

## FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE



Joyous Easter! Jesus our Lord and Savior is Risen!

They crucified Jesus on Good Friday! God would not allow death to be the final word, of His Son's life. Jesus is the Living Word of God. Jesus is Emmanuel – God with us. Life in Jesus turns our despair to hope, our darkness to light, and our sadness to joy. Jesus our Lord and Savior is Risen! Joyous Easter!

We welcome all those celebrating with us today. Perhaps you were at the Easter Vigil welcoming the newest members of our parish into the Church through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. Maybe you are standing in the back of the church singing Alleluia. Because of your faith and desire to live Easter, you may be in the gym of the Upper Grade Center, knowing that wherever we are, we are to live, share, and proclaim the hope of the Resurrection in our lives of faith.

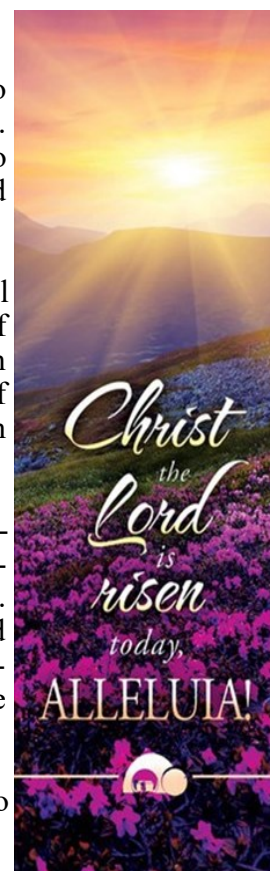
We give thanks to God that Easter is a season, not a day. For 50 days we live Resurrection, reading the Acts of the Apostles, learning how the early Church - the first followers - those closest to Jesus, kept living the lessons and sharing the joy they found in their Lord. That very same joy is available to all of us. If you were to look at a calendar, you would realize that we celebrate the season of Easter through the end of May. The feast of Pentecost, celebrated this year on May 28, concludes the Easter season. We are to be led by the Spirit, sent from Jesus, so we can be His witnesses to the ends of the world.

I am glad you are here today and invite you to celebrate Easter with us, in prayer, up to and including the feast of Pentecost.

A few weeks from now, on Sunday, April 23 and Monday April 24, Greg Kozak will be back for the third of his presentations on *Living the Liturgy, The Other 167 Hours of the Week*. Greg shared with us ideas and a focus in which to live Advent and Lent. He concludes his trinity of presentations on how we are to live the joy, the hope, and the promise of resurrection with our family, co-workers, parishioners, and friends. The presentations take place in the church and last for 75 minutes. You are invited to bring a family member or a friend with you to grow from this Adult Education opportunity this Easter Season.

I want to thank everyone who helped with the 5:00pm evening Masses on Sunday's during Lent. Chase Hawkins, our Youth Minister, worked with teenagers who served as ushers, lectors, servers, and cantors. Special thanks to Cammie Edwards and Clara Bartusiak who were the teen cantors, in addition to "Microscope" an a cappella group from Woodlands Academy. The Parish Staff and Parish Liturgy Committee continue to discuss and discern the Mass schedule at the parish that will fit the majority of our parishioners' schedules. Thanks to Marek Rachelski for working with the cantors for the Sunday evening Masses during Lent. I will communicate to the parish in the future any plans to add an additional Mass to the existing weekend Mass schedule.

I would like to remind you about the "Gun BuyBack" program in Waukegan on April 29 at the Holy Family Parish site of our Sharing Parish, Most Blessed Trinity. Bishop Grob, our Auxiliary Bishop in Vicariate 1, is working with the pastor of Most Blessed Trinity, Fr. Tim O'Malley, on this project and we have an opportunity to help bring safety, peace, and hope to the streets and towns around us. An anonymous St. Mary's parishioner is donating \$5,000 with hopes that others can come together and match that amount. Checks can be returned to the parish marked on the envelope – "Gun BuyBack" or you may give electronically at [bit.ly/waukeganstrong](https://bit.ly/waukeganstrong) or by using the QR code to the right.



God bless you in living Easter joy in our Risen Lord and Savior,

*Fr. Mike Macius*