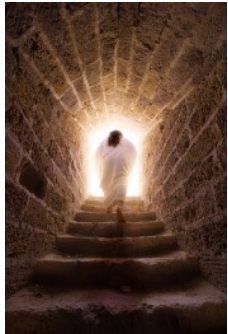


CHURCH of the RESURRECTION NEWS

Nr. 13 (3540) March 31st, 2024

EASTER SUNDAY - B



Today we begin the Easter Season, our 50-day meditation on the mystery of Christ's Resurrection. Our Gospel today tells us about the disciples' discovery of the empty tomb. It concludes by telling us that they did not yet understand that Jesus had risen from the dead. Thus, the details provided are not necessarily meant to offer proof of the Resurrection. The details invite us to reflect upon a most amazing gift, that is faith in Jesus and his Resurrection.

Each of the four Gospels tells us that Jesus' empty tomb was first discovered by women. This is notable because in first-century Jewish society women could not serve as legal witnesses. In the case of John's Gospel, the only woman attending the tomb is Mary of Magdala. Unlike the Synoptic accounts, John's Gospel does not describe an appearance of angels at the tomb. Instead, Mary is simply said to have observed that the stone that had sealed the tomb had been moved, and she runs to alert Simon Peter and the beloved disciple. Her statement to them is telling. She assumes that Jesus' body has been removed, perhaps stolen. She does not consider that Jesus has been raised from the dead.

Simon Peter and the beloved disciple race to the tomb, presumably to verify Mary's report. The beloved disciple arrives first but does not enter the tomb until after Simon Peter. This detail paints a vivid picture, as does the detail provided about the burial cloths. Some scholars believe that the presence of the burial cloths in the tomb offers evidence to the listener that Jesus' body had not been stolen (it is understood that grave robbers would have taken the burial cloths together with the body).

The Gospel passage concludes, however, that even having seen the empty tomb and the burial cloths, the disciples do not yet understand about the Resurrection. In the passage that follows, Mary of Magdala meets Jesus but mistakes him for the gardener. In the weeks ahead, the Gospel readings from our liturgy will show us how the disciples came to believe in Jesus' Resurrection through his appearances to them. Our Easter faith is based on their witness to both the empty tomb and their continuing relationship with Jesus—in his appearances and in his gift of the Holy Spirit. (loyolapress.com) †R.R.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

or

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad.

SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS ARE FOR:

- 9 a.m. for Dirmantas', Nevulis' and Groen in't Woud deceased family members (family)
11 a.m. for living and deceased parishioners
for peace in the world
for Stasiulevicius' living and deceased family members (J.Stasiulevicius)
†Gita and Algis Beresnevicius (family)
†Regina Antanaitis (daughter)
†Edmundas Urniezius and deceased family members (RU)
†Jannie Vingelis (6th anniv.) (daughters)
†Antanas Laurinaitis (1st anniv) (daughter)
for living and deceased family members and friends (GJ)
†Monsignor Edmundas Putrimas and request grace of health for parish priests (GJ)
†Paulius Dalinda (V.White)



2024

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 1

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 - Julija Danaitis, Gintas Pabedinskas

11 AM - R.Divito and children

organist - Ilona Beres

The week's Holy Masses

MONDAY (April 1): 7 p.m.;

TUESDAY (April 2): 7 p.m. for living and deceased parishioners; †Edmundas Urniezius and deceased family members (RU); †Loreta Murauskas (R.Bell);

WEDNESDAY (April 3): 7 p.m.;

THURSDAY (April 4): 7 p.m. †Maryte Rasytas (RU);

FRIDAY (April 5): 7 p.m. †Dana Puzeris (D.J.Valaitis);

SATURDAY (April 6): 9 a.m.; 5 p.m. "Vilnius Manor" †Dana Puzeris (E.Stankus);

SUNDAY (April 7): 9 a.m. †Eugenijus Siciunas (J.Siciunas); 11 a.m. for living and deceased parishioners; †Monsignor Edmundas Putrimas (Groen in't Woud family); †Simonas Ramanauskas (grandmother); †Anele and Kazimieras Pajaujis (D.J.Didzbalis); †Edukas and Algis Zemaitis (IZ); †Emilija and Alfertas Nideras (D.Danaitis); †Stase, Rimas and Juozas Zavys (G.Gaizutis); †Teodoras Stanulis (family); request grace of health for Ina Sungaila and Dainora Garsva (GJ).

