

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD



THIS WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 2021—EASTER SUNDAY

- 8:00AM For The Parishioners
- 9:30AM Carmela Esposito (*Loving Family*)
- 11:00AM Frank T. Serpico (*Loving Family*)
- 12:30PM Paul Auwarter (*Mary Ann Kellen*)
 - George Buonocore (*John Schretzman*)
 - Ralph Falzetta (*Jackie O'Hagan*)
 - Louis Leist (*Donald Murphy*)
 - Maria Pirro (*Lena Melisi*)
 - Christine Ann Salegna (*Loving Mom & Dad*)
 - Kay & Walter Schretzman (*John Schretzman*)

MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2021

- 9:00AM Christopher Maniscalco (*Loving Daughter*)

TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2021

- 9:00AM Thomas Albert Grieco (*Joan Grieco*)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2021

- 9:00AM Francesco Storti (*Loving Family*)

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021

- 9:00AM Vincent DeRuvo (*Loving Family*)

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 2021

- 9:00AM Louis Arleo (*Maria Russo*)

SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2021

- 9:00AM Joseph Berritto, Jr. (*Loving Family*)
- 5:00PM Domenick Albi (*Casillo Family*)
 - Joan C. Anastasio (*M/M Michael Pantaleo*)
 - Lorraine Becker (*Julie Dimler*)
 - Joseph Berritto (*Beloved Mother*)
 - Maureen Goehringer (*Annette Napolitano*)
 - Chris Loizou (*Rick & Maria Elrose*)
 - John Pedone (*Maria Como*)
 - Daniel Scanlon (*Annette Napolitano*)
 - Benny Walsh (*Margaret Butler*)
 - Joseph Wilfinger (*James Wilfinger*)

SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2021—DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

- 8:00AM George & Claire Cox
- 9:30AM Christine Ann Salegna (*Loving Mom & Dad*)
- 11:00AM Ignatius Licato (*John Licato*)
- 12:30PM George Cristescu (*Janet & Don Balsamo*)
 - Concetta Dabrowski (*Annette & Marty*)
 - M/M Giuseppe DeMartino (*Auriemma Family*)
 - M/M Vincenzo DeMartino (*Auriemma Family*)
 - Tommaso DeMartino (*Auriemma Family*)
 - Joseph DiMarco (*Nicole & Christopher Delano*)
 - Ann Romani (*Raymond & Joan Mehlmann*)
- 5:00PM For The Parishioners

 Camille D. Arena—Renee Barraco
Frances DiLorenzo—Vivienne M. Pagano
Janet Powers—Marie Ragano
Julietta J. Torres

 **THE ALTAR CANDLES** for this week are donated in memory of **Paul Auwarter**, requested by **Santa Catarelli**.

 If you have forgotten to bring your **CRS Rice Bowl** to Mass, you may drop it off at the Rectory.

GOOD SHEPHERD STATUE
 We would like to thank **Vita Monastero**, who has been keeping the statue. Anyone interested in keeping the statue in their home and praying for vocations for one week should contact the Rectory.

Are you new to St. Helen Parish? If so, please stop in at the Rectory to register your family, or for easier and faster service please register through our website at www.sthelen.org

 Amado Araneta, Joe Barreca, Anthony Barresi, Stella Barresi, Mary Battista, Gianna Bintas, Barbara Bitetto, Theresia Brech, Daniel Campion, Sally Capozziello, Shang Cheng, Zena Cipolla, Marge D'Auria, Patrick Delaney, Domenica DeVito, Toni Ann Diaz, Virginia DiGangi, Mary Divers, Colin F., Jennie Federici, Jean Fochetta, Clementine Gagliardi, Dennis Giammalvo, Tony Giampietro, John Joseph Gleeson, John Pierce Gleeson, Rosemarie & Joseph Guagenti, Gertrude Gwardjak, Christine Healy, Maria Hernandez, Henry J. Hinton, Steven Iglia, Marilyn Krajcik, Keri & Baby Tristan, Elaine Lazzeri, Susan Leone, James Leung, Patricia Lipari, William J. Litt, Tom Mercatante, Barbara Miller, John Myers, Angela Ottomanelli-Hubbs, Michael Palermo, Frank Palmenteri, Sebastian Panasci, Santo Pantina, Doris Pecchillo, Nino Pedone, Amelia Pepe, Josephine Profera, Vivian Puglissi, Joseph Questore, Recupero Family, Frances Russo, John Secreti, Remington Stafford, Rubie Anna Torall, Lynn Torres, Chrissie Tremblay, Paul Tremblay, Paul John Tremblay, Sr., Sr. Joanne Walters.

