

CHURCH of the RESURRECTION NEWS

Nr. 8 (3535) February 25th, 2024

2nd SUNDAY IN LENT - B



On the second Sunday of Lent in each Lectionary cycle, the Gospel reading proclaims the story of Jesus' Transfiguration.

The Transfiguration occurs after Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah and Jesus' prediction about his passion.

Jesus takes three of his disciples—Peter, James, and John—to a high mountain. While they are there, Elijah and Moses appear with Jesus.

Elijah and Moses are significant figures in the history of Israel. Moses

led the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and received from Yahweh the Ten Commandments. In appearing with Jesus at his Transfiguration, Moses represents the Law that guides the lives of the Jewish people. Elijah is remembered as one of the most important prophets of Israel who helped the Israelites stay faithful to Yahweh. Some Jews believed that Elijah's return would signal the coming of the Messiah for the Jewish people. This belief is evidenced in the question posed by Jesus' disciples after they have witnessed the Transfiguration. The appearance of these two important figures from Israel's history with Jesus signifies Jesus' continuity with the Law and with the prophets and that Jesus is the fulfillment of all that was promised to the people of Israel.

On seeing Jesus with Elijah and Moses and having witnessed his Transfiguration, Peter offers to construct three tents for them. Mark reports that the disciples are terrified by what they have witnessed and that Peter's offer is made out of confusion. We also notice that Peter has reverted from his earlier confession that Jesus is the Messiah, calling Jesus rabbi instead. As if in reply to Peter's confusion, a voice from heaven speaks, affirming Jesus as God's Son and commanding the disciples to obey him. This voice from heaven recalls the voice that was heard at Jesus' baptism.

In his Transfiguration, we see an anticipation of the glory of Jesus' Resurrection. In each of the reports of the Transfiguration, Jesus instructs the disciples to keep secret what they have seen until after the Son of Man has risen from the dead. The disciples' confusion continues as they wonder what Jesus means by rising from the dead. The disciples cannot possibly understand Jesus' Transfiguration until they also witness his passion and death. We hear the story of Jesus' Transfiguration early in Lent, but we have the benefit of hindsight. In our hearing of it, we anticipate Jesus' Resurrection, even as we prepare to remember Jesus' passion and death. (loyolapress.com) †R.R.

*I will walk in the presence of the Lord,
in the land of the living.*

SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS ARE FOR:

9 a.m. †Fr. Gediminas Kijauskas, JS	(S.Brough, D.Pranaitis)
11 a.m. for living and deceased parishioners for peace in the world	
†Maryte (Esa) Fisher	(Suziedelis family)
†Ipolitas Stanevicius	(Stanevicius family)
†Dana Puzeris	(V.Puzeris)
†Egidijus Dimintrenka, Eleonora and Alfonsas Tviragas (B.Dimitrenka)	(Prakapas family)
†Fr.Antanas Prakapas (25th anniv.)	(R.Slapsys)
†Genute, Romas and Kristina Simkus	(Januska family)
†Gene Krakauskas	(VDG)
requesting grace of health for Joana	(GK)
requesting grace of health for parish priests	

2024

March 3

St. Casimir's Fair

March 8-10

Lenten Retreat

March 28-31

Holy week

March 31

Easter

April 7, 2pm

*Choirs "Balsas" and
"Volunge" concert*

April 21

Annual Parish Meeting

April 26-27

Spring Rummage Sale

May 5

First Communion

May 26

Confirmation

June (date TBD)

Run for Hope

June 7-9

Camp "Kretinga" -

Work Weekend

Camp Kretinga

July 7-20 (En.)

July 21 - August 3 (Lith.)

Family Camp

August 17 - 24

October 18-19

Fall Rummage Sale

November 9

Annual Dinner

December (date TBD)

Advent Retreat

December 1

Christmas Concert

December 25

Christmas

Cantors of the Masses:

9 AM - Gintas Pabedinskas

11 AM - children

organist - Ilona Beres

The week's Holy Masses

MONDAY (February 26): 7 p.m. †Kristina Simkus-Sukauskas (GJ);

TUESDAY (February 27): 7 p.m. for living and deceased parishioners; †Sofija Augaitis (Prakapas family);

WEDNESDAY (February 28): 7 p.m. †Valentinas and Marija Indris (R.Indris);

THURSDAY (February 29): 7 p.m. †Felicija Gudinskas (Jaglowitz family); †Juozas Beliunas (D.Steponaitis); †Irena and Henrikas Matusaitis (R.J.Balaisis); †Regina Antanaitis (8th anniv.) (daughter);

FRIDAY (March 1): 7 p.m. †Liudas Matukas (G.Matukas);

SATURDAY (March 2): 9 a.m. †Edmundas Urniezius and deceased family members (family); 5 p.m. "Vilnius Manor" †Kazimieras and Anele Pajaujis (E.Shishkus);

SUNDAY (March 3): 9 a.m. blessings of the Lord for Slivinskas family (NS); 11 a.m. for living and deceased parishioners; †Ona and Stasys Dackus (granddaughter); †Nijole, Algimantas and Algirdas Banelis (Cuplinskas family); †Fr. Kazimieras and Janina Kaknevičius (A.Jurcevičius); †Jeronimas Pleinys (Pleinys family); for Kuliesius' deceased family members (R.J.Kuliesius); †Kristina Rudaitis (S.Gruchalla and I.Matus); †Juozas Leknys and Albertas Butvila (B.Tamosiunas).

