

Reflections on the Gospel

The gospel of this Easter Sunday gets the resurrection of Jesus off to a slow and uncertain start. Mary Magdalene comes to the tomb of Jesus "while it is still dark." There are no angels to assure her that Jesus has risen from the dead. There is as yet no risen Jesus, aglow with the brilliance of his victory over death. There is only this lonely woman in the dark, with just enough light for her to see that the tombstone has been moved. What does this mean?

Running to Simon Peter and the Beloved Disciple, Mary blurts out her interpretation of the removed tombstone: "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him." There is still no hint of resurrection in these words but rather the suspicion that some people-perhaps grave robbers who disinterred corpses in search of valuable items buried with them- have carried off the body of Jesus.

Peter and the other disciple run to the tomb to check out Mary's report. All they see are the burial cloths. That is enough evidence to believe Mary's report that the body of Jesus is missing. Beyond that we are told, "They did not understand the Scripture that he (Jesus) had to rise from the dead." They are still in the dark with Mary.

In the following paragraph of John's Gospel, Mary takes another look into the tomb. This time she sees two angels sitting where the body of Jesus had been. When they ask her why she is weeping, she repeats the report she gave Peter and the other disciple: "They have taken my Lord, and I don't know where they laid him." Mary does not have a clue that Jesus is alive.

Even when Mary turns and sees Jesus, she initially doesn't recognize him. Through her tear-drenched eyes, she thinks he is the gardener. Only when Jesus addresses her as "Mary" does the darkness become light enough for her to call him "Rabbouni" or "teacher" and to embrace him.

Jesus then commissions Mary as the "apostle to the apostles" and sends her to tell them, "I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." Obediently she reports to them, "I have seen the Lord." Those five words are the Best News of Easter we have been waiting to hear.

What does this slow, uncertain beginning of the Easter story tell us? It tells us that the resurrection of Jesus is edged with initial doubt. Each of four Gospels has an element of disbelief about this fantastic phenomenon.

Mark's longer ending says of Mary Magdalene's report, "When his companions heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe." Matthew writes of Jesus' Easter appearance on the mountain in Galilee, "When they saw him, they worshipped, but they doubted." Luke's risen Jesus chided the two disciples with whom he walked to Emmaus, "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe..." John adds, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

Even though doubts are an integral part of the resurrection story, this was only the beginning of the Easter adventure. As early Christians told and retold this story and celebrated it in grand style, doubts gave way to unshakable faith so well expressed by Saint Paul.

Today our Easter Jesus, the risen Jesus, appears to us as well. We hear his words in our scripture readings. We will soon receive his Body and Blood in the Eucharist. Thus we are able to proclaim with believing and joyful hearts, "Christ is risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!"



Stewardship Report:



Revenue

April 5:	12,162.35
Faith Direct:	1,712.50
Total Offertory:	13,874.85
Last Year:	11,112.80
Poor Box:	450.23
Every Penny Counts Box:	91.65
Easter Flowers To Date:	2,446.00

Number of Adult Envelopes: 162
Number of Children's Envelopes: 7
Number of Faith Direct donors: 38
Number of Registered Households: 668

Please note: There will be **two collections on Easter Sunday**. The first collection will be for your regular weekly offering to the parish. The second collection will be for your Easter gift to the church. May we suggest that you consider making your Easter gift the same as your Christmas gift from this past December 25th? This level of sacrifice will truly help our parish at this time of year. Thank you as always for your continuing generosity and stewardship!

Lenten Coin Folders: Please return your Lenten coin offering folders this weekend. Proceeds will be donated to the Poor Box. If you use coins rather than bills or check, please place folders in the attached envelope or a ziplock plastic bag.

Thank You!: A special thank you to our Boy Scout troop for cleaning up the area around the side driveway to the back of the church and the side parking lot behind Friendship Hall during their Mulch Sale this year!

Easter Monday

School & Rectory Offices Closed:



Please note that the rectory office will be closed on Monday, April 13th and will reopen on Tuesday, April 14th at 8:00am. The school office will remain closed for Easter break and will reopen on Monday, April 20th.

Outdoor Votive Light Offerings:

The votive lights burning from
Sunday, April 12th through Saturday, April 18th :



Shrine of the Sacred Heart

For the Special Intentions of:

Father Jim Downs; Marian C. Wahle

For the Happy Repose of:

Concepcion Soberanis



Shrine of the Madonna & Child:

For the Special Intentions Of:

Ethel Levoek on her birthday

For the Happy Repose of:

SOLEMNITY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD



In Loving Memory of *Concepcion Soberanis*



who served bishops and priests throughout our Archdiocese as their housekeeper and cook including our own parish from 2002 to her retirement in 2007. Concepcion entered eternal life on April 6, 2009. Our 9:30 AM Easter Sunday Mass is offered as our loving tribute to her selfless service over her lifetime to the Church. May she rest in peace forever! Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for her! Saint Juan Diego, pray for her!

