He is risen!

St. Hedwig Parish
On the Corner of Beech and Orange Streets
147 Walnut St.
Manchester, NH. 03104
603-623-4835

Easter Sunday
April 4, 2021

Niedziela Wielkanocna Zmartwychwstania Pańskiego
Pastor’s Letter

First, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy and Blessed Easter. We have made our way through the grey days of Lent and now, entering into the warm and Spring days of the Easter Season. Despite all that we have gone through with the pandemic, we can express joy and thanksgiving for all the blessings God has bestowed on us. Let us continue to be hopeful for the days when things can return to normal, but with a new sense and understanding of our faith, and a new outlook and appreciation for life. Christ has risen from the dead, with this great miracle, anything is possible!

As we continue to look at the unique ways in which we practice our faith as Catholics, let’s take a look at Holy Water. It’s been a while since we have blessed our selves as we enter into Church, but if you should have a Holy Water bottle, bring it to church over these next few weeks and fill it with the Easter Water to bless yourselves and your homes.

Here is a list of eight ways to use holy water in your everyday life:

1. Bless yourself. This suggestion is obvious, but if we are only blessing ourselves with holy water on Sunday, then aren’t we missing out on the rest of the week? You can never have too much grace or blessing in your life. Use holy water daily. Keeping a holy water font in the home is a great idea so that you, your family, and guests can be blessed in the comings and goings from your home. Keep the font right by the front door to ensure you never leave home without it.

2. Bless your house. If you haven’t taken the time to bless your house with holy water, then no time is better than the present. Your home is the domestic Church and is in need of spiritual protection. You can sprinkle holy water in your home yourself, or have a priest formally bless your home using holy water as part of the house blessing ceremony.

3. Bless your family. Use holy water to pray and make the Sign of the Cross over your spouse and children before they go to sleep at night. Bonding the family to each other and to God in this way is a great family tradition to adopt. Keep a holy water bottle by the bedside for this purpose.

4. Bless your work space. If you work outside of the home, sprinkling your work space with holy water is a great idea, not only for spiritual protection on the work front, but also as to sanctify your daily work for the glory of God.

5. Bless your car. The car is probably the most dangerous place where you spend a significant amount of time each day. Never underestimate the power of holy water applied to your vehicle to keep you safe from harm’s way, when used in faith and trust in God. In fact, you can also have a a priest can bless your car with Holy Water.

6. Bless your vegetable garden. It was a common practice in the Middle Ages for people to sprinkle their vegetable gardens with holy water. In times when people were very dependent on crops for their livelihood, lack of rain or early frosts could be devastating. Using holy water to bless and sanctify the plants that would be used for the family’s sustenance showed their reliance on God’s grace.

7. Bless the sick. If you know of any sick friends or family, then blessing them with holy water probably counts as a corporeal and a spiritual work of mercy. If you visit the sick in a hospital or nursing home, bless their living space with holy water and leave a holy water bottle with them as a comfort in their time of need.

8. Bless your pets. Many parishes on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi have a rite of blessing for pets. Pets are loved companions for individuals and families and often provide a great service to them, and even these can be blessed with holy water because all creation has the end of giving glory to God. This also applies to livestock and farm animals that provide labor, livelihood, and nourishment to humans. Here is a simple prayer to say when using holy water:

“By this holy water and by Your Precious Blood, wash away all my sins, O Lord. Amen.”

There is no specific prayer to pray when using holy water, other than making the Sign of the Cross: “In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” You can also pray an Our Father or even the St. Michael Prayer when using holy water. Keep in mind that holy water has already been blessed by the prayers of the priest.

