

**April 16, 2017  
EASTER SUNDAY OF THE  
RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,



A parish cannot exist without an extraordinary amount of help. Here at St. Thomas the Apostle, we are blessed to have so many people who love and care for this parish and volunteer their time and talent. They volunteer not for recognition but out of

devotion for our parish and their own faith. Although they might not like the attention, I feel that it's important for me to convey my heartfelt thanks.

- Kathy DeVaul, Paul Schweiger, and Bill Bristow graciously volunteer their time to create our liturgical environments. They contribute a great deal of time and effort especially during Holy Week when the environment has to change to keep up with each special liturgy.
- Our lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, cantors, and ushers. Week after week, they serve this parish in exceptional ways. Our liturgical celebrations are so much more prayerful because of their efforts.
- Our choir under the direction of Patrice Roman. Their hard work and efforts elevate our liturgies and help all of us by creating a prayerful atmosphere. When the choir is not present, the Mass doesn't feel as joyful.
- Our Thursday morning clean-up crew. It's an awful lot of work to keep St. Thomas looking neat and clean. They are a tremendous blessing to me and to the entire parish.

There are so many people who help this parish run smoothly and on behalf of the entire parish, once again I say, Thank You.

In Christ,

Monsignor Hurley

**2017 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL**

*"Their Eyes Were Opened and They Recognized Him"*

In the Resurrection of Jesus we find hope in the prospect of everlasting life in heaven. But to obtain eternal life, we must accept the Lord's invitation to follow Him by imitating His love and compassion for others.

During the weekend of April 29 & 30, our parish will participate in the 2017 Annual Catholic Appeal – a campaign conducted each year throughout the Diocese of Wilmington. Funds generated through the Appeal help provide critical financial support to nearly forty pastoral, charitable and educational programs and ministries.

As Christian stewards we are called to a lifelong conversion to the ways of Jesus. Each of us is asked to examine the blessings we have received from God and to discern how best to use them for others. We do this cheerfully and sacrificially and with faith in God's love for us, knowing that He will provide for our earthly wants.

You can learn more about the 2017 Annual Catholic Appeal by reading the campaign insert in this week's *Dialog* or visiting the diocesan website at [www.cdow.org](http://www.cdow.org); click "Giving" then "Annual Catholic Appeal."

## **MARRIAGE AND FAMILY**

Marriage Moments: The resurrection of Jesus which we celebrate on Easter was a pretty hard story for the women and apostles to believe. Today, we believe on the testimony of others and thousands of years of retelling the story. Unconditional love is so hard to believe. Believe your spouse's love anyway.

Parenting Pointers: After the resurrection several disciples were walking to Emmaus and talking about what had happened. Take a long walk with your child this weekend. Observe; pay attention if someone crosses your path. Be open to conversation or let nature speak to you of the God of creation.

## **ANNUAL MALVERN RETREAT – APRIL 28**

Join our men of the parish the weekend of April 28 for our annual Malvern retreat. To learn more about our retreat, the Arch Bishop Fitzmaurice Group, or any other group, call Ray Worrall at 302-239-9897 or John Grieshaber at 484-888-6228. For information for all retreats for men, women, married couples and families, visit the website at [malvernretreat.com](http://malvernretreat.com) or call 610-644-0400

## **VOCATION REFLECTION**

After Mary Magdalen encountered the risen Christ, she brought the Good News to the Apostles. God may be calling you to spread the Good News as a priest, deacon, religious sister or religious brother. If you'd like to chat about that more, call or write Father Norm Carroll, Diocesan Director of Priestly and Religious Vocations (302-573-3113; [vocations@cdow.org](mailto:vocations@cdow.org)). Be sure to visit our website: [www.cdow.org/vocations!](http://www.cdow.org/vocations!)

## **LAST WEEKEND'S OFFERTORY**

**\$6,124.00**

Thank you for your generosity!

## **MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, April 17**

NO MASS

**Tuesday, April 18**

8:00am – Easter Novena

**Wednesday, April 19**

8:00am – Easter Novena

**Thursday, April 20**

8:00am – Easter Novena

**Saturday, April 22**

5:00pm – Brian Conley

**Sunday, April 23**

8am – Karl Grieshaber

10am – Mass for the People

## **BAPTISM**

For parents who wish to have their babies baptized the next class will take place on Tuesday, May 9, at 7:00pm in the church. For further information and to register, please call the rectory office at 658-5131.

## **GOD IS ON THE AIR**

You are invited to listen to the Catholic Forum podcast. A new podcast is posted every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. at [cdow.org/communications](http://cdow.org/communications) or search "Catholic Forum" on iTunes or iHeartRadio podcasts. Next Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, meet photographer, Kristyn Brown and learn about The Saints Project that features modern-day people as Catholic saints. For photos, information regarding upcoming guests, podcasts links and more, "Like" Catholic Forum on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/catholicforum](http://www.facebook.com/catholicforum). Catholic Forum is a production of the Office of Communications of the Diocese of Wilmington.

