

Holy Family Parish
National Catholic Church
1921 Eden Park Boulevard
McKeesport. Pa. 15132
412.678.0566 Office; Auditorium 412.664.7009
www.hfpncc.org
Facebook Holy Family National Catholic Church
Celebrating our 100th Year



EASTER SUNDAY
RESURRECTION OF THE LORD
April 4, 2021

Change of address or phone number, for parish registration, hospital visitations and sacramental needs, baptism and wedding arrangements (six months in advance), please contact the Parish Office by calling 412.276.5562 or 412.678. 0566. Office **Hours:** Fridays 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. Evenings by appointment. **Bulletin announcements** should be received by Wednesday for Sunday publication either by phone or E-mail at bsleczkowski@aol.com

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Parish Custodian 412.678.7347



Always check our website www.hfpncc.org or Holy Family National Catholic Church Facebook page for added information or changes.

This Week

Sunday, April 4, 2021

Easter Sunday

Mass of the Resurrection

9:00 A.M.

There will be no procession to the 4 corners of our Worship Center. The Sacrament will be brought to the Main Altar. Before the Sacrament is placed in the Tabernacle, we will all recite the Divine Praises printed in the bulletin, then the Mass of the Resurrection will begin, Easter baskets may be blessed after Mass.

Sunday, April 11, 2021

Easter 2

Holy Mass

9:00 A.M.

+Pirle Kmetz Int. Mrs. Mildred Kotulsky; **+Roy Alves** (5th Ann) Int Mr. & Mrs. Everett Campbell.

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First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43

This is the first of many readings from this book in our Easter Season. The context of this passage is that Peter has been invited to address the household of the Roman centurion Cornelius:

Cornelius was not a Jew, but was a just and good man, who had a vision telling him to invite Peter to his home. Peter arrives and Cornelius, after describing his vision, says, "You have been kind enough to come. Here we all are, assembled in front of you to hear what message God has given you for us." So, Peter is in the situation of introducing this man and his household to faith in Jesus Christ – Cornelius knows nothing of the Gospel message. So, Peter gives the discourse you read on this day. This is a testimony – an eye-witness account – and should be read with great personal conviction, especially from the words, "Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did..." Peter is giving the Good News as he has received it to Cornelius, who is thirsty for it. You too, as the proclaimer, must give this Good News on this holy day to those listening to you: not by "tub-thumping" or high-blown oratory, but by your quiet confidence in the truth and importance of what you are reading.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 5:6-8

This reading is more subtle: again, it is about baptism, but less explicitly, referring rather to the change which baptism implies. This is explained by the image of yeast – by baptism (and its annual renewal) we rid ourselves of the old yeast and become a beautiful fresh, new batch of unleavened bread (a lively reference to the Passover feast which makes us think of the Last Supper, the sacrifice of the Lord on the cross and the Mass). Be careful that people catch the image – if they miss the word "yeast", this whole reading will be lost! Take it slowly and carefully. Emphasize the words "celebrate the feast" and "sincerity and truth."

Gospel Reading John 20: 1-9

On this strange dawn we are praying in a darkness that is outside time, like that of astronauts circling in space: beyond sunsets and sunrises, seeing the beginning and the end of our days. We look back to that breathless morning when the apostles saw the holy women come back from the tomb with a story of angels. A bloodless corpse, transfixed by a spear, had risen again with a mysterious new life. Jesus had kept his promise. Death, our oldest enemy, had been mastered.

Wherever we share compassion, justice, reconciliation, faith, and encourage each other to be people of hope, we are people of the resurrection and ministers of the resurrection. Jesus is raised from death each time we live His way of life. We do this in the various ways of showing care and concern for the lives and troubles of others. Easter prayer can be our asking to be ministers of the resurrection, as we discern how best to serve the risen Lord through our discipleship here in Holy Family Parish.

The tomb was empty, and, for the faithful ones, this was a sign of new life. Some would remember Jesus saying he would rise from death. Others would feel down, cheated or just lost. It is the same with us: the tough times of life can bring us close to God, or distance us; suffering can make us better people or make us bitter and isolated. We may feel a bit of both at times. The empty tomb is the message that nothing is final in this life, not even death. God's love is stronger than any human power, violence or cruelty. Love conquers all. This should be our parish's teaching at all times.

It is the 'first day of the week'. Mary Magdalene is the first witness of an event which marks not just the beginning of a new week but the transformation of human history. But 'it is still dark, and she does not yet understand what has happened. Let us ponder the mystery.

Peter and the other disciple, who had stood faithfully beneath the cross, run to the tomb. The other disciple saw and believed. Peter, whose last recorded action was to deny Jesus, still does not believe. Think, what blocks me from fuller faith? What blocks me of being more active in worship and parish responsibilities?

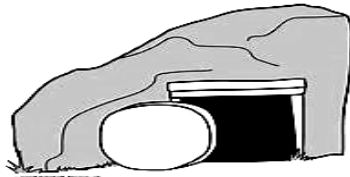
When Jesus raised Lazarus, Lazarus had to be freed from his graveclothes. Jesus' graveclothes are rolled up and lying on the side, a reflection of his mastery over death. As a parish we stand in the doorway beside the entrance and stare into that empty tomb.

Do we grasp the difference between this resurrection and that of Lazarus?

Mary was first to announce the resurrection, the first to receive the encouragement and hope that the risen Jesus offers. Others are remembered for promoting the message, for proclaiming the new truth. Let us take some time with Mary asking her to guide us as we await; pray that we may notice and take heart as we see signs of the resurrection in our lives. This is what we should do to make Holy Family's parish community stronger as we celebrate our 100th year as a parish family.

Even at this marvelous moment, those who had been closest to Jesus did not understand the scriptures. As an entire parish, we should ask God to help us this Easter; that we may recognize where the scriptures are coming to life as we are guided by the spirit of God. This we must do as we look forward to another 100 years as a parish community proclaiming the redeeming message of God's love.

Christ has Risen, Christ has Risen Indeed.



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Due to the PNU 2.25% Annuity Promotion, enrollment has been extended to September. Check out the details on the Church bulletin board. Applications for the PNU Education and Youth College stipend awards are available in the Narthex bookcase along with information about the Polish American Congress Scholarship program. Our Church's Fraternal organization has many great programs, check them out; especially please take notice about The Big Millennial Life Insurance Gap article. It is an eye opener to the younger generation. Contact our Branch 132 Secretary Henrietta Kleckner @724.863.6715 or go to www.pnu.org

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