Dear Parishioners,

I wish you and your loved ones a very Happy Easter!

I pray that all of us may experience the New Life that comes from the Cross and Resurrection of Our Blessed Lord. Christ is Risen from the Dead! Alleluia! Alleluia!

As we celebrate throughout the fifty days of the Easter Season, may we grow in our understanding and relationship with our Risen Lord and may we live our parish mission statement, “To proclaim Jesus Christ in Word, Sacrament, Community, Witness & Service.”

May Christ be raised again in your hearts and in your everyday situations.

Gratefully in Christ,
Father Jasany

Readings for the Week of April 20th

Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/Mt 28:8-15
Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41/Jn 20:11-18
Thursday: Acts 3:11-26/Lk 24:35-48
Saturday: Acts 4:13-21/Mk 16:9-15
Next Sunday: Acts 2:42-47/1 Pt 1:3-9/ Jn 20:19-31

Sanctuary Guild Volunteers for April 16th thru April 29th

Barbara Nieszczur, Andrea Powers & Toni Suchy
Sick Calls – Please call the rectory to arrange for Father Jasany to bring the Sacraments when a member of your family is hospitalized.

Weddings – Parishioners are asked to call the rectory office at least 6 months in advance of the wedding to schedule an appointment with Father Jasany.

Baptisms – The 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month at 12:00 pm. Parents are required to attend Pre-Baptism Class. Arrangements must be made a minimum of 2 weeks prior to the date of baptism. Before parents baptize their child, Diocesan and parish policy requires you to complete a Baptism Preparation Class. The next class will be on Sunday, June 1st at St. John Nepomucene Parish at 12:30 PM. Reservations are needed; please call 216-641-8444 for information or to make your reservation.

Godparent and Sponsor Certificate – Sponsors for Baptism or Confirmation must be registered and practicing members of the Church, attending weekly and Holy Day Masses for a minimum of 3 months prior to the celebration of the Sacraments for which they have requested the certificate. Please note individuals 18 years of age and older, no longer in school, need to register as adults.

Pre-Cana Program for couples preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage at the Jesuit Retreat House on May 18, 2014 at 12:45 pm. This program satisfies the requirement for marriage preparation as stipulated by the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland. Register at 440-884-9300 or online at www.jrhcleve@att.net

Easter Sunday, April 20th
A container has been provided at the St. Joseph Side Altar for those who have participated in Operation Rice Bowl and are returning their bowls. If you forgot your rice bowl, you may turn it in next weekend or drop it off at the rectory office. God Bless you for your participation in Operation Rice Bowl. Thank you for your generosity!

EASTER DUTY – All Catholics are obligated to receive Holy Communion between the first Sunday of Easter and Trinity Sunday, June 15th.

Wednesday, April 23rd
Rosary Making – 10 AM to Noon at the rectory. Interested in learning to make rosaries? Please stop in at the meeting.
Zumba 7 PM
Pork & Chicken Dinner at Ceska Sin Sokol Hall; 4314 Clark Avenue. Dinner of chicken or pork comes with bread, dumplings, sauerkraut, coffee & pastry. Please contact June at 216-941-6969 or Don at 216-228-0027 for reservations or information.

Thursday, April 24th
Website Demo Meeting – 7 PM at the rectory

Saturday, April 26th
The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be prayed a half-hour before the 4 PM Mass
The 4th Chili Cook-off and Dyngus Celebration at St. Stanislaus Parish at 6 PM in the Social Center at 6601 Baxter Avenue. $5.00 Admission. Entertainment by DJ Kishka
Sunday, April 27th
The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be prayed a half-hour before the 9 AM and 11 AM Masses

$1000 Raffle Drawing after the 11 AM Mass in the school lobby. Please make sure your tickets have been returned for today’s drawing. If you are interested in purchasing a ticket, please stop over after mass.

St. Vincent DePaul Society Meeting at 10 AM at the rectory

The Catholic Home Missions Appeal helps strengthen the Catholic Church at home. Contributions given to the Catholic Home Missions Appeal helps Catholic communities across America survive & thrive by underwriting evangelization, religious education, education for future priests, training for lay ministers, and poor parishes that would have to close their doors without outside help. Envelopes have been provided in your monthly envelope packet for this collection.


