

CHURCH of the RESURRECTION NEWS

Nr. 3 (3530) January 21st, 2024

3rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - B



Today we begin a continuous reading of Mark's Gospel that will carry us through this segment of the liturgical season of Ordinary Time.

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a narrative about Jesus' birth. Instead Mark begins by reporting on the preaching of John the Baptist. John is described as the voice in the wilderness sent to prepare the way of the Lord. Immediately after describing the work of John the Baptist, Mark reports on Jesus' baptism and his temptation in the desert. Jesus' public ministry begins after the arrest of John the Baptist. Mark wants his readers to understand the important connection between the end of the ministry of John the Baptist and the beginning of Jesus' own ministry.

As we learn at the beginning of today's Gospel reading, Jesus preaches the Kingdom of God in continuity with the preaching of John the Baptist. Like John the Baptist, Jesus' pronouncement of the kingdom is a call to repentance. Yet Jesus' preaching is greater than John's. Jesus begins the time of fulfillment; the Kingdom of God is already here. Jesus' healings and forgiveness of sins are signs of the Kingdom of God that he announces in his teaching.

In contrast to last week's Gospel, in Mark's Gospel Jesus takes the initiative in calling his first disciples. As mentioned last week, it was more typical of first-century rabbinical schools for students to seek out rabbis, asking to be their disciples. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus breaks with this tradition and invites his disciples to learn from him. Jesus is said to have first called four fishermen—Simon, Andrew, James, and John. Simon and Andrew are brothers. Jesus promises that he will make them "fishers of men." James and John are also brothers. Mark does not report Jesus' words of invitation to them, but he does report that they left their fishing immediately; their father, Zebedee, was left behind in the boat.

Mark's Gospel is told with a great sense of urgency and immediacy. Jesus is a person of action, and events occur in rapid succession. We see this in today's Gospel. Time is of the essence; the fishermen immediately put aside their livelihood to become Jesus' disciples. The Kingdom of God is here and now. The time of fulfillment is at hand. How might our lives be different if we more fully shared this sense of the immediacy of God's kingdom? (loyolapress.com)

†R.R.

Teach me your ways, O Lord, teach me your ways.

SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS ARE FOR:

9 a.m. †Antanas and Jadvyga Paskevicius, Monica and Clare Creedon (family)

11 a.m. for living and deceased parishioners

for peace in the world

†Stase and Rimantas Bartusevicius

(O.Stoncius)

†Ona Anskis

(Stanevicius family)

for Gudelis' and Sakevicius' deceased family members (family)

†Regina and Antanas Ulba

(A.Jurcevicius)

†Monsignor Jonas Staskevicius

(B.Kazlauskas)

†Marija and Bronius Karasiejus

(R.J.Karasiejus)

†Domicile and Antanas Gadliauskas

(family)

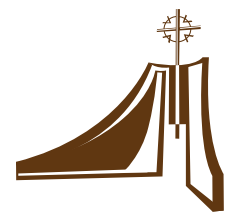
†Sofija and Jonas Rumbutis, Stanislavas and Boleslovas Seslauskas (family)

(family)

†Sofija Augaitis

(Senda family)

request grace of health



2024

February 4

Sports club "AUSRA" Mass

February 11

Pancake Sunday

February 14

Ash Wednesday

March 3

St. Casimir Fair

March (date TBD)

Lenten Retreat

March 28-31

Holy week

March 31

Easter

April 7

Choirs "Balsas" and

"Volunge" concert

April 21

Annual Parish Meeting

April 26-27

Spring Rummage Sale

May 5

First Communion

June (date TBD)

Run for Hope

June (date TBD)

Confirmation

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 - Zibute Janeliunas and Ted Chornomaz

11 AM - cantors

organist - Ilona Beres

The week's Holy Masses

MONDAY (January 22): 7 p.m. request grace of health for Anele and Pijus Kruzikas (Prakapas family);