How do you use Holy Water? Holy water is one of those beautiful gifts (and weapons) from God to keep us sanctified and holy in our daily lives and to keep the things we regularly use sanctified and holy. (Some parents even use holy water to bless things their children regularly use such as bicycles and school books.) If we stop and think about what a generous gift holy water is, we will use it more frequently, thoughtfully, and gratefully!
**Parish Staff**

Rev. Eric T. Delisle  
*Pastor*

Sr. M. Thomas Lesniak  
*Pastoral Assistant*

Scott Bergendahl  
*Music Director*

Dan Felch  
*Parish Maintenance*

Ellie Felch  
*Parish Secretary*

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**Parish Information**

**St. Hedwig Cemetery**  
Old Bedford, Bedford, NH 03103  
Phone: 603-623-4835

**Sacraments:**

**Baptism**

Please contact the parish if you wish to have your child baptized. Baptisms are celebrated after the 10 am Mass on Sundays, except during the Lenten season.

**Marriage**

Marriages are booked six months in advance.

**Convent**

Sr. Mary Thomas Lesniak, CSSF  
Sr. Jacqueline Mary Kazanowski, CSSF  
147 Walnut Street, Manchester, NH 03104  
603-232-3115

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**Welcome**

Are you new to the parish?

We are glad you can worship with us at St. Hedwig Parish. Please register at the rectory or in the Sacristy after Mass. If you haven't already, please take a parish registration form at the entrance of the Church and fill it out. On the reverse side of the form, you can make a choice of joining any of the Parish Ministries available at St. Hedwig. When complete, please drop the form in the collection basket or mail it to the parish office at:

147 Walnut Street, Manchester, NH 03104

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**Weekly Giving**

Due to early publication of the bulletin, last week's collection will appear next week.

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Pray for the sick and homebound of our parish:

Shirley Stemska, Rita Haskins, Emily Menczywor, Walter Gorski

If you know of any other members of St. Hedwig's who are homebound and could be added to this list, please let Fr. Eric know or leave a message on the parish voice mail. Thank you.

A Prayer for the Sick of our Parish

May you be wrapped up in God's love found deep in His everlasting wings. Carried and kept, safe and cherished. May the healing power of Christ breath across your being now.

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Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.
Many people paint Easter eggs (pisanki), which are then taken to be blessed at churches that hold special services on Easter Day. Homes come alive with family breakfasts to celebrate Easter Sunday in Poland. The table is usually laid out with Easter eggs, spring flowers, an “Easter lamb” made of cake or sugar, and meals such as sausages, boiled eggs, horseradish soup, and bacon. Emaus is a local tradition in Krakow, where people set up stalls with trinkets, toys and sweets. The following day, Easter Monday, is also a public holiday in Poland.

Easter Sunday is an official public holiday in Poland, so schools, banks, government offices and most private businesses are closed. There is a trade prohibition on public holidays in Poland. People intending to travel via public transport during public holidays must check with the public transit authorities on any changes to time schedules.

Many Christians celebrate Easter Sunday as the day of Jesus Christ’s resurrection. However, a number of Easter activities can be traced back to Pagan traditions and celebrations. For example, the name Easter is believed to come from Eostara, the goddess of rebirth. The Easter date depends on the ecclesiastical approximation of the March equinox. In 325 CE the Council of Nicaea decided that the Easter date would be the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the March equinox. It is celebrated in many other countries worldwide.

Easter eggs symbolize rebirth and life’s victory over death, while bread symbolizes Jesus Christ’s body. Smoked meat is believed to give good health, wealth, and fertility, while salt wards off evil. Cheese represents friendship, and horseradish symbolizes strength and fitness.
Reading I: Acts 10: 34a, 37-43  
Peter’s sermon contains the heart of the Apostolic preaching message, with the added promise of forgiveness of sin for all believers.

Reading II: Colossians 3: 1-4  
The promises of the Messianic age are fulfilled in Jesus Christ. At the end of time, Christ and all the believers in Him will appear in glory.

The Gospel: John 20: 1-9  
In John’s gospel, written the last of the four, the full meaning of Easter is the completion of Jesus’ return to His Father. Only then will the disciples “remember” and understand the meaning of these events. Meanwhile, “the Beloved Disciple” immediately believes in the resurrection, as opposed to the doubt of Thomas.
Guidelines to follow as we return to the public celebration of Mass.

For your safety:

Please Use Hand Sanitizer when entering the church.