Capital Fund - 371,345

THANK YOU...

"For it is in giving that we receive".

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

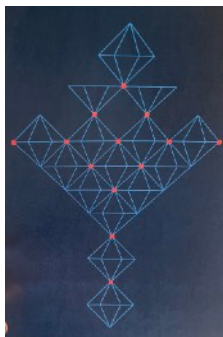
Sunday (03.24) & "Vilnius Manor"
Collections -

62 envelopes - \$ 2,137

No envelopes - \$ 151.90

Direct deposit - \$ 1,450

THANK you for your generosity...



Join us at the Church of the Resurrection Parish Hall, Toronto, on the 2nd Sunday of Easter, April 7th, at 2 pm

to hear pieces by contemporary composers as well as arranged Lithuanian folk songs.

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.

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

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE April 26 - 27

Our **Labdara Committee** cannot invite everyone individually but **needs everyone** to assist in making this event a success!

Men, women, teens, welcome!

Men needed to set up tables

Monday, April 22nd, 10am - 12 noon .

CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS SALES:

we will NOT be having a 'CAFE' and will NOT be selling baked goods BUT will gladly accept cakes/cookies for our volunteers.

We also ask that you **do not bring any USED cosmetics.**

We ask you to bring your donations NO EARLIER than Tuesday APRIL 23rd at 10AM!

Some items that DO NOT sell are:

- old radios, computers, encyclopedias,
- old TVs (LED are ok)

We ask that you discard these items elsewhere.

We will no longer accept large furniture, nor will we pick-up or deliver any items.

Teens who volunteer will receive "Community Service" credit .

We ask for your cooperation and thank you in advance!

*For other info please contact:

Raminta Nakrosius 416-669-0271; Dalia Rocca 905 820 3088.

Our parish "Labdara" committee CONTINUES The FOOD DRIVE in aid of the needy in Toronto and INVITES, till April 21st, ALL to participate. We will continue to collect food in the fall. NON-PERISHABLE Food may be brought and left in the box provided, at the parish door.

The collected food is delivered to Haven on the Queensway.

Thank you in advance for your kind donations.



The Pope's Easter greeting: peace in our days!

Dear brothers, sisters, Happy Easter!

<...> Today, the Church repeats, sings, cries: "Jesus is risen!" But how can this be? Peter, John, the women went to the sepulchre and it was empty; He wasn't there. They went with their hearts closed by sadness, the sadness of a defeat: the Teacher, their Teacher, He whom they so loved, was executed, is dead. And no one comes back from death.

This is the defeat; this is the path of defeat, the path to the sepulchre. However, the Angel says to them: He's not here, He is risen." It is the first announcement: "He is risen." They have meaning and with this sentiment the Church repeats from the depth of her heart: "Christ is risen."

Let's think a bit, let each one of us think, of the daily problems, of the sicknesses we have lived through or that one of our relatives has; let's think of the wars, the human tragedies and, simply, with a humble voice, without flowers, alone, before God, before ourselves we say: "I don't know how this is so, but I'm sure that Christ is risen and I bet on this."

Brothers and sisters, this is what I wanted to say to you. Return home today, repeating in your heart: "Christ is risen."

(Vatican radio)



Jesus, Lord, through your victory in the Desert, your redemptive Suffering and Resurrection — renewing, transforming, elevating the soul, true self of each believer, empower us, your people, to carry the soothing balm of mercy by the handful, to everyone we meet; to wash away, with the water of life, our own soul's inner turmoil and that of others; to help us shed our tough outer skin, in order to see your wondrous Way...After all, you Resurrected, and so may we too, the faithful of Resurrection Parish, rise again.

