

## He Is Risen. Alleluia!!

My Dear Sister and Brothers in Christ,

**A Blessed and Happy Easter to all!** We are reminded that being a Catholic Christian means more than just being nice. The Church is inviting us to renew our personal commitment to Jesus Christ. We have to renew that commitment continually, because our friendship with him is always under attack. Our own selfish tendencies and the self-indulgent culture around us are constantly trying to undermine our relationship with Christ.

God knew this would be the case. That is one of the reasons that at the same time he commanded us to follow him, he also gave us the strength to do so - the Eucharist. In the Eucharist, Christ himself wants to be our firm defence against every attack. He doesn't want us to try and fight all alone. In our day-to-day strive to be faithful to him and to spread his kingdom, he wants to be our strength, our shield, and our sustenance.

Jesus has risen, and his personal victory over death and evil is also his promise of everlasting justice still to come. This promise should fill us with the joy of Easter and the courage we need to live as authentic Christians. It is easier to follow the path everyone else is following in life, instead of saying 'yes' to God's call. We are Christians, so we do the right thing even when it is not the easy thing. As Christians we know that Christ's own power will be at our service if we follow where he leads. It is easier to give into peer pressure but the Cross is our secret weapon, reminding us always that Christ's love is the reason behind everything he asks us to do and not to do.

Following Christ to the joy of the resurrection means following him through the pain of the cross, which only makes sense in light of the resurrection. It is a countercultural thing to do. He left with us his very presence in the Eucharist, which strengthens us in our ability to live as his follower. Let the Joy of Easter and the promise of the Eucharist strengthen and sustain us on this pilgrim journey to the God's kingdom. It is good to remember that no one else's promise is as sure as his.

**Happy Easter again. Alleluia!**

**Fr. Raymond**

## 2026 Sacrament of Confirmation

Our parish community will be welcoming our Diocesan Pastor, **Most Rev. Gerard P. Bergie**, Bishop of St. Catharines, who will celebrate the **Sacrament of Confirmation** on **Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> April** at **9:00 AM**.



<b>Saturday, 4 April</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>
For Parishioners and Benefactors	
<b>Sunday, 5 April</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>
For Parishioners and Benefactors	
<b>Monday, 6 April</b>	<i>No Mass</i>
<b>Tuesday, 7 April</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>
† Armando Pambianco by <i>Angelo Pambianco</i>	
<b>Wednesday, 8 April</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>
† John & Anna Vingerhoets by <i>Mary Nan</i>	
<b>Thursday, 9 April</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>
† Grimaldi family by <i>Vincenza Grimaldi</i>	
<b>Friday, 10 April</b>	
† Elio Cairo by <i>Alba Farkas</i> <b>9:30 AM</b>	
<b>Saturday, 11 April</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>
† Fernanda DiNobile by <i>Mafalda Chiavetti</i>	
<b>Sunday, 12 April</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>
For the Needs of all Parishioners	
<b>Monday, 13 April</b>	<i>No Mass</i>
<b>Tuesday, 14 April</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>
† Mary vander Hoeven by <i>Frank &amp; Paula Sneek</i>	
<b>Wednesday, 15 April</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>
† Raymond & Laura Graveline by <i>Ron Graveline</i>	
<b>Thursday, 16 April</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>
† Di Nobile family by <i>family</i>	
<b>Friday, 17 April</b>	
† Spada family by <i>Lina Spada</i> <b>9:30 AM</b>	
<b>Saturday, 18 April</b>	<b>4:00 PM</b>
For the needs of all Parishioners	
<b>Sunday, 19 April</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>
† Emily Brown by <i>Josef &amp; Mary van Ruyven</i>	

## FRIDAY MASS TIME CHANGE

Beginning this Friday, **10<sup>th</sup> April**, Mass will be celebrated at **9:30 am** with **Rosary** starting at **9:00 am**.

On every **First Friday** of the month, before Mass, we will also have **Eucharistic Adoration**.



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Easter 2026

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

At the beginning of the Easter Vigil, the ancient hymn the *Exsultet* is proclaimed. In one of the verses of this ancient hymn, we find the following words, "O truly necessary sin of Adam, destroyed completely by the Death of Christ! O happy fault that earned so great, so glorious a redeemer!"

Heaven and earth are called to exult because of God's triumph over sin and death. From this passage, we are also called to joyfully acknowledge the theological paradox found in the fact that without the sin of Adam, we would not have received "so glorious a redeemer". This 'happy fault' (*felix culpa*) created something very good in the coming of Jesus Christ.

As we look around us today, we see a world that seems to be filled with many 'faults' that do not make us very happy. The world has been redeemed in Christ; however, the effects of sin are still with us.

The Feast of Easter celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus and reminds us that from death comes life. We celebrate the fact that something good can come from something bad and that sadness can be transformed to joy.

When faced with the growing hostility and insecurity in our world, our response should not be one of passive resignation or fear. We need to turn to our Risen Lord who has triumphed over sin and evil. We should focus on the good that is found in our salvation - "O truly necessary sin of Adam, destroyed completely by the Death of Christ!"

We are called to model Mary Magdalene who, after encountering the Risen Jesus, proceeded to tell others, "I have seen the Lord" (John 20:18). To witness to Christ points the world to what is good, true, and beautiful as a counter to sin, confusion, and the ugliness of war and conflict. Jesus brings hope that things can change for the better because we have been redeemed.

Our diocese has embarked on a Pastoral Plan that focuses on a simple mission. We want to set hearts on fire with God's love. As faithful disciples of Jesus, we all have a role in this task which is at the heart of evangelization.

Let us adjust our gaze from a world that is mired in the effects of sin to the Risen Lord who offers healing and hope. This Easter, let us call others to do the same, especially our family members and friends.

"O happy fault that earned so great, so glorious a redeemer!"

Wish prayerful best wishes for a blessed Easter, I remain,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D.  
Bishop of St. Catharines

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