PLEASE NOTE: The Intentions for the next monthly Purgatorial Society Mass will be offered on **Friday, April 30, 2021.**



At this time of the year, many symbols of Easter adorn our homes and Church. Of course, the most iconic symbol of Easter is the Risen Christ, but walking into any card store it's a different story. There are Easter eggs, bunny rabbits, chicks, candy, food shaped like lambs, an abundance of flowers, and Easter baskets filled with jelly beans and little yellow peeps. Sure, some of these symbols of the season are secular, while others are tied to Spring, and others given a Christian symbolism. But of all the symbols of Easter that have made me curious, it is the Easter Lily. I remember when I was young, listening to my mother express her disdain for lilies; she always said "Lilies are symbols of death". Now, I don't know about you, but it's rare I have ever seen a lily at a wake or a funeral, so I'm not sure where my mom was coming from. The fact of the matter is, the lily is probably the most iconic flower in the Church at Easter time. So, how did it get there?

In Christian iconography, white lilies have always been the symbol of beauty, purity, and holiness. Even in the Gospel of St. Matthew, our Lord referred to the lilies: "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these" (6:28-29). Quite appropriately, these beautiful, large, white lilies became very popular in the Easter decorations of Churches, symbolizing the new life of our Risen Lord.

The lily sort of appears as a trumpet, announcing, "He is risen!" They are facing in every direction announcing what was announced at the Easter Vigil in the singing of the the Exultet:

"Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Exult, all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ our King, is risen! Sound the trumpet of salvation!"

Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor, radiant in the brightness of your King! Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes for ever!

Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in Glory! The risen Savior shines upon you! Let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people!"

The Lily sort of stands out as that trumpet of Salvation, but the Lily will fade, unlike the message "He is Risen!" There is one story I recently read about the Lily that I find quite interesting. It's sort of a religious legend. On Holy Thursday, when Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane, suffering his Agony in the Garden, all the flowers bowed their heads in sorrow at the sight of the Lord's suffering. All of the flowers, except the proud and stately and beautiful Lily, and because the Lily witnessed the sacrifice and humility of our Lord, the Lily hung its head in shame, and has humbly done so to this day.

I know this is only a legend, but it is also a reminder to every Christian believer, what we have witnessed this past Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, should bring us pause. We have witnessed the mysteries of our faith, we have completed the Lenten fast, and now on Easter Sunday, we must hold our head up high. For, we are the heralds of the Gospel and the heralds of the message "He is risen!" Yes, the Lily will fade and the decorations will be put away, but Alleluia is now our song, for we are a people of His salvation. No shame, no darkness, only the shining splendor of our faith, a faith that tells us we may stare death in the eyes and look right past it and know that, we too shall rise!

A Happy Easter to you and yours!

Fr. Colamaria

READINGS FOR EASTER SUNDAY

Reading I *Acts 10:34a, 37-43*

Peter proceeded to speak and said: “You know what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Responsorial Psalm

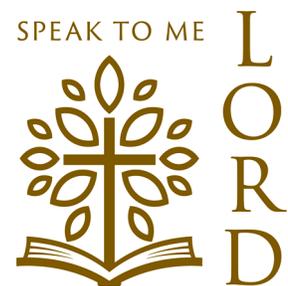
R. *This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.*

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his mercy endures forever.

