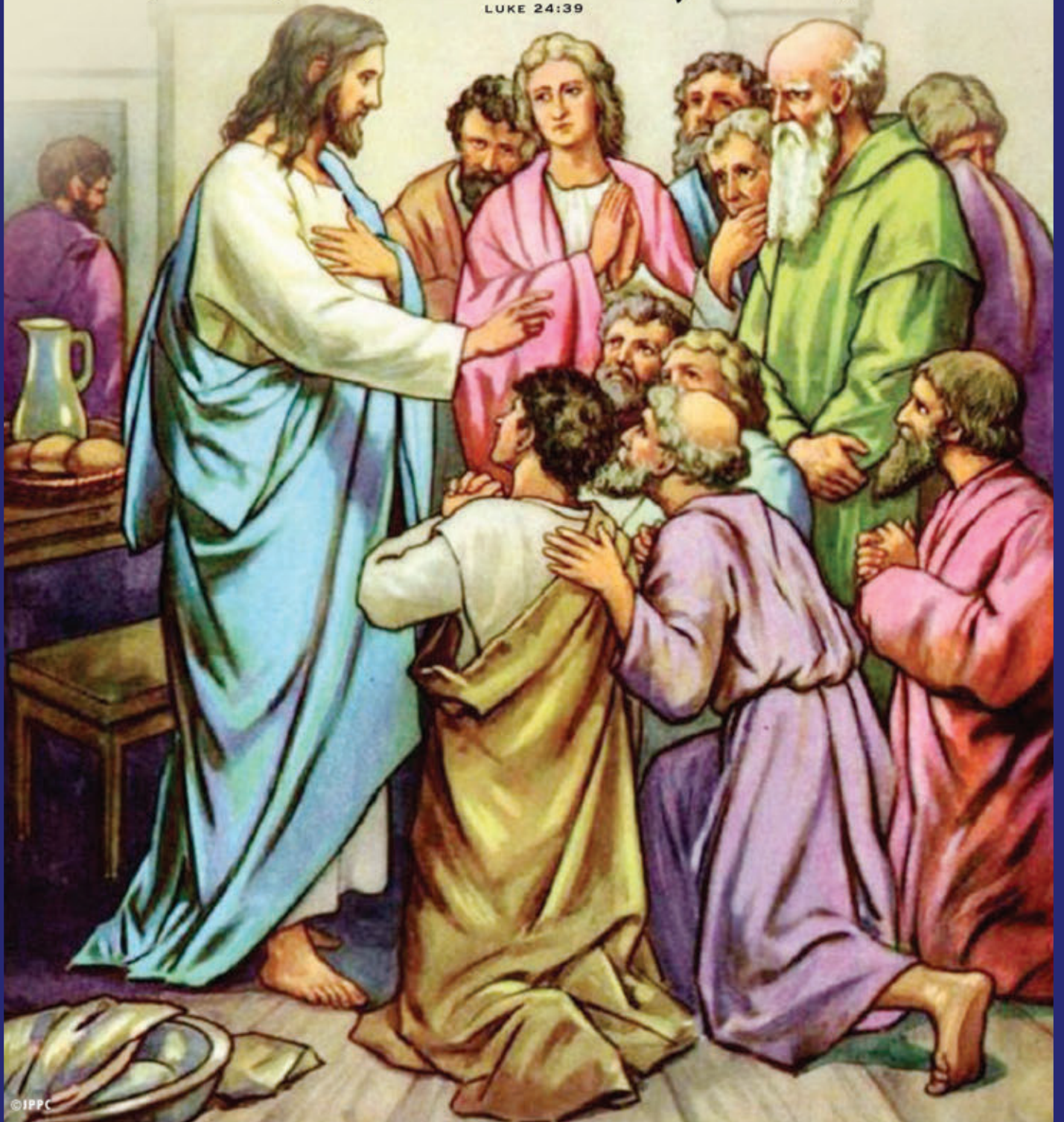


“LOOK AT MY HANDS AND MY FEET,  
*that it is I myself.*”

LUKE 24:39





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## **THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER APRIL 18, 2021**

### **SATURDAY, APRIL 17**

*The Mass of Anticipation for the 3rd Sunday of Easter*  
 5:00PM Frank Impelizzieri—Memorial

### **SUNDAY, APRIL 18**

*The Third Sunday of Easter*  
 7:30 AM Evelyn & Michael Simon—Memorial  
 9:00AM Frank Alagna—Memorial  
 10:30AM George Cooper—Memorial

### **MONDAY, APRIL 19**

*Easter Weekday*  
 7:30AM Carol Millmather—Memorial

### **TUESDAY, APRIL 20**

*Easter Weekday*  
 7:30AM Marion & Brian Gillcrist—Memorial

### **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21**

*Easter Weekday: St. Anslem, Bishop & Doctor of the Church*  
 7:30AM Elena L. Bernstrom—Memorial

