



Third Sunday of Easter

April 22, 2007

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches,
wisdom and strength, honor and glory and blessing.
- Revelation 5:12

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

CONFIRMATION: Eighteen tenth grade students received the sacrament of Confirmation from our Bishop Michael Saltarelli, on Sunday, April 15th. The newly-confirmed are: Madeleine Audet, Victoria Blackhurst, Hunter Bouchard, Alexander Brehm, Elizabeth Connolly, Evan DeDominicis, Kevin Gimlett, Tyler Hobbs, Madelyne Lynam, Meghan Lyons, Louise Makowski, Rebecca Murray, Vincent Russomagno, Robert Shearer, Kathryn Sommers, Erik Weidner, Mary Sophia Williams, William Zantzing. Due to a conflict of dates Olivia Walker will be confirmed with the Confirmation Class at St. Ann Church on Wednesday, April 25th.

We **CONGRATULATE** these young people and pray that their journey in faith may find them growing closer to Jesus and open to the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. We pray for their Parents and Sponsors that they may continue to guide their children as they live and practice their Faith.

FIRST COMMUNICANTS: Our Children in the First Communion Class will have a **MINI RETREAT/JESUS DAY** on Saturday, April 28th from 9:00am. to 12 Noon in St. Joseph Family Center. ALL children must attend this morning of Prayer, Church Tour, Instruction, Activities. Parents are reminded to continue to guide their children through the First Eucharist Book which parents received a few months ago. Parents interest and guidance in the religious instruction of the child is **MOST IMPORTANT**.

MAILING: Parents of children in the First Communion Class will receive a letter of information early next week. The First Communion Liturgy will take place on Saturday, May 5th at 11:00a.m.

EXPRESS YOURSELF

Nominations are still being taken for Parish Council. 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.

Have you been Confirmed? Confirmation is one of the three (Baptism & Eucharist being the others) initiation Sacraments. When an adult joins the church he/she receive all three sacraments at the Easter Vigil. For infants who are baptized, Confirmation is received in the Roman Rite as a teenager. If you missed receiving Confirmation as a teenager now you have the chance to complete your initiation into the church. Many people don't realize that a Catholic who has not been confirmed cannot serve as a godparent. Bishop Saltarelli will be administering the Sacrament of Confirmation to adults on the Feast of Pentecost, May 27, 2007. Contact Deacon Ed Lynch @ 477-3200 or in the p.m. @ 654-7471 or by e-mail@ felynych@wlnglaw.com.

PASTOR'S NOTES

“Tending the Flock”

One of Catholicism's most enduring and resonant symbols is the Good Shepherd. Christ the Shepherd is a gentle steward, leading his flock around the pitfalls of our daily lives, leading us closer to God each day.

The shepherd faces his greatest challenges in tending to the disenfranchised, the sick, the stranger, and the poor who are scraping by on the fringes of our community and you don't have to look far to find people in need. They might live down the street from you - or even on the street. They might work in your building - or have no job at all. They might be senior citizens, in need of companionship or a hot meal, or children desperate for medical care or a loving home.

Yes, the needy are truly everywhere, and so is Jesus. Our mission as Catholics is to take the spirit of Jesus that lives with us every day and do our best to see that this spirit reaches those who are most in need of His love and care.

The Appeal provides the financial support that enables two dozen organizations within the Catholic Diocese of Wilmington under the direction of Bishop Saltarelli to bring Jesus into the lives of those who need His support.

By contributing to the Appeal, you can share the rewards you've found in Christ, and help to keep the spirit of Jesus alive in those hearts that need him most. The charitable, pastoral and educational ministries that the Appeal supports provide services that transcend age, race and social class.

In addition, our parish has a unique opportunity to raise funds for our own needs through support given to the Annual Catholic Appeal. Fifty percent of the amount collected over our parish target of \$ 252,100 will come back to the parish for our own ministerial uses. Thank you to those who already contributed to the Appeal as a Circle of Honor member. If you aren't prepared today, you may also turn your pledge in next week. Any gift, large or small, is greatly appreciated!

Please give prayerful and thoughtful consideration to your resources and the needs of those served by the Annual Catholic Appeal.

