

Holy Spirit Catholic Parish A Welcoming Community

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PASTORAL TEAM

Father Geoffrey Kerslake, Pastor, pastor@holyspiritparish.ca
Alex Ducharme, Youth/Sacramental Coordinator, youth@holyspiritparish.ca
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He Lives!



Alleluia, Alleluia!!

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S RESURRECTION



April 20 –the Resurrection of the Lord

Acts 10.34a,37-43

Colossians 3.1-4

John 20.1-18

April 27 – Divine Mercy Sunday

Acts 5.12-16

Revelation 1.9-11a,12-13,17-19

John 20.19-31

Parish Calendar

Mon, Apr 21 Parish Office Closed
Tue, Apr 22
 9:00 am Mass
 7:00 pm Confirmation preparation
 7:00 pm Knights of Columbus meeting
 7:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry
Wed, Apr 23
 9:00 am Mass
 7:00 pm Maintenance Committee meeting
Thu, Apr 24
 9:00 am Mass
 9:00 am Children's Faith Formation
 9:30 am Cenacle of Marian Movement of Priests
 6:30 pm Youth Night Grades 3-5
Fri, Apr 25
 9:00 am Mass
 9:30 am Flame of Love Prayer Group
Sat, Apr 26
 11:00 am Funeral Mass – Doug Specht
 4:15-4:45 pm Reconciliation
 5:00 pm Mass
Sun, Apr 27
 9:00 am Mass
 11:00 am Mass

*Confession available before morning Mass 8:30-8:50am

Easter Food Drive Thank You

Holy Spirit parishioners collected food items and donations for the Stittsville food bank. This is much appreciated since the food bank operates solely on donations from the community. Your generous donations are very much appreciated! Happy Easter!

Blessing for Easter Meal

Blessed are you, Lord our God, maker of heaven and earth and Father of all your people: we give you glory for your goodness and for your loving care for us.

Bless this food, and grant that all who eat it may be strong in body and grow in your love. Blessed are you, Lord our God, forever and ever.

Easter Prayers:

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy, he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." 1 Peter 1:3

Dear Lord, thank You for the gift of the resurrection and the hope it brings into our lives. Let the power of Your resurrection inspire us daily to live with purpose, knowing that You have conquered all fear and death. May Your love and victory be evident in our actions and help us to spread Your message of hope to those who need it. Amen.

God, may we feel the warm embrace of your love on this sacred day. May the glory of Jesus's resurrection remind us that with You, nothing is impossible or without hope. We pray in Your name. Amen. (Hallow)

Mass Intentions

Tue, Apr 22 – 9:00 am
†Alan Selvadurai by Marie
Wed, Apr 23 – 9:00 am
Intentions of Marion Di Gaspari by Suzanne O'Hara
Thu, Apr 24 – 9:00 am
†Libby Hurley by Suzanne O'Hara
Fri, Apr 25 – 9:00 am
†Lucette & †Fern Marcil by Jacques & Jeannie
Sat, Apr 26 – 5:00 pm
†Clement & †Carmen Guay by Kennedy Family
†Hugh Carroll by Carol & Family
Intentions of Justin Gifford by Dolores & Warren Bahen
Sun, Apr 27 – 9:00 am
For the intentions of all parishioners
Sun, Apr 27 – 11:00 am
†Phil & †Josh by Joan & Family
For living & deceased members of the
Catholic Women's League
†Elizabeth Ann Perrin by Family
Intentions of Laplante & Lebrun Families by Garvey
Family
†Jennie McCarville by McCarville Family

Please pray for those who are sick:

Please pray for those who have died: †Clare Nesbitt;
†Marlene Emmett, daughter of Bertha Emmett

†Indicates Deceased.

PLEASE NOTE – in April 2025, the Tuesday Masses will be at 9:00 AM.

