

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS IS THE VERY HEART OF OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH.

Saint John places Mary Magdalene at the center of his Resurrection gospel today. Alone, she sets out early on that first day to complete the burial rites for her slain friend. What must have gone through her head as she hurried to the tomb, determined to complete her task before the world awoke? John does not want us to miss the rich symbolism of this early hour, for it is a time when Mary is still in the embrace of the darkness of unbelief.

As she approaches the tomb, she sees the rolled-away stone, not as good news, but proof that someone has broken in and stolen the body of Jesus. Before the dawn of Resurrection faith, her response is to run away from the place of Christ’s victory and hide with the others. Here, perhaps, she symbolizes every human being who has lost something precious in life through death, or a broken relationship, or an unfulfilled dream, and finds it hard to glory in the hope of the Resurrection.

In the end, Mary does what we would all do – she seeks the help of others. Returning to the tomb, she brings with her Peter, whose own journey stumbles between blindness of denial and the light of faith, and John, the beloved disciple. Yet they, too, are still blind to what has occurred.

As the drama unfolds, John arrives first, but waits for Peter before entering the tomb. As they behold the burial cloths, what they see is no longer mere physical perception – instead it is a moment of faith! While in the darkened tomb, John’s faith in the Resurrection is still not complete, but he recalls the words of Jesus and understands that his body has not been stolen, but that Jesus Himself has snatched life from the very jaws of death.

Over the Triduum, we have traveled a great way and today we stand at the empty tomb, not in the blindness of unbelief, but in the light of faith. The Christ we celebrate today is not only the Christ of the cross, but the risen Christ. To have remained on Calvary would have been to run away from the life-giving power of the Resurrection and the reconciliation that it offers to all. For the Resurrection is the victory of love and self-giving over the blindness of hatred and sin. Even the once insurmountable obstacle of death is no more, its power is smashed in the Father’s action of raising Jesus from the dead.

As we gather around the Easter candle, we do so in the renewed faith that we can once again face all that life can throw at us. Having commemorated the paschal mystery, today we proclaim to the world our belief that Christ is the Lord of the living. He walks with us, renewing us with His grace so that we can confidently live life and celebrate the hope of eternal life in the here and now.

NATIVITY CATHEDRAL RECTORY

Nativity Cathedral rectory will be closed on Holy Monday. We will reopen on Tuesday, April 18th at 9:00 a.m.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon Apr 17 Acts 2:14, 22-33, Mt 28:8-15
Tues Apr 18 Acts 2:36-41, Jn 20:11-18
Wed Apr 19 Acts 3:1-10, Lk 24:13-35
Thur Apr 20 Acts 3:11-26, Lk 24:35-48
Fri Apr 21 Act 4:1-12, Jn 21:1-4
Sat Apr 22 Acts 4:13-21, Mk 16:9-15
Sun Apr 23 Acts 2:42-47, Jn 20:19-31



YOUR SUNDAY TITHING AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Regular Collections	\$	12,721.94
Nativity Maintenance	\$	860.00
Nativity Elem.	\$	674.00
Capital Improvement	\$	963.00
Miscellaneous	\$	797.30
Easter Flowers	\$	1,380.00
TOTAL COLLECTION	\$	17,396.24
CASH NEEDED	\$	14,400.00

THE EPISCOPAL ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF BISHOP-ELECT LOUIS F. KIHNEMAN, III.

The new date for Bishop-elect Louis F. Kihneman, III, is scheduled for April 28th, 2017, at 2:00 p.m. here at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Cathedral. Vespers will be held on Thursday, April 27th, at 7:00 p.m.

DIOCESAN CHOIR

The Diocesan Choir will resume rehearsal for the ordination of Bishop Kihneman on Tuesday, April 18th, at 7:00 p.m.

COMMUNION VISITATION

Jesus says of you and me, “You are the salt of the earth”. No one should be deprived of the Most Holy Eucharist because they are homebound, elderly, have no means of getting to Mass and/or sick in their home. Sister Jackie Tarrant, RSM will gladly bring the Eucharist to you in your home. Together we can be “salt of the earth”. Sister can be reached at 228-223-8129 or the rectory at 228-374-1717.

CCD CLASS INFORMATION

There will be no classes this Wednesday. CCD classes will resume on Wednesday, April 26th, from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m., in the Sacred Heart Center.

SEELOS HEALING MASS

National Shrine - St. Mary’s Assumption Church, 919 Josephine Street, New Orleans, LA 70130. This Healing Mass will be on Sunday, April 23, 2017 at 1:00 p.m., Come with loved ones and prayer petitions. Ask what your Heart Desires. For more information, please call 504-525-2495 or www.seelos.org.

CSA FOR 2017

May the Risen Lord grant us the gift of faith to truly believe in the Resurrection, and recognize His tremendous love for us this Easter. May the gift of His spirit enlighten our minds and our hearts, so that we may share our blessings with those in need, through a gift to the Catholic Sharing Appeal.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	LECTORS	ALTAR SERVERS
Apr 22 4:00 pm 1. Gerrie Weldon 2. Helen Languirand 3. Gayle Mavar 4. Ann Kavanagh 5. Kalin Lloyd Apr 23 7:00 am 1. Jim Shugart 2. Dale Dorcik 3. Marcia Mayfield 9:00 am 1. Barbara Ziz 2. Judy Trahan 3. Linda Bourgeois 4. Maggie Landry 5. Bobby Weaver 11:00 am 1. Deacon Ben 2. Deacon Paul 3. Edward Warner 4. Brad Butterfield 5. Rhonda Clark 6. Susan Toche 5:30 pm 1. Annette Luther 2. Teresa Ballinger 3. Kristy Arguelles	Apr 22 4:00 pm Rose Anne Kimbell Apr 23 7:00 am Richard Skripek 9:00 am Al Simons, Jr. 11:00 am Michael Kessler 5:30 pm Youth Ministry CANTORS Apr 22 4:00 pm Peter Abide Apr 23 9:00 am Phil Frisby 11:00 am Choir	Apr 22 4:00 pm Simon Randall Sam Burke Apr 23 7:00 am Makayla Pfarrer Alec Ryan 9:00 am Morgan Newman Rhys Newman Rush Newman McKinzy Mathis 11:00 am Michael Pfarrer Clayton Stoddard Ave Stoddard 5:30 pm Samantha Sharplin Breanna Smith Taylor Ychereskin

Mass Intentions			
		6:30 a.m.	8:00 a.m.
Mon	Apr 17	Glaydis Schmidt	Leslie Sherman
Tue	Apr 18	Mary Rosella McAuliffe.	Juanita Baltar
Wed	Apr 19	Thomas Edward Connell	Travis Chad Barnes
Thur	Apr 20	Robert Emmett McAuliffee	Collins-Sims Fly.
Fri	Apr 21	Glenn/Joyce Pisarich	Merle Sherman
Sat	Apr 22	<u>8</u> Ann/Harry Schmidt	<u>4</u> Josephine Esposito Allen
Sun	Apr 23	<u>7</u> -Mary Thacker	<u>9</u> - For the Parishioners
		<u>11</u> - Thomas Coleman	<u>5:30</u> Dr. Jessica Crowder

PLEASE KEEP OUR SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Tiffany Whitehead, Lena Marchioni, Kay Lawson, Jeanie Harbison, Mickey Roberts, Holly Hill, Georgia Bellais Dominick, Maxine Kiddinger, Marie Manning, Lisa Walker Kirkman, Raymond Egers, Betty Hilton, Walter Blessey, Mary Lancaster, Danny Boney, Sr., Kathleen Hebert, Mickey Bradley, Cheryl Terry, Gwen Gollotte and Greg Hotaling, Richard "Red" White, Jack Joachim, Jr., Eugene LaCaze, Don Viator, Mabel Viator, Marian Semski and Michael Zorich.

NATIVITY BVM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*The Faculty, Staff and Students of Nativity BVM School would like to express their thanks for the prayer and support that you give to our school. May God bless you, and those you love, with health, happiness and peace this Easter Season and throughout the year.

*Students who participated in the Biloxi Shuckers reading incentive program, Hit the Books, will be treated to a free ticket to Sunday, April 23rd's game! Our thanks to the Biloxi Shuckers for encouraging our children to read, read, read!

*As part of Shuckers Education Day, Nativity students in grades 1 – 6, will attend a Biloxi Shuckers game on Wednesday, April 26th.

*Registration for the 2017-2018 school year is ongoing. Although several classes are near capacity, there are openings available. For more information, please visit our school's website (www.nativitybvm.org) or call the school to set up a visit, 432-2269. Come and see the Nativity difference!

NATIVITY B.V.M. CATHEDRAL'S 5TH ANNUAL UNCORKED AND UNCAPPED WINE AND BEER TASTING! APRIL 29TH, 2017.

Save the date! Saturday, April 29th, 2017, Exotic Wines – Craft Beers – Gourmet Food – Silent Auction and Live Entertainment. Tickets are \$50.00 per person, \$80.00 per couple and \$350.00 for a reserved table of 10. This event begins at 5:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS

We are looking for artsy items for our upcoming Beer and Wine Tasting Event scheduled for April 29, 2017. If you have something of interest – an antique item, artwork, crafts, jewelry – that you would like to donate, please call Fr. Dennis at (228) 374-1717. All proceeds from your donated auction item will go to the support of Nativity Cathedral Parish.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 18 - Men of St. Joseph, 7:00 a.m. – SHC
 Diocesan Choir Rehearsal, 7:00 p.m.
 Bingo Mania 5:30 p.m.

April 19- **Cleaning Team "C"**
 Mass at Seashore Retirement Home, 3:00 p.m.

April 20 Mass at Greenbriar Nursing Home, 10:00 a.m.

BINGO MANIA

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday. The following families are scheduled for April 18th. Carreon (Jose & Rico), Lyons (David & Christina), Nguyen (Steven & Tuyen), Parker (Melissa), Perryman (Allytra), Ross (Craig & Daliance) and Tran (Tuyen & Mia). **REMEMBER! If you are unable to attend, it is your responsibility to secure a replacement.**

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2016-2017 RCIA CLASS WHO ARE NOW IN FULL COMMUNION WITH OUR CHURCH!

Jaime Hallman
 Martin Krecker
 Jordan Lancon
 Kaci Lancon
 Marlene Matheny
 Amanda Naber
 Vicki O'Neal
 Sidney Rushing

PRAYER FOR OUR R.C.I.A. CANDIDATES

There will be no RCIA Class this week. Please continue to pray for the newest members of our Parish who are now Catholics in full Communion with our Church