

Sunday, March 31, 2024 Easter Sunday

Christ is risen! Jesus is alive, and God has swallowed up death forever. With Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, we may feel astonished and confused, unsure of what to make of the empty tomb. But this is why we gather: to proclaim, witness, praise, and affirm the

liberating reality of Christ's death and resurrection. In word and feast, we celebrate God's unending love, and depart to share this good news with all the world. Alleluia!

WELCOME! We are glad to have you join us in worship today. Here are a few notes to help you feel more at home participating in our worship.

Worshiping. Today's service is printed in this bulletin. Parts in **bold** indicate responses by everyone in which you are invited to participate.

Communion: Lutheran Christians believe that the Lord Jesus Christ feeds us with his true body and blood "in, with, and under" the bread and wine in the Lord's Supper. All baptized Christians who receive Communion in their own churches are welcome to receive the sacrament. Please note that the darker wine is non-alcoholic and is available from the Lector. Communion will be distributed continuously, in procession. Please come forward as directed by the ushers.

ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

270 South Broadway + Hicksville NY 11801

Church Office: Monday/Tuesday 9 am - 2 pm Wednesday/Thursday 9 am - 3 pm, Friday Noon - 3 pm

Church Office: 516/931-0710 Rev. Dr. Joann Heaney-Hunter

Christine Goetzger-Sedlak, President of the Congregation

Mason Griffin, Minister of Music

Fern Funk, Parish Administrator (*email* ststephenoffice@msn.com)

Church Website www.ststephenshicksville.com

Join us on Facebook: St. Stephens Lutheran Church, Hicksville, NY

+ GATHERING +

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **C** Amen.

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

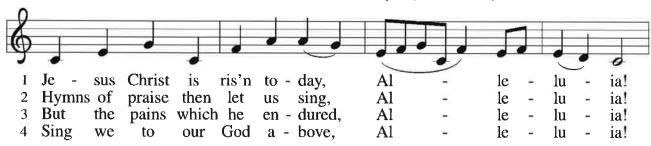
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

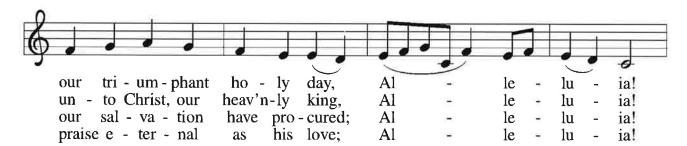
Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

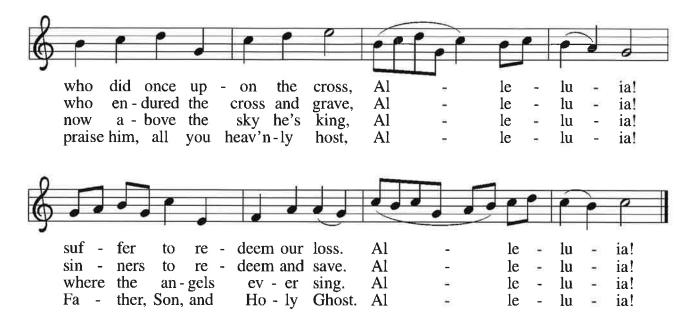
We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **C** Amen.

GATHERING SONG: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today (ELW 365)