*Donate to our Parish
or Youth Ministry*



Easter Message: The Easter Mystery is the foundation of our faith. In our celebration of the three holiest days of our liturgical year, the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Sunday), we participate in moments of great joy, like the first Mass instituted on Holy Thursday as well as the profound suffering of Good Friday. The culmination of these special days is the Easter Vigil on the evening of Holy Saturday: the most powerful liturgical celebration we share is an experience of the mystery, beauty and joy of Easter. It is the proof of God's love triumphing over death and of God's grace and mercy defeating sin.



Easter is a time of rejoicing that Jesus, who shared in family life with Mary and Joseph, shares too in our family life, especially in those moments where we share our faith together with each other: grace at mealtimes, family rosary, prayers at special moments of joy or sorrow, prayers before bed and celebrating Mass together as a family on Sunday. Jesus shared in family life with Mary and Joseph, and he wants to join us in our family. We do not have to be the 'perfect family' before we invite him into our lives. Pope Francis writes in his encyclical on family life (*Amoris laetitia: The Joy of Love*): "I thank God that many families, which are far from considering themselves perfect, live in love, fulfil their calling and keep moving forward, even if they fall many times along the way... there is no stereotype of the ideal family, but rather a challenging mosaic made up of many different realities, with all their joys, hopes and problems" (n.57). Just as Jesus entered into the suffering of the Cross on his way to the Resurrection, he is not afraid to join us in the family struggles we encounter as we journey through life.

Our family is God's gift to us. The family is the domestic church where we practice Christian virtues, love and pray with and for each other. Because our family contains unique individuals with different personalities, gifts and struggles, in it we also learn the value of mercy, reconciliation and forgiveness towards one another when we are not at our loving best with each other. Pope Francis writes: "all family life is a "shepherding" in mercy. Each of us, by our love and care, leaves a mark on the life of others" (AL, n. 322). This unique human institution is the building block of society and also of the Church; truly it is a gift from God.

One of the Gospel's for Easter Sunday recounts the experience of Mary Magdalene, Peter and John at the empty tomb on that first Easter morning. That empty tomb they found was a sign that Jesus left the grave and had risen from the dead. This is the great Mystery of our faith! Because Jesus is risen from the dead, he can be present to us now in our family life: "if a family is centered on Christ, he will unify and illumine its entire life" (Pope Francis, AL, n. 317). Easter is a time to celebrate God's love for us, a love that he definitively proves in the death and resurrection of his Son. It is a love we mediate to each other in our family and that we are called to share with the world. May the joy of the Risen Lord infuse your family with blessings this Easter Season! May the Holy Spirit be your counsellor, guide and helper. Fr. Geoff



Youth Ministry Update: First and foremost, thank you! We are so grateful for the continued support you've shown our Youth and Sacrament Programs throughout this year. It's been a season full of blessings, and we're excited to share what's coming up as we wrap up the school year. Youth Nights are going strong! Our next gathering for Grades 3-5 is on Thursday, April 24. This week's theme: Paint Night. Our Grades 6-8 night is on Thursday, May 1. We've got some great activities planned, so we hope to see lots of new and familiar faces. All youth in those grades are welcome to join us! Our Sacrament Programs are also reaching their joyful conclusions. Our First Communion class has completed their preparation, and 63 children will receive the Eucharist for the first time on May 4 – please keep them in your prayers! Our Confirmation class, with 43 children, will finish their sessions in May, and we are thrilled to welcome Archbishop Marcel for their Confirmation Mass in early June. Looking ahead, we have exciting plans for the fall, including fundraisers, family events, and special youth nights. And our youth will participate in the *Cleaning the Capital Campaign* in May. Stay tuned! For updates, check out the parish bulletin board, watch this space in future bulletins, or join our email list by contacting Alex, youth@holyspiritparish.ca. Thank you again for walking alongside us in faith and supporting the next generation of our Church. We can't wait to see what God has in store for the months ahead!



Easter Humour:

What do you call a line of rabbits walking backward?
A *receding hareline*.
What kind of vegetable is angry?
A *steamed carrot*!
How does the Easter Bunny stay fit?
EGGercise and hare-robics!



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