## CATHOLIC SCHOLARS OF DELAWARE

Why is it important that the Church's moral teaching be expressed in terms of a conception of natural law rather than in terms of some other foundational moral view? Professor Mark C. Murphy from Georgetown University, gives a free presentation titled, "God Incarnate Under the Moral Law". He will explore and defend two ideas: 1) that it is crucial to a proper understanding and appreciation of the Incarnation that we and Jesus Christ are under a common moral law, and 2) that the Church's conception of natural law is crucial to underwriting the idea that we and Christ are under a common moral law. The presentation is free, open to the public in 115 Purnell Hall on the University of Delaware campus, on Thursday, April 20, 2017 from 7:30 - 8:30, and sponsored by the Society of Catholic Scholars of Delaware and the UD Department of Philosophy. For information, contact Kate Rogers, [krogers@udel.edu](mailto:krogers@udel.edu). 302-831-8480.

### Liturgical Notes for Easter From Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the Calendar:

- The fifty days from the Sunday of the Resurrection to Pentecost Sunday are celebrated in joy and exultation as one feast day, indeed as one "great Sunday." These are the days above all others in which the Alleluia is sung.
- The Sundays of this time of year are considered to be Sundays of Easter and are called, after Easter Sunday itself, the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Sundays of Easter. This sacred period of fifty days concludes with Pentecost Sunday.
- The first eight days of Easter Time constitute the Octave of Easter and are celebrated as Solemnities of the Lord.
- On the fortieth day after Easter the Ascension of the Lord is celebrated, except where, not being observed as a Holyday of Obligation, it has been

assigned to the Seventh Sunday of Easter (cf. no. 7).

- The weekdays from the Ascension up to and including the Saturday before Pentecost prepare for the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.

The liturgical color for Easter is white. The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (no. 346) also states: "On more solemn days, festive, that is, more precious, sacred vestments may be used even if not of the color of the day. The colors gold or silver may be worn on more solemn occasions in the Dioceses of the United States of America."

Especially during Easter Time, instead of the customary Penitential Act, the blessing and sprinkling of water may take place as a reminder of Baptism.

There are six metropolitan sees and their suffragan Dioceses which maintain the Solemnity of the Ascension on Thursday: Boston, Hartford, Newark, New York, Omaha, and Philadelphia. Every other region of the United States has opted to transfer the Solemnity to the following Sunday (the Seventh Sunday of Easter).

The octave of Easter comprises the eight days which stretch from the first to the second Sunday. It is a way of prolonging the joy of the initial day. In a sense, every day of the Octave is like a little Sunday.

The word "Easter" comes from Old English, meaning simply the "East." The sun which rises in the East, bringing light, warmth and hope, is a symbol for the Christian of the rising Christ, who is the true Light of the world. The Paschal Candle is a central symbol of this divine light, which is Christ. It is kept near the ambo throughout Easter Time, and lit for all liturgical celebrations.

April 16, 2017

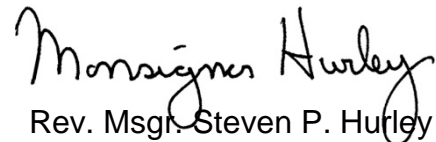
Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Thomas the Apostle,

Today, the Church throughout the world echoes the angel's message to the women: *"Do not be afraid! I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised... Come, see the place where he lay"* (Mt 28:5-6). This event is the basis of our faith and our hope and it offers us the comforting assurance that the chasm of death has been bridged and, with it, all mourning, lamentation and pain. The Lord, who suffered abandonment by His disciples, the burden of an unjust condemnation and shame of a disgraceful death, now makes us sharers of His immortal life and enables us to see with His eyes of love and compassion those who hunger and thirst, strangers and prisoners, the marginalized and the outcast, the victims of oppression and violence.

Our world is full of people suffering in body and spirit. Christ's Resurrection offers us a path toward hope. If Christ were not raised, Christianity would lose its very meaning and everything that we do would collapse. The message which we bring to the world is this: Jesus, Love incarnate, died on the cross for humanity's sins, but God the Father raised Him and made Him the Lord of life and death. In Jesus, love has triumphed over hatred, mercy over sinfulness, goodness over evil, truth over falsehood, life over death.

The Good News is not simply a matter of words; it is a testimony to unconditional and faithful love. I pray that you and your families have a happy and blessed Easter Season. Let us keep each other in prayer.

May God bless you,



Rev. Msgr. Steven P. Hurley  
Pastor