

# CHURCH of the RESURRECTION NEWS

Nr. 11 (3538) March 17th, 2024

## 5th SUNDAY IN LENT - B



Today's Gospel reading is taken from the Gospel of John. Chapter 12 of John's Gospel is a preparation for the beginning of the passion narrative to follow. Jesus has just raised Lazarus from the dead—an important sign in John's Gospel, which inspired many people to believe in Jesus. This event also marks the turning point in Jesus' conflict with the Jewish authorities. John's Gospel tells us that the Sanhedrin met after this event and made plans to kill Jesus. In the 12th chapter of John's Gospel, Jesus is anointed at Bethany and enters Jerusalem in triumph. We again see evidence of the significance of the raising of Lazarus to this event; John reports that the crowds also gathered to see Lazarus.

Following his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, Jesus predicted his suffering, death, and Resurrection and prepared his disciples to believe in the salvation that his death would accomplish. Using the metaphor of the grain of wheat, Jesus presented the idea that his dying would be beneficial. He also taught that those who would be his disciples must follow his example of sacrifice. This theme will be repeated in John's account of the Last Supper, when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples as an example of how they must serve one another.

The final section of today's Gospel might be read as John's parallel to the agony in the garden. Jesus gives a confident response to the question he raises when asking God to save him from his impending death. After announcing his conviction that it is for this purpose that he came, a voice from heaven speaks, as if in answer to Jesus' prayer. This voice, like the one heard at Jesus' baptism and at Jesus' Transfiguration—events reported in the Synoptic Gospels but not in John's Gospel—affirms that God welcomes the sacrifice that Jesus will make on behalf of others. Jesus teaches that this voice was sent for the sake of those who would believe in him.

In today's Gospel, we also hear Jesus speak about the cosmic framework against which we are to understand his passion, death, and Resurrection. Through his death and Resurrection, Jesus conquered Satan, the ruler of this world. In this way the world is judged, but the judgment is not condemnation. Instead, through Jesus' dying and rising, salvation is brought to the world. ([loyolapress.com](http://loyolapress.com)) †R.R.

### *A pure heart create for me, O God.*

#### SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS ARE FOR:

9 a.m.	†Felicija Gudinskas	(S.Brough)
11 a.m.	for living and deceased parishioners for peace in the world	
	†Rimantas Anskis	(Stanevicius family)
	†Marija Gudelis (1st anniv.)	(family)
	†Silvija Freimanas	(V.Puzeris)
	†Petras Murauskas	(R.Bell)
	†Monsignor Jonas Staskevicius	(Prakapas family)
	†Genovaite Simkus	(GJ)
	†Kastytis Dailyde	(V.A.Dailyde)
	†Danguole Baziliauskas	(R.Simanavicius)
	†Antanas, Kestutis, Ona Stankus & Konstancija & Stasys Juknevicius (R.Slapsys) in thanksgiving - blessings of the Lord for Violeta Poskus & her family (I.Matus)	

## 2024

**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 - Zita Nausedas

organist - Ilona Beres

### The week's Holy Masses

**MONDAY** (March 18): 7 p.m. for Morkunas' deceased family members (A.Morkunas); †Birute Norkus (K.Pylypiv);

**TUESDAY** (March 19): 7 p.m. for living and deceased parishioners; †Eugenijus Cuplinskas (family);

**WEDNESDAY** (March 20): 10 am 7 p.m. †Terese Grazulis (Buozis family); †Sarunas Stankevicius (V.Zaleckaite);

**THURSDAY** (March 21): 7 p.m. †Adele Storyk (5th anniv.) (daughter); †Teodora and Alfonsas Deimantavicius (RU);

**FRIDAY** (March 22): 7 p.m. †Stasys Prakapas (R.J.Balaisis);

**SATURDAY** (March 23): 9 a.m. †Dana Puzeris (L.Underis); 5 p.m. "Vilnius Manor" †Virginija Sveikatiene (N.Slivinskas);

**SUNDAY** (March 24): 9 a.m. Dana Puzeris (L.R.S.Kuliavas); 11 a.m. for living and deceased parishioners; †Albina and Antanas Laurinaitis (daughter); †Marija and Jonas Karka (IZ); †Julija Svabas-Gylys (IZ); †Tomas Prakapas (family); †Julius Jankauskas (1st anniv.)(B.Kazlauskas); †Irena and Henrikas Matusaitis (R.J.Balaisis); †Mary and Donald Minihan and Lilija Tamosauskas (V.V.Baliunas); †Marija (25th anniv.) and Bronius Karasiejus (R.J.Karasiejus); for Cuplinskas', Matulionis' and Stonkus' living and deceased family members (Cuplinskas); request grace of health for Joana (VDG).

**Capital Fund - 371,345**

**THANK YOU...**

**"For it is in giving that we receive".**

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

**Sunday (03.10) & "Vilnius Manor" Collections -**

33 envelopes - \$ 900

No envelopes - \$ 61.35

Direct deposit - \$ 1,720

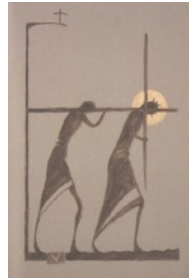
**THANK you for your generosity...**



**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.



### HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

**March 24th - PALM SUNDAY**

**9 a.m. Holy Mass (English)**

**11 a.m. Holy Mass**

*(the Blessing of palms will take place in the vestibule followed by the procession into the sanctuary)*

**March 28th - HOLY THURSDAY**

**7 p.m. Holy Mass**

*(Commemoration of the Lord's Last Supper: the institution of the Holy Eucharist and Holy Orders)*

**March 29th - GOOD FRIDAY**

**2:50 p.m. Musical reflections**

**3 p.m. Celebration of the Passion of our Lord**

*(This is a liturgy of Word and Service.*

*We gather to reflect on the Passion and our salvation)*

**Solemn vigil at Jesus' tomb**

**March 30th - HOLY SATURDAY**

**Solemn vigil at Jesus' tomb**

**8:00 p.m. Blessing of the fire and preparation of the Easter Candle**

**Vigil Liturgy of the Word and Holy Mass of the Resurrection**

*(In this evening's liturgy, we welcome Christ as our Light, reflect on our salvation history, renew our Baptismal vows, and celebrate Christ's glorious Resurrection)*

**March 31st - EASTER SUNDAY**

**9 a.m. Easter Sunday Holy Mass (English)**

**11 a.m. Easter Sunday Holy Mass (Lithuanian)**



**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 TODAY and March 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](mailto:vidag@primus.ca)

We thank you for your continued generosity.

