

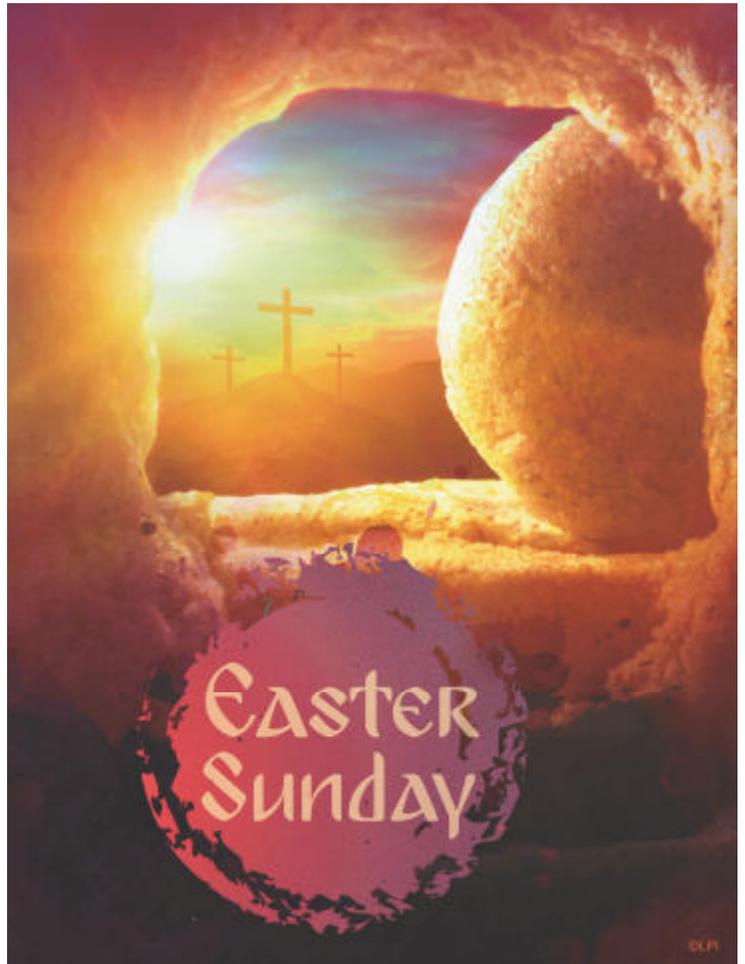
Our Lady of the Assumption Church

Osterville, Massachusetts

76 Wianno Avenue
Osterville, MA 02655

Telephone 508-428-2011
Fax 508-428-0154
www.assumption-capecod.org

Parish Office Hours
Monday - Friday
8:30 am - 3:00 pm
Closed 12:30pm-1:30pm



Administrator Rev. Msgr. John A. Perry

Parochial Vicars Rev. Matthew Gill
Rev. Sudhir Nayak

Deacons Deacon James M. Barrett
Deacon Keith R. Caldwell
Deacon Theodore E. Lukac

Director of Music

Dot Lortie, 508-771-1029; lortie@comcast.net

Director of Altar Guild Linda M. Gademan

Director of Faith Formation—GIFT

Bill Bussiere, 508-775-5744,x119;
Billb@olvparish.org

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Jim Hines, President; Meets the first Tuesday of the month in the Church basement at 5:00pm

Our Lady's Guild

Rosalyn Doran and Nuala Quinn, Co-Presidents
76 Wianno Avenue, Osterville, MA 02655

Knights of Columbus

Bill Shinnick, 901-299-2024

Bulletin Submissions

Notices must be received two Thursdays (nine days) prior to publication date. Listings subject to editing. Send to: kim@olvparish.org

Celebration of the Eucharist

See pre-registration details in the bulletin

Saturday, Vigil, 4pm

Sunday, 9am and 11am

Daily Mass: Monday-Friday at 8am

Masses will continue to be Livestreamed on
olvparish.org

Confessions: Saturdays from 3pm to 3:40pm in the Parish Annex building. Please enter through the Annex and be seated at an appropriate distance from others as you wait for the Sacrament.



OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION

Holy Saturday
7pm Easter Vigil*

Easter Sunday*
8am, 10am and Noon

April 5-9

Mon 8am For the Parish
Tues 8am Elizabeth Garvey Olsen
Wed 8am Virginia "Ginger" Stimets
Thurs 8am Special Intention
Fri 8am Celeste Elizabeth O'Keeffe and
Richard O'Keeffe

April 10-11

Sat 4pm Virginia "Ginger" Stimets
Sun 9am Edmund Connolly, Jr.
11am Rosemary MacKinnon

OUR LADY OF VICTORY

Holy Saturday
9am Morning Prayer
7pm Easter Vigil*

Easter Sunday* 7am, 9am, 9:05am, 11am, 11:05am

April 5-10

Mon 9am Sheila Murphy
Tues 9am Mary A. Keating
Wed 9am Betty Anne Riley
Thurs 9am John McBride
Fri 9am Special Intention
Sat 9am Community Mass
Grace Carney; Helen P. Johnson

April 10-11

Sat 4:30pm Maura Hitzenbuhler
Sun 9am People of the Parish
11am Paul and Barbara Dias
5:30pm Anne Miano

ALL ARE WELCOME

No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church, no matter what your current family and marital situation, no matter what your personal history, age, background, race, etc., no matter what your own self image; you are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved and respected here.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

We are blessed at Our Lady of the Assumption, Our Lady of Victory and at Our Lady of Hope to have thoughtful, generous parishioners who support the good works of our faith community with their time, talent and treasure. Thank you for your spiritual and financial commitment to our Parishes.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Easter Sunday: At OLV and OLA: Retired and Infirm Priests. The collection helps provide much-needed medical and emergency support for retired and infirm priests. Your generosity for our retired and infirmed priests who have dedicated their active ministry years to the tireless care of the Archdiocese is greatly appreciated.

At OLA: The funds collected at the second collection this week will be used towards the **Diocesan Assessment**. The monthly Assessment for OLV is \$9498; OLH: \$526 and OLA: \$4288.

Electronic Giving

We understand this is a challenging time. If your means allow and you would like to mail your offering to the parish office, we are still checking our mail each day. We are also pleased to offer WeShare as a method to contribute electronically.

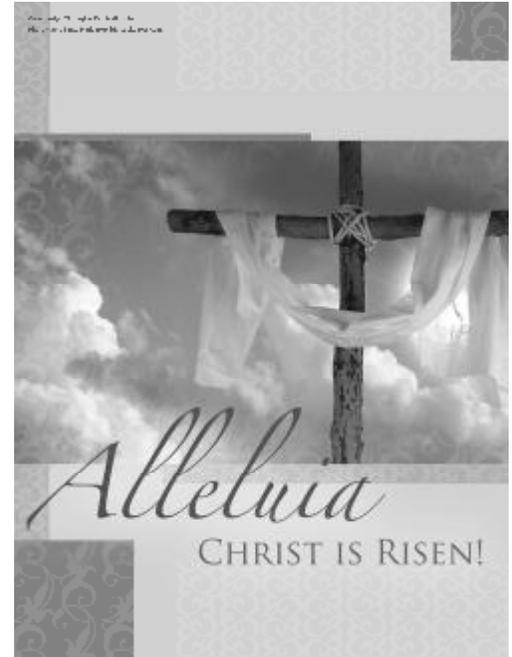
Visit our website:

<https://www.assumption-capecod.org/>
and see link to the We Share at the bottom of the homepage. *Thank you.*



Jesus Christ is Risen Today, Alleluia

In December of last year, during the four weeks of Advent, everyone was invited to follow the star in the sky to Bethlehem. On Christmas Eve we entered that little town and found the cave on the hillside with the new born Christ Child. Since then, we have listened to the Sunday Gospels telling us about the public life of Jesus leading us on another journey this time to Jerusalem not Bethlehem. At Christmas it was a star. At Easter we experience blazing blinding light because “Jesus Christ is Risen Today, Alleluia.”