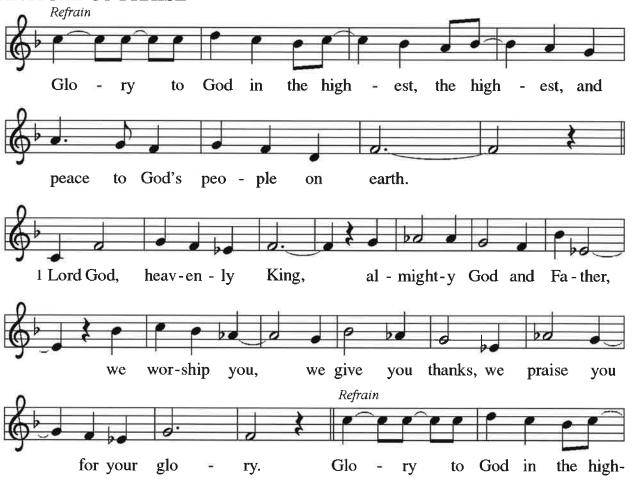




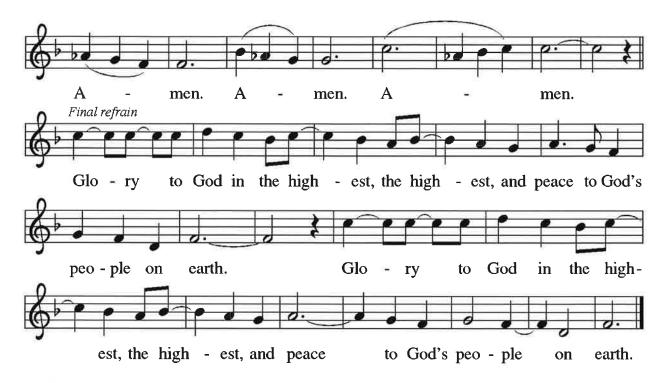
GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. C And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE







PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C** Amen.

+ WORD +

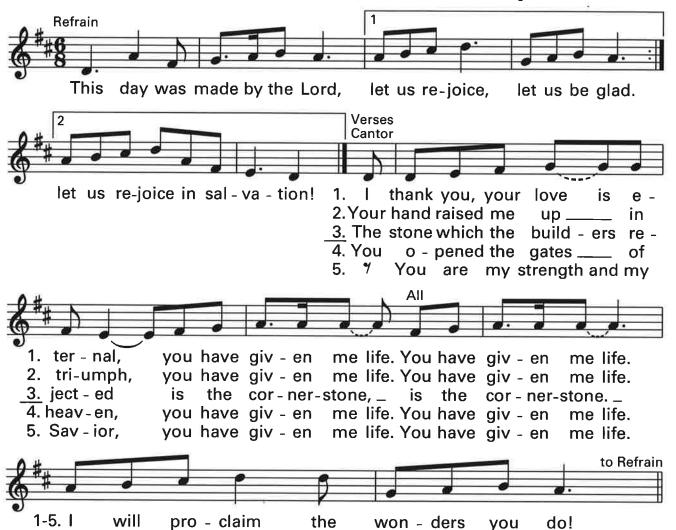
FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43

A reading from Acts.

³⁴Peter began to speak to the people: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." ... The word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

PSALM:

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 - This Day Was Made by the Lord ~ Christopher Walker



SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

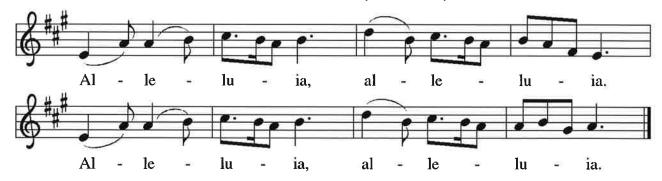
¹Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

³For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle,

because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

... The word of the Lord. C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Celtic Alleluia (ELW 174)



GOSPEL: John 20: 1-18

P The holy gospel according to John. C Glory to you, O Lord.

