



## *Easter Sunday*

April 8, 2007

To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name - Acts 10:43

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**CLASSES:** Classes for Pre-School through Grade 8 will resume AFTER Easter, April 15<sup>th</sup>. May the Blessings and Peace of Holy Week and Easter be with all our families!

**CONFIRMATION:** Nineteen candidates are prepared to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Our Bishop Michael Saltarelli, D.D. will celebrate the Liturgy and administer the Sacrament on Sunday, April 15, 2007 at 12 Noon in St. Joseph on the Brandywine Church. **REHEARSAL** for the Candidates with their Sponsors will be held on Friday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00p.m. Please remember these young people and their families and sponsors in your prayers.

**FIRST COMMUNICANTS:** Our children in the First Communion Class will have a **MINI RETREAT/JESUS DAY** on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am. to 12 Noon in St. Joseph Family Center. ALL children must attend this morning of Prayer, Instruction, Activities. Parents are reminded to guide their children through the First Eucharist Book which parents received some weeks ago. Class time is limited because of Spring Break and Easter coming so close together. Parents guidance and interest in the religious instruction of the child is **MOST IMPORTANT**.

#### Parish Council Nominations

In last Sunday's bulletin, we included a nomination form for Parish Council. Please return your nomination to the boxes located in the back of church. There are three vacant seats (three-year term.) The nominating committee is listed on the ballot form. You may speak with them directly or with Msgr. Rebman to serve or suggest a name of a fellow parishioner who could be approached for Council Membership.

#### *\* Up With People \**

We are pleased to welcome so many visitors to St. Joseph on the Brandywine to share the blessing of the Risen Saviour. A special welcome to our new members from the RCIA program. Morgan Hendry and Greg Johnson were received into the church on Holy Saturday during Easter Vigil.



### **PASTOR'S NOTES**

#### *Undying Hope*

Today's feast goes directly to the heart of life. The Resurrection, which follows the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ, is the most important event in the history of the world. As we contemplate this mystery, we begin to see that it contains all of life. Pain, suffering and death are never the last words. All of us will have experiences of these realities, but the promise made by the resurrection of Jesus is that pain, suffering and death will be transformed into new life. God, who is a God of life, has assured us that ultimately there is nothing to fear, not even death itself.

Our task as a Christian is to believe in spite of all that we see in the world around us. To hold this kind of unshakeable hope in the face of what we hear and witness every day may, to some people, be an act of insanity. They ask us to show them where that hope can be found. They want some logical answer to their anguished questions about the existence and meaning of suffering. Can we blame them? We don't have a reasonable and airtight argument for our position, for our hope. Instead of a logical answer, we have a person - Jesus Christ, risen from the dead.

Mary Magdalene also carried this hope in her heart. Jesus had freed her from seven demons. He had given her life back to her, and she, in turn, gave her life to him as one of his most faithful and loving followers. When she comes to his tomb, the two angels ask her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" Are we being asked the same question? When Jesus rose from the dead, all of us rose with him. Jesus' resurrection was the ultimate and final sign that life is stronger than death. We firmly hold and believe that death is not the end of who we are. Death is merely a stage that we go through. On Easter morning Jesus emerged on the other side of death into a new and eternal life. You and I have been given that same hope and promise.

**Easter blessings!** Listen to Catholic Forum every Sunday morning at 10:05 a.m. on 1150AM WDEL in Wilmington or at 10:35 a.m. on 92.7 FM WGMD in Rehoboth Beach. Next Sunday, April 15th, Dr. Mary McCrossen will discuss embryonic stem cell research and cloning. Catholic Forum is a production of the Office of Communications of the Diocese of Wilmington.

## ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL



*"Tending the Flock"*

During the weekend of April 21 and 22, you will be asked to participate in the 2007 Annual Catholic Appeal. In past years, our people have always been generous to the Appeal and I am certain that this year will be no different. To ensure that parishioners know and understand the importance of the Annual Catholic Appeal, the following information is offered:

The Annual Catholic Appeal is a fund-raising campaign that is conducted each year in the Diocese of Wilmington. The funds raised provide critical financial support to two dozen pastoral, charitable and educational ministries.