For the past three days, we have walked with Jesus along the streets of Jerusalem. On Thursday evening we participated in the Last Supper at the feast of Passover. We heard the words: “this is my Body take and eat, this is my blood take and drink.” The Eucharist is the gift of Jesus as the daily food for our journey.

On Friday, we walked with Jesus up the hillside of Golgatha and watched him be crucified as a common criminal. “Were you there when they crucified my Lord.” Jesus becomes the Lamb of God that is sacrificed for all of us. We are invited to go to Golgatha and present our sins to Him. He receives all of our personal sins and debts and marks them Paid In Full with His own Blood.

Today, we walked with the women and discovered the empty tomb. Jesus, as He promised, has risen from the dead. For the past six weeks of Lent, we have prepared with our own personal activities for this day. We have read the scriptures, attended services virtually or live stream and other self- denials.

Congratulations on completing this Lenten Season and being closer to Jesus on your journey than you were on Ash Wednesday. On behalf of Fr. Matt, Fr. Sudhir, the visiting priests as well as the entire staffs at OLA and OLV may you have a Blessed Easter filled with the Resurrected Christ. All God’s blessings on you and your family. Continue to be well and remain safe.

Sincerely,

Msgr. Perry

First Reading Acts 10:34a, 37-43

Peter proceeded to speak and said:
“You know what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.
We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Responsorial Psalm

Refrain: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Second Reading Col 3:1-4

Brothers and sisters:
If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.



Sequence Victimae paschali laudes

Christians, to the Paschal Victim
Offer your thankful praises!
A Lamb the sheep redeems;
Christ, who only is sinless,
Reconciles sinners to the Father.
Death and life have contended in that combat stupendous:
The Prince of life, who died, reigns immortal.
Speak, Mary, declaring
What you saw, wayfaring.
“The tomb of Christ, who is living,
The glory of Jesus’ resurrection;
Bright angels attesting,
The shroud and napkin resting.
Yes, Christ my hope is arisen;
to Galilee he goes before you.”
Christ indeed from death is risen, our new life obtaining.
Have mercy, victor King, ever reigning!
Amen. Alleluia.

Verse

R. Alleluia, alleluia.
*Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed;
let us then feast with joy in the Lord.*
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel Jn 20:1-9

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don’t know where they put him.” So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

Masses at Our Lady of the Assumption and Our Lady of Victory parishes. The temporary schedule for each parish continues as follows with pre-registration for Sunday Mass required.

Sunday Mass

Our Lady of the Assumption:

Saturday, 4pm

Sunday, 9am and 11am

Our Lady of Victory:

Saturday, 4:30pm

Sunday, 9am, 11am and 5:30pm

*All Masses at Our Lady of Victory will continue to be Livestreamed on olvparish.org

Daily Mass Schedule

Our Lady of Victory: Monday through Saturday at 9am.

Our Lady of the Assumption: Monday through Friday at 8am.

Registration for daily Mass is not required at this time.

The Rosary will take place as normal before Mass and we ask that people arrive 10-15 minutes early for daily Mass.

Registration for weekend Masses begins on Sunday at noon and ends at 6pm on Friday, and at this time you must register each week.

Please note that the Mass registration email and phone lines are not checked after the 6 pm Friday deadline.

Sending an email or leaving a message after that time does not constitute a registration

For OLA Masses:

Please call 508.428.2011 x201 or email massregistration@assumption-capecod.org

For OLV Masses:

508.775.5744 x107 or email massregistration@olvparish.org for OLV Masses.

PLEASE BE SURE TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WITH EACH REGISTRATION:

- Names of all attendees
- A Phone number
- And Date, time and church of the Mass you wish to attend

Please wear a face covering into church, bring hand sanitizer, and arrive 20 minutes early.

What do I need to do for Mass?

- **Please bring and wear a face covering into church.** A face covering is not primarily for yourself but for those around you.
- **Please bring hand sanitizer.** We will have sanitizer at the doors of the church, however this supply must be used prudently and carefully for all parishioners for several weeks.
- **You MUST come 20 minutes early.** This is crucial. We will not be able to keep social distancing if everyone shows up exactly at the time of the Mass.
- **Please follow the instructions of the staff/volunteers/signs.**

Confessions

Regularly scheduled confessions are available. Parishioners will have the opportunity to speak face to face or use a screen and social distance will be maintained.

OLA Confessions: Saturdays from 3pm to 3:40pm in the Parish Annex building. Please enter through the Annex and be seated at an appropriate distance from others as you wait for the Sacrament.

OLV Confessions: Saturdays after the 9am Mass and from 3:30pm to 4:15pm in the Parish Center. Please enter through the Parish Center door (*not the main office door*) and be seated at an appropriate distance from others as you wait for the Sacrament.

TAKE FIVE FOR FAITH!

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.



**Sunday, Apr 04, 2021
SOLEMNITY OF THE
RESURRECTION OF
THE LORD (EASTER
SUNDAY)**

Race to understanding
Does it matter who gains insight first, so long as we all get there? Competition is overrated, which may be

why evangelists don't agree on who arrives at the tomb first. Mark reports that Mary Magdalene; Mary, mother of James; and Salome got there at dawn. Matthew asserts it was the Magdalene and the "other Mary." Luke claims it was Mary Magdalene; James' mother, Mary; Joanna; and assorted "others." In John, the Magdalene arrives alone. You may be a cradle Catholic, or this may be your first Easter. Welcome to the recognition that death doesn't have the final say. "They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first."

- Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 [24]/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/
Jn 20:1-9 or Mk 16:1-7 or Lk 24:13-35
- Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 [1]/Mt 28:8-15
- Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22 [5b]/Jn 20:11-18
- Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 [3b]/Lk 24:13-35
- Thursday: Acts 3:11-26/Ps 8:2, 5, 6-7, 8-9 [2ab]/Lk 24:35-48
- Friday: Acts 4:1-12/Ps 118:1-2, 4, 22-24, 25-27 [22]/Jn 21:1-14
- Saturday: Acts 4:13-21/Ps 118:1, 14-15, 16-18, 19-21 [21a]/Mk 16:9-15



Monday, Apr 05, 2021

Weave a life of meaning

Everyone knows the joy of creating—whether it be a work of art, a meal, or a family. It's a way of expressing ourselves, sharing our love, and using our talents to serve. It's also a consolation during tough times. Maybe you took up some new, creative pastimes during the pandemic. Saint Maria Crescentia Höss, whose feast is today, was a weaver in 18th-century Bavaria before she became a nun, and when she was assigned to servitude and living in a cubbyhole in the monastery, she kept weaving. Maybe that helped sustain her until she eventually rose to be elected the mother superior. Holy creativity can feed your soul. "They approached, embraced his feet, and did him homage."

Tuesday, Apr 06

Sing the Octave

Happy Octave of Easter—the eight days between, and including, Easter



Sunday and Divine Mercy Sunday. By relishing the Resurrection for eight whole days instead of just one, the church declares it the cornerstone of belief. What's more: In contrast to the Christmas Octave, we observe no other feast days during Easter Octave, keeping the Resurrection our only focus. Why eight? Christianity's Jewish roots feature ritual celebrations that end on the eighth day—a week, when you count both the first and last days. Make every day this week a "mini-Easter," as our church intends. Sing Alleluia for eight days. "Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?'"

Wednesday, Apr 07, 2021

Pray for all who heal a world in pain

On April 7, 1948, the World Health Organization was established as a leading global health authority within the United Nations system. In 2021, the WHO counts 7,000 members from 150 countries. It declares that the health of all people is essential to attaining peace and security, and among other things chooses a particular health theme each year to mark its anniversary. Past themes include mental health, maternal and childcare, and climate change. Mindful that the world's aging population is living longer, the WHO set this year's theme as "Aging and Health." On this Easter Wednesday, as we take note of the healing miracles within the early Christian community, ask the Lord to bless all who work to safeguard the health of humanity. "And a man crippled from birth was carried and placed at the gate of the temple."