### **THURSDAY, APRIL 22**

*Easter Weekday*  
 7:30AM Sotera Cunanan—Birthday Remembrance

### **FRIDAY, APRIL 23**

*Easter Weekday; St. George, Martyr; St. Adalbert, Bishop & Martyr*  
 7:30AM Sean T. Healey—Birthday Remembrance

### **SATURDAY, APRIL 24**

*Easter Weekday; St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest & Martyr*  
 8:30AM Emily & Frederick Miller—Memorial

*Mass of Anticipation for the 4th Sunday of Easter*  
 5:00PM Darlene Doyle—1st Anniversary

### **SUNDAY, APRIL 25**

*The Fourth Sunday of Easter*  
 7:30 AM For Vocations to the Priesthood  
 9:00AM Martha Guilfoyle—Month's Mind  
 10:30AM Marcia Durrell—Memorial





Dear Parishioners:

As the spring weather continues to get better, and more people are receiving their vaccinations, some normality resumes in our lives. More people are coming to Mass, more businesses open, and regulations are easing up. While we continue to remain vigilant about health and safety measures here at OLM, we are hopeful we can resume some of our ministries and outreach efforts soon.

Recently, Father Al Ranallo, who serves as the Coordinator of Pastoral Care for Healthcare Facilities, wrote us. He has been working with Deacon Tim Flanigan, MD, an infectious disease expert, to resume ministry in our healthcare and nursing home facilities. They have sought guidance from the Center for Health Facilities Regulation of the Rhode Island Department of Health (DOH) regarding resuming activities in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities.

Facilities are now allowed to resume activities provided they adhere to space requirements, mask-wearing, and proper handwashing. It remains the decision of the facility as to what activities they plan to resume. Currently, they are allowing visitations by family and friends.

Fr. Barrow and I will be working with the nursing home facilities we serve here at OLM to see if we can soon resume monthly Masses and perhaps the weekly distribution of Holy Communion to residents. These facilities include St. Elizabeth, Anchor Bay, Atria Harborhill, and the Seasons. We hope to

resume Masses and bringing Holy Communion to these places in May.

In the meantime, if you know of anyone or have a family member at one of these facilities, Fr. Barrow and I are happy to visit them. As always, we are on call for emergencies, Anointings of the Sick. Please let us know.

Also, hospitals are now allowing visitors to visit with patients. We are always happy to visit with sick parishioners in the hospital. Please let us know. Hospitals do not inform us who is in the hospital due to privacy laws. Fr. Barrow and I, and the priests of the area, regularly cover Kent Hospital for emergency Anointings of the Sick.

We will also be reaching out to our homebound about possible visitations and Communion Calls soon and will only visit if they are comfortable with visitations. Their physical health, safety, and well-being are concerns whenever we visit nursing homes, hospitals, or homes.

However, the spiritual health and well-being of the faithful are equally important. Many civil authorities have neglected this vital facet of our faith lives over the last year. Tragically many were denied the final Sacraments before death even though priests were readily available and willing to offer them. Healthcare bureaucrats and civil authorities prohibited them in many places.

On Good Friday, in London, England, the police raided services at a Catholic Church, citing a violation of safety rules. Police shut down the Good Friday service at the

church and threatened worshippers with a £200 fine each. The Pastor has said the police grossly exceeded their authority. Ironically the English Prime Minister announced with great joy the very next day that England's pubs were reopening!

In Ireland, any public worship continues to be prohibited, so Easter Masses were not possible. However, one young Irish Priest, Fr Gerard Quirke, of the parish on Achill Island called for Churches to reopen for Mass. The isolation caused by the current Covid-19 restrictions affects the mental health of people living alone in rural areas he said.

Fr. Quirke offered Public Mass for his parishioners outside on Easter Sunday on a Mass rock overlooking picturesque Keem Bay. Such "Mass Rocks" are scattered across the Irish countryside and are enormous rocks used to celebrate Mass during the Penal Laws in Ireland, when it was illegal to be Catholic in public. Mass Rocks are a powerful symbol as they kept the faith alive throughout the persecution of the penal era.

All this reminds me of the words of the Catholic author, Hilaire Belloc, who said: *"The Church is a perpetually defeated thing that always outlives her conquerors."* Let us pray for those deprived of the Sacraments and those persecuted for the faith. Stay well. Be safe. Do good. God Bless. A Blessed Easter Season!

*Father Healey*

# Ask Father

## What is a Priestly Vocation?

For everyone God has a plan; a vocation. "Vocation" comes from the Latin word meaning, "to call." God calls everyone to receive a particular role in establishing His kingdom here on earth. As we pray in the Our Father: "thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Receiving and following this vocation leads to perfection, fulfillment, and happiness. As C.S. Lewis wrote: "The more we let God take us over, the more truly ourselves we become – because He made us. He invented all the different people that you and I were intended to be... It is when I turn to Christ, when I give up myself to His personality, that I first begin to have a real personality of my own." This can be difficult and threatening due to sin. We are creatures who want to be in control and dictate our own plans. We develop strong defenses against those who threaten our authority and autonomy. The recent pandemic teaches us that despite our best efforts, we cannot control everything.