TUESDAY (January 23): 7 p.m. for living and deceased parishioners;

WEDNESDAY (January 24): 7 p.m.;

THURSDAY (January 25): 7 p.m. request grace of health for Barakauskas family (Prakapas family);

FRIDAY (January 26): 7 p.m. in thanksgiving - request grace of health for friend Angele (friend); †Liudas Matukas (G.Matukas);

SATURDAY (January 27): 9 a.m. †Zenonas Kuciskas (A.T.Sokol); special intention (NN); 5 p.m. "Vilnius Manor" †Dana Puzeris (GJ);

SUNDAY (January 28): 9 a.m. †Kristina Simkus-Sukauskas (family); 11 a.m. for living and deceased parishioners; †Kristina Simkus-Sukauskas & Genute and Romas Simkus (GJ); †Valentinas and Marija Indris (R.Indris); request grace of health for Joana (VDG); †Vilius and Jadvyga Ruslys (N.Ruslys); †Juozas, Viktoras and Alfonsas Merkevicus (D.Danaitis); †Petras, Ona, Rita and Baltramiejus Jonikas (Z.Jonikas); †Monsignor Jonas Staskevicius (I.Baziliauskas); †Laimute Gudinskas (1st anniv.) (family); †Ilona Smalenskas (V.Puzeris).

Capital Fund - \$ 371,055

THANK YOU...

"For it is in giving that we receive".

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

**Sunday (01.14) and "Vilnius Manor"
Collections -**

35 envelopes - \$ 1,405

No envelopes - \$ 84.85

Direct deposit - \$ 1,120

THANK you for your generosity...

PLEASE PLEASE again, we kindly ask, that everyone who donates to the parish, or in support of its causes by way of envelopes, kindly ensures that the information requested on the envelope is correctly submitted, i.e. name, address.

Thank you

We invite our community to meet with Viktorija Čmilytė - Nielsen, Speaker of the Parliament of Lithuania on Sunday, January 28, after 11 am Mass, Resurrection Parish Hall (address - 1 Resurrection Rd, Etobicoke, M9A 5G1).

We invite you next Sunday, January 28th to stop by our cafeteria for Lithuanian food: kugelis, meatballs and soup.

Also enjoy coffee and sweets after 9 am and 11 am Mass.

We invite everyone to attend!

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR TAKE-OUT ORDERS - YOU MUST PRE-ORDER ONLINE BY FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 7PM.

PLEASE USE THE LINK BELOW TO PLACE YOUR ORDER.

<https://www.eventcreate.com/e/lietuviska-virtuve-prisikel-410562>

YOU WILL NEED TO ENTER YOUR NAME, EMAIL, ORDER DETAILS, AND PREFERRED PICK-UP TIME (9:30 or 11AM).

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.

Senior 55+ Valentine's Dance

Friday, February 9th, 7pm

Church of the Resurrection

\$20 per person

Cash Bar

Dress Code: Casual with a **Splash of Red!**

Space is limited.

RSVP to: ritagrybas@gmail.com or 647-625-2625.

If you wish to bring an appetizer please contact:

victoria.vingelis@gmail.com or 647-225-3573

For more information contact:

johnbirgiolas@icloud.com





Why should we read the Bible / study the Bible?

We should read and study the Bible because it is God's Word to us. The Bible is literally "God-breathed" (2 Timothy 3:16). In other words, it is God's very words to us. There are so many questions that philosophers have asked that God answers for us in Scripture. What is the purpose to life? Where did I come from? Is there life after death? How do I get to heaven? Why is the world full of evil? Why do I struggle to do good? In addition to these "big" questions, the Bible gives much practical advice in areas such as: What do I look for in a mate? How can I have a successful marriage? How can I be a good friend? How can I be a good parent? What is success and how do I achieve it? How can I change? What really matters in life? How can I live so that I do not look back with regret? How can I handle the unfair circumstances and bad events of life victoriously?