BEFORE YOU GO TO THE HOSPITAL

If you're going to the hospital, please let the Parish Office know so that we can visit. Because of the Privacy Act, the hospital cannot announce your presence without your permission. When registering, please register as a member of our parish. If you would like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick prior to surgery or a hospital visit, please call the Parish Office.



LET'S KEEP IT CLEAN!

We welcome Easter flowers and decorations to our parish cemeteries; however, the Easter clean up will begin shortly in preparation for Mother's Day.

Help our Ministry to the Homeless

Please help us with our ministry that provides emergency shelter in motels and transitional shelter in homes for homeless families. The homes, Martha House I and Martha House II, are located in the city of Wilmington. We need people to help with repairs and maintenance at the homes, gardening, mentoring for adults and children, and accounting and fund-raising. Please call Maraleta Malloy to volunteer or to ask for more information: (302) 656-1439.

COFFEE IN THE FAMILY CENTER ON SUNDAY:

LEARN ABOUT THE PARISH LITURGY COMMITTEE

Please join us in the Family Center after the 9 and 10:30 Masses today (Sunday, April 22) for coffee, sweets, and fellowship. Meet John Kojro, chairperson of our Liturgy Committee, and learn about volunteer opportunities on the Liturgy Committee and the Environment Subcommittee.

Liturgy literally means "work of the people." What better way to answer the call to share your time and talent than by joining in this important work? Members of the Liturgy Committee are responsible for coordinating all aspects of liturgy from song selection to plant placement to church decorations. We welcome new members who are willing to share their talents; we need people who can help us with sewing, carpentry, design work, word processing, and cleaning. We are also looking for a volunteer to compile the books used by the presider, cantor, and lector during the weekend masses. Come and find out more!

STAINED GLASS RESTORATION

As we mentioned earlier, our stained glass windows are leaking, and are in need of restoration. We have settled on a studio to do this; the project, as we're sure you've noticed, began on Thursday, March 12 with the removal of every other window. When these are restored and replaced, the other half will be done. The entire project is estimated to take 10-12 weeks.

St. Helena's Carnival - April 30th - May 5th. Dinners, rides, just plain fun! Family nights - Tues, Wed - ride all night \$15/per person.



Our prayers & thoughts go out to the entire Community of Virginia Tech, Administration, Faculty, Students and their families.

Mass Intentions †

Saturday (April 21)

8:00 p.m. Rita Kearns requested by family

Sunday (April 22)

7:30 a.m. Edith Giacco requested by family

9:00 a.m. Jonathan Martin Beech by M/M Edmond Ianni

10:30 a.m. Parishioners

Monday (April 23)

7:00 a.m. Margaret G. Tomaine by Margaret Speicher

12:05 p.m. June E. Michener by Mary L. Roberts

Tuesday (April 24)

7:00 a.m. Robert V. Rice by Jimmy Cullen

12:05 p.m. Paul Paoletti by Tom & Linda Kane

Wednesday (April 25)

7:00 a.m. Jonathan Martin Beech by Deacon & Mrs. F. Edmund Lynch

12:05 p.m. Dolores Insunza by Vanessa Gonzalez

Thursday (April 26)

7:30 p.m. Elizabeth Marchle by Aline & Ed Lynch

12:05 p.m. Rebecca Jones by Homsey Family

Friday (April 27)

7:00 a.m. John Vaile by Ted & Nancy Kibus

12:05 p.m. John & Frances Brown requested by the family of James S. Grant, Jr.

Saturday (April 28)

8:00 a.m. Nancy VanZant by Charles O'Neill

5:00 p.m. Alice Mical by Cathy & Gene Kelleher

BIBLE STUDY GROUP RESUMES

Our afternoon Bible study, led by facilitator Pamela Nash, resumed on Monday, April 16. We will meet five more Mondays before breaking for the summer: April 23 and 30 and May 7, 14, and 21. Please join us for 90 minutes of meditation and discussion about the Sunday Gospels. We meet in the Family Center from 12:45 until 2:15. Bring a drink and bag lunch if you wish.

St. Thomas the Apostle School Summer Camp June 11th - August 10th (Pre-K through 4th grade) 8am to 4pm Monday-Friday, Extended care for mornings 7am and afternoons until 6pm available. Swimming daily, bowling, movies, theater, amusement park trips, crafts, and indoor/outdoor play. Space limited. Call 654-0746 for info