# St. Mary Immaculate Parish

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# He is Risen!



#### THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

"We bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, this day He has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus." The Resurrection of Jesus is the crowning truth of our faith in Christ, a faith believed and lived as the central truth by the first Christian community; handed on as fundamental by Tradition; established by the documents of the New Testament; and preached as an essential part of the Paschal mystery along with the cross:

Christ is risen from the dead! Dying, He conquered death; To the dead, He has given life.

The mystery of Christ's resurrection is a real event, with manifestations that were historically verified, as the New Testament bears witness. In about A.D. 56 St. Paul could already write to the Corinthians: "I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, and that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve..." The Apostle speaks here of the living tradition of the Resurrection which he had learned after his conversion at the gates of Damascus.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, #638-639.

#### Dear Brothers and Sisters throughout the world, Men and women of good will!

Christ is risen! Peace to you! Today we celebrate the great mystery, the foundation of Christian faith and hope: Jesus of Nazareth, the Crucified One, has risen from the dead on the third day according to the Scriptures. We listen today with renewed emotion to the announcement proclaimed by the angels on the dawn of the first day after the Sabbath, to Mary of Magdala and to the women at the sepulchre: "Why do you search among the dead for one who is alive? He is not here, he is risen!" (Lk 24:5-6). It is not difficult to imagine the feelings of these women at that moment: feelings of sadness and dismay at the death of their Lord, feelings of disbelief and amazement before a fact too astonishing to be true. But the tomb was open and empty: the body was no longer there. Peter and John, having been informed of this by the women, ran to the sepulchre and found that they were right. The faith of the Apostles in Jesus, the expected Messiah, had been submitted to a severe trial by the scandal of the cross. At His arrest, His condemnation and death, they were dispersed. Now they are together again, perplexed and bewildered. But the Risen One Himself comes in response to their thirst for greater certainty. This encounter was not a dream or an illusion or a subjective imagination; it was a real experience, even if unexpected, and all the more striking for that reason. "Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, 'peace be with you!'" (Jn 20:19).

At these words their faith, which was almost spent within them, was rekindled. The Apostles told Thomas who had been absent from that first extraordinary encounter: Yes, the Lord has fulfilled all that He foretold; He is truly risen and we have seen and touched Him! Thomas however remained doubtful and perplexed. When Jesus came for a second time, eight days later in the Upper Room, He said to him: "put your

finger here and see My hands; and put out your hand and place it in My side; do not be faithless, but The Apostle's response is a moving profession of faith: "My Lord and my God!" (Jn 20:27-28). "My Lord and my God!" We too renew that profession of faith of Thomas. I have chosen these words..., because humanity today expects from Christians a renewed witness to the resurrection of Christ; it needs to encounter Him and to know Him as true God and true man. If we can recognize in this Apostle the doubts and uncertainties of so many Christians today, the fears and disappointments of many of our contemporaries, with Him we can also rediscover with renewed conviction, faith in Christ dead and risen for us. This faith, handed down through the centuries by the successors of the Apostles, continues on because the Risen Lord dies no more. He lives in the Church and guides it firmly towards the fulfilment of His eternal design of salvation.

We may all be tempted by the disbelief of Thomas. Suffering, evil, injustice, death, especially when it strikes the innocent such as children who are victims of war and terrorism, of sickness and hunger, does not all of this put our faith to the test? Paradoxically the disbelief of Thomas is most valuable to us in these cases because it helps to purify all false concepts of God and leads us to discover His true face: the face of a God who, in Christ, has taken upon Himself the wounds of injured humanity. Thomas has received from the Lord, and has in turn transmitted to the Church, the gift of a faith put to the test by the passion and death of Jesus and confirmed by meeting Him risen. His faith was almost dead but was born again thanks to his touching the wounds of Christ, those wounds that the Risen One did not hide but showed, and continues to point out to us in the trials and sufferings of every human being.

"By His wounds you have been healed" (1 Pt 2:24). This is the message Peter addressed to the early converts. Those wounds that, in the beginning were an obstacle for Thomas's faith, being a sign of Jesus' apparent failure, those same wounds have become in His encounter with the Risen One, signs of a victorious love. These wounds that Christ has received for love of us help us to understand who God is and to repeat: "My Lord and my God!" Only a God who loves us to the extent of taking upon Himself our wounds and our pain, especially innocent suffering, is worthy of faith..... Finally, I cannot forget the difficulties faced daily by the Christian communities and the exodus of Christians from that blessed Land which is the cradle of our faith. I affectionately renew to these populations the expression of my spiritual closeness.