We should read and study the Bible because it is totally reliable and without error. The Bible is unique among so-called "holy" books in that it does not merely give moral teaching and say, "Trust me." Rather, we have the ability to test it by checking the hundreds of detailed prophecies that it makes, by checking the historical accounts it records, and by checking the scientific facts it relates. Those who say the Bible has errors have their ears closed to the truth. Jesus once asked which is easier to say, "Your sins are forgiven you," or "Rise, take up your bed and walk." Then He proved He had the ability to forgive sins (something we cannot see with our eyes) by healing the paralytic (something those around Him could test with their eyes). Similarly, we are given assurance that God's Word is true when it discusses spiritual areas that we cannot test with our senses by showing itself true in those areas that we can test, such as historical accuracy, scientific accuracy, and prophetic accuracy.

We should read and study the Bible because God does not change and because mankind's nature does not change; it is as relevant for us as it was when it was written. While technology changes, mankind's nature and desires do not change. We find, as we read the pages of biblical history, that whether we are talking about one-on-one relationships or societies, "there is nothing new under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 1:9). And while mankind as a whole continues to seek love and satisfaction in all of the wrong places, God—our good and gracious Creator—tells us what will bring us lasting joy. His revealed Word, the Bible, is so important that Jesus said of it, "Man does not live on bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). In other words, if we want to live life to the fullest, as God intended, we must listen to and heed God's written Word.

We should read and study the Bible because there is so much false teaching. The Bible gives us the measuring stick by which we can distinguish truth from error. It tells us what God is like. To have a wrong impression of God is to worship an idol or false god. We are worshiping something that He is not. The Bible tells us how one truly gets to heaven, and it is not by being good or by being baptized or by anything else we do (John 14:6; Ephesians 2:1-10; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:10-18, 5:8, 6:23, 10:9-13). Along this line, God's Word shows us just how much God loves us (Romans 5:6-8; John 3:16). And it is in learning this that we are drawn to love Him in return (1 John 4:19).

The Bible equips us to serve God (2 Timothy 3:17; Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12). It helps us know how to be saved from our sin and its ultimate consequence (2 Timothy 3:15). Meditating on God's Word and obeying its teachings will bring success in life (Joshua 1:8; James 1:25). God's Word helps us see sin in our lives and helps us get rid of it (Psalm 119:9, 11). It gives us guidance in life, making us wiser than our teachers (Psalm 32:8, 119:99; Proverbs 1:6). The Bible keeps us from wasting years of our lives on that which does not matter and will not last (Matthew 7:24-27).

Reading and studying the Bible helps us see beyond the attractive "bait" to the painful "hook" in sinful temptations, so that we can learn from others' mistakes rather than making them ourselves. Experience is a great teacher, but when it comes to learning from sin, it is a terribly hard teacher. It is so much better to learn from others' mistakes. There are so many Bible characters to learn from, some of whom can serve as both positive and negative role models at different times in their lives. For example, David, in his defeat of Goliath, teaches us that God is greater than anything He asks us to face (1 Samuel 17), while his giving in to the temptation to commit adultery with Bathsheba reveals just how long-lasting and terrible the consequences of a moment's sinful pleasure can be (2 Samuel 11).

The Bible is a book that is not merely for reading. It is a book for studying so that it can be applied. Otherwise, it is like swallowing food without chewing and then spitting it back out again—no nutritional value is gained by it. The Bible is God's Word. As such, it is as binding as the laws of nature. We can ignore it, but we do so to our own detriment, just as we would if we ignored the law of gravity. It cannot be emphasized strongly enough just how important the Bible is to our lives. Studying the Bible can be compared to mining for gold. If we make little effort and merely "sift through the pebbles in a stream," we will only find a little gold dust. But the more we make an effort to really dig into it, the more reward we will gain for our effort.

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.



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parama.ca/scholarship-program

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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

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