For those who are sick and those who care for them, may they receive comfort and strength through our prayers, remembering especially
Agnes Bartoszek, Mary Ann Betliskey, Joanne Burke, Noella Burrows, Corrine Dawe, Larry Dooley, Jose Dybzinski, Debbie Haltuch, Rose Hensley, Kristin Hill, Frances Holecek, Dolores Jastrzebski, Joseph Kocab, Madeline Koston, Milton Kostyack, Cindi Magyar, Harold Nisker, Terry Poltorek, Linda Rivera, Virginia Turowski, Wendy Wexler and Dolores Witovicz.

For the safety of the Men and Women serving in the military, especially those from our parish and their families.

Please remember these individuals, who have been called to the priesthood in your daily prayers.

Sunday, April 20th – Bishop Richard Lennon St. Mary Seminary
Monday, April 21st – Luis Munguia Borromeo Seminary
Tuesday, April 22nd – Michael Petkosek St. Mary Seminary
Wednesday, April 23rd – Christian Raddell Borromeo Seminary
Thursday, April 24th – Robert Ramser St. Mary Seminary
Friday, April 25th – J.P. Regan St. Mary Seminary
Saturday, April 26th – Vincent Roman Borromeo Seminary
Sunday, April 27th – Bishop Martin Amos

Faith Antus, Alan Bartoszek, Isabella Garcia and Emily Richardson

Congratulations and God’s Blessing on them and their families
Karen’s Corner

Did you know that there are several theories about how the Resurrection never happened? First, skeptics will tell you that Jesus was a mythological figure. The problem with that is it takes 20 years or more for a myth to form. Some of Paul’s letters, which are the oldest documents of the New Testament, are less than 10 years old, which would not be enough time for a myth to develop. There are also over 100 historical sources that mention Jesus of Nazareth, so he most definitely was not a myth.

Secondly, skeptics will tell you that Jesus did not really die. This is called the “swoon theory” and it states that Jesus was given some kind of sedative with the wine he received on the sponge while he was on the cross. There are several problems with this. If Jesus did not die, that meant that the soldiers would have failed in their duties and they would have been killed for this mistake, according to Roman law. So, it was in their best interest to be sure that their prisoners were dead. Plus, Jesus would have had to survive massive blood loss, almost all of his blood. He had been tortured, and a spear stabbed into his side. Witnesses said they saw both blood and water pour out of the wound, which would have indicated Jesus’ death. Third, skeptics will say that the disciples stole Jesus’ body. The obvious question here is: Then show me His body. The stone that sealed the tomb would have weighed 2,000 pounds that fit into groove that would have made it impossible for one man to move. Also, the soldiers couldn’t have been asleep in order to allow the disciples to retrieve the body, for fear of their own death. And unfortunately, the apostles were cowards at the time of Jesus’ death.

They abandoned him, would they then risk being arrested by the Roman soldiers? Another point to consider here is that no one knowingly dies for a lie. The Apostles and first followers of Jesus died horrific deaths. Peter was crucified upside down; James was dragged to his death. When someone is lying, they will admit their lie sooner in order to end their torture. Not only that, but everyone at the time knew where Jesus was buried, and all they had to do was produce the body, yet no one ever has!

Last, skeptics will say the witnesses to the resurrection (women) were unreliable. The problem with this argument is that if early believers wanted to fabricate the resurrection, they would have had witnesses of political and religious influence in their community rather than women whose word meant nothing in Jesus’ time. And one final comment: If the disciples DID steal Jesus’ body, why did they take the time to strip off the linen he was laid in? It would have been stuck to Jesus like a second skin because of all the blood and fluids, and the fact that Judea is a hot climate! The answer: They wouldn’t have.

Jesus’ resurrection is the keystone to our faith, and no one will ever be able to convince me that Jesus is not God. Ever.

Have a very Blessed Easter and I will see you soon!

Karen

Earth Day – April 22nd - To celebrate Earth Day, River Valley Paper will give us an additional $5/ton during the Bonus Week - April 21st - 25th. More than one billion people will celebrate Earth Day in one way or another. So remember to bring your newspaper, cardboard and magazines to be recycled instead of tossing them in the trash.
A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

The reading from the Acts of the Apostles reminds us that we, too, bear witness to the risen Lord. The presence of Christ is within us, making us new, transforming us, turning us into stewards of the Good News. There is no more time for holding grudges, disliking others, seeking vengeance, maintaining old prejudices, tolerating bias. We are Christ’s joy and instruments of his peace. Our world is reordered. Reflect on how we are called to let Christ’s forgiveness, reconciliation and love permeate our lives. We are Easter people. Rejoice! He is Risen! Alleluia!