Dear Brothers and sisters, through the wounds of the Risen Christ we can see the evils which afflict humanity with the eyes of hope. In fact, by His rising the Lord has not taken away suffering and evil from the world but has vanquished them at their roots by the superabundance of His grace. He has countered the arrogance of evil with the supremacy of His love. He has left us the love that does not fear death, as the way to peace and joy. "Even as I have loved you – He said to His disciples before His death – so you must also love one another" (cf. *In* 13:34).

Brothers and sisters in faith, who are listening ... from every part of the world! Christ is risen and He is alive among us. It is He who is the hope of a better future. As we say with Thomas: "My Lord and my God!, may we hear again in our hearts the beautiful yet demanding words of the Lord: "If any one serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I Am, there shall My servant be also; if any one serves Me, the Father will honour him" (*Jn* 12:26). United to Him and ready to offer our lives for our brothers (cf. 1 *Jn* 3:16), let us become apostles of peace, messengers of a joy that does not fear pain – the joy of the Resurrection. May Mary, Mother of the Risen Christ, obtain for us this Easter gift. Happy Easter to you all. (*Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, Easter 2007*)

#### **REGINA CAELI**

V. Oueen of heaven, rejoice! Alleluia.

R. For He Whom you did merit to bear. Alleluia.

V. Has risen, as He said. Alleluia.

R. Pray for us to God. Alleluia.

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary. Alleluia.

R. For the Lord is truly risen. Alleluia.

Let us pray. O God, Who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant, we beseech You, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life, through the same Christ, our Lord. **Amen.** (This prayer replaces the Angelus during Easter)

**EASTER GREETINGS** As we celebrate the Holy Feast of Easter, we extend to each and everyone of you prayerful wishes for a fruitful commemoration of this great feast. May our religious observance make us more aware of God's loving presence. Devotedly Yours in Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, **Fr. Bob, Fr. Marco, Fr. Pietro Paolo, Fr. Jim, and Deacon Joseph** 

CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN RECEIVED INTO THE CATHOLIC FAITH THIS EASTER! May they continue to receive God's grace and blessings on their faith journey.

**TWO HEARTS ROSARY PRAYER GROUP** invites everyone to pray the 4 mysteries of the Rosary on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. in the Church. We will pray the First Psalter on April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**LEGION OF MARY** meeting has moved to Tuesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. We are looking for new members. Please call the office if you are interested.

CWL ANNUAL COMMUNION BREAKFAST All parishioners and CWL members are invited to attend this event on Sunday, April 21st at 11 a.m. Holy Mass followed by 12:30 p.m. Brunch / Conference at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts with Friar Paul Lininger, OFM, Conv., a dynamic speaker who will engage you with his knowledge and ideas on the most relevant topic of "The Changing Demographics of the Christian Church." Tickets: \$25 available at the Office.

**2013 CHING MING CHINESE REMEMBRANCE MASS** will be held in the Holy Family Mausoleum at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery on April  $6^{th}$  at 2 p.m. The Mass is will be held in Cantonese and Mandarin with support of the four Chinese parishes.

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD SCHOOL now registering for September 2013/2014! For info call 416-531-7897 or visit marymotherofgodschool.org.

#### Pasqua di Resurrezione - 31 marzo 2013

"Oggi in questa Piazza ci sono tanti giovani: da 28 anni la Domenica delle Palme è la Giornata della Gioventù! Ecco la terza parola: giovani! Cari giovani, vi ho visto nella processione, quando entravate; vi immagino a fare festa intorno a Gesù, agitando i rami d'ulivo; vi immagino mentre gridate il suo nome ed esprimete la vostra gioia di essere con Lui! Voi avete una parte importante nella festa della fede! Voi ci portate la gioia della fede e ci dite che dobbiamo vivere la fede con un cuore giovane, sempre: un cuore giovane, anche a settanta, ottant'anni! Cuore giovane! Con Cristo il cuore non invecchia mai! Però tutti noi lo sappiamo e voi lo sapete bene che il Re che seguiamo e che ci accompagna è molto speciale: è un Re che ama fino alla croce e che ci insegna a servire, ad amare. E voi non avete vergogna della sua Croce! Anzi, la abbracciate, perché avete capito che è nel dono di sé, nel dono di sé, nell'uscire da se stessi, che si ha la vera gioia e che con l'amore di Dio Lui ha vinto il male. Voi portate la Croce pellegrina attraverso tutti i continenti, per le strade del mondo! La portate rispondendo all'invito di Gesù «Andate e fate discepoli tutti i popoli» (cfr Mt 28,19), che è il tema della Giornata della Gioventù di quest'anno. La portate per dire a tutti che sulla croce Gesù ha abbattuto il muro dell'inimicizia, che separa gli uomini e i popoli, e ha portato la riconciliazione e la pace. Cari amici, anch'io mi metto in cammino con voi, da oggi, sulle orme del beato Giovanni Paolo II e di Benedetto XVI. Ormai siamo vicini alla prossima tappa di questo grande pellegrinaggio della Croce. Guardo con gioia al prossimo luglio, a Rio de Janeiro! Vi do appuntamento in quella grande città del Brasile! Preparatevi bene, soprattutto nelle vostre comunità, spiritualmente quell'Incontro sia un segno di fede per il mondo intero. I giovani devono dire al mondo: è buono seguire Gesù; è buono andare con Gesù; è buono il messaggio di Gesù; è buono uscire da se stessi, alle periferie del mondo e dell'esistenza per portare Gesù! Tre parole: gioia, croce, giovani. Chiediamo l'intercessione della Vergine Maria. Lei ci insegna la gioia dell'incontro con Cristo, l'amore con cui lo dobbiamo guardare sotto la croce, l'entusiasmo del cuore giovane con cui lo dobbiamo seguire in questa Settimana Santa e in tutta la nostra vita. Così sia. (S.S. Papa Francesco, Domenica della Palme 2013)."