Descance en Paz

Youth Group

YOUTH NEWS: Happy Easter to all! Youth Group will resume April 17th at 7:00pm. Teens will begin their preparation to become Lectors for the Youth Mass with Martin Kwapinski from 7 to 8pm. Our Showcase of Talent will be lots of fun! Come out and see Frank Sinatra, The Supremes, the Queen of the House and The Emotions just to name a few. **Enjoy History Tidbits:** did you know that the average cost of a house in 1971 located in Salisbury, MD with 3 large bedrooms, large kitchen, dining room, utility room and property surrounded by shrubs and fruit trees was only \$16,900? Get more fun facts at www.retrojunk.com!

RETRO SHOWCASE OF TALENT UPDATES:

- Singing acts will rehearse Fridays from 7-10pm and dance acts will rehearse Wednesdays from 7-8:30pm. All rehearsals will take place in Friendship Hall.
- Volunteers are needed to assist with the environment, giving Friendship Hall a 70-80's look, as well as run the concession stand. For further information or to volunteer please contact Donna Stewart-Moore or Dorothy Mensah-Aggrey at 301-459-4814 ext 204/205
- Tickets will go on sale Sunday, April 26th. The cost in advance is Children 3 and under (free), ages 4-12 (\$5.00), and ages 13 and over (\$8.00). Cost at the door: Children \$7.00 Adults \$10.00.

Other Items of Note

Faith Formation: Classes will resume on Monday, April 20, 2009. Have a blessed Easter!

2009 Annual Jubilarian Mass: The annual Jubilarian celebration of marriage to honor couples married 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and 50+ years will be held Sunday June 7, 2009 at 2:00pm at the National Shrine. Archbishop Wuerl will be the celebrant. To register, please contact Tara in the rectory at 301-459-4814 or by email at tguevara@stmatthias.org. All names must be submitted by **APRIL 20TH** in order to be included.

Thank You!: A special thank you to our Boy Scout troop for cleaning up the area around the side driveway to the back of the church and the side parking lot behind Friendship Hall during their Mulch Sale this year!

Saint Matthias School Reunion: Did you go to St. Matthias Apostle School in the 1980s? Want to join us for a reunion of your classmates and teachers? Please join us on Saturday June 27 from 4pm-9pm in Friendship Hall for a school reunion. Contact Stacey for information and cost @ 301-502-2741 or StacCleve@aol.com.

Last Minute Bulb Orders: There is still time to plan your summer garden and help raise some much needed revenue! We will accept bulb orders at the rectory through **APRIL 15th!**



Mass Intentions for the Octave of Easter

Easter Monday, April 13:

Easter Monday: School & Rectory Office CLOSED

8:30 am Paul Nguyen Q. Hoa

Easter Tuesday, April 14: Anselm, bishop, doctor

8:30 am Eugene Hall

Easter Wednesday, April 15:

8:30 am Elisa Beall

Easter Thursday, April 16: George, martyr

8:30 am Lina Manlapaz

Easter Friday, April 17:

8:30 am Elisa Beall

Sat., April 18: Vigil– Second Sunday of Easter

9:30 am Diaconate Ordination Mass at the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for Jared Suire (Seminarist)- all are invited

3:30 pm to 4:30pm—Confessions

5:00 pm James Curran

Sunday, April 19: Second Sunday of Easter

8:00 am Jared Suire (Living-Ordination to Diaconate)

9:30 am Sunday & Regina Umude (Living-birthday)

*Celebration of newly ordained Deacon Jared Suire, reception to follow Mass in Friendship Hall

11:30am Hans Ibaldo

Please Pray for: †The Sick and Homebound In Our Parish:

Virgie Azarcon; Ann Benson; Leslie Berkey; Barbara Brink; Margaret Carr; Sherry Cash; Fidel dela Cuesta; Eleanor DeMarco; Father Jim Downs; Lisa Farland; Dennis George; Leslie Hand; Joseph Harrison; Jim Hennessy; Charles Henry; Lena Jacobs; Bud Jones; Charles & Yvonne Jones; Robyn Kirby; Laura Elaine Kiessling; Ray Krok; Henry Len; Nancy Maimone; Joe Makowski; Mary McGrail; Willie (Bill) Moore; Rosemarie Nardozi; Mary Nelson; David Obi; Peter O'Neill; Alice Parker; Dawn Pearson; Irma Perez; Bill Pinchback; Rohland Reich; Joe Sico; Margaret Tolzman; Marian Wahle; Margaret Zanin †**For the Deceased:** Edmund Jesiolowski; Concepcion Soberanis †*Names will be placed on our prayer list for three weeks. To add a name or to request continuing prayers, contact Tara Guevara by phone at 301-459-4814 or email tguevara@stmatthias.org.*

Other Items of Note Continued:

Diaconate Cards Available: Next week we celebrate the ordination of Jared Suire to the Diaconate. Special cards are available for \$2 each in the sacristy this weekend and at the rectory during business hours.



School Raffle Winner: Congratulations to **Lesley Little-Peeler** of Forestville, **winner of \$300** and to **Camille Curvan** of Largo, **winner of \$50** in this week's raffle drawing!

Additional Palms Available



Due to a shipping error, we were short one box of palms to distribute on Palm Sunday. The missing box has been delivered and the blessed Palms are available in the back of the church for anyone who did not receive one last week. We apologize for this problem.