

HAPPY EASTER!

APRIL 17, 2022



THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

First: Acts 10:34a,37-43

Second: Corinthians 5:6b-8

Gospel: John 20:1-9 or Luke 24:1-12

FOCUS: Jesus is not dead. He is alive!

We know in our hearts the truths we profess, but it's completely different to truly live according to those truths. The Resurrection is a historical and transcendent event, but it also has concrete application in our lives. As we celebrate the Resurrection, we have the opportunity to live according to the truth that Jesus remains present to us today.

LITURGY OF THE WORD:

Peter speaks to the people and recounts the events that surround Jesus' death and resurrection. He tells them that everyone who believes in [Jesus] will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.



Paul writes to the Colossians: Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. In the Gospel, Mary of Magdala finds the stone removed from the tomb of Jesus. She runs and tells Simon Peter and the beloved disciple, who themselves then run to the tomb to see what she saw.

MASS INTENTIONS

8 p.m.: Parishioners of St. Paul's, living and deceased

10 a.m.: Parishioners of St. Paul's, living and deceased

TREASURER'S REPORT

April 10-17: Totaled \$ 8,834.00

Envelopes: \$ 4,255.00 – Online: \$ 4,579.00

THANK YOU!

CAN YOU SMELL THE COFFEE?

OK, probably not. It's too early to turn on the urn.

But it's beans so long that we've endured this grind of isolation – and what better way to wake up the weary than with a cup of joe and conversation!

Plan to stop in Deacon John Hall after any of the Masses the weekend of **April 30-May 1**. Along with new faces, familiar faces and faces you might have forgotten about, there will be doughnuts!

CONDOLENCES

We extend our deepest sympathies to Julie and John Whittel upon the sudden death of their granddaughter, Christina Whittel. Please keep them in your prayers.

FIRST EUCHARIST RETREAT

Bread is one of many rich symbols of our faith and thus a staple at our First Eucharist retreats. Bread symbolizes life. Bread symbolizes feasting together. And most importantly, Jesus broke bread at the Last Supper, and said: "This is my body."

The yeast that is added to make all the ingredients rise together to form a familiar loaf of bread is also symbolic. We need Jesus as the "yeast" in our lives to help us rise to our spiritual potential.

At the daylong **First Eucharist Retreat** last week in preparation for receiving the Sacrament, youngsters worked with these symbols. Under the guidance of Mr. Rick (Dzurilla) – who shared that the kids really enjoyed the experience – the making and baking of 20 loaves began.

While the dough was rising, the children were then engaged by Tony Bellizzi, guest inspirational speaker and youth minister, who used tools such as a video and games to connect with them so as to help them connect more closely with Jesus. There was also time to make a banner and learn a song, both of which will reappear on May 7, the day they make their First Holy Communion.

And they even got to take a loaf of bread home to share with their families – which we're told was quite delicious!





PRAYER SERVICE FOR HEALING HOPE AND PEACE

Seventeen signs of hope lit up the church on Friday evening, April 8. Like stars in the evening sky, the youth of St. Paul's rose to the occasion of hosting the Prayer Service for Healing, Hope and Peace.

Some were greeters, equipped with programs, index cards and smiles, who welcomed the 70 or so attendees - many of whom did not even have a child involved. Others were lectors and with clear voices recited verses that spoke to the promise found in our faith - which sometimes becomes obscured by the ugliness in the world. They were also the choir, singing songs of inspiration - and all, amazingly, with only one rehearsal!

Youth ministers Chris Worthington and Deb Harrison not only encouraged the kids, but they infused their own energy into the evening as they framed the prayer service with relatable experiences.

Those in the pews soon learned that the index cards were not for a quiz, but a vehicle with which to

carry personal intentions to the foot of the cross. There were nails in a twig cross on the altar, ready to accept those burdens. As the index cards were hung, each member of the congregation received a battery-operated candle. (Safety first!) The soft glow of the candles was the only light for several moments during quiet reflection, wherein a sense of peace was found.

When the lights came back on, and as the service drew to a close, hope and peace were met with the joy that everyone - particularly the youth - radiated afterward.



*Let us hold unwaveringly
to our confession that gives us hope,
for he who made the promise
is trustworthy.*

Hebrews 10:23

FROM THIS DAY FORWARD ...

Spending 18,250 days with one person rarely just "happens." Instead, it's the shining expression of a lifelong commitment to vows pledged - a truly golden accomplishment to be celebrated.

The Archdiocese of New York's **Golden Jubilee Wedding Mass** will take place at 2:30 p.m. **Sunday, June 5**, at St. Patrick's Cathedral for couples celebrating 50 years of marriage in 2022. Timothy Cardinal Dolan will officiate. Couples must register through their church office by May 16.

But here at St. Paul's, we think that spending 9,125 days with the same person is also worthy of celebration. So our Masses the weekend of **May 28** and **29** will honor those marking their 25th anniversaries as well as couples celebrating 50 years together. Let the office know if you've reached either milestone.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

