

April 4, 2021 Easter Sunday



Mass Intentions

Monday April 5 Monday within the Octave of Easter
8:30am Dennis Pines by Camille Boczar

Tuesday April 6 Tuesday within the Octave of Easter
8:30am Marilyn Root by husband

Wednesday April 7 Wednesday within the Octave of Easter
8:30am Peg and Jack O'Day by family

Thursday April 8 Thursday within the Octave of Easter
No Mass

Friday April 9 Friday within the Octave of Easter
8:30am Helen Vollmer by Camille Boczar

Saturday April 10 Saturday within the Octave of Easter
4pm Dorothy Staskiewicz by Kim Ready
Parishioners of Infant of Prague

Sunday April 11 Second Sunday of Easter
8:30am Parishioners of Infant of Prague
10:30am Richard J. Skwierczynski by Alice Kroth



Schedule a remembrance for a loved one

Contact Parish Office for Mass Intention requests. The stipend per Mass is \$15.00. If a specific date is desired, please schedule as far in advance as possible.

Parish Sacrificial Giving Summary

March 27 & 28

Amounts not available at time of print and will be published in a future bulletin

Thank you for supporting our Parish!



Parish Donations ~ Go Green!

- Help yourself...
 - ◊ "Set-it and forget it" - no need to remember to bring envelopes, wallet, cash
 - ◊ Automated—works even when you are away and or on vacation
- Help our Parish...
 - ◊ Our Parish receives donation consistency
 - ◊ Reduces Parish costs

Contact the Parish Office to see how easy it is to sign up for Electronic Giving!

Upcoming Diocesan Collections

- April 24-25
 - ◊ Catholic Home Mission Appeal
- May 15 & 16
 - ◊ Church in Latin America & Africa

Parish Ministerial Staff

Administrator Rev. Thomas Mahoney
FrTomIOP@gmail.com

Deacon/Pastoral Associate. Brian C. Walkowiak

Director of Faith Formation Fran Mackowiak
infantofpraguedre@gmail.com

Director of Music Elijah Simon

Parish Trustees..... To be determined
Michael Maute

Parish Council President Mary Montero

Parish Nurse Lisa Nemmer
iopparishrn@yahoo.com

Parish Office 716-634-3660
Monday-Thursday 9am-4pm
infantofpragueparish@gmail.com

Please keep our community safe. Most Parish Office requests can be handled via phone, email or using the "contact us" request on our parish website. If a visit to the Parish Center is required please call ahead so we can make arrangements for your visit.



Stay Connected

IOP has a variety of ways we can stay connected...

- Parish website ~ Visit our iopparish.com for Parish Information, On-line form registration, links to FORMED and parish bulletin .. and much more
- Facebook ~ follow us on Facebook at "Infant of Prague Roman Catholic Church Cheektowaga" for Parish Information, inspirational quotes, links to our bulletin... and much more
- Bulletin ~ take one on your way out of the Church, pick one up in the Parish Center vestibule or visit our website iopparish.com where the bulletin is just a click away

IOP Prays for the Following

Helen Sikorski, Sister M. Antonita Sikorski CSSF, Peter DiGiacomo, Renee Hager, Rick Cummings, Leodina Bauer, Nancy Sevilla, Michelle Martin

... and all parishioners in nursing homes, homebound and our military service men and women.

Names will be listed four consecutive weeks. We will be happy to add a name to the prayer list upon immediate family request and permission

Contact Parish Office for prayer requests

Please remember in your prayers...

Dorothy Zawierucha, Rita Enright and all who have died

2020 Contribution Statements

IOP provides parishioners 2020 contribution statements for Income Tax purposes.

To request your statement:

⇒ If you would like it delivered via US Mail:

- Send or drop-off a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Parish Center vestibule drop box with a note requesting your contribution statement. Please include contact information.

⇒ If you would like it delivered via Email:

- Send an email to infantofpragueparish@gmail.com with "Contribution Statement Request" in the Subject line. Please include your contact information.