Capital Fund - 371,345

THANK YOU...

"For it is in giving that we receive".

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

Sunday (02.18) & "Vilnius Manor"

Collections -

37 envelopes - \$ 1,285

No envelopes - \$ 94.65

Direct deposit - \$ 1,065

THANK you for your generosity...



Every Thursday during Lent, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at 5:30 p.m. will take place before the evening Holy Mass. Please come and spend an hour with the Lord.

Reflections on the Stations of the Cross Fridays during Lent at 6:15 p.m. before the evening Holy Mass. Let us in prayer accompany Jesus on his sorrowful journey.

Our Parish Lenten Retreat on March 8 - 10,

will be conducted by

Fr. Vitalijus Kodis from Lithuania.



What is Lent? What to do during Lent?

Lent is the six week period leading up to Easter. It's one of the most important times of year for many Christians around the world, particularly those within the Anglican, Catholic and Orthodox traditions, held at a similar level of importance to Advent – the build up to Christmas.

While Advent is a celebration and a time of great anticipation, Lent is more frequently seen as a time of solemn observance and preparation for the celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter. From its start on Ash Wednesday until its conclusion on Easter Sunday, Lent has been a traditional time for fasting or giving something up or abstinence. Just as we carefully prepare for events in our personal lives, as a wedding, or birthday; a commencement Lent invites us to make our minds and hearts ready for remembering Jesus' life, death and body resurrection.

What do Christians do during Lent?

These days, Christians around the world observe Lent in many ways. Many from more orthodox and traditional denominations will still observe the fast strictly, beginning with the wearing of ashes on Ash Wednesday and abstinence of meat, fish, eggs and fats until Easter Sunday.

Others will choose to give up just one item for Lent, more commonly a 'luxury' such as chocolate, meat or alcohol. It is also becoming increasingly common for people to give up other things in order to refocus their faith during this time; such as watching TV, going to the gym, even social media.

Many Christians also use Lent to study their Bibles and pray more intensively, making use of the many devotional books and courses now available to. And, of course, more and more Christians are turning to the 40acts challenge as a way of doing Lent differently; using simple daily reflections and acts of generosity as a way of putting others first during preparations for Easter.

Sundays during Lent are very important to Christians around the world. Where the Monday to Saturday of each of the six weeks are concerned with fasting and abstinence, the Sunday is a celebration symbolic of Christ's resurrection. Instead of fasting, Christians hold feasts in remembrance of Christ's sacrifice. The fourth and sixth Sundays are particularly important in the UK – the fourth because it is Mothering Sunday (Mother's Day) and the sixth because it's Palm Sunday.



Spring is a time of rebirth and a beautiful opportunity to

continue with the Lenten spirit of giving; doing good deeds for others. We invite everyone to write heartfelt Easter greeting cards for the seniors living at “Labdara” nursing home. Your greetings will bring them hope, love, happiness, and a feeling of close connection to our community.

We welcome everyone to the parish cafe March 17th, and 24th. After each Mass, you will have an opportunity to make some greeting cards. All materials will be provided.

For further questions, please contact Vida Dirmantaite-Groen in 't Woud vidag@primus.ca

We thank you for your continued generosity.

2024 CAMP “KRETINGA”

English camp

July 7th - 20th

Lithuanian camp

July 21st - August 3rd

[https://form.jotform.com/](https://form.jotform.com/camp_kretinga/2024-Camper_Registration)

[camp_kretinga/2024-](https://form.jotform.com/camp_kretinga/2024-Camper_Registration)

[Camper Registration](https://form.jotform.com/camp_kretinga/2024-Camper_Registration)

We can't wait to see

YOU ALL!

Our parish “Labdara” committee CONTINUES The FOOD DRIVE in aid of the needy in Toronto and INVITES ALL to participate.

NON-PERISHABLE Food may be brought and left in the box provided, at the parish door.

Thank you in advance for your kind donations.

Pope pays tribute to “living martyr” of Communism

Cardinal Simoni, who is a simple priest, was present at the papal audience on February 14. He suffered prison and forced labor under Communism in Albania.



Pope Francis paid tribute to Cardinal Ernest Simoni (present at the audience), the Albanian “living martyr” who spent 18 years of his life between prison and hard labor during the Communist era. At the end of the general audience on February 14, 2024, the Pope asked for applause for the 95-year-old, “who continues to work for the Church without becoming discouraged.”

