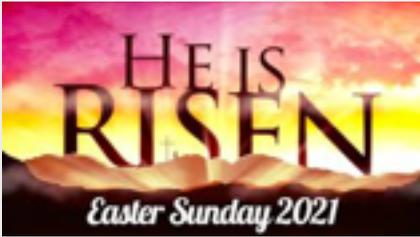




*St. Mary's Catholic Church
April 4, 2021 Hamburg, Iowa*

Alleluia! Our Lord has risen from the tomb. He has conquered death. He has redeemed us from our sins. Nearly two thousand years later, we celebrate it as if it is happening today. For it *is* happening today. Jesus Christ *is* risen, death *is* defeated, redemption *is* here. Let us give thanks to Jesus for his supreme sacrifice, let us praise God for the promise of eternal life, let us sing out in joy, for our Lord *is* risen today.



Cycle B -- Reflections on the Readings

Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34,37-43; Psalm 118; Colossians
3:1-4; John 20:1-9

Theme: The Power of the Resurrection

The Easter readings bring us face to face with statements that seem contradictory or opposed to common sense in the midst of our current pandemic. We are surrounded by alleluias and yet we often take the empty tomb for granted. This is the greatest solemnity of the Church's year, a time to wonder at the mysterious divine paradox!

The man and the beetles

A man was drifting in a canoe on a lake, reading a book. He looked away from the book momentarily, down to the lake. There a bunch of water beetles were at play. Suddenly one of the beetles began to crawl up the side of the canoe. When it got halfway up, it attached the talons of its legs to the wooden side of the canoe and died. He watched for a minute then he turned back to his book. About three hours later, he looked down at the dead beetle again. What he saw amazed him. The beetle had dried up, and its back was starting to crack open. As he watched, something began to emerge from the opening: first a moist head, then wings. It was a beautiful dragonfly. He sat there in awe. Then the dragonfly began to move its wings. It hovered gracefully over the water where the other beetles were at play. But they did not recognize the dragonfly. They did not realize that it was the same beetle they had played with three hours earlier. The man took his finger and nudged the dried-out shell of the beetle. It was like an empty tomb.

We can recognize the parallel between the water beetle and Jesus. Nailed to a cross he died; but he underwent an amazing transformation three day after his death when he rose again.

The Glorified Body of Jesus

The body of Jesus that rose on Easter morning was totally different from the body of Jesus that was buried on Good Friday. It was not a resuscitated body, that is, a body restored to its original life – Lazarus, or the son of the widow of Nain, or the daughter of Jairus. Rather it was a body that had taken a quantum leap forward into an infinitely higher life. It was a glorified body. It was totally living and totally life giving. Paul compares the body before resurrection to a seed, and the body after resurrection to the plant that emerges from the seed.

We all are destined to share in the risen life of Jesus for all eternity with a transformed body like his own risen body. Do we believe in eternal life? Do we daily live our life of faith with the expectant hope that one day we will be there?

Call to share in the risen life of Jesus

Besides the eternal life to come, there is another very joyful message that Easter Sunday proclaims. And that is, we don't have to wait until we die to share in the risen life and the risen power of Jesus. We can do it right now.