Masks are strongly required. They are to be removed when receiving Holy Communion and replaced afterwards. *If you don’t have one, spare masks are available at the entrance of the church. Please discard after use.*

Maintain 6 Feet Social Distancing In Line and in the pews.

Congregational singing is discouraged at this time. There is no Exchange of Peace. When exiting the church after Mass, please leave your kneeler down so we know where to clean and disinfect the pews. We can only hope and pray that this will be for only a little while longer and return to some sense of normalcy.

“Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil; May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; And do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who prowl through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.”

Humor

“I wish the Easter Bunny had a sleigh and reindeer. Then he could bring us a lot more stuff.”

Fr. Eric will be away the weekend of April 10/11 to visit family. Fr Gerry Dion will be filling in for Fr. Eric. Please make Fr. Gerry feel welcomed as he celebrates Mass for us. Fr. Eric will be back early Sunday afternoon in time for the Divine Mercy Sunday celebration.

In these trying times in the Church, please pray for and support our good seminarians for the priesthood for the Diocese of Manchester:

Christian Collopy
Dc. David Gagnon
Caleb Goff
Daniel Mikolajewski
Spencer Gregory
Dc. Joseph Moynihan
Andre Nadeau
Cuong Van Nguyen
Eric Ouelette
Paul Hoang Ngoc Pham
Guillaume Temkkit
Rory Traynor
The former British Prime Minister David Cameron was once asked the meaning of Easter and he said: “Easter is compassion, forgiveness, hard work, and responsibility!” Wow! That’s a politician talking: one-size-fits-all! That could pass for answer to any question on Christianity.

Disturbingly, it also reflects how today’s Christians lack the full clarity of the core of their faith and the general tendency to water down Christianity in this day and age. In a recent survey, only 31% of Christians in the UK believe that Jesus physically rose from the dead.

Properly understood however, Easter is an earthquake, an explosion. It is the belief that Jesus of Nazareth, a first century Jew, who spoke and acted in the person of God, and was brutally murdered at the prime of his life, was alive again through the power of Holy Spirit.

Yes, it’s surely hard to believe. The disciples themselves never believed in the resurrection. In the decisive moment, when Jesus was captured and executed, they all fled and considered the case of Jesus closed.

Hence, their sudden and inexplicable faith, faith so tenacious as to withstand even the trial of martyrdom demonstrates that something extraordinary must have happened that provoked such radical change in them.

To the women who went to the tomb of Jesus on Easter morning and found it empty, the angel asked in subtle rebuke, “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” One should therefore not waste one’s time seeking in dead arguments the resurrection of the one who is alive and at work in the Church and in the world.

Reading through the account of his passion, it is as though Jesus was met with the worst of human dysfunction; the explicit betrayal of his friends, the injustice of the Jewish Authorities, the cowardice of Pontius Pilate, the people’s preference for a notorious criminal, the incredible brutality of the soldiers. Worst of all, we see those who mock him even as he hangs dying on the cross.

And he is overwhelmed by it all. He dies, crushed by the evil of the world. This is precisely why it grew dark in the middle of the day as Jesus was dying. Light seemingly gave way to darkness, love to hatred, life to death. In the words of Jesus himself, it was the reign of darkness!

Then comes the resurrection; we see Jesus emerge saying ‘shalom’ (peace) to those who betrayed and abandoned him; demonstrating that God’s love and forgiveness can overcome all the sins of the world. That’s why St. Paul could exclaim with certainty that nothing can separate us from the love of God; neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor height nor depth, nor any other power can separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:38-39).

Paul knows this because we crucified God with all that can go bad in the world and God still loves us. That’s why the cross of Jesus saves us. That’s why we held up the cross on Good Friday and exclaimed: “Behold the wood of the cross on which hung the salvation of the world.”

Enjoy this Easter day with your families, whether you gather in person or by any means by which you can keep connected. May this day be one of blessings and joy, good food and prayer.

The Kids’ Bulletin. These are now available to the little members of our parish and a great teaching tool for parents to help their children grow and learn our faith. Take one home and let the kids have fun with the puzzles and other activities.
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