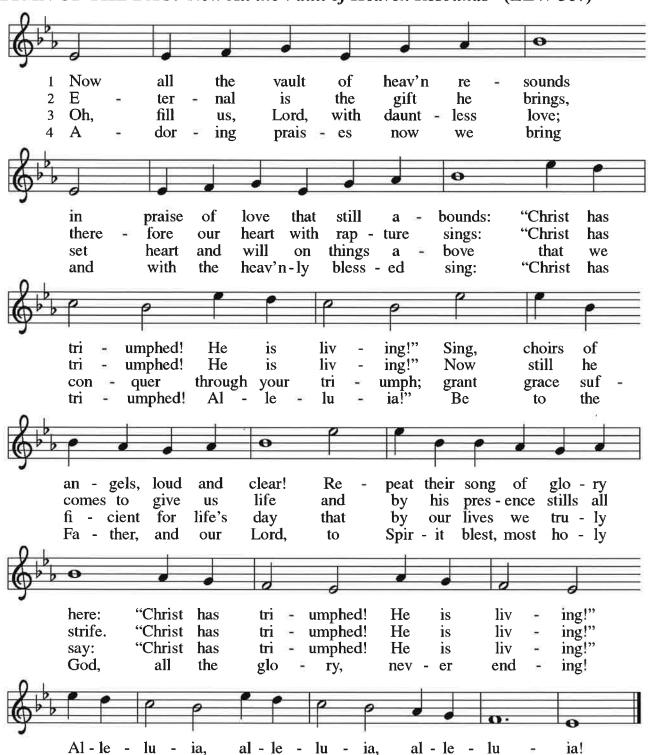
¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ³and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ®Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; 9for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹oThen the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because

I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her. ... The gospel of the Lord. C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds (ELW 367)



PROFESSION OF FAITH

- P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.
- P Do you renounce the devil and all the powers that defy God?
- C I renounce them.
- P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?
- C I renounce them.
- P Do you believe in God the Father?
- C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
- P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
- C I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
- P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
- C I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

The response to the Prayers of Intercession is: C Hear our prayer.

A Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **C** Amen.

PEACE

- P The peace of Christ be with you always. C And also with you.
- P Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

ADDITIONAL PRAYERS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

Brenda Back (3/31)

BIRTHDAY SONG

He who began a good work in you (2x)
Will be faithful to complete it (Clap 3x)
Will be faithful to complete it (Clap 3x)
He who started the work will be faithful to complete it in you!

+ MEAL +

OFFERING: Baptized in Water (ELW 456)



OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. Risen Lord, Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

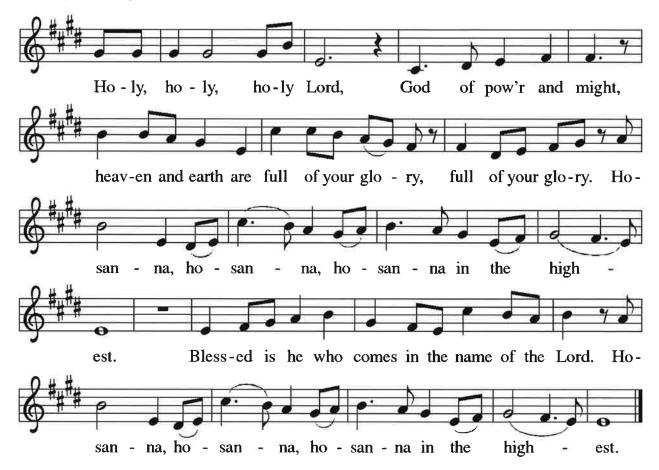
DIALOGUE

- P The Lord be with you. C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts. C We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Blessed are you, O God of the universe... we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P ... Grace our table with your presence. C Come, Holy Spirit.

P Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. C Come, Holy Spirit.

LORD'S PRAYER

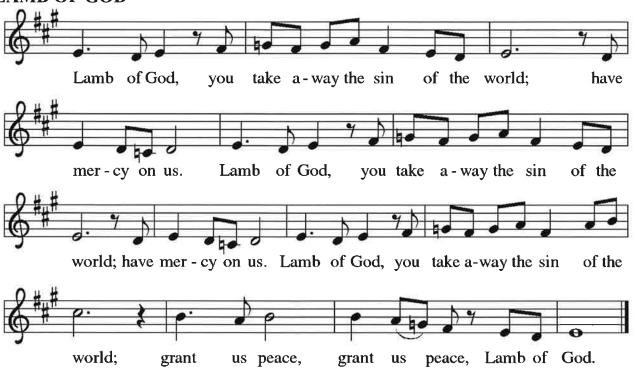
P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C Our Father, who art in heaven...

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to the banquet, for all is now ready. C Thanks be to God.