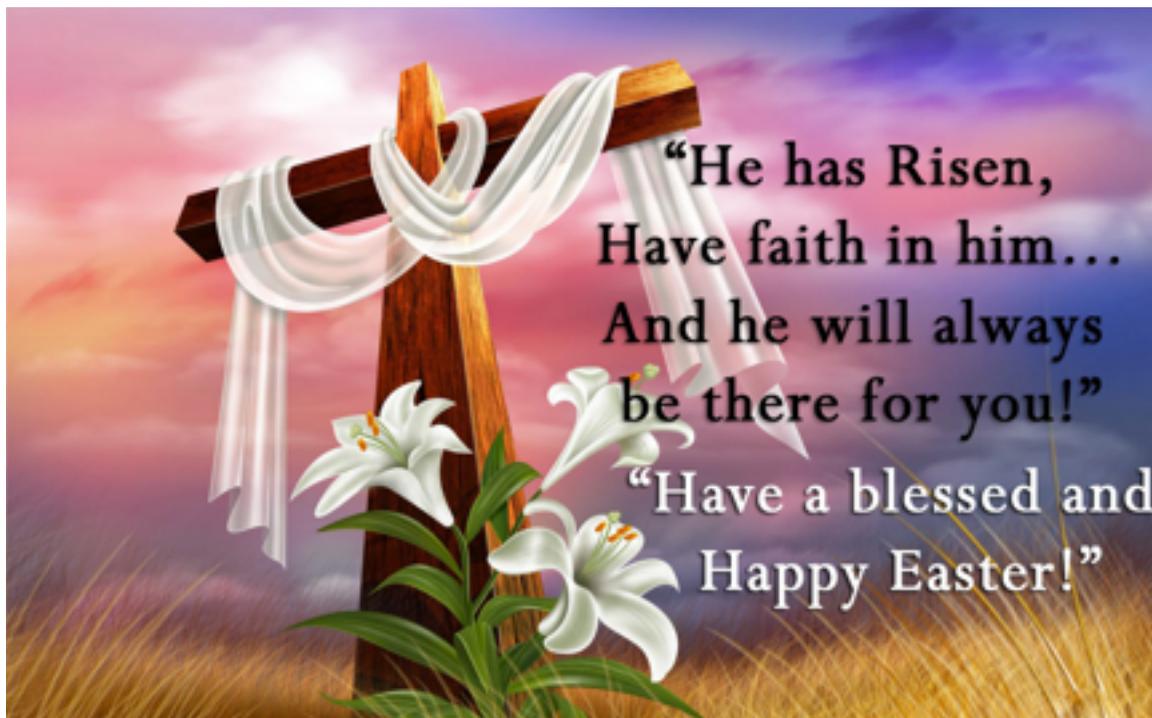
Each time we love again after having our love rejected, we share in the power of the resurrection. Each time we trust again after having trust betrayed, each time we fail and try again, each time we hope again after having our hope smashed into pieces, each time we pick up the pieces, wipe our tears, face the sun, and start again, we share in the power of the resurrection.

The message of Easter is that nothing can destroy us anymore – not pain, not sin, not rejection, not death. Christ has conquered all, and that we too can conquer all, if we put our faith in him.

Easter means the transformation of failure into success, of sorrow into joy, of death into life. May this Easter season bring you fulfillment and healing in your life. Shalom!



Good and gracious God,
on this day of Easter joy, we remember the Lord Jesus
who is risen, alive, and with us.
Help us to live in the light of the Resurrection.
May we become a new creation, free in heart and spirit.



Annual Diocesan Appeal

Remember, if we meet our goal, our parish will receive any additional gifts for our local needs. Every gift, regardless of the size, is vital to the success of the Appeal. Thank you for your generosity and kindness!

Hear the bishop

Bishop William Joensen's weekly radio show airs on Fridays at 9 a.m. on Iowa Catholic Radio and the Spirit Catholic Radio Network. Tune in to hear "Making it Personal With Bishop Joensen."

FEED YOUR SOUL

No matter who you are or where you are in life's journey, you need inspiration to feed your soul. We all do. It's essential to being fully alive. In many ways, inspiration is one of the most powerful ways that God collaborates with humanity. It's a simple and practical way to spread love and goodness in what can seem like a dark and dreary world. It's incredible what a little inspiration can do.

We leave you with the words of Mother Teresa: ***Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one***

PLANNED GIVING DINNER

Les Mach and the Catholic Foundation of Southern Nebraska have offered to host a Planned Giving dinner & presentation.

Fr. Steve Major will give a presentation on end of life issues/planning and the Catholic Foundation will share a bit on their services and some examples of how planned giving can benefit both the giver and the recipient.

The presentation will be at JC's Clubhouse at Table Creek Golf Course on Monday, April 26th at 6pm. More information will come soon, but if anyone is interested in more information or to RSVP, they can call me at Lourdes, 402-873-6154.