Thursday, Apr 08, 2021

Keep it going

We are still in the Octave of Easter, the eight days following Easter. The Octave is meant to keep the celebration going, to keep savoring the joy of the Resurrection. The gospel for each day focuses on the Risen Christ. In the early church, those who were baptized at the Easter Vigil would continue wearing their white garments all week in recognition of the life-changing, festive event. You've likely been changing your clothes during the Octave, but try keeping your focus on the Resurrection. Meditate on a time that God has blessed you with new life.

“He stood in their midst and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’”

Friday, Apr 09, 2021

It all adds up

Numbers play a key role throughout salvation history: Yahweh, the one true God; the 5,000 fed; the cock crowing three times; the Triduum; the Trinity; and the third time Jesus appears to his disciples after his death, which we read about in today's beautiful gospel story of Jesus cooking breakfast for his disciples on the seashore. Numerologists love to explore all the hidden meanings packed in the biblical numbers. But the gospel message is actually quite simple. Jesus alone feeds us. Remember that next time you are looking for sustenance elsewhere.

“Jesus said to them, ‘Come, have breakfast.’”

Saturday, Apr 10, 2021

Faith takes time

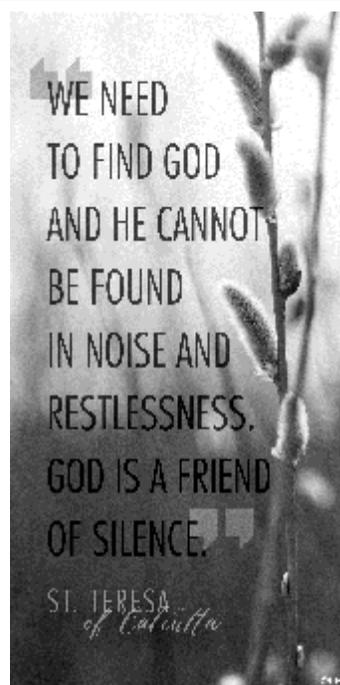
What would you think if you heard that someone you knew was dead had risen from the grave? It's no wonder the disciples doubted the story. No less a witness than Mother Teresa of Calcutta expressed serious doubts about God's existence over the course of her life. “Where is my faith?” she wrote. “There is nothing but emptiness.” And she's a saint! So when loved ones stop going to church and express doubts about God—or if you yourself face such doubts—accept it as a part of the spiritual journey each of us walks. Keep praying and be patient. Faith takes time and hits dry spells. But in God's heart, there's all the time in the world. “When they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe.”



Q? What is the most important holiday on the Catholic calendar?

A. In our day-to-day life, we often refer to holidays. They are days set aside to commemorate special occasions or celebrate feasts and anniversaries. Holiday comes from the words "holy day" which we take from our life of faith. More than a significant day, it connects us with God in a unique way, allowing us not only to remember, but also share in the events which are part of God's plan of salvation. Our humanity is joined to the divine and we are made holy. The most important "holy day" is Easter.

When Jesus died and rose again, He destroyed the ultimate weapon of sin, which is death, and made it possible for us to have eternal life. There is not another day of more importance. Without the Resurrection, St. Paul tells us, our faith is in vain. Easter is commemorated each time we celebrate the Mass. It is the ritual — the making present again — that recalls to the present moment the paschal mystery. We proclaim the mystery of faith: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. Some feasts may be celebrated with more fanfare or secular attention, such as Christmas. But Jesus was born for Easter. Without Easter, there would be no Christmas. Easter is at the very core of what it means to be Christian.





**Our Men and Women
in the Service**

Our parishes pray for those currently serving, at home and abroad, in the military.