## 100 VOICES for 100 YEARS

Voices of the Joint Montreal and Toronto Lithuanian Song Festival choir will soar performing songs from the repertoire of the upcoming song festival in Vilnius, Lithuania. „May the Green Forest

Grow“ celebrates the 100 years since the song festival seed was planted in Kaunas, in 1924.

**Join us at the Church of the Resurrection Parish Hall, Toronto, on Sunday, April 7th, at 2 pm** to hear pieces by contemporary composers as well as arranged Lithuanian folk songs.

Tickets may be purchased on the day of the concert or at Resurrection Parish Sundays from 9:30 am – 1 pm. Price: \$20

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Stonehewer Books invites you to the launch of a new book by **Antanas Šileika** “**The Death of Tony**” - a memoir about belonging in two worlds.

*In conversation with author Joe Kertes.*

**Wednesday, March 27 at 7 PM, Society Clubhouse** (967 College Street). Antanas’s new book is about balancing the Canadian and Lithuanian parts of his life, themes that will be familiar to many of the children of the postwar DP generation. Snacks and cash bar.

*We are waiting for you...*

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**SHARE LIFE Campaign TODAY.** Envelopes you will find in the church vestibule.

Please consider supporting the Archdiocesan charities by using the envelopes or by going to the internet [www.archtoronto.org](http://www.archtoronto.org) and using the **DONATE NOW**.

*Thank you...*

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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 at Audience:

### We can acquire virtue through God's grace

During his Wednesday General Audience, Pope Francis continues his catechetical series on virtues and vices, this week turning to virtue in general and encouraging the faithful to acquire it through the Lord's grace.

"May we all rediscover and practise virtue," Pope Francis urged during his weekly General Audience on Wednesday morning in the Vatican. At the start of Audience, the Holy Father explained he would have an assistant, Father Pierluigi Giroli from the Vatican Secretariat of State, read for him, since he still has "a bit of a cold." This week, the Pope continued his catechetical series on vices and virtues. After a number of months dedicated to the vices, he transitioned this week to a discussion of virtue.

Rediscovering, practising virtue - The human heart, the Pope acknowledged, "can indulge evil passions" and "pay heed to harmful temptations disguised in persuasive garb," but, he reminded the faithful, we "can also oppose all of this." The human being, the Holy Father said, is made for goodness, stressing that "this truly fulfils" us. Being aware of our innate inclination for what is good, he suggested, enables us to possess certain permanent dispositions.

"In these dramatic times of ours in which we often have to come to terms with the worst of humanity," Pope Francis said, virtue "should be rediscovered and practised by all." "In a distorted world, we must remember the form in which we were shaped," the Pope said, namely in "the image of God, that is forever imprinted upon us."

Defining virtue - "But how can we define the concept of virtue?" the Holy Father pondered. The Pope recalled that the Catechism of the Catholic Church offers us a precise and concise definition of virtue as a "habitual and firm disposition to do the good" (no. 1803).

Therefore, he noted, virtue is not some "improvised" or "somewhat random good that falls from heaven sporadically."

While acknowledging that even criminals have performed good deeds, which "are inscribed in the "book of God," the Holy Father said, "virtue is something else."

"It is," he clarified, "a goodness that stems from a slow maturation of the person, to the point of becoming an inner characteristic."

Calling virtue "a *habitus* of freedom," the Pope argued that "if we are free in every act," and we have the tendency to choose the good, this is virtue.

How to acquire virtue - The Pope recognized that understanding how to acquire virtue is "not simple," but complex.

"For the Christian, the first aid," he insisted, "is God's grace." Indeed, he stressed, the Holy Spirit acts in us who have been baptized, working in our soul to lead it to a virtuous life.

"How many Christians," he marveled, "have reached holiness through tears, finding they could not overcome some of their weaknesses! But they experienced that God completed that work of good that, for them, was only a sketch."

Grace, he said, always precedes our moral commitment.

"Moreover," Pope Francis continued, "we must never forget the very rich lesson from the wisdom of the ancients, which tells us that virtue grows and can be cultivated. And for this to happen, the first gift to ask of the Spirit is precisely wisdom."

Good will and open-mindedness - The human being, the Pope noted, is not "a free territory for the conquest of pleasures, emotions, instincts, passions," that does not have the ability "to do anything against these forces, at times chaotic, that dwell within."

Rather, he stressed, we can exercise open-mindedness, a type of wisdom that enables us to "learn from mistakes in order to direct life well," as well as use our good will, "which enables one to choose the good."

Pope Francis concluded by encouraging faithful to embrace our journey through the virtues, in a "serene universe that is challenging," but "decisive for our happiness."

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](mailto: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](http://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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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](http://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](http://www.prisikelimas.ca)

Email: [resparish@prisikelimas.ca](mailto:resparish@prisikelimas.ca)

Church of the Resurrection  
1 Resurrection Rd., Toronto, ON. M9A5G1