

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

April 16, 2017

Calendar

Saturday, April 15th

8:00pm Vigil Jimmy & Linda Borrows, Vincent Boudreaux Sr, Vincent Boudreaux Jr, Rose Annette Chisesi, Richard Harper, Joy Nalty Hodges, and the Intentions of Albert Brown

Sunday, April 16th

8:00am Mass All parishioners

10:30am Mass Paul Haygood, Lester & Ethel Heidingsfelder, Earl LeCorgne, Joy Nalty Hodges, Maria Cida Lancaster, Ronald & Pauline Marchessault, Deacon Paul A. Nalty, Miriam Ogden, Mary D. Quaid, the Cassard Family, the Derbes Family, the Mercante & Youngblood Families, and the Vaughn Family

Monday, April 17th

6:30am Mass Wes Hogan

Tuesday, April 18th

6:30am Mass The Boudreaux & Bergeron Families

10:30am "Lord, Teach Me to Pray" (@ St Henry's)

4:45pm Eucharistic Adoration

6:00pm Mass William Allen

Wednesday, April 19th

[St Expedite, martyr (pictured)]

6:30am Mass Rose Annette Chisesi

6:00pm Rosary (@ Our Lady of Good Counsel)

Thursday, April 20th

6:30am Mass Mary Wendt

7:00am Eucharistic Adoration

Friday, April 21st

[Holy Infant of Good Health]

6:30am Mass Margaret K. Regan

Saturday, April 22nd

10:00am Rosary (@ Church of St Henry)



The Sanctuary Light in the church will burn this week for the repose of the soul of Vetter Amadeo Taylor.

The Sanctuary Light in the chapel will burn this week for the Intentions of the Pope.



Mass Setting

The Mass setting for the Easter Season is the *Mass of Renewal*, the Assembly Book of which is found in the pews.



Banns of Matrimony

Paige Johnson & William Kery



Abby Ruiz & Mark Caponegro

Lay-Ministers Schedule for April 23rd

8:00 pm

Lector: Sheila LaFluer

Eucharistic Ministers: Artie Baehr, Becky Brocato, and Hunter Harris III

8:00 am

Lector: Alexis Doroski

Eucharistic Ministers: Dana D'Anzi, Daniel LeBlanc, and Liz Rareshide

10:30 am

Lector: Mark Surprenant

Eucharistic Ministers: Deacon Richard Eason, Laura Finnegan, Maxine Fox, Kenneth Moran, and Sandra Westfall



Sharing Our Faith, Securing Our Future
Restoration of St Stephen Church

On April 5th, we moved one step closer to our restoration! Our architects sent permit applications to the city and state; since the typical delay to receive permits is four to six weeks, we will be on track for an early to mid-May start date.

Did you know that St Stephen Church was designated an historic landmark by the Historic District Landmarks Commission (HDLC) in 1979? The HDLC will review the project scope to verify that the proposed work maintains the historic nature of the building. Since one of our main goals, in addition to addressing the deferred exterior maintenance, is to return the church interior to its original design, we expect the project to easily pass muster with the HDLC.

We are still in need of pledges and donations to completely fund the project. If you have already set up a pledge, please begin pledge payments as soon possible as every dollar that we have for the project will reduce our overall interest on the bridge loan that the Archdiocese will provide. If you need assistance setting up regular or one-time donations, please contact the Dianne Caverly in the rectory office.

And of course if you have pledged and have started sending your pledge payments, WE ARE MOST GRATEFUL!