Pvt . 1st Class Michael Bilodeau, USM
 LT Marius Bernotas, USN
 ENS Andrius Bernotas, USN
 Capt. Tyler Jean Nauss, USA
 Capt. Sean Villano, USAF
 Capt. Jonathan S. DeMille, USA
 Sgt. Evan Salvaggio USA
 2nd Lt. Liam G. Furey, USA
 Spec 4 Charles Furey, National Guard, USA
 Capt. Matthew Cavanaugh, USA
 Maj. Dennis Williams, USA
 1st Lt. Ian Horkan, USA
 Colonel Paul J. Nugent, USMC
 Capt. Justin M. D'Olimpio USAF
 Maj. Andrew Ryan Wing, USMC
 Sgt. Andrew Bowman USMC
 Cpl. Brian J. Sullivan, USMC
 Pvt. Jack DeLorey;
 RCT Patrick MacNeely
 Warrant Officer Matthew Plicque, USA
 2nd Lt Peter Murphy, Airborne
 Chaplain Bob Monagle
 Capt. Billy Murphy, USN
 Cpl. Patrick J. Kelley
 LCpl Andrew J. Kelley
 LCPL Robert Connolly IV
 Captain Sean P. Kelley, USN
 PFC William Russell Perry
 Sgt. Jacob W. Morash
 Capt. Jared A. Ripperger
 PFC Cory Briggs
 Lt. Kalen Kropa
 Capt. Michael Mayo Taylor, USA
 Brig. General Benjamin T. Watson, USMC

Major John B. VanderVoort
 PFC Tim Strong, USN
 LCDR Conor O'Neil
 1st Lt. Hannah E. MacLeod-Pryg USA
 1st Lt. Lucas Pryg, USA
 Warrant Officer Steve Capt. Matthew Antil Goodwin, USMC
 2nd Lt Thomas O. Mullen, USAF
 Staff Sgt. Joseph Moore
 Pvt. Jake Bryan, USA
 SO1 Michael Reeves USN
 CO Rusty Williamson, USN
 Spc. Alexander Kelsall, USA Surgeon
 Capt. Michael D. Crowley, USMC
 Capt. Christopher Roy
 SPC Tucker McLoughlin, USA
 Lt. Robert Havens, USAF
 Lt. Cmdr. Andrew Noddin Poulin, USN
 Lt. Kalen Kropa, USN
 Lt. Katherine Noddin Poulin, USN
 Lt. Stephen Noddin Poulin, USA
 Spc. Brooks Noddin Poulin, USA
 Lt. Cmdr. Catherine Long, USN
 Matthew Tutunjian, CG;
 QM2 Daniel-Lee Searfoss, USN.

To add a loved one or to let us know when they are no longer serving:
 kim@olvparish.org



Please Pray for the Sick of Our Parishes



Mary Ann Barbara
 John W. Best
 Peter F. Brady
 Emily Calamari
 Donald Capobianco
 Joe Carpentieri
 Irene Farrell
 Nancyjane Fox
 Barbara Korkuch
 Jennifer Kuehne
 Shaun Laughlan
 Brenda Liakos
 Barbara MacLean
 Brad Martin
 Patricia O'Connell
 Victoria Whalen
 Eileen Reardon
 Anele Rucker
 Beatrice Savio
 Richard Shea
 Fred B. Williams

All Members of the Cancer Support Group
All those affected by COVID-19

If you or your immediate family member need to be added to the list or removed, please contact, kim@olvparish.org. Additions to "Our Sick" list will be printed for three months.

*Almighty and Eternal God,
You are the everlasting health of those
who believe in You.*

*Hear us for Your sick servants for who we implore the
aid of Your tender mercy, that being restored to bodily
health, they may give thanks to You in Your Church.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

PRAYER SHAWL REQUEST



If you wish to request a prayer shawl, please fill out this form and place it in the collection basket. You may also contact Priscilla DeLeon-Vinson at 774-836-8030 or pdv@comcast.net

Name of recipient:

Your name: _____

Your phone number: _____

Phone number needed for delivery of Prayer Shawl.

Seat Ambassadors

Due to COVID, we have started a new Ministry, *Seat Ambassadors*. Once we were allowed to celebrate public Mass in the Church we have had them at every Mass. These men and women ensure that we are all safe through social distancing and contact tracing. They have learned your names and even know where you sit. Please take time to say "thank you." They are a great group and are looking for people to join them. Please contact billb@olvparish.org if you are interested joining this ministry.