Sincere Easter greetings on the day of Resurrection and on the name day of our Parish - wishing you blessings of the Lord: the Provincial General of the Order of St Francis Little Brothers of Lithuania, St Casimir Province Fr.Evaldas Darulis, OFM, and the priests serving in the parish, Pastor Fr.Jonas Sileika, OFM, Fr.Augustine Simanavicius, OFM, associate pastor Fr.Raimundas Bukauskas, OFM and deacon Dr.Kazimieras Ambrozaitis and family.

Sincere thanks for all the donations to the parish and monastery; for enriching our liturgy to Music Director D.Viskontas, organist I.Beres, Children Choir director D.Babeckas, and to the parish choirs - "SVAJA", "VOLUNGE", "VOLUNGE" Women's ensemble and the Children and Youth Choir; Mass singers; R.Melkis, R.Divito, R.Stravinskas and the lectors and everyone assisting with enriching Holy Week and Easter liturgies.

BLESSINGS OF THE LORD!

Dear Lithuanians and all people who long for serenity and peace,



We have reached Easter, the celebration of Christ's Resurrection. It is associated with light and joy. After his death on the cross, when everything seemed to have collapsed and come to an end, Christ rose and gave new meaning to all our lives. The joyful ringing of the bells proclaims this.

However, joy did not come spontaneously and immediately. The women rushed to the tomb of Jesus while it was still dark, not only around them, but also in their hearts, because their Master and Lord had died. The apostles gathered behind locked doors, and the Gospel does not hide their surprise, their fear, their uncertainty. Jesus is the first to speak to them, to find a way to awaken their faith. He does this not through force but by invitation. He appears as a gardener, a traveller to Emmaus, a stranger on the shore; he is present, but that proximity allows each one to decide freely. And the hearts of those who recognise him are filled with joy.

Our path is not easy either. We celebrate another Easter with a terrible war at the gates of Lithuania. We feel the pain for those who died, of the many wounded, of the destruction of the environment in Ukraine, in the Holy Land and in other war-torn lands. Our own daily hardships, the uncertainty of tomorrow, also test our faith in the Risen One. As Pope Francis has written, " Often it seems that God does not exist – all around us we see persistent injustice, evil, indifference and cruelty. But it is also true that amid darkness something new always springs to life and sooner or later produces fruit. On razed land life breaks through, stubbornly yet invincibly" (Evangelii gaudium, 276).

The celebration of the Resurrection reveals that extraordinary newness. Christ's Resurrection is not a thing of the past, but is at work today, so that we can rejoice and have hope, even amid all kinds of difficulties and trials. This hope is not a "cheap" or "quick" consolation in a difficult situation but teaches us to trust in God's providence, which transcends human time and space. Easter has always been a celebration of liberation and hope. It is a reminder that God keeps his promises and comes to save, even when all seems lost.

We believe that the victory, the salvation we are waiting for, will surely come, but not miraculously and automatically. We also need to be active and take up our own responsibility, trusting in the God, who has already led us to freedom many times. Jesus, while on earth, healed the sick, fed the hungry, condemned injustice and taught forgiveness. He calls us to do the same. If we live this way, the Resurrection will already be a new beginning, fully unfolding in the nearness of our Father in Heaven. These words of Psalm 118 (24) are often heard at Easter time: "The Lord has given us this day: let us rejoice, let us be glad!" Let us rejoice because Jesus, the Ruler of life, has conquered sin and death and unites all people as brothers and sisters with one heavenly Father. Let all Lithuanians either living in Lithuania or throughout the world also feel that we are one family, supporting one another. May the light of the Risen Christ shine upon us, so that we may become witnesses of hope and life.

Happy Easter to you all.

Archbishop Lionginas Virbalas, SJ; Delegate for Lithuanian Catholic Pastoral Care Abroad

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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SAVE THE DATE

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, April 9,
2024 | at 6:30 PM

61st annual general meeting of
members will take place virtually.

Learn more at:
rpcul.com

RCU
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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

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