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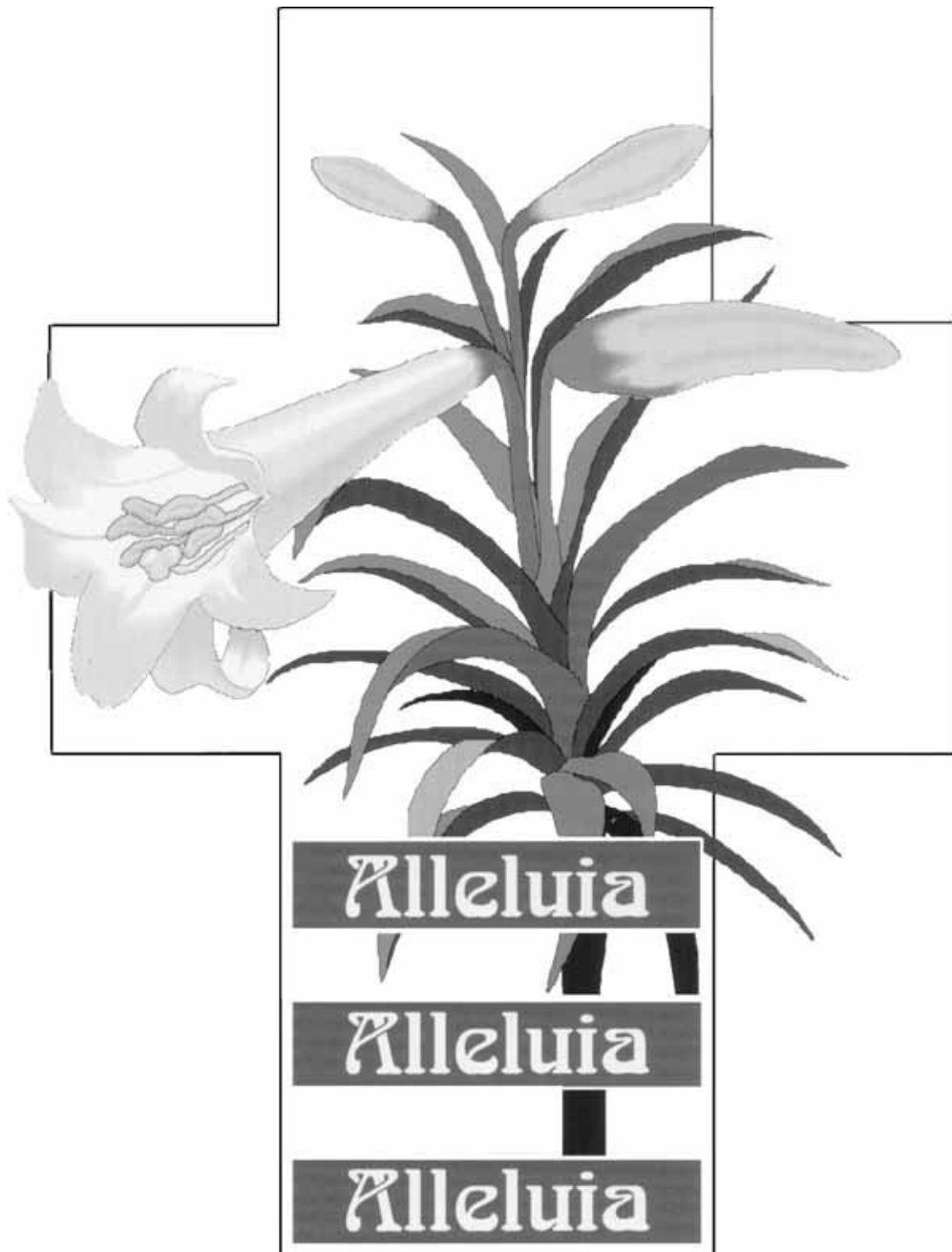
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Pastoral Staff

Rev. Bernard Vellozo, Pastor

Deacon Don Roberts, Deacon Richard Te

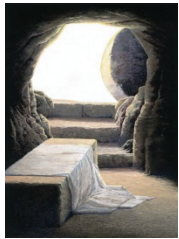
Melinda Mayo, Parish Secretary Joan Cabri, Parish Bookkeeper



EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

April 21, 2019

"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? "

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 20:19-23). 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. Nothing else could have changed sad and despairing men and women into people radiant with joy and courage. 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. Do you accept the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection with skeptical doubt and disbelief or with trusting faith and joyful wonderment?