ALSO:

The annual Lourdes Event benefiting Lourdes Central Catholic School will be April 16th & 17th. We invite all to attend a Preview Party on Friday and the Live Virtual Event on Saturday. Visit the school website for details,

www.LourdesCentralCatholic.org

Thank You to our committed parishioners!!!

St. Mary's is an amazing congregation and a blessing. Your compassion, generosity and willingness to serve is always so appreciated. We pray for your continued inspiration!

You have been faithfully engaged in our parish activities and we are extremely grateful. It takes all of us— pastor, deacons, laity, parents and kids to be the complete Body of Christ. As a parish, we are continually challenged of living out our Missions, Values and Priorities, particularly in light of the past years here at St. Mary's!! I'm excited to see what the Holy Spirit has in store as we enter this year ahead.

We Thank everyone for their participation in the Fish Fry, Holy Week and now Easter.

You are awesome and we have so much to be proud of!!

God Bless you on this Easter Sunday.

Readings for week of April 4, 2021

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

Next Sunday: Acts 4:32-35/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 [1]/1 Jn 5:1-6/Jn 20:19-3

ST. MARYS HAPPENINGS

PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

CHRIS HINES
JOSH SIMMONS
JACOB ANDERSON
DERRICK HUBARD
STEVEN ANDERSON
COLBY MCGINLEY

Your Contributions

March 28, 2021

Tithes—\$1604.00

Plate—\$21.00

Thank You!!



4-2 —Shelly Mount
4-5—Cora Moody
4-8 —Avery Dowling
4-10—Tim Whelan
4-12 -- Brady Lorimor
4-13—Ruth Paper
4-13—Emily Van Houten



4-7--Larry & Suzie Moores
4-11-Paul & Jamie Hutt
4-18—Joe & Leah Hirner
4-26—Larry & Cheryl Phillips
4-26—Brian & Amber
Spurlock
4-28—Jim & Ruth folks



Greg Andersen
Grady Secht
Reese Kemp
LeRoy Herscheid
Mary Lou Miller
Dottie Dankof
Isacc Durr
Todd Quick
Verona Mitchell
Joel Loggins
Kenneth Russell
Bill Long
Henry Johnsen
Lawrence DuBois
Pat Sheldon
Joe Kirk
Tim Konecny
Esther McCowan
Shawn Collins
Drake Travis
Martha Gude
Bill & Gloria Green
Larry Dalton
Glen Whitehead
Zayne Osborn
Cathy Mason
Anna Weber
Alan Briggs
Chuck Mitchell
Dee Ann Crews
Robert Haughton
Maurie Maher
Janet Rummel



2021	April 4 Easter Sunday 8:30	April 11 Sunday of Divine Mercy 8:30	April 18 3rd Sunday of Easter 8:30	April 25 4th Sunday of Easter 8:30	May 2 5th Sunday of Easter 8:30
Lector	Dave Dowling	Linda Dewhirst	Carolyn Maher	Rick Jamison	Joe Travis
Mass Setup	Rosie	Joe	Rosie	Rosie	Joe
Cantor	Kim/Kate/ Evan/Cora	Beth/Anna	Kate /Cora	Kim/Evan	Kate
Accompanist	Nancy	Guitars	Donna	Nancy	Donna
Server	Ryan Roberts	Garett Phillips	Amelia Moody	Joe Roberts	Tate Mount
Coffee & donuts	N/A	Dave Roberts family	N/A	Henry & Helen Martin	Jim & Cheryl Owen
PASTOR		PASTORAL ASSISTANT		BOOKKEEPER	
Fr. Raphael Assamah 712-246-1718 Shen(office) 712-246-8876 (c) e-mail max.assamah@yahoo.com		Cheryl Phillips 712.382.2668 (h) 712-350-0169 (c) cheryljphil@gmail.com		Anne Hendrickson Bookkeeper 712.382.2432 (h) 712.350.0368 (c)	

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