Keep Our Community Safe

- Check your temperature prior to coming to IOP. If you have a fever, are sick or have symptoms, make an expression of care and stay home to avoid infecting others.
- Social Distancing is required
- Masks required for persons over 2 years old when coming to IOP. Parishioners should bring and be prepared to wear their own masks. Please see an usher prior to entering if you forgot to bring your mask to Mass.
- Most Parish Office requests can be handled via phone, email or using the "contact us" request on our parish website. If a visit to the Parish Center is required please call ahead so we can make arrangements for your visit.

Visit <https://www.buffalodiocese.org/coronavirus> for latest News/ Resources regarding Covid-19

Face Masks Do's and Don'ts



A Worthwhile Smile



Inspiration For The Week

Alleluia! Christ is risen! About today's feast, St. Augustine writes: "And he departed from our sight that we might return to our hearts and find him there.

For he left us, and behold, he is here." Christ's resurrected presence lives not only in the highest heaven but in the fragile human heart. Christ's life inspires us and moves us to see a future for every human being and discover our true purpose and meaning. Every human being has a desire to live, and this cry can be heard within. There is a longing for a connection with Someone greater than ourselves that gives an import to our existence that we cannot supply. Today, our deepest questions find answers.



AN EASTER PROCLAMATION

The hosts of heaven exult and sing aloud in mighty triumph!
Let the earth be glad as glory alights and night reigns no more.
Let the Church rejoice at the victory of her Lord and Master,
Who paid the debt of Adam,
Who frees those doomed to die,
Who heals the broken-hearted and bind up their wounds,
Who forgives the sinner and raises up the lowly,
Who destroys death forever,
Whose Kingdom shall have no end.
God our Father, eternal is your love for us!
Christ the Son, in victory you reign!
Holy Spirit, set the Easter fire ablaze in our hearts.
Together you live and reign and ransom your people,
one God forever and ever.
Amen.





A Easter Message From Father Tom

“Christ is Risen! He is truly Risen”

In the tradition of the Catholic Church on Easter Sunday the priest proclaims: “Christ is risen.” And the people respond: “He is truly risen!” This is a beautiful expression of the belief and joy of Easter morning. We believe that the Good News of the Gospel does not end with Good Friday but with Easter Sunday.

We must back in time to try to appreciate the experience of the early disciples of Christ on Good Friday and Easter Sunday. The disciples had spent about three years with Jesus and tried to understand who He was and what He was about. When Jesus started talking about going up to Jerusalem to suffer and die, they ignored Him and argued among themselves who was the greatest. When Jesus asked them who they thought He was, Peter said *“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God”*. But then, when Jesus spoke about how He would suffer and die, Peter told Him this should never happen. In effect, he tells Christ how to be Christ. You are the Christ, the Son of the living God but you should not suffer.

When Jesus asks them to stay with Him as He prays in anguish in the Garden of Gethsemane, they fall asleep. When He is arrested on the evening of Holy Thursday, they scatter. When He goes to the Cross on Good Friday, they disappear. The death of Jesus on the Cross is a moment of despair for them. They are thrown into confusion and fear and lock themselves in an upper room.

“For they did not yet understand the scripture that he had to rise from the dead.” John 20:9

So, when Jesus rises from the dead on Easter morning, this is not the source of joy and excitement we might think. They do not understand the meaning of the Resurrection because they rejected His suffering and death. Since they did not participate in the crucifixion, they could not appreciate the Resurrection. They heard the news of the empty tomb, but they remained locked in confusion and fear. It was only with the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, that they received the gifts of understanding and courage and went to out to proclaim Jesus as the Risen Christ.

The Resurrection did not mean a return to the good old days when Jesus did the preaching and the healing, and they followed along beside Him. The Resurrection brought life out of death. The Resurrection signaled that Jesus believed in His disciples more than they believed in themselves. In the Resurrection Jesus entrusted His message of love and His mission of hope to the disciples. In His Resurrection, Jesus conquered death (the ultimate symbol of evil) not only in His own life but for all human life.

How does all of this apply to us today?

First, we need to allow Christ to be Christ and to love us in the way he chooses, by dying on the Cross for us.

Second, Jesus believes in us more than we believe in ourselves. Our confidence and our worth come from Christ, not from comparison and competition with others.

Third, the power of God’s love is greater than the power of evil.

Fourth, this life is not all there is. Expecting too much from this life will only lead to disappointment. By His Resurrection Jesus offers us life without suffering or pain in the Kingdom of God.

Finally, true happiness is ours when we live for others, not simply for ourselves and when we journey together, not as individuals isolated and alone.

In this our joy is complete: Christ is Risen! He is truly Risen!
HAPPY EASTER!!!

AMDG,

Fr. Tom Mahoney



April 4, 2021 Easter Sunday

First Reading: Acts 10:34a, 37-43

“To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.” (Acts 10:43)

Second Reading: Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8

Think of what is above, not what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (Col 3:2-3)

Gospel: Jn 20:1-9 or Mk 16:1-7 or Lk 24:13-35

Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. (Jn 20:8)

*Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass
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Adults: What change could the hope of the resurrection of Christ inspire you to make?

Kids: What bad habit would you like to “clear out” during the hopeful time of this Easter season?

Looking Forward Readings for April 11, 2021

First Reading: Acts 4:32-35

Second Reading: 1 Jn 5:1-6

Gospel: Jn 20:19-31

Gospel Mediations ~ April 4, 2021

Who are you? This question was most assuredly asked of Jesus on the day of resurrection and it is a question asked of each of us. Our identities can be described in so many ways. We can start with our gifts and our talents, expertise and unique personality expressions. We can describe things we like and things we prefer to set aside. As descriptive and captivating as these can be, none come close to our essence, our real and true self. While accurate in their own right, the self who lives and interacts with the world is the self we want others to see, the one we project. But there is much more to us just as there is much more to Jesus.

Jesus could describe himself based on all of the same criteria we use for ourselves. After all, Jesus is totally human. With all that people witnessed and all that Jesus knew about his physical human self, his divinity also shined forth. There was so much more to know about him. Whereas once Jesus was transfigured on top of a mountain before his disciples’ eyes, so today he is transfigured before our eyes as he reveals his resurrected self as the Christ. Alleluia, Christ is risen! His glorified presence stands before us showing us that we are all much more than we see ourselves to be and show to others. We have a depth, purpose, and essence that go way beyond the superficial treasures of our existence to the very core of who we are.

Within each one of us is a spark of Divine Love where creature and Creator meet, and we are known uniquely by the name God whispers to us. It is not the earthly name that was given to us but the one that flows from Divine Power and claims us as one who is special and chosen in God’s eyes. This is the self that will rise one day with the eternal Christ of God and live eternally as God provides. This is the self that when free from all superficial constraints layered upon it in this life can discover and know freedom in a way never possible before. This is love lifting us up and transforming us into who we really are, not who we want or need ourselves to be. Who are you? A special, unique child of God who has been fashioned in God’s image, sustained by the power of God’s love and kept eternally with the Blessed Trinity in heaven. Get to know this deeper, truer self as it is who you really are.

“This is the day the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad.”

Psalm 118



Sacraments

Baptisms: Congratulations! Call the parish office four months prior to child's anticipated arrival to register for Baptismal class held on the Fourth Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Sponsors must be practicing Catholics. Non-registered IOP members must have a letter from their own pastor. Sponsors should have received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

RCIA-Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: Is the Holy Spirit calling you to become Catholic? Call the Parish Office for more information.

Marriages: Best wishes! Couples seeking a Catholic marriage, please contact the Pastor at least six months prior to a planned wedding day. Attendance at a marriage preparation program (Pre-Cana) is required.

Care of the Sick: Anyone seriously ill or entering the hospital for surgery may receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Please contact the Parish Office to make arrangements.

Letters of Recommendation: Letters of recommendation are gladly issued to those asked to be a Baptism and/or Confirmation Sponsor, provided the requesting person is registered at IOP, confirmed and regularly attends Mass. If the requesting person is married, the marriage must have taken place in conformity with the laws of the Church. If the requesting person is a parent, their children must be enrolled in Faith Formation.

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- ◇ EWTN Channel 10: Daily at 8am, Noon, 7pm, & Midnight - Channel 24 (Spectrum)
- ◇ WNYO Cable 8 & ANT. Ch. 49
Sunday Mass: 8:30am

• **"Streamed" Masses**

- ◇ Visit www.buffalodiocese.org/livestreams to view the many streaming options available

• **Radio**

- ◇ WLOF 101.7 FM – Buffalo's Catholic Radio

• **Web**

- ◇ www.FORMED.org
Use access code W24ZGG to register



Around the Buffalo Diocese

- St. Aloysius Regional School is holding a Virtual Daily Theme Basket Raffle for the month of April. Tickets are on sale through March 31 with each ticket entered to win a daily theme basket. Starting April 1 a daily ticket will be drawn for the day's basket. Each ticket is entered to win each day even if you already win a basket. Tickets can be purchased online at <https://staloyusregional.com/events/basket-raffle-daily-drawing/> or by calling the school at 716-592-7002. Winners will be notified via phone, text, or email
- Carrubba's Drive-thru Chicken BBQ on Sunday, April 11 starting at 11 am at St. Andrew rectory parking lot, Crocker & Gierlach Sts., Sloan. Dinner includes ½ chicken, buttered spuds, coleslaw, dinner roll and garlic butter dipping sauce. Tickets available by calling St. Andrew at 716-892-0425. You can also check out St. Andrew Sloan Facebook page for other payment options. Please support this yummy parish fundraiser.
- Drive-thru Polish Dinner on Sunday, April 11 from 11:30 am until sold out at Our Lady of Pompeii, 129 Laverack Ave., Lancaster. Pre-sale tickets sold at the Parish Office. All pre-sale dinners must be picked up by 1:30 pm. For more information, call 716-683-6522.
- Beginning in 2015, The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo, N.Y. ("Foundation") began soliciting donations to its "Upon this Rock" ("UTR") capital and endowment campaign. The UTR campaign raised funds for many purposes, including soliciting funds for making essential upgrades to classroom facilities and technology of Christ the King Seminary ("CKS"), expanding CKS's role as a center of retreat and religious celebration, and establishing an endowment fund for CKS. Unfortunately, in early 2020, CKS's Board of Trustees determined that CKS would close at the end of the 2020-2021 academic year. CKS's closure will make it impossible for the Foundation to use the UTR funds raised for CKS for their original intended purposes. However, under New York law, when the original purposes for which funds are donated become impossible to achieve, those purposes can be modified in a manner consistent with original intent by the New York State courts. For many years, CKS provided education and formation for ordained and lay ecclesial ministers in the Diocese of Buffalo and beyond. Accordingly, the Foundation has asked the New York State Supreme Court for the County of Erie to approve a modification of the purposes of UTR funds raised for CKS so that those funds can be used to support the education and formation for ordained and lay ecclesial ministry in the Diocese of Buffalo, as determined in the discretion of the Foundation's Board. If you have donated to UTR and would like to be heard regarding this requested modification, you may send a letter to: The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo, N.Y., Inc., attention Executive Director, 795 Main Street, Buffalo, N.Y. 14203 or an email to donor.info@frcdb.org. Copies of letters or email received by the Foundation will be provided to the Court. You may also make a formal filing in the legal proceeding entitled Matter of the Modification of Endowment Funds of The Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo N.Y., Inc., Erie County Index No. 814747/2020. In order for your submission to be available for the Court's consideration, please be sure to send any letter or email, or make any filing, no later than Friday, April 9, 2021.



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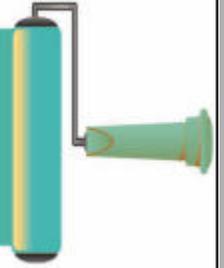
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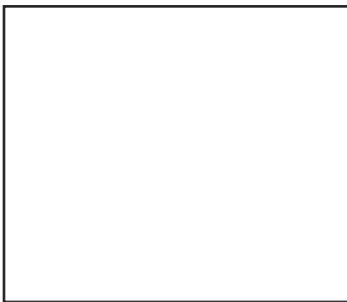
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