

St. John the Evangelist Church

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Pastoral Team

Rev. Francisco Fernandez Siles	Pastor
Rev. Mr. Raymond Del Castillo	Permanent Deacon
Miss Susan Douglas	Lay Pastoral Asst.
Mrs. Vicki Morgan	Secretar
Mrs. Cathy Dykeman	Parish Home Catechism
Mr. Brendon Orian	Youth Ministry

Support Staff

Mr. Troy Sabat	Caretaker
Mr. Kevin Dashney	Director of Music
Mrs. Sue McGee	Bookkeeper
Mrs. Gail Stewart	Cook/Housekeeper

He Lives!



Alleluia, Alleluia!!

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD



From the Pastor's Desk

Message from the Pastor

Christ is Risen! He is truly Risen, Alleluia!

We celebrate this Sunday, Easter Sunday. This solemnity is the heart and core of our faith. We are called to have an experience of the Death and Resurrection of Christ in our lives. The wonderful event of the Resurrection that happened more than 2000 years ago is happening in our lives this year 2021. This year has been very hard for many of us. We have been struggling with ourselves and with others. We have realized how impatient, ungrateful and judgemental we have been lately. However, Christ knows how much we need to find peace and consolation. God has given us the answer: Christ has died for us and He has taken upon Himself our sins and weaknesses. More than that, He has resurrected for us. It means that in Him, we can be transformed and received a new life. With His grace, we now can be patient, grateful, forgiving and much more. Let us share in the fruits that Christ has won for us through His Resurrection. It is not an outcome of our good will and our efforts, but we just need to be open to the victory that Christ has won for us. Let us all receive the Spirit of the Resurrection that makes us sharers in this new life. Let us be witnesses of the amazing life that Christ offers us and let us bring this hope to a world that is enveloped in fear and anguish!

Fr. Francisco Fernandez, Your servant and your Pastor

Pope Francis Homily, Easter Sunday

We began this celebration outside, plunged in the darkness of the night and the cold. We felt an oppressive silence at the death of the Lord, a silence with which each of us can identify, a silence that penetrates to the depths of the heart of every disciple, who stands wordless before the cross.

These are the hours when the disciple stands speechless in pain at the death of Jesus. What words can be spoken at such a moment? The disciple keeps silent in the awareness of his or her own reactions during those crucial hours in the Lord's life. Before the injustice that condemned the Master, his disciples were silent. Before the calumnies and the false testimony that the Master endured, his disciples said nothing. During the trying, painful hours of the Passion, his disciples dramatically experienced their inability to put their lives on the line to speak out on behalf of the Master. What is more, not only did they not acknowledge him: they hid, they escaped, they kept silent (cf. *Jn* 18:25-27).

It is the silent night of the disciples who remained numb, paralyzed and uncertain of what to do amid so many painful and disheartening situations. It is also that of today's disciples, speechless in the face of situations we cannot control, that make us feel and, even worse, believe that nothing can be done to reverse all the injustices that our brothers and sisters are experiencing in their flesh.

It is the silent night of those disciples who are disoriented because they are plunged in a crushing routine that robs memory, silences hope and leads to thinking that "this is the way things have always been done". Those disciples who, overwhelmed, have nothing to say and end up considering "normal" and unexceptional the words of Caiaphas: "Can you not see that it is better for you to have one man die for the people than to have the whole nation destroyed?" (*Jn* 11:50).

Amid our silence, our overpowering silence, the stones begin to cry out (cf. *Lk* 19:40)^[1] and to clear the way for the greatest message that history has ever heard: "He is not here, for he has been raised" (*Mt* 28:6). The stone before the tomb cried out and proclaimed the opening of a new way for all. Creation itself was the first to echo the triumph of life over all that had attempted to silence and stifle the joy of the Gospel. The stone before the tomb was the first to leap up and in its own way intone a song of praise and wonder, of joy and hope, in which all of us are invited to join.