Let the house of Israel say,
“His mercy endures forever.” **R.**

“The right hand of the LORD has struck with power;
the right hand of the LORD is exalted.
I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the LORD.” **R.**

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
By the LORD has this been done;
it is wonderful in our eyes. **R.**



Reading II *Col 3:1-4*

Brothers and sisters: If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.

READINGS FOR EASTER SUNDAY

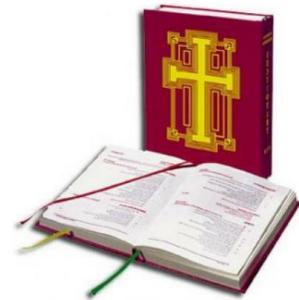
Sequence

Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer your thankful praises! A Lamb the sheep redeems; Christ, who only is sinless, Reconciles sinners to the Father. Death and life have contended in that combat stupendous: The Prince of life, who died, reigns immortal. Speak, Mary, declaring what you saw, wayfaring. “The tomb of Christ, who is living, the glory of Jesus’ resurrection; bright angels attesting, the shroud and napkin resting. Yes, Christ my hope is arisen; to Galilee he goes before you.” Christ indeed from death is risen, our new life obtaining. Have mercy, victor King, ever reigning! Amen. Alleluia.

Alleluia

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed;
let us then feast with joy in the Lord. *R.*



Gospel

Jn 20:1-9

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don’t know where they put him.” So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.



You are invited for the yearly Celebration of the **DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY** Next Sunday, April 11, 2021 with devotion from 2:00-3:00PM in Church

The celebration will include St. Faustina’s Way of the Cross, Eucharistic Exposition, St. Faustina’s Prayer for sinners, Recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Recitation of St. Faustina’s Praises, Benediction, and Veneration of St. Faustina’s Relic.

There will be an opportunity for Confession immediately after the Service. Preparation for gaining Indulgence: Reception of Holy Communion that day, Sacrament of penance approximately two weeks prior or after Divine Mercy Sunday, and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father.

Jesus, King of Mercy, We Trust In You.



Parents seeking Baptism for their children who live within the territory of St. Helen Parish are asked to register as members of the parish before requesting an initial interview for Baptism. Registration is easily done at the parish office anytime during business hours.

Parents seeking Baptism for their children who live outside the territory of St. Helen Parish are asked to obtain a letter from the parish in which they live authorizing the Baptism to take place at St. Helen.

Initial meetings with parents seeking Baptism for their children who have already been born will normally take place on the second Wednesday of each month from 7:00–9:00PM and on the fourth Saturday of each month from 10:00AM–12:00PM.

Upcoming Mornings of Preparation (Required Before a Baptism)

(All begin at the 11:00AM Mass and continue in the Msgr. McGinness Room): May 23 — June 13 & 27

Upcoming Schedule for Baptisms (All begin at 2:00PM): May — June 13 & 27

Dates for the Morning of Preparation and Baptisms are the same for the convenience of the Celebrant. It is **strongly suggested** you plan on taking the Baptism class **prior** to the date of your child’s baptism.

Please call 718-738-1616 for more information and/or to schedule an appointment.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

ST. HELEN CATHOLIC ACADEMY’S 2ND CHANCE



200 TO 1 RAFFLE!!



\$10,000 Grand Prize (\$100 per ticket)

Drawing will take place on Friday, May 21, 2021 at 7:00PM

Live Streamed on St. Helen RC Church Facebook Page

To purchase tickets or for additional information please call Maria Ford 718-344-1998 or Diane Joseph 917-697-5351

Tickets sold on a first-come first-served basis. Only 200 tickets will be sold!



Society of St. Vincent de Paul



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718-491-2525

St. Helen will share in the profits! For each car, truck or van, running or not, The Society of St. Vincent de Paul will give back to our Church \$50/\$100 per vehicle. Call The Society today if you have a vehicle to donate!



Please join us every Tuesday at 1:00PM in Church to pray the special prayers to **The Holy Face of Jesus** in reparation for the crimes of communists, blasphemers, the profaners of his Holy Name and of the Holy Day of Sunday.