Knights of Columbus Council 2525

John Roberts Memorial Scholarship 2021

Three \$4,000 scholarships will be awarded to three High School Graduating Seniors for 2021. These scholarships will be for the seniors first year of college. The applicant must be a graduating high school senior and he/she or family *must be a registered parishioner of Our Lady of Victory, Our Lady of Assumption, or Saint Francis Xavier*. The guidelines and application are now available. To request a copy of the guidelines and application please send an email to, council2525@yahoo.com. PLEASE NOTE: *applications and all supporting documentation must be returned to the Knights of Columbus, 230 South Main Street, Centerville, MA 02632 on or before April 17, 2021.*

Easter Sunday: The Resurrection of the Lord



"They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him." Mary of Magdala, seeing the stone rolled away from Christ's burial place, runs to tell the disciples what she thinks is bad news. The grave is empty. Jesus' body must have been stolen. Clearly, resurrection isn't on her radar. As it says at the end of the passage, "They did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead." Only later, when Mary saw Jesus again face-to-face, did she come to understand what had actually happened.

We, of course, know that the empty tomb really means good news! We know that the cross was not the end of the story, that Jesus conquered death, walked again amongst his followers, and ascended into heaven where he reigns even now. Unlike the first Christians, we have the testimony of history, the record of Scripture, and the benefit of tradition at our disposal. We have more reason to believe than Mary, Peter, or John did on first seeing the tomb! We need not waste any time "running" around like they did in search of the Savior. We know that Jesus is alive, and that sin and death have met their match. "Where, O death, is your victory?" we can now proclaim with St. Paul. "Where, O death, is your sting?" (1 Cor 15:55). Jesus has won! He is triumphant! This is the joy of Easter, based in fact and bolstered by faith. And we are the heirs of this great joy. As we sing in the Easter psalm, "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad." On this most glorious of holy days, as we gather to feast with friends and family, let us be sure to recall the reason for our celebration: Christ is risen! Truly he is risen! Alleluia!



Special For Mother's Day

On Mother's Day we honor our mothers and the women who shaped our lives. Let them know your gratitude and love for them by requesting a special Mass in their honor. We will remember them

when we celebrate the Eucharist at Masses on Mother's Day weekend, May 8 and 9. Special Spiritual Gift Mother's Day cards are available for \$10. Contact Barbara in the OLV Office, Barbara@olvparish.org or 508-775-5744 x 200.



FROM ROME WITH LOVE

To those in our society who have lost all hope and joy in life, to the elderly who struggle alone and feel their strength waning, to young people who seem to have no future, to all I once more address the words of the Risen One: "See, I am making all things new... To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life" (Rev 21:5-6). May this comforting message of Jesus help each of us to set out anew with greater courage to blaze trails of reconciliation with God and with all our brothers and sisters.
Easter Sunday, March 2016—Pope Francis





Diocese of Fall River
Office of the Bishop
Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D.

Bishop da Cunha's Easter Message
2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we celebrate another Easter, we are reminded that, even in the midst of a pandemic, this is a time of renewal and rebirth, of hope and joy. This past year, we have seen many difficulties, but the crisis brought by the pandemic can also become an opportunity for transformation. If we focus on how our struggles and our circumstances can strengthen our faith, hope, and love of God, we will truly be embracing the message of Easter. When we encounter a crisis in our lives, we can, with Christ's help, find an opportunity to emerge more faith-filled and encouraged. As St. Paul teaches us, "Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect" (Romans 12:2).

In the Paschal Mystery of Jesus' Passion, death, and Resurrection, we witness eternal life spring forth from death, suffering turned into joy, and despair replaced with hope. Happily, Easter always takes place in spring, a time when the once barren quiet of winter melts away and signs of new life emerge. The past year has been, at times, bleak and perhaps even desolate for some, yet, in this Easter season, like nature itself, we are called to recognize that all things are made new again and be an integral part of this renewal. The Resurrection of Jesus brings new life to us all. May we recognize and be receptive to God's plan of sheer goodness (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1), prepared for a spiritual renewal of ourselves and our Church.

Blessings on you and your family, and may we experience the peace and joy of the Risen Christ in our hearts and home.

My prayers and best wishes for a blessed Easter to all of you.

Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D.
Bishop of Fall River

HHW



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