

*Nativity B.V.M. Cathedral APRIL 1ST, 2018 EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF
THE LORD*

**WHEN WE COME TO THE EMPTY TOMB AND LOOK
IN, WHAT DO WE SEE?**

The fact that Easter falls on April first this year will not be overlooked by the most cynical of nonbelievers concerning the resurrection of Jesus. Saint Paul, in the first chapter of his first letter to the Church of Corinth, refers to the cross as a stumbling block for some and an absurdity for others.

Those of us gathered here, however, embrace the cross; we see right through the pain and agony of the cross to the glory of the Resurrection. For like Mary Magdala, Peter and the Beloved Disciple, we have come to the empty tomb, we have peered deep inside and we believe.

Like Mary, Peter and the Beloved Disciple, we arrive at our understanding of the resurrection of Jesus at different speeds, each at our own pace. In Saint John's account, Mary Magdala first thought someone stole Jesus' body, and Peter was perplexed at what he saw. The Beloved Disciple is the first one to grasp what has taken place.

If the Gospel message ended at the cross, you and I would not be here today. The stories about all the good works, all the miracles, all the teachings of Jesus would be collecting dust on a shelf somewhere. Oh, he would have been seen as a wonderful and compassionate prophet, but he would not be seen as he is today, as the glorified and risen Son of the living God.

Every day, we have a decision to make as followers of the Risen One. Each day, we must decide whether we will be observed helping to roll the stone away or trying to keep the stone still in front of the tomb. By our actions – by our witness in the workplace, in our homes and among our neighbors – are we fools for Christ, or do we hang back and let someone else do the heavy lifting?

Last night, all around the world, the universal Church grew by leaps and bounds as thousands of new Catholics were welcomed among us as they celebrated the Easter sacraments. Now, on this most sacred of days, each of us will renew our baptismal promises. Once again, we will reject evil and embrace the living God. Let us not doubt, let us not be perplexed. Let us instead come, peer deep inside the empty tomb, and believe. Alleluia!

SPRING PILGRIMAGE VOLUNTEERS

As part of our 175th Anniversary, Nativity Cathedral will be open to the public for the Gulf Coast Garden Club Spring Pilgrimage. The event will take place on April 4, 2018 between 9:00 a.m. and Noon. We are asking for volunteers to act as greeters for the guests as they come into the Cathedral. If interested in representing the Cathedral for this event please call the rectory or let Fr. Dennis or Fr. Colten know after Mass. Thank you.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

The Cathedral is seeking volunteers to assist in cleaning the church. We have four teams who help once a month in this most needed ministry. We are currently asking for help. The volunteer work consists of cleaning and straightening the pews, sweeping the terrazzo floor in the pew area and vacuuming the cathedral. This is a humble and unseen work that benefits our entire community of faith. If interested, please call the parish office at 374-1717. Thank you.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon Apr 02	Acts 2:14, 22-33, Mt 28:8-15
Tues Apr 03	Acts 2:36-41, Jn 20:11-18
Wed Apr 04	Acts 3:1-10, Lk 24:13-35
Thur Apr 05	Acts 3:11-26, Lk 24:35-48
Fri Apr 06	Acts 4:1-12, Jn 21:1-14
Sat Apr 07	Acts 4:13-21, Mk 16:9-15
Sun Apr 08	Acts 4:32-35, 1 Jn 5:1-6, Jn 20:19-31

CONTRIBUTIONS

Regular Collections	\$	9,404.29
Capital Improve.	\$	279.00
Maintenance	\$	1,303.00
Easter Flowers	\$	1,772.00
Misc.	\$	535.50
TOTAL COLLECTION	\$	13,293.79

RCIA

The 2017-2018 RCIA class will receive their Easter Sacraments at the Easter Vigil on Saturday, March 31st.

Please continue to pray for them as they receive the Sacraments of Initiation and are in full communion with our Church. They have worked very hard this year and have actively participated in RCIA..

Congratulations to each and every one as they receive the following Sacraments:

Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion:

Mindi Ducomb
Raymond Dupre
Cassie Hitt

Confirmation and First Holy Communion:

Jennifer Boles
Daniel Bounds
Sheryll Comans
Marc Ellis
Candice Jones
Tara Junkert
Joshua Kelly
Cierra Mathews
Victoria Saucier
Elizabeth Watson
Lisa Wiseman
Glenda Bruckner

Confirmation:

Christine Field

We apologize for the incorrect bulletin entry that was published last week.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	LECTORS	ALTAR SERVERS
Apr 07 4:00 pm 1. Helen Languirand 2. Liz Joachim 3. Andrea Gilich 4. Gayle Mavar 5. Kalin Lloyd	Apr 07 4:00 pm Mike Bruffey	Apr 07 4:00 pm Keegan Cuevas Sabree Puz
Apr 08 7:00 am 1. Marcia Mayfield 2. Colleen Kavanagh 3. Danny Kavanagh	Apr 08 7:00 am Joe Powell	Apr 08 7:00 am Alec Ryan Liam Jerrel
9:00 am 1. Bobby Weaver 2. Traci Kessler 3. Michael Kessler 4. Vicki Howard 5. John Brauchle	9:00 am Terry Simons	9:00 am Triston Davis Kingston Davis Amy Gollott Nicholas Gruich
11:00 am 1. John Sherman 2. Marianne Sherman 3. Sondra Williams 4. Johnny Williams 5. Edith Richardson	11:00 am Don Marie	11:00 am Blake Walli Hadyn Hollis Terrence McDonnell Cameron McDonnell
5:30 pm 1. Greg Payne 2. Penny Payne 3. Kristy Arguelles	5:30 pm Patrick Hall	5:30 pm Jacob Arguelles Nicholas Arguelles Sydni Wills
	CANTORS	
	Apr 07 4:00 pm William Endicott & Choir	
	Apr 08 9:00 am Peter Abide	
	11:00 am Sean Ross	

	6:30 a.m.	8:00 a.m.
Mon Apr 02	Nita Newman	Collins-Sims Fly.
Tue Apr 03	Raymond Egers	Jean Kridle
Wed Apr 04	Kay Lawson	Andrew Cvitanovich
Thur Apr 05	Gene LaCaze	Jean Kridle
Fri Apr 06	Andrew/Jackie Gilich	Gaspar/Mary Pisarich
Sat Apr 07	Raymond Egers	Stanley Dellenger
Sun Apr 08	Betty Lou Callegari	F.T.P
11:00 am	Coach Tom Ferrill.	9:00 5:30 Jeffery Holland

PLEASE KEEP OUR SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS

Nick Wiser, Elie Hebert, Jerry Ellis, Linda Welter, Hugh Kavanagh, Gerrie Weldon, Lehmon Skrmetti, Buddy Pullen, Annette Luther, Macklin Holloway, Mary Wimberly, Pete Skrmetta, Candy Widener, Tiffany Whitehead, Lena Marchioni, Holly Hill, Georgia Bellais Dominick, Maxine Kiddinger, Marie Manning, Betty Hilton, Mary Lancaster, Mickey Bradley, Cheryl Terry, Gwen Gollotte, Greg Hotaling, Jack Joachim, Jr., Michael Zorich, Sr. Fatima Starks and Karen Skrmetta.

NATIVITY BVM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*Nativity School will be closed from April 2-April 6th for the Easter holidays. Classes will resume on Monday, April 9th.

*The April drawing for the \$3,000 Nativity School Raffle will take place on Thursday, April 12th at 5:30 p.m.

*Registration for the 2018-2019 school year is ongoing. Although several classes are filled, openings remain in many grades. For more information about the school and its programs, please visit our website at www.nativitybvm.org or call the school office

(432-2269) to set up a tour.

*Nativity school continues to collect Box Tops for Education, Community Coffee UPC codes and aluminum beverage cans. Please continue to help us with these projects.

MUSIC MINISTRY NOTES:

There will be NO REHEARSAL for the Sanctuary Choir this Wednesday, April 4th. Our next "Gloria In Excelsis" Choral Society Rehearsal will be held on Tuesday, April 3rd at 7:00 p.m. Our Choral Ensembles – the Sanctuary Choir & our Choral Society - "Gloria In Excelsis" invites folks to prayerfully consider becoming members. All interested individuals wanting to inquiry/participate in the Music & Fine Arts Ministries Program should contact Terry Maddox – Minister of Music @ 251-406-1454 &/or @ terrydalemaddox@gmail.com

CCD

CCD classes will not meet on Wednesday, April 4, for Spring Break. Classes will resume on Wednesday, April 11. Thanks for your support of our CCD program and for bringing your children to CCD! We hope all of your families enjoy a wonderful, blessed Easter! For more information or any questions, please contact Barbara Ziz, 228-918-9778.

ANNUAL PRIESTS RETREAT

Fr. Dennis and Fr. Colten will be away from April 5th through April 8th attending the annual Priests Retreat for the priests of the Diocese of Biloxi. There will be Monday weekday Masses in the Marian Chapel. On Tuesday through Thursday, a communion service will be offered in lieu of daily Masses.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Apr 02** Nativity Rectory Closed
- Apr 03** Men of St. Joseph, 7:00 a.m. – SHC RCIA Class, 6:00 p.m. Bingo, 5:30 p.m.
- Apr 04** Cleaning Team "A"
- Apr 05** Greenbriar Mass at 10:00 a.m.

MUSIC FOR THIS WEEKEND (Saturday Easter Vigil)

SPRINKELING RITE	#819
OFFERTORY	#563
COMMUNION	#147
SENDING	#166

MUSIC FOR THIS WEEKEND (Easter Sunday)

ENTRANCE HYMN	#159
OFFERTORY	#174
COMMUNION	#178
SENDING	#166

NATIVITY B.V.M. CATHEDRAL'S 6TH ANNUAL UNCORKED AND UNCAPPED WINE AND BEER

TASTING!

Save the date! Saturday, April 28th, 2018 – Exotic Wines – Craft Beers – Gourmet Food – Silent Auction and Live Entertainment. Tickets are \$45.00 per person, \$80.00 per couple and \$400.00 for a reserved table of 10.

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS

We are looking for artsy items for our upcoming Beer and Wine Tasting Event scheduled for April 28, 2018. If you have something of interest – an antique item, artwork, crafts, jewelry – that you would like to donate, please call Fr. Colten at (228)374-1717. All proceeds from your donated auction item will go to the support of Nativity Cathedral Parish.