Yesterday, we joined the women in contemplating "the one who was pierced" (cf. *Jn* 19:36; cf. *Zech* 12:10). Today, with them, we are invited to contemplate the empty tomb and to hear the words of the angel: "Do not be afraid... for he has been raised" (*Mt* 28:5-6). Those words should affect our deepest convictions and certainties, the ways we judge and deal with the events of our daily lives, especially the ways we relate to others. The empty tomb should challenge us and rally our spirits. It should make us think, but above all it should encourage us to trust and believe that God "happens" in every situation and every person, and that his light can shine in the least expected and most hidden corners of our lives. He rose from the dead, from that place where nobody waits for anything, and now he waits for us – as he did the women – to enable us to share in his saving work. On this basis and with this strength, we Christians place our lives and our energy, our intelligence, our affections and our will, at the service of discovering, and above all creating, paths of dignity.

He is not here... he is risen! This is the message that sustains our hope and turns it into concrete gestures of charity. How greatly we need to let our frailty be anointed by this experience! How greatly we need to let our faith be revived! How greatly we need our myopic horizons to be challenged and renewed by this message! Christ is risen,

and with him he makes our hope and creativity rise, so that we can face our present problems in the knowledge that we are not alone.

To celebrate Easter is to believe once more that God constantly breaks into our personal histories, challenging our “conventions”, those fixed ways of thinking and acting that end up paralyzing us. To celebrate Easter is to allow Jesus to triumph over the craven fear that so often assails us and tries to bury every kind of hope.

The stone before the tomb shared in this, the women of the Gospel shared in this, and now the invitation is addressed once more to you and to me. An invitation to break out of our routines and to renew our lives, our decisions and our existence. An invitation that must be directed to where we stand, what we are doing and what we are, with the “power ratio” that is ours. Do we want to share in this message of life or do we prefer simply to continue standing speechless before events as they happen? He is not here... he is raised! And he awaits you in Gaiilee. He invites you to go back to the time and place of your first love and he says to you: Do not be afraid, follow me. (March 31, 2018).

We welcome our RCIA Candidates into our Parish Community:

Lisa Catherine Wilson
Jennifer Anne Reid
Temitope Komolafe

Please keep them in your prayers!



Easter Flowers

Your contributions to the Easter Flower Fund are greatly appreciated. Envelopes are on the back counter.

Please put your name and address on the envelope. Thank you for your kind generosity.



The Parish Office will be closed
Easter Monday April 5th.
Mass on Easter Monday is at 9am.

Knights of Columbus, St John the Evangelist Council, meetings are the 1st Wednesday of each month from Sept to June. Next Meeting is Wednesday April 7, 2021 at 8PM on Zoom (details to follow by member email) For further information assisting the St John’s community and becoming a Knight through our online virtual application and exemplification process taking less than an hour, contact Grand Knight Bryan Childerhouse bryan.childerhouse@rogers.com or call 416-508-9877

Celebrations of Sacraments

First Eucharist

These Masses will be taking place on selected Sundays over the next few months and we have notified all parents of this.

Confirmation

These Masses are scheduled to take place this spring (on selected Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings) and we have notified all parents of this.



Masses For The Week

Easter Vigil Sat Apr 3 – 8:00pm NO INTENTIONS

Mon. Apr 5 – 9:00am

+
req. by

Tues Apr 6 – 8:20am

+
req. by

Wed. Apr 7 – 7:00pm

+Carmela & Francesco Princiotta
req. by Giuseppina Cannella
+Martin Doleweerd
req. by His Wife & Family
+Kathleen Behan
req. by The Gaboury Family

Thur. Apr 8 –

+
req. by

Fri. Apr 9 –

+
req. by

Sat Apr 10 –

+Werner Kuenzle
req. by Jenny & Heidi Kuenzle



Living the Gospel by sharing our blessings

ShareLife Sunday is April 18th.
*Our parish goal for this year’s campaign is **\$145,500***

This year we are encouraging you to give at sharelife.org, where you can make a one-time or monthly gift by credit card and designate it to our parish’s campaign. Monthly giving is a convenient way to spread your ShareLife contribution over the course of a year.

Using a green ShareLife envelope, found in the pews or available from the parish office, simply fill out the form on the envelope and include a void cheque. Submit it to the parish office or drop it in the offertory basket at any time. Contact ShareLife at slife@archtoronto.org or 416-934-3411 if you have any questions about pre-authorized giving.

Thank you for supporting ShareLife!

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