



Dear Parishioners,

The sign of Jesus' Resurrection is the stone rolled back from the tomb. As I continue to reflect upon the Easter story as well as these weeks of the COVID-19, my thoughts turned to my memories of April 7, 2007, when St. Anne Church in New Castle was totally destroyed by fire in the early hours of Holy Saturday. Less than 24 hours later we assembled in the high school auditorium to celebrate the feast of Easter. No one *felt* like celebrating. No one *felt* like singing Alleluias. Yet lacking feelings, we knew it was our faith in the Risen Lord to which we had to cling. We saw the stone rolled back, saw the empty tomb, and knew that resurrection had occurred.

Nothing would keep us from the love of God. Nothing would keep us from singing our Alleluias, nor would anything separate us from the love of God; not a burned church, not a pile of ashes and smoke, and not the loss of so much that was precious to us.

Did we have to remind one another of the empty tomb, of the stone rolled back as we waited two long years for the decision from the insurance company before we could even clean up the debris? Or the day we learned the name of the arsonist and had to struggle with forgiveness? Or the days and months we worked with the construction company in the rebuilding effort? Yes to all of these questions.

Through this tragedy we were forced to look for "resurrection moments," times when we saw and/or felt the presence of God. We saw it in the kindness of people, in the strength we drew from one another, and in words of encouragement and hope and trust. I heard God say that all would be well as we saw a beautiful rainbow appear above the charred church and another one that arched over the partly constructed church. We saw the empty tomb and believed more deeply than ever before that nothing would separate us from the love of God.

I am sure these past weeks and months have been difficult times for you and your family. I am sure you have had your moments of worry and concern, and still do. I hope you, too, yearned to assemble in church with your faith parish for the celebration of Easter. Maybe you didn't *feel* like singing Alleluia or it just didn't *feel* like Easter.

Remember the stone was rolled back. Remember that nothing can separate you/us from the love of God. And remember to search, to notice, to be aware of those "resurrection moments" God will send into your life these seven weeks of Easter. Let them feed your soul with greater faith, hope, and love. Let them set your faith on fire until we sing together ALLELUIA!

Easter Blessings,
Sister Shirley Gerth

ADDENDUM – Talk about "resurrection" moments! Easter Sunday, April 12, 9:50 AM, will forever be etched in my memory! Seeing so many of you was better than any rainbow God has sent me! Thank you! Thank you! I have missed you. I have missed all the children. What a blessing you are to me! And dropping your Easter collection in the basket in front of church was merely "icing on the cake." I thank my God for you!



Divine Mercy Sunday

**"AS THE FATHER SENT ME,
SO I SEND YOU."**

*Christ,
come right through
our fear of locked pandemic doors;
breathe your Holy Spirit into us.
Give us, please, your peace
that comes from
perfect love.*

*Not to hoard such treasure,
we want to give it out
to everyone who would believe.*

*Make us instruments
of the power
of your resurrection.*

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**St. John Paul II said, "Divine Mercy!
This is the Easter gift that the Church
receives from the risen Christ and
offers to humanity." May we run to the
arms of Christ, who is love and mercy
itself!**

COLLECTION FROM 3/23/20 - 4/14/20

Sunday Collections	\$8,149.50
Capital Improvement	\$1,174.00
Easter Collections	\$2,085.00

Electronic Giving for March	\$2,255.00
Total Sunday & Holy Day Collections (7/1/19 - 4/14/20)	\$158,765.99
Amount Required to Meet Budget (7/1/19 - 4/14/20)	\$137,299.00

FR. JOHN – I called Father John on Easter Sunday, and he said he was having a “resurrection” day. He had no fever, and he ate a delicious meal that his niece delivered to him. His voice sounded stronger and joyful. I asked him if he had a message for you in this bulletin and he responded, “Oh, just tell them thank you, thank you for all their prayers for me and for the correspondence I received.”

If you want to send a card to Fr. Geis, his address is 853 N. Co. Rd. 950 E, Greensburg, IN 47240.

PARISH PROJECTS – The renovation of the back porch of the rectory has been completed, and the front porch is completed except for the railings for the steps.

As human beings, we will sin, fail, and even at times run away from God and the work He calls us to do. And yet, with divine mercy, the Lord never ceases to call us back, offering peace to counteract our fear and forgiveness to wipe away our sins. We are then sent into the world to share these gifts of peace and mercy.

On this Divine Mercy Sunday, let us ponder the image of Jesus with water and blood pouring from his wounded side and know in our souls that his suffering washes us clean and offers salvation. Yes, Jesus, we trust in you.

FORGIVE



For Heaven's Sake

Prayer In Union With Creation

Father, we praise you with all your creation.
They came forth from your all-powerful hand;
they are yours, filled with your presence
and your tender love.
Praise be to you.

Son of God, Jesus,
through you all things were made.
You were formed in the womb
of Mary our Mother,
you became part of this earth,
and you gazed upon this world with human eyes.
Today you are alive in every creature
in your risen glory.
Praise be to you!

Holy Spirit, by your light you guide this world
towards the Father's love
and accompany creation as it groans in travail.
You also dwell in our hearts
and you inspire us to do what is good.
Praise be to you!

Triune God, wondrous community of infinite
love, teach us to contemplate you in the beauty of
the universe,
for all things speak of you.
Awaken our praise and thankfulness for every
being that you have made.
Give us the grace to feel profoundly joined to
everything that is.

God of love,
show us our place in this world as channels of
your love for all the creatures of this earth,
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.
Enlighten those who possess power and money
that they avoid the sin of indifference,
that they may love the common good,
advance the weak,
and care for this world in which we live.
The poor and the earth are crying out.

O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help
us to protect all life, to prepare for a better
future, for the coming of your Kingdom,
of justice, peace, love and beauty.
Praise be to you!
Amen.


REGINA COELI

EASTER SEASON PRAYER

This is a Marian antiphon traditionally said in place of the Angelus at the noon hour each day during Eastertide, that is, from Easter Day through Pentecost.

V. Queen 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 has truly risen, alleluia.


Let us pray. O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech Thee, 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.



Transformation POWER

Just as the caterpillar becomes a butterfly,
God transforms us from old to new.

Directions: Cross out the backward letters. Write the remaining letters in order in the spaces below to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.



BANFYFON E, CCHRISOT, NLEJW,
C9REABTINOSN, LCOSME, EOLFO,
GEERB, WSEAN, BANOQ

Therefore, if _____ is in _____,
the _____ has _____:
The _____ has _____,
the _____ is _____!

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV