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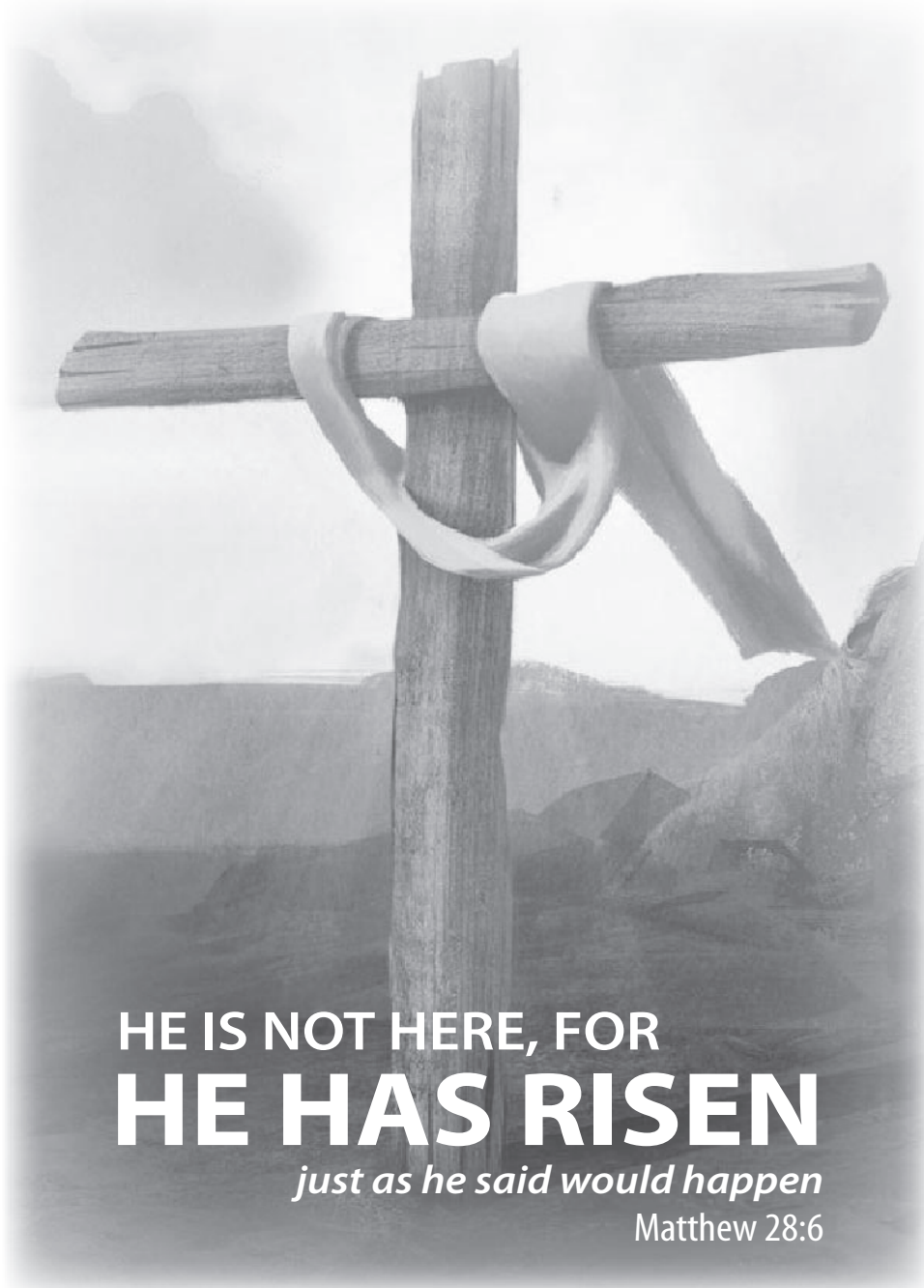
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## Pastoral Staff

Rev. Bernard Vellozo, Pastor

Deacon Don Roberts, Deacon Richard Te

Melinda Mayo, Parish Secretary Joan Cabri, Parish Bookkeeper



HE IS NOT HERE, FOR  
**HE HAS RISEN**

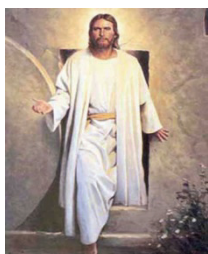
*just as he said would happen*

Matthew 28:6

# EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

April 1, 2018

## “John saw the empty tomb and believed”



What was it like for the disciple who had stood at the cross of Jesus and then laid him in a tomb on Good Friday, to come back three days later and discover that the sealed tomb was now empty? John, along with Peter, was the first apostle to reach the tomb of Jesus on Easter Sunday morning. Like Mary Magdalene and the other disciples, John was not ready to see an empty tomb and to hear the angel's message, Why do you seek the living among the dead (Luke 24:5)? What did John see in the tomb that led him to believe in the resurrection of Jesus? It was certainly not a dead body. The dead body of Jesus would have disproven the resurrection and made his death a tragic conclusion to a glorious career as a great teacher and miracle worker. When John saw the empty tomb he must have recalled Jesus' prophecy that he would rise again after three days. Through the gift of faith John realized that no tomb on earth could contain the Lord and giver of life. John saw and believed (John 20:8).

John had to first deal with the empty tomb before he could meet the risen Lord later that evening along with the other apostles who had locked themselves in the upper room out of fear of the Jewish authorities. John testified as an eye-witness to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ: What we have seen, heard, and touched we proclaim as the eternal word of life which existed from the beginning (1 John 1:1-4). John bears witness to what has existed from all eternity. This "word of life" is Jesus the word incarnate, but also Jesus as the word announced by the prophets and Jesus the word now preached throughout the Christian church for all ages to come.