In God's providence he decided to transmit salvific grace through space and time by establishing the priesthood. The priest stands *in persona Christi* (in the person of Christ). Hence the priestly life is meant to be an imitation of the life and mission of Christ. When he preaches, the priest preaches Jesus Christ. When he administers the sacraments, he does so in the name and the power of Jesus Christ. When he gives a cup of cold water to a poor man, he does so in the name of Christ. The priest yearns for the salvation of every single individual just as Christ thirsts for souls. Priests go forth to teach the power of the Name of Jesus to everyone. Everyone has a part to play in building up the Kingdom of God, but the priest can give the means of salvation: grace through the sacraments (particularly the sacrifice of the Mass).

Further, "Because the priest is ordained primarily to offer the sacrifice of the Mass, i.e., to daily repeat the offering of Christ to the Father and to enter into that most holy exchange of gifts among the persons of the Blessed Trinity, his configuration to Christ is a call to step apart from ordinary life and follow the Lamb in a unique way, with an intention and even an intensity that marks him as set apart for the things of God."

I end with this quote by Fr. Jean-Baptiste Henri Lacordaire, O.P.: "To live in the midst of the world with no desire for its pleasures; to be a member of every family, yet belonging to none; to share all sufferings; to penetrate all secrets, to heal all wounds; to daily go from men to God to offer Him their homage and petitions; to return from God to men to bring them His pardon and hope; to have a heart of fire for charity and a heart of bronze for chastity; to bless and to be blest forever. O God, what a life, and it is yours, O Priest of Jesus Christ!"

# Weekly Collection

**April 11, 2021**

|               |                          |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| Weekly.....   | \$9,975.00               |
| EFT.....      | \$5,990.00               |
|               | <b>Total=\$15,965.00</b> |
| Outreach..... | \$1,934.00               |

**April 12, 2020**

|             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| Weekly..... | \$19,087.00 |
|-------------|-------------|

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*"We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop."*

- SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA

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**2021 OLM Parish Goal= \$190,000**

**2021 Pledged (to date)=\$119,973**

**2021 Total of Pledges (to date)=268**

2020 Goal= \$200,000

2020 Amount Pledged= \$131,236

Total Number Parishioners Pledges=290

**Thank you for your support.**



Religious Education  
NEWS

**Sunday, May 2:** Mass at 5pm & Class following Mass. Topic: "Receiving the Real Presence." Mass is for First Communion students and their families only.

**Saturday, May 8:** First Communion Mass & May Crowning



Outreach  
Update

•OLM Food Pantry is continually in need of food and paper goods for the members of our local community. Please place all donated non-perishable foods only and paper goods in the box in the vestibule of Church or the box on the porch of Mercy House. Thank you for your support!

•For information, please contact the OLM Outreach Director, Doug Green at 401-884-4410 or via email at [outreach@olmparish.org](mailto:outreach@olmparish.org)



Marriage Banns

Christopher Eric Johnson & Megan Jill Anderson  
Our Lady of Mercy Parish      Our Lady of Mercy Parish

Andrew Calore & Elizabeth Plotkin  
Our Lady of Mercy Parish      Our Lady of Mercy Parish

*Please pray for these couples & their marriages!*



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**April 19-25**  
**Spring Vacation**

*We wish our faculty, staff, students and families a healthy and happy vacation.*

*See you on Monday, April 26!*

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## 3rd Sunday of Easter



**T**he paschal candle should stand in the sanctuary during the entire season of Easter.

This candle symbolizes the risen Christ who conquers sin and death and, for that reason, is lit during baptisms and usually at funerals as well.

Each year, a new paschal candle is prepared during the opening rites at the Easter Vigil. It is marked with a cross, an alpha and omega, and the numerals of the year. Five grains of incense, representing the wounds of Christ, are also embedded into the wax.



*This bulletin insert was written by Marion Eagen, a liturgist and musician in the diocese of Scranton, Pa. © 2002 Resource Publications, Inc., 160 E. Virginia St. #290, San Jose, CA 95112, (408) 286-8505. All rights reserved.*

### The Resurrection

"I believe in life everlasting," in everlasting happiness, in Heaven or in eternal damnation in Hell. This great truth is a warning to us. If we remember it all our lives, we shall not steer our course towards evil and towards Hell but, towards goodness and towards Heaven, where one day, we shall come to rest in a land of lasting happiness. Our life should be a continual resurrection, a continual ascent towards perfection, which will raise us from sin, to the state of grace, from the state of grace, to fervour and from fervour to sanctity.

*Antonio  
Cardinal  
Bacci  
(1881-1971)*

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