The Monthly Prayer-Request for Priests

April

- 1st The Rev. Luke Hungdung Nguyen*
- 2nd The Rev. Bartholomew Chukwuma*
- 3rd The Rev. Jongkwon Choi
- 4th The Rev. Martin J. Gleeson, OP
- 5th The Rev. Mbotela Kasele, FMH
- 6th The Rev. Francis X. Pitorius, SJ*
- 7th The Rev. Augustine Appiah*
- 8th The Rev. Kyle J. Sanders*
- 9th His Holiness Pope Francis
- 10th The Rev. Laudy Merilan, OMI
- 11th The Rev. Earl Muller, SJ
- 12th The Rev. Anthony Hien Nguyen
- 13th The Rev. Joseph de Water*
- 14th The Rev. Mark Lomax*
- 15th The Rev. Stephen Smith
- 16th The Rev. Lich Nguyen*
- 17th The Rev. Louis A. Poché, SJ*
- 18th The Rev. Msgr. Arthur Calkins*
- 19th The Rev. Msgr. Frank J. Giroir*
- 20th The Rev. Edward J. Lauden*
- 21st The Rev. Msgr. James R. Dixon*
- 22nd The Rev. Minh Cong Phan*
- 23rd The Rev. Chris Zavackis
- 24th The Rev. Michael Nam Hoang Nguyen
- 25th The Rev. Gregory Usselman, LC
- 26th His Holiness Pope-Emeritus Benedict XVI
- 27th Seminarian Thien Nguyen
- 28th The Rev. Gregory Ross, OCD
- 29th The Rev. Msgr. Henry J. Bugler, VF
- 30th The Rev. Sam Anthony Morello, OCD

* birthday

† deceased

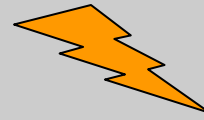
Courtesy of The APRP Apostolate



Collection Report	April 2nd	July 1st-April 2nd
Total Collections	\$6,607.00	\$285,495.48
Budget	<u>\$6,684.69</u>	<u>\$267,387.60</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$77.69)	\$18,107.88
Second Collections/Miscellaneous Donations		
Restoration Fund		\$116.03
Clarion Herald		\$132.00
Catholic Relief Services		\$40.00

Lightning Apologetics

by Phillip Bellini, DRE



The Resurrection

I am going to offer a meditation on the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Happy Easter! Alleluia!

In teaching Christ's resurrection, we should concentrate on those aspects, aspects of Christ's resurrection which the Church over the last twenty centuries especially concentrated on. And what are they? They are three, and these three will be the concentration of this meditation. Since this is the greatest Feast of the Church year, I will spend three weeks on this topic, on which, sadly, I have not written on before. Here is what we will concentrate on: First, the historical reality of Christ's rising from the dead. Second: Christ's promise of our own final bodily resurrection from the grave, and third: The Holy Eucharist as Jesus Christ's continued presence on earth in His risen humanity. I used these in my thirty-day at home Ignatian retreat preparing to become a Marian Catechist.

First, let's concentrate on the Resurrection as a historical reality. Over the centuries there have been many theories trying to explain away the real bodily resurrection of Christ. And let me tell you, articles in journals, books, in big, fat volumes stuffed with learned ammunition devoid of the truth and undermining the reality of Christ's bodily, physical, real resurrection. One theory for example, claims that Jesus did not really die on the cross. Another theory says that His body was stolen from the grave by His disciples who then proclaimed that He had risen. Still others insist that the disciples imagined Christ came back from the dead. Others again, that Christ's resurrection was in the purely supernatural order. These learned heretics call it the super historical order which means, it cannot be established on factual grounds. Over the years in studying Christology, I spent weeks concentrating on the historicity of Christ's resurrection. The Reverend Father John Hardon, SJ, stated that "he knew of no learned critic of Christianity who does not try to undermine the Christian faith by denying in subtle, learned language, the historical reality of Christ's bodily rising from the grave." I will not go into a lot of detail, but we should enlighten those who we train or teach, to give them an intelligent proof that Jesus truly rose from the dead, He was really crucified, He really died, He was really buried, and He truly rose from the dead.

