

*JMJ*

Dear Parishioners,

Jesus is both the lamb and Isaac. He is the lamb who allowed himself to be caught, bound, and slain. He is also Isaac, who looked into heaven; indeed, where Isaac saw only signs and symbols, Jesus actually entered heaven, and since that time the barrier between God and man is broken down. Jesus is Isaac, who, risen from the dead, comes down from the mountain with the laughter of joy in His face. All the words of the Risen One manifest this joy—this laughter of redemption: If you see what I see and have seen, if you catch a glimpse of the whole picture, you will laugh! (cf. Jn 16:20).

In the Baroque period the liturgy used to include the risus paschalis, the Easter laughter. The Easter homily had to contain a story that made people laugh, so that the church resounded with a joyful laughter. That may be a somewhat superficial form of Christian joy. But is there not something very beautiful and appropriate about laughter becoming a liturgical symbol? And is it not a tonic when we still hear, in the play of cherub and ornament in baroque churches, that laughter which testified to the freedom of the redeemed? And is it not a sign of an Easter faith when Haydn remarked, concerning his church compositions, that he felt a particular joy when thinking of God: *“As I came to utter the words of supplication, I could not suppress my joy but loosed the reins of my elated spirits and wrote ‘allegro’ over the Miserere, and so on”*?

The Book of Revelation’s vision of heaven expresses what we see by faith at Easter: the Lamb who was slain lives. Since He lives, our weeping comes to an end and is transformed into laughter (cf. Rev 5:4f.). When we look at the Lamb, we see heaven opened. God sees us, and God acts, albeit differently from the way we think and would like him to act. Only since Easter can we really utter the first article of faith; only on the basis of Easter is this profession rich and full of consolation: I believe in God, the Father Almighty. For it is only from the Lamb that we know that God is really Father, really Almighty. No one who has grasped that can ever be utterly despondent and despairing again. No one who has grasped that will ever succumb to the temptation to side with those who kill the Lamb. No one who has understood this will know ultimate fear, even if he gets into the situation of the Lamb. For there he is in the safest possible place.

Easter, therefore, invites us not only to listen to Jesus but also, as we do so, to develop our interior sight. This greatest festival of the Church’s year encourages us, by looking at Him who was slain and is risen, to discover the place where heaven is opened. If we comprehend the message of the Resurrection, we recognize that heaven is not completely sealed off above the earth. Then—gently and yet with immense power—something of the light of God penetrates our life. Then we shall feel the surge of joy for which, otherwise, we wait in vain. Everyone who is penetrated by something of this joy can be, in his own way, a window through which heaven can look upon earth and visit it. In this way, what Revelation foresees can come about: every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, everything in the world, is filled with the joy of the redeemed (cf. Rev 5:13). To the extent that we realize this, the words of the departing Jesus—who, parting from us, is the coming Jesus—are fulfilled: *“Your sorrow will turn into joy”* (Jn 16:20). And, like Sarah, people who share an Easter faith can say: *“God has made me laugh; every one who hears will laugh with me”* (Gen 21:6).

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
*Father Newcomb*

**The Second Collection this weekend is for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe**

***Liturgical Ministers for May 5th/6th, 2018.***

<b>MASS</b>	<b>LECTOR</b>	<b>MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION</b>	<b>ALTAR SERVERS</b>
4:00PM	J. SMITH	K. BOBISH, C. WITTINE, T. WEBB	N. AND A. WEBB
8:30AM	J. HENDRICK	T. CALVARIO, D. AND V. LIVINGSTON	E. AND A. TRUJILLO
11:30AM	M. ESLING	B. DENNINGTON, T. MARION	S. CUELLO, S. MASCI, A. ST. LOUIS

**May Crowning will be on  
Sunday, May 6th  
after the 8:30am Mass**



We are happy to announce that we have access to **Formed!** You can create your own account **FREE** of charge at [Formed.org](http://Formed.org) and use our parish access code *WXXVJT* to gain access to multiple programs, movies, ebooks, and audios.