LAMB OF GOD



SONG DURING COMMUNION:

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness (ELW 843)



- 1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib er at ing light;
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil-dren with a strong yet gen-tle word;
- 3 Praise the one true love in car nate: Christ, who suf-fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris-'ners, turn-ing blind-ness in - to sight. praise the One who drove out de-mons with a pierc-ing, two-edged sword. Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal-ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn-ing sand; Let us sing for joy and glad-ness, see-ing what our God has done.



calm-ing storms and feed - ing thou-sands with the ver - y bread of peace. from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench-ing thirst in ev - 'ry land. Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray. Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **C** Amen.

+ SENDING +

P The Lord be with you. C And also with you.

BLESSING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen! C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope + bless you now and always. **C** Amen.

SENDING SONG: Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee (ELW 836)



- 1 Joy ful, joy ful we a dore thee, God of glo ry, Lord of love!
- 2 All thy works with joy sur-round thee, earth and heav'n re flect thy rays,
- 3 Thou art giv ing and for giv ing, ev er bless-ing, ev er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be-fore thee, prais-ing thee, their sun a - bove. stars and an - gels sing a-round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise. well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way. Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, flow-'ry mead-ow, flash - ing sea, Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day. chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee. teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di-vine!

DISMISSAL

A Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Upcoming Commemorations

John Donne, poet, died 1631 Sunday, March 31, 2024

After finishing his education at Oxford University, Donne seemed headed for a career in the English public service. But a series of circumstances led him into the ordained ministry. He is well known as a writer of both secular and sacred poetry.

Benedict the African, confessor, died 1589 Thursday, April 4, 2024

Born into slavery on the island of Sicily, Benedict lived as a hermit until the pope ordered all hermits to attach themselves to a monastery, at which time Benedict joined the Franciscans. Though illiterate, he was highly respected as a confessor and later superior of his community.

Albrecht Dürer, died 1528; Matthias Grünewald, died 1529; Lucas Cranach, died 1553; artists

Saturday, April 6, 2024

These great artists revealed through their work the mystery of salvation and the wonder of creation. Dürer's work reflected the apocalyptic spirit of his time. Though he remained a Roman Catholic, he was sympathetic to Martin Luther's reforming work. Grünewald's paintings are known for their dramatic forms, vivid colors, and depiction of light. Cranach's work includes many fine religious examples and several portraits of Martin Luther. Cranach was also widely known for his woodcuts.

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Announcements for the week of *March 31, 2024*

Sanctuary Candle for the month of March is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Frank O'Brien by The O'Brien Family

WE OFFER OUR ALLELUIAS for everyone who helped prepare and participate in our Holy Week and Easter celebrations at St. Stephen's:

- ◆ To our staff Pr. Joann, Fern Funk and Anthony Agarenzo for the extra time and care put into this season: for planning many worship services, creating extra bulletins, coordinating volunteers, cleaning and sprucing up.
- ♦ To our musicians: Mason Griffin, Greg Hunter, Kevin Heathwood, Stephen Souza, Beth Souza, Stephen Souza Jr., Andy Crosten, Sara LaGuarina and Mallory Auer for providing us with beautiful music.
- ♦ To our choir: Laureen Aiello, Barbara Barcavage, Irma & Ray Bartalotta, Vicky Maxey, Judy Meinhardt and Maureen O'Brien for leading us in song.
- ♦ To our Altar Guild: Christel LaVorgna, Jane Ebersberger, Lauren & Bill Artus, Beth Feeney and the many volunteers who transformed our worship space many times over the Great Three Days, enhancing our experience of Jesus' final days and beautifying our space to reflect our Easter joy.
- ◆ To our property committee for the beautiful grounds, repairs, and constant maintenance.
- ♦ To the many who served in worship: assisting ministers, lectors, acolytes, ushers, greeters and special readers.

Easter Basket Update! By the middle of March, we had collected more than 300 lbs of nutritious food items, beverages, cookies and chocolate candies. These were delivered to LSS's New LIFE Center to fill many Easter baskets. Thanks to all who contributed.

Bowling at Levittown Lanes (56 Tanners Lane, Levittown) Saturday