The money raised in the Appeal goes to support five areas of ministry: Catholic Education (Religious Education, Campus Ministry, Catholic Youth Ministry, Catholic Schools, Boy and Girl Scouts, Deaf and Special Needs Ministries); High Schools (Padua Academy, Ss. Peter & Paul, St. Elizabeth, St. Mark's, and St. Thomas More Academy); Pastoral Services (Institutional Chaplains, Hispanic Ministry, Ministry for Black Catholics, the Office for Religious, Ordained Deacons and Office of Worship); Catholic Charities (Adoption, AIDS Ministry, Bayard House, Behavioral Health Counseling and Substance Abuse Services, Casa San Francisco, the Catholic Thrift Store, Crisis Alleviation, Energy Assistance Program, Family Life Bureau, Immigration and Refugee Resettlement Program, Parish Social Ministry, Pre-Adolescent Program, and Seton Center); and Communications and Administration (the Office of Public Relations and Media, *The Dialog*, and Women's Commission).

During Mass on Commitment Weekend, April 21 & 22, parishioners will be offered a pledge card. They will be asked to participate in this campaign by completing the card and pledging a specific amount of money over a designated period of time. Individuals unable to attend Mass on Commitment Weekend will be offered another chance to participate the following weekend.

***Every parish is assigned a target. Ours is \$252,100.***

As Christian stewards we are called to a lifelong conversion to the ways of Jesus. Each of us is asked to examine the blessings we have received from God and to discern how best to use them to help others. We nurture our gifts, share them with others and return them to God with increase. We do this cheerfully and sacrificially and with faith in God's love for us, knowing that He will provide for our earthly wants. Additional information about the Appeal will be offered through *The Dialog* and our parish bulletin during the next few weeks.

## Mass Intentions †

Saturday (April 7) *Easter Vigil*

8:00 p.m. Parishioners

Sunday (April 8)

7:30 a.m. Novena

9:00 a.m. Novena - Church

9:00 a.m. Novena - Hall

10:30 a.m. Novena - Church

10:30 a.m. Novena - Hall

Monday (April 9)

7:00 a.m. Novena

12:05 p.m. Novena

Tuesday (April 10)

7:00 a.m. Novena

12:05 p.m. Novena

Wednesday (April 11)

7:00 a.m. Theresa Nicastro Wahl by Chuck Wahl

12:05 p.m. Dr. William F. Butler & Dr. Stephen Butler by Peggy Butler Baird

Thursday (April 12)

7:30 p.m. Eleanor Kelly by Dick & Grace Rowe

12:05 p.m. Sophia Morris by Francine Oliver

Friday (April 13)

7:00 a.m. Dr. John L. Kron by family

12:05 p.m. Peguesse/Ridgway families by family

Saturday (April 14)

8:00 a.m. Sister Thomas More SSJ by Kosak family

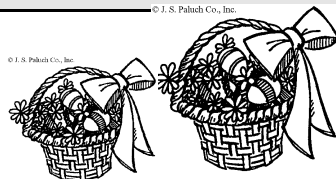
5:00 p.m. Francis Kelleher by Cathy & Gene Kelleher

### *Easter Joy to Emmanuel Dining Room*

Share your Easter joy with the more than 200 people at EDR who depend on us each month. Make room during this busy season to provide dinners and desserts for EDR. We need volunteers to come to the Family Center on Tuesday, April 10, at 9 a.m. to help prepare the boxed stuffing and green beans. We also need people to bring desserts to cap off the meal. Won't you join us? Call Jeanne Harkin, 610-388-1845, or Ann Hapka, 610-388-1362, if you have questions.

### *GOLF CLASSIC*

The Oblates of St. Francis deSales are sponsoring their 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Classic Monday, May 14, 2007 at Hartefeld National Golf Club in Avondale, PA. Please consider participating as a \$100.00 Tee Sponsor for this event. For details contact Diane at 302-658-2212.



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