"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."

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 27 & 28, May 4 & 5 and May 11 & 12.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If your home address or telephone number has changed, please send us an email at office@st-francisofassisi.ca

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY APRIL 28, 2019

The second Sunday of Easter is also Divine Mercy Sunday. The Chaplet of Divine Mercy will be sung here at St. Francis of Assisi on April 28 at 3:30.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Weekday Mass Attendees

Please note that Fr. Bernard will be away from the parish from Monday, April 22 to Friday, April 26. Weekday Masses will not be celebrated on those days.

MONDAY, APRIL 22 – 7:00 P.M.

No Mass

TUESDAY, APRIL 23 – 8:00 A.M.

No Mass

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24 – 7:00 P.M.

No Mass

THURSDAY, APRIL 25 – 8:00 A.M.

No Mass

FRIDAY, APRIL 26 – 7:00 P.M.

No Mass

SATURDAY, APRIL 27 – 5:00 P.M.

+ Josiphine McKinney

+ Muriel Johnson

SUNDAY, APRIL 28 – 2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER

8:30 A.M. S.I All Families Visited by Divine Mercy

10:00 A.M. S.I. Parish Community

12:00 P.M. + Dominic Pizzi

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT



Mark your calendars, beginning Thursday April 25, St Francis of Assisi Prayer Group, will be hosting our annual Parish Life in the Spirit Seminars. The Seminars will start at 7:30 p.m. in the parish

hall, and run for six weeks. If you have any questions, please call the parish office.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT CONFERENCE

“Refreshed & Renewed” Saturday, May 4 and 5 at St. Mary’s Catholic Academy 66 Dufferin Park Ave., Toronto Presented by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Council (CCRC) of the Archdiocese of Toronto. 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. Pre-registration is a must. Contact CCRC Toronto at 416-466-0776 or email CCRCtorontoinfo@gmail.com.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

On April 28 experience the healing power of God’s mercy. Featured speakers. His Eminence Cardinal Thomas Collins will be the homilist and main celebrant for the 3 p.m. Divine Mercy Sunday Mass. Confessions will available throughout the day. Come and be blessed! Mattamy Athletic Centre (Maple Leaf Gardens) 50 Carlton St., Toronto. Contact the Ave Maria Centre of Peace at 416-251-4245.



Living the Gospel through immediate mental health services.

Mental health problems can escalate if not addressed quickly. That’s why the five Catholic Family Services agencies in the Archdiocese of Toronto now offer walk-in counselling. This initiative can often meet clients’ need without requiring longer term counselling. Clients report a clinically significant increase in confidence that they can tackle their problems. For some agencies, ShareLife is the sole funder of this important program. By supporting ShareLife, you’re helping restore hope to those in crisis.

May 5 is ShareLife Sunday. PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY.

NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE



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 9, 2019 to attend the annual March for Life event. A bus will leave from Sts. Peter and Paul Church. Contact Genevieve Carson at 416-888-0251 for more information.

SPRING FLOWER SALE

The Knights of Columbus will be taking orders for their spring flower planters and baskets the weekend of April 27 & 28. Plant pick up will be the Mother’s Day weekend May 11 & 12. Please help support the Knights with their many charitable organizations. Thanks for your help and God Bless.



2019 ACTS RETREATS

Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre (1617 Blythe Rd., Mississauga) Women’s Retreat – May 2 – 5, 2019, Men’s Retreat – May 30 – June 2, 2019 ACTS is an acronym for: Adoration, Community, Theology and Service. Come and renew yourself spiritually, to strengthen your faith and to apply it to your daily life. For more information, please visit www.actscanada.org. Women’s Retreat Contact: Verena Mayhew (905) 820-1214 or verena.mayhew@bell.net. Men’s Retreat Contact: Marcel Pouliot (905) 961-7111 or marcel@artechindustrial.ca.

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