“Dear brother, I thank you for your testimony.” In the Vatican’s Paul VI Hall, Pope Francis turned to Cardinal Ernest Simoni to pay him a heartfelt tribute. Referring to the great number of martyrs dying today for their faith in Jesus Christ, “perhaps more than in the past,” Pope Francis improvised before the crowd a heartfelt thanks for this priest, whom he had met in 2014 during his trip to Albania.

“He spent 28 years in prison [18 years, Ed.], in the prisons of Communist Albania, perhaps the cruelest persecution. And he continues to bear witness,” said the Pope to applause from the crowd.

In 2016, moved by the journey of this priest who was about to turn 88, Pope Francis created him a cardinal — a rare decision since Ernest Simoni was not a bishop.

Arrested after a Christmas Mass

Born into a deeply religious family, Ernest Simoni entered the Franciscan minor seminary in Troshani at the age of 10, in 1938.

In 1948, his friary was ransacked by the Communist forces of dictator Enver Hoxha, and turned into a place where prisoners were tortured.

At the age of 20, the young Franciscan was sent by the regime to a remote mountain village, before doing two years’ military service. After continuing his studies in secret, he was ordained a priest in 1956, at age 27. In agreement with his bishop, he was incardinated into the Diocese of Scutari, while remaining a Franciscan at heart.

On December 24, 1963, he was arrested after Christmas Mass. He was sentenced to death originally, but this sentence was then commuted to 25 years’ hard labor. This enabled him to provide spiritual direction to the prisoners, celebrate Mass in Latin from memory, and hear their confessions. “I prayed a lot, especially the Holy Rosary,” he recalls.

On the walls of his prison, he had written: “My life is Jesus.” Sentenced to death again in 1973, he escaped execution thanks to prisoners’ testimonies on his behalf.

Released in 1981, after 18 years in prison, he was still considered an “enemy of the people” by the regime, and forced to work in the sewers of Scutari. He carried out his priestly ministry clandestinely until the fall of the Communist regime in 1990.

“Today we have touched martyrs,” Pope Francis declared after hearing his testimony and that of a nun, during his trip to Albania in September 2014.

At 95, Cardinal Ernest Simoni is still able to move about and celebrate the sacraments. On Tuesday evening, for example, he celebrated Mass in the chapel of the Swiss Guard in the Vatican.

The Parish is not responsible for the content of the ads

THANK YOU for donations.

You can donate to the parish and for parish causes through: envelopes; eTransfers (email: resparish@prisikelimas.ca ;

Q: What is the name of the parish?

A: Resurrection; (indicating to whom the donation is addressed) or on the parish site www.prisikelimas.ca/give.

Through banks - RCU and Parama by direct deposit.

PLEASE NOTE: Writing Cheques payable to **Resurrection Parish** in the MEMO: Donation to Parish or Mass.

Writing Cheques payable to **Franciscan Fathers** in the MEMO: Capital Fund, Renovation fund, Monastery, Soup kitchen, Camp "Kretinga", Oncology centre Klaipeda, Franciscan Fathers projects in Lithuania.



ROYAL LEPAGE

Lina Kuliavas - Sales Representative
Royal LePage Real Estate Services Ltd.,
Brokerage
bus 416-762-8255; cell 416-616-1600
lina@kuliavas.com



Will assist you
in buying or selling
your House or a Condo

JURGIS KULIEŠIUS M.Eng.,
Jerzy Kulesza
Sales Representative

Tel.

Sutton Group-Admiral Realty Inc.,
Brokerage 416.236.6000



Affiliated Insurance Management

Home, Auto & Business Insurance

Competitive rates
Expert, professional advice
Personal service
Supporting the Lithuanian community

Contact:

Rima Drescher, rimald@affiliatedinsurance.ca
Rick Drescher, rickd@affiliatedinsurance.ca

2012 Ontario Insurance Brokerage of the Year

905.845.4201

www.affiliatedinsurance.ca



SAVE THE DATE
March 4, 2024
1573 Bloor Street West
Parama's Annual General Meeting



Irena Rentel
Sales Representative
905 783 6608
rentelhomes@gmail.com
www.rentelhomes.ca

480 Eglinton Ave West Unit 30
Mississauga ON L5R 0G2
office 905 565 9200



**RCU Board of Directors
Candidate Nominations**

2024 elections

NOMINATION PERIOD:
Opens: February 1, 2024
Closes: March 15, 2024 at 12:00 noon

SAVE THE DATE
Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Learn more at:
rpcul.com



Pastor: Fr. Jonas Sileika, OFM
Associate Pastor/Parish economist:
Fr. Raimundas Bukauskas, OFM

Serving Priest: Fr. Augustinas Simanavicius, OFM

Deacon: Dr. Kazimieras Ambrozaitis
Parish office administrator: Gitana Judvytyte

Office hours:
Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Phone.: (416) 533 0621
Web: www.prisikelimas.ca
Email: resparish@prisikelimas.ca
Church of the Resurrection
1 Resurrection Rd., Toronto, ON. M9A5G1