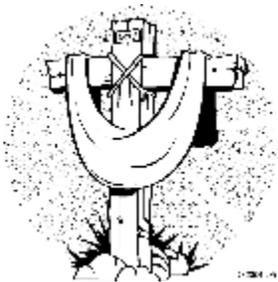


Alleluia!

The exclamation rings out across the land, and we who are disciples of Jesus Christ pause to reflect on the reality that he rose from the grave and, in turn, conquered death. In today's colleges and universities, in pulpits of every denomination, and in books and journals, there are those who say it is unimportant whether or not he really rose from the dead. They say that the facts do not impact the moral of the story. Of course, two thousand years of Christianity give evidence that they are incorrect. What the faithful of many generations have experienced and given testimony to is not something built on an idea. It is not a philosophy or a self-help psychology.

The church is a direct result of real events in the course of human history. Without those real events, we simply follow a man who showed us a different way to live. Instead, we follow a God who emptied himself into a human form, suffered the pain of torture and death at the hands of those he had created, and then shattered the chains of death so that we in our human form may follow suit. Today, humanity is redeemed. It is time to face the facts!

Easter Prayer of Thanksgiving



Good and gracious heavenly Father,
we come before you on this
Easter Sunday
with full and grateful hearts
for the gift of
the Paschal Mystery that you
showed us in the life, death,
and resurrection of your Son,
our brother by adoption,
Jesus Christ.

Bless us and all those who profess belief in
your saving love.

Bless also those who have yet to profess belief in you.
You are God for all.

We ask all this in Christ's name. Amen.



*One Faith
One Family*

Thank you for your prayers and generosity.

In 2020 our parish goal was \$24,622.

We achieved 78.71%, or \$19,379.13.

This year's goal is \$22,867.

In making your gift, please consider the following options:
check, pledge, credit card, electronic funds transfer,
online giving, and matching gifts through employers.

Pledge envelopes are located in the church foyer.

Please call **860-866-1928** or visit
www.norwichdiocesedevelopment.org for details
All gifts to the ACA must be completed by 12/31/2021

Easter Remembrances Masses



Please remember your loved ones,
both living and deceased, at the

Easter Vigil Mass

(April 3, at 7:30pm) and

Easter Sunday Masses

(April 4, at 7:30 & 10:30 am).

Additional envelopes are available in the church foyer.

Please deposit in any collection basket.



April 11 at 3pm,

a sung Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

This live event will be streamed from the
Cathedral of Saint Patrick and can be viewed on the
Diocesan website - **NorwichDiocese.org/Masses**

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