The heart of the historical evidence for Christ's real resurrection are the facts of recorded history. We can say that anyone who will not accept the data provided by the Gospels and the first century Church, that person has no grounds for accepting any history of equal antiquity! We have written testimony to Christ's bodily resurrection that is up to one thousand years closer to what actually happened than any other event that took place as far back in comparable secular history. Those who will not accept the historical facts of the Gospels, including the resurrection of Jesus, have a very simple choice. They can either deny the truth of the events described by relatives, Thucydides among the Greeks four to five hundred years before Christ or by Pliny, Cæsar and Livy among the Romans, or by Josephus in the first century of the Christian era. If the person does not want to accept those as facts, then there are no valid grounds, I mean it, there are no valid grounds for accepting anything as authentically historical in anything which we call history! Why not? Because we have manuscripts for the Gospels that are up to a millennium older than the written records of events narrated by these commonly accepted historians of secular history. Why? Because the disciples who followed Jesus were anything but ready to accept the fact of Christ's resurrection!

The women went out first thing in the morning and came back to the apostles that the body of Christ was no longer in the tomb. Did the apostles believe? No. The women reported they had seen Jesus. And even after Christ appeared physically to the disciples, they thought they were seeing a ghost. St Augustine tells us that the shining proof for the unwillingness among the apostles to believe was the theologian apostle, Thomas. A week after Christ's resurrection, Christ did him the favor of appearing and then told him, all right Thomas, now here I am. Put your hand in my side! All of this is just the opposite of credulity. These same disciples, after all their stubborn resistance in accepting Christ's resurrection, finally accepted it. Then we know one apostle after another laid down his life in witness to the reality of Christ's resurrection. And Peter on Pentecost Sunday, could not have been clearer. Over the centuries, the Church teaches that Peter's Pentecost homily is the synthesis of the whole Gospel, everything which the New Testament contains is summarized in that short homily preached by him on Pentecost Sunday. And at the heart of that homily is Peter's insistence that "you crucified Jesus and He rose from the dead!"

More coming next week! It's important for us to understand how to explain and defend Christ's Resurrection!

Pray for the Sick

Ron Behler, Corey Behler, William Brown, Ray & Zetta Burkart, Gary Callahan, Jeanne García, Mary Gremillion, Jolleen Jackson, Leddie Lopez, Louise Martin, Dilia Martínez, Dilia Miller, Sophie Rodríguez, and William Youngblood.

Pray for the Dead

Shelley Baptiste, Rose Chisesi, Sister Josephine Cusimano DC, Hunter Harris Jr, Joy Nalty Hodges, Sister Suzanne Kullowitch SCC, Sister Claire Mulé DC, Gertrude Petit, the Right Reverend Patrick Regan OSB, and Mary Tortorich.

Pray for Our Armed-services

Lt Junior Grade, USN, Neil P. Chatelain; LT John Tortorich; and LT Kate Tortorich.



News

The Extraordinary Form of the Mass of the Roman Rite, the “Tridentine” (Latin) Mass, will be offered again at St Stephen Church on Sunday, April 30th (**Second Sunday after Easter**), at 12:30 pm. The Mass Intention will be for the repose of the soul of Miss Mary Tortorich.

We will have a Second Collection today, for the St Stephen Restoration Fund.

Next Saturday, April 22nd, the Most Reverend Alfred C. Hughes will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation at St Stephen Church, during the four o'clock Vigil Mass.

We would like to welcome our new Office Manager, Paige Saleun, who assumed the position on March 13th. We are very happy to have her join the staff!

We will host a Retirement Party for our outgoing Office Manager, Dixie Williams, next Sunday, April 23rd (Sunday of Divine Mercy), following the 10:30 am Mass, in the rectory. Please join us in saluting a most devoted employee, who has so often gone well beyond the call of duty!

On Wednesday, April 26th, Sister Gloria Murillo, STJ, will present “Finding God in Our Everyday Life Experiences,” at the Archdiocesan Spirituality Center, 2501 Maine Avenue, Metairie. Register on the web, at <https://asc.arch-no.org>, or via telephone, at 861-3254. The cost is \$25, though adjustments can be made.