PASTORAL COUNCIL NEWS

There are five (5) vacancies to be filled on our Pastoral Council. Please consider if you or someone you know would be able to serve the parish on our council. Meetings are held monthly. Council does not have meetings in June, July or August. To be eligible for membership, you must be at least 18 years of age and a registered parishioner. Please consider giving of your time and talent. If you would like more information or to submit your name for nomination, contact Sue McDonough at 216-271-5347 or 216-973-1956 or the rectory at 216-641-8444 or sjnpkowalski@st-john-nepomucene.org.

MARK THOSE CALENDARS!

The 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration will be held on Sunday, July 27th at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist with the Most Reverend Richard G. Lennon, Bishop of Cleveland, as the celebrant. Mass begins at 2:30 pm.

Reservations are now being accepted for couples married 50 years (married in 1964). Couples celebrating other significant anniversaries (55 or over) who have missed previous celebrations are welcome to register and attend. Seating is limited at the Cathedral, the number of guests will be determined by the seating capacity, and the total number registered. The deadline for registration is Monday, June 16th in order to include Jubilee couples’ names in the program. In early July, registered couples will receive a letter with instructions and driving/parking details. To register (or if you have questions) please call the rectory office 216-641-8444, so that a reservation form can be completed and mailed to the Diocese.

The Kiwanis Club of Southeast Cleveland “All You Can Eat” Pancake Breakfast at Holy Name Church Haren Hall; 8328 Broadway Avenue. Serving from 9 am to 1 pm. Pancakes & French Toast with assorted toppings, Sausage, Coffee, Tea and Orange Juice. Cost - $7.00/Adults & $4.00 for children 5-12 years old. Children 4 years and under are Free. Proceeds benefit area organizations serving our youth.

“Spring Chicken” Family Dinner – sponsored by our Holy Name Society the “Eight Buck Cluck” will be held in our hall on Sunday, May 18th from Noon until 2 PM. Chicken, Sides, Salad, Roll, Desserts and Beverage. $8.00 Adults (two chicken quarters) $6.00 Under 12 & Seniors (one chicken quarter) Advance Reservations requested by May 12th – Limited Tickets at the door. Please contact Ted Grabowski at 216-397-9467 or email at Ted.Grabowski@sbcglobal.net
Have you ever seen an advertisement for a retreat and thought it would be so nice to go, “if only I wasn’t so far away?”

The World Apostolate of Fatima, Cleveland Diocesan Division is having a Marian Retreat on May 3rd at Mary Queen of Peace Parish; 4423 Pearl Road in Cleveland. The retreat’s theme is Mary’s relationship with the Holy Spirit and how the Holy Spirit distributes graces to us, through Mary. Msgr. Richard Antall, Pastor of Holy Name Parish, will lead the retreat. The retreat will be from 8:30 AM to 4 PM. The cost is $40.00. Continental breakfast and a luncheon are included. Reservations can be made online at http://conta.cc/1lrez9L, or by contacting Kathryn DeCapite at 440-223-8570 or kdecapite@wafcleveland.com.

Mark your summer calendar…and plan to attend The FEST-our 14th Annual Catholic Family FESTival held on the grounds of the Center for Pastoral Leadership in Wickliffe. This year the FEST will be held on Sunday, August 3rd. The FEST includes Christian Artists, great activities and displays for the entire family and the FEST is FREE and open to all, and concludes with an inspiring outdoor Mass. Fore more information go online to: www.theFEST.us.

“Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and halleluiah is our song.” — Pope St. John Paul II

St. Clement Parish in Lakewood is having a presentation on Human Trafficking on Wednesday, May 14th at 7 PM. Human Trafficking is NOT Human. It is a modern-day form of slavery. After drug dealing, human trafficking is the second largest criminal industry in the world today and growing. St. Clement Parish is located at 14401 Madison Avenue. Call 216-226-5116 for more information on this presentation.

Sunday, April 27th is Divine Mercy Sunday.
We will pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet a half hour before our Masses (the 4 PM, 9 AM and 11 AM) next weekend, April 26th & 27th. The dates for the Divine Mercy Novena are April 18th-26th.

For those who would like to pray the novena at home daily here is the prayer:

I fly to your mercy, Compassionate God, who alone are good. Although my misery is great and my offenses are many, I trust in Your Mercy because You are the God of Mercy, and it has never been heard of in all ages, nor do Heaven or earth remember, that a soul trusting in Your Mercy has been disappointed. (State your intentions.)

Jesus, Friend of a lonely heart, You are my haven. You are my peace. You are my salvation. You are my serenity in moments of struggle and amidst an ocean of doubts. Amen.

Recite an Our Father, Hail Mary & Glory Be.