Our Lady of Peace Church





My dear friends,

An Easter of unity, love and service

I wish you, your family and friends a blessed Easter! May the risen Lord enlighten your faith, strengthen your hope, and help you to grow in charity.

Our Easter decorations have a couple of unique items this year. Since our Diocese is observing the Year of the Eucharist, we have kept the Eucharistic symbols of grapes, wheat and ciborium (the vessel that contains the consecrated hosts) near the Easter candle. We have also added a hand carved image of the Madonna and Child to the display. The sacred image was hand-carved in Ukraine, and serves as a reminder to keep the suffering people of Ukraine in our minds and hearts, asking that the light of Easter may penetrate the darkness of cruelty and evil, still so prevalent in our world.

On the night before he suffered, Jesus celebrated a final meal, the Last Supper, with his disciples. According to the Gospel of John, there were two themes, two central aspects of his teaching, that Jesus wanted to set indelibly in the minds of his followers. The first theme is unity. Jesus prayed, "I do not pray for them alone [those immediately at table with him], I pray also for those who will believe in me through their word, that all may be one as you, Father, are in me, and I in you; I pray that they may be one in us, that the world may believe that you sent me" (John 17:20-21). Thus, unity with God and with one another is united to the mission we have received. Our oneness in mind and heart, our concern for one another, our willingness to carry one another's burdens—these make our message authentic. Our desire to love, even with all our differences, makes our message of love authentic because we strive to live it and make it real.

The other theme is so central to Jesus' message that it is acted out in the washing of feet. We read in the Gospel of John, "Jesus—fully aware that he had come from God and was going to God, the Father who had handed everything over to him—rose from the meal and took off his cloak. He picked up a towel and tied it around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet and dry them with the towel he had around him." And just so the disciples would not miss the point, Jesus goes on to explain, "Do you understand what I just did for you? You address me as 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and fittingly enough, for that is what I am. But if I washed your feet—I who am Teacher and Lord—then you must wash each other's feet. What I just did was to give you an example: as I have done, so you must do" (see John 13:1-17).

Thus, unity and service, Jesus' final instructions, are to be at the heart of who we are as Christians. At Easter we celebrate the very heart of our faith: the dying and rising of Jesus, the Resurrection from the dead in which we participate. The sacred image from Ukraine, part of our Easter symbolism this year, reminds us that the Light of Easter still needs to be brought into the darkness of our world. Because of our Lord's oneness with the human race, his crucifixion still goes on, in Ukraine and many other places of war, cruelty, poverty and hate. And so, Easter is not only something to be remembered. It is a reality that continues to be lived.

For two years now, the world has been struggling with the Covid pandemic. Some time ago, I was struck by an article that reported that the virus was found in hippopotamuses. I thought that, if a hippo could get it, and I could get it, there really is a connectedness in our world—a connectedness of disease. And indeed, in every part of the world we have all been susceptible, we have all experienced fear, isolation, illness and death. We have learned that, often, those who can easily be overlooked are in fact essential for our survival. The pandemic has taught us that we need each other. And now, the cruelty of the war in Ukraine has brought much of the world together in concern, in outrage, and in the need to help our suffering brothers and sisters. Indeed, our world needs Easter more than ever! And so, let us do all we can to live Easter by bringing its light into the darkness, by doing what we can to overcome evil with love, division with unity, and suffering with humble service. May you have a blessed Easter!



Deanery-Wide Divine Mercy Sunday Celebration

The Franklin County Deanery will sponsor a Divine Mercy Celebration at Blessed Sacrament Church, Greenfield, on Sunday, **April 24**. The Service will include Benediction, Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Novena Prayer. All Catholic Churches in Franklin County will be participating. Fr. Douglas McGonagle will be the Celebrant and Fr. Valentine Nworah will preach. **Please save the date!** Confessions will be available 1:45-2:45P. The celebration will begin at 3:00P. PARISH COMMUNITY OF OUR LADY OF PEACE • TURNERS FALLS, MA

APRIL 17, 2022

Weekly Mass Intentions

Saturda	y, April 16-Holy Saturday Easter Vigil
8:00P	Freddie & Lorraine Muzyka
	by Wanda & Stephanie and fami
Sunday,	April 17-EASTER
8:00A	Deceased members of the Prunier family
	by Paul
10:00A	Jill Mackin Betters
	by the Eichorn family
Saturda	y, April 23
8:00P	Agnes Dobosz
	by Joanna Saunders
Sunday,	April 24
	Josie Modzelewski
	by Michelle Turner
10:00A	Frank Galvis 5th anniversary
	by Jackie & Mark
DAIL	YMASS
Monday	r, April 18
8:00A	No Mass
Tuesday	7, April 19
8:00A	No Mass
Wednes	day, April 20
8:00A	Allan A die, Sr. 10th anniversary
	by his family
	ny, April 21
8:00A	Dean & Charlene Letourneau

by the Creek family

Holy Communion Service

Friday, April 22

8:00A



Having fun making Easter gingerbread houses

RECTORY will be closed Easter Monday, April 18.

Parish Scholarships, funded by the estate of the late Rev. James W. Casey, are now being offered: two for parishioners who are graduating from high school, four for those who are already in college. **Each scholarship is in the amount of \$1,500.00.** Application forms are in the sacristy, or you may call the rectory 413 863.2585.



What determines the date of Easter each year?

Easter falls on the first Sunday after the Full Moon date, that falls on or after March 21. If the Full Moon is on a Sunday, Easter is celebrated on the following Sunday.



The Tyler brothers volunteer to distribute brown bag meals to the guests at the Monday Community Meals.

We encourage you to continue bringing in donations at the weekend Masses to supplement the food stuff from the W. Mass Food Bank. With rising costs, needy families are even more stretched out when going to the grocery store. Our parish is known for its helpful outreach to our neighbors!

PARISH COLLECTIONS
For the weekend of April 10Weekly \$3,146.00On-line \$1,167.00Thank you for you continuing generous support.A SPECIAL THANK YOU FOR ALL WHO
CONTRIBUTED TO THE ANNUAL APPEAL!

OUR LADY'S WINDOW April 17 Ted Croteau by Marie & children April 19 Barbara Sevene

Barbara Sevene by her family **April 20** Allan Adie, Sr. 10th anniversary by his family **April 21** Kim York

IT'S ALMOST HERE! 6th ANNUAL STASH BASH Saturday, April 23 9:00A-1:00P in the church hall

April 21 Kim York by JoAnn



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