"Giorno della resurrezione, risplendiamo o popoli!... Dalla morte alla vita, dalla terra al cielo, Cristo Dio ci ha fatti passare, cantando l'inno di vittoria! ... Alla luce inaccessibile della resurrezione, vedremo il Cristo sfolgorante!... Il Cristo è risorto dai morti, con la sua morte calpestando la morte e ai morti nei sepolcri donando la vita! Risorgendo dalla tomba, come aveva predetto, Gesù ci ha donato la vita eterna e la grande misericordia! (Dalla liturgia orientale: *Poema* di S. Giovanni Damasceno)."

#### **AVVISO**

A tutti si augura una S. Pasqua piena di ogni gioia; che il Signore risorto vi accompagni per tutte le vie della vostra vita.

MASS INTENTIONS		March 31-Apr. 6
SUN.	9:30 a.m.	Pro populo
MON.	8:00 a.m.	+Francesco & Vincenza Orsi
TUE.	8:00 a.m.	+Sergio Durante
WED.	8:00 a.m.	+Holy Souls in Purgatory
	7:00 p.m.	In honore - S. Guiseppe
	•	+le anime del purgatorio
THURS	8:00 a.m.	+Nicholas & Rosa Santiago
FRI	8:00 a.m.	Holy Souls in Purgatory
	7:00 p.m.	In Honour of the Sacred Heart
		of Jesus
		Special Intention
		+Members of the Madden &
		Winton Families
		+Joseph Pustijanac
SAT	8:30 a.m.	In Honour of the Immaculate
		Heart ofMary
		Special Intention
		+Herbert, Catherine & Patrick
		Paxton

Anderson, Eugene Bomba, Matteo Burbano, Rory Burke, Stephanie Byrne, David Calado, Andy Calado, David Canivet, Bruno Cassara, Andrea Cavallin, Joe Cinno, Manuela Clement, Caterina De Grano, Thomas De Souza,

Harry Dekharmenjan, Nancy Duncan, Steven Fiorini, Roberto Garcias, Margaret Gardiner, Jessica Gonzales,

PLEASE REMEMBER OUR SICK:

+Vito Michele Burdi

Ursula Addesi, Doris

Godfrey Gosein, Carmela Harrison, Gertiudes Henriques, Andy Heutehaus, Theresa Hogan, Lawrence Howe, Elena Iacobelli, Rogelia Infante, Maria Iudiciani, Terry Jennings, Jolanta Karabowicz, Margaret Kelly, Derek Lai, Frances Landon, Olivera Lambeta, Macaria Margate, Chris Markle, Veronica Martin, Marguerite McRae, Paul Melotte, Rachelle (Joy Ann) Mendoza, George Morgan, Anthony Morse, Susan, Nino Naccarato, Michelle Antoinette Nedvedskaya, Helen & Catherine, Myola Nunes, Rosemary Palmieri, Diana, Lisa, Domenico Pileggi, Kaliopi & Eugenia Pandelopoulou, Todd Santaguida, Wolfgang Saul, Werner

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& Lucienne Schachatsiek, Joan Scott, Vincenzo Sorbara, Pat Sullivan, Linda Vincent, Therese Vincent, Nora Waldherr, Abigail Walz, Sandra Weinholdt, Ted Zygmunt,

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call Ann at 905-884-7025 or drop off at the Church Office.

NEW BEGINNINGS Retreat Weekend: Jesus says:
"Come to Me all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest. Friday April 12, 7:00 p.m. to Sunday April 14, 4:00 p.m. At Scarboro Missions, Toronto, Info: Mary Benincasa at 416-921-

1163x2235 or James at jshaughn@cfstoronto.com

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