One thing is certain, if Jesus had not risen from the dead and appeared to his disciples, we would never have heard of him. The reality of the resurrection is the central fact of the Christian faith. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Lord gives us "eyes of faith" to know him and the power of his resurrection. The greatest joy we can have is to encounter the living Christ and to know him personally as our Lord and Savior.

*"Lord Jesus Christ, you have triumphed over the grave and you have won for us new life and resurrection power. Give me the eyes of faith to see you in your glory. Help me to draw near to you and to grow in the knowledge of your great love for us and your great victory over sin and death."*



### Living the Gospel by evangelizing our faith in the greater world .....

Gia Lao Parish resides in the mountainous Diocese of Xuan Loc in Vietnam. It's parishioners, mostly poor, work on the hillside farms. The Pastoral Mission Fund, with the support of ShareLife, provided a one-time grant so the parish could acquire resources it could not otherwise provide. This includes bibles and hymnals, along with training for 60 catechists, who lead marriage preparation and catechism classes. With your support, Gia Lao Church is bringing faith to a community in the greater world.

**April 22 is the next ShareLife Sunday.  
Please give generously.**



### DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY APRIL 8, 2018

Celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday on April 8 with a Holy Hour here at St. Francis. At 3 p.m. the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed. The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be sung with the rest of the hour devoted to Adoration.

**PLEASE NOTE  
THE PARISH OFFICE WILL REMAIN CLOSED  
FROM APRIL 2 UNTIL APRIL 6.**

## Mass Intentions for the Week

### **MONDAY, APRIL 2 – 7:00 P.M.**

+ Gabriel Braganza  
+ Ryszard Michalec

### **TUESDAY, APRIL 3 – 8:00 A.M.**

*Intention Available*

### **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4 – 7:00 P.M.**

*Intention Available*

### **THURSDAY, APRIL 5 – 8:00 A.M.**

In reparation for offences committed against the  
Most Holy Eucharist

### **FRIDAY, APRIL 6 – 7:00 P.M.**

S.I. Hatch Family  
S.I. Priests and Deacons living and deceased

### **SATURDAY, APRIL 7 – 5:00 P.M.**

S.I. Fr. Joseph McDonald  
+ Marie Armstrong  
+ Jim Fleming

### **SUNDAY, APRIL 8 – SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**8:30 A.M.** S.I. Families visited by Divine Mercy

+ Timothy Patrick  
+ Kazimir Laszewski

**10:00 A.M.** Intention Available

**12:00 P.M.** S.I. Parish Community



## **EASTER RETREAT**

The Eight Doors of the Kingdom: We are blessed to have Fr. Jacques guide our community on the importance of living the Beatitudes. In this retreat, Fr. Jacques Philippe shows how true joy comes from spiritual poverty lived according to the Gospel. Father will give examples from the Scriptures to teach us what it means to be spiritually poor before God, ourselves, and our brothers and sisters. April 14, 2018 at Newman Centre 89 St. George St., Toronto. To register go to <https://easterretreatnewman.eventbrite> or contact [Alexandra.whittle@newmantoronto.com](mailto:Alexandra.whittle@newmantoronto.com).

## **WOMENS RETREAT**

Women Together Retreat Weekend – A Spa for the Soul. Women ministering to women. This retreat is facilitated by certified spiritual directors Anne Hales, Linda Wisz, and Questa Fernandes. Priests are with us for Mass and Confessions. Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre May 11 – 13. Cost is \$200, which is all-inclusive. Accommodations are single private rooms. For further information or to register please call the Centre at 905-278-5229.

## **LIFE IN THE SPIRIT CONFERENCE**

“Refreshed & Renewed” April 28/29 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. St. Mary’s Catholic Academy 66 Dufferin Park Ave. Join us for a weekend of praise & worship, celebration of the Eucharist and a Spirit-filled conference led by powerful speakers. Allow yourself to be renewed through the power of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Free admission with lunch included. Contact CCRC Toronto PHONE at 647-669-7524 or 647-887-5517 or email [CCRCtorontoinfo@gmail.com](mailto:CCRCtorontoinfo@gmail.com).

## **BRING LIFE TO OTTAWA**

For anyone moved by the Holy Spirit to work to protect our fellow humans from abortion, euthanasia and assisted suicide, please join us for a day trip to our Nation’s Capital by coach on Thursday, May 10, 2018 to attend the annual March for Life event. A coach will leave from St Francis of Assisi at 6:30 a.m., right after the 6 a.m. Mass. Cost is \$50. Contact John Killackey at 905-820-9232 for more information.



## **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

Please pray for the boys and girls in our parish schools who will be receiving Jesus for the first time during the weekends of April and May.

## **COMING SOON.....**

### **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SPRING FLOWER SALE**



The Knights of Columbus will be taking your Spring Flower orders after all Masses the weekends of April 21/22, April 28/29 and May 5/6. Flowers will be ready for pick-up Mother’s Day weekend May 12 and 13. Watch the bulletin for more details.

## **STEUBENVILLE TORONTO YOUTH CONFERENCE**

UOIT Campus, Oshawa July 13-15  
Now in its 5th year, Steubenville Toronto is Canada’s largest Catholic Youth Conference. Youth who will be in Grade 9 in September 2018 up to those who will be graduating high school by the end of 2018 can attend Steubenville Toronto. All youth must attend the conference with a group leader and chaperones. The deadline to register a group to attend the conference is June 14th, 2018. To register contact the Office of Catholic at 416-599-7676 or email [info@steubenvilletoronto.com](mailto:info@steubenvilletoronto.com).



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