**St. Mary's Little Lambs Early Childhood Learning Center** holds a Summer Day Camp for children ages 3-9, with the theme, "Sightseeing With Jesus." Daily activities include Bible stories, songs, games, crafts, and water play. This year's camp will be held the weeks of July 16-20, and July 23-27. Children can attend half or full day, part or all week. Registration for Summer Camp will open Tuesday, May 1 and close Thursday, May 31. Early or Late registrations will NOT be accepted. Registration packets are now available at the Little Lambs office. Space is very limited. For more information contact director, Eileen Carmody at 845 858-4208.

We will soon begin Spring Clean-up at **St. Mary's Cemetery**. All Christmas decorations need to be removed, including solar lights, and any additional decorations. We will start to implement the spring rules and all obtuse decorations will be removed from the cemetery beginning May 1st.

**Boy Scout Troop #173** is having a clothing drive from 9-5:30 and car wash (\$5) on Saturday, May 5th from 9am until 1pm in the church parking lot. They are collecting clothes, linens, shoes, toys, and stuffed animals. Please bag like items together. For more information contact Sophie 856-4780.

On Mother's Day Weekend, May 12th/13th, we will have a Baby Shower in the Narthex. There will be a place for donations to be dropped off. Nancy Smith has been in touch with the Pregnancy Center and these are the items they need: Diapers-sizes 4,5,6 (no pull ups), shampoo, baby lotion, baby powder, baby wipes, Gift cards: Shop Rite and Wal-Mart, Monetary gifts to Tri States Pregnancy Center.

This year our parish will once again be participating in the Tri-State Pregnancy Center's baby bottle fundraiser. The fundraiser is simple and fun! Please consider picking up a baby bottle from the display on Mother's Day, Sunday May 13th. Fill it with loose change over the next few weeks, and return it on Father's Day, Sunday June 17th. The Tri-State Pregnancy Center is located in Milford, PA and has helped support women in crisis pregnancies and families in need for over 25 years. Look for the baby bottle display in the Narthex.

**ANNOUNCED MASSES**

- Monday, April 30 (Pius V, pope)**  
9:00am Ann Iannelli, by Rod and Gail Hodge
- Tuesday, May 1 (Joseph the Worker)**  
9:00am Robert T. Irish, by Teresa Lothian
- Wednesday, May 2 (Athanasius, bishop and doctor of the Church)**  
9:00am Charles McDermott, by the family
- Thursday, May 3 (Philip and James, apostles)**  
9:00am Viola Thurston, by Jack and Dorean Reilly
- Friday, May 4**  
11:30am John Giandoni, by Jack and Dorean Reilly
- Saturday, May 5**  
4pm Rose, Louis, and Lawrence Sarno, by Mike and MaryAnn McCarthy
- Sunday, May 6**  
8:30am The parishioners of St. Mary's  
11:30am DiSanzo family, by Rosa Fiorillo

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Joann Wilcox, Jackie Mundy, Theresa Fuller, Debi Cotugno, Guy Gouchenour, Tyler Lynch, Nancy Crumley, Hunter Crumley, Martin Vella, Jeanine Lincoln, William Lincoln, Barbara Straub, Robert Cinerar, Sherill Galanakis, Michael Barnes, Angela Portella, Joseph Portella, Francis Cruz, Charles Hildebrandt, Maureen Hildebrandt, Andrea Fedoruk, Elizabeth Brennan, Sandy Osbourne, John McKean, William Gaide, Dotty Lynch, Al Lynch, Danielle Devore, Chris Marion III, Jesse Smith, Linda Fontano, Jasmine Smith, Bill Smith, Lisa Smith, Lou Harford, Patricia Meinhold, Susan Upton, Devin Upton, Kathy Drane, Kenneth Lynch, Wayne DeMarco, Toni DeMarco Muller, Donald Wolff, Elizabeth Startup Jones, Anthony Deleva, Laurie Reese, Walter Szpakowicz, Jose Ramos, Carmen Ramos, Neil Stasilli, Cay Aponte, Lillian Maldonado, and Jacqueline Hamilton.

Couples celebrating their 50th  
Wedding Anniversary anytime  
during 2018 are invited to attend the

**Golden Jubilee Mass**

with Cardinal Dolan at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday, June 3. Pre-registration is required. Please contact the parish office to register.

**Deadline is May 14th.**

The collection for April 21/22 was \$6,352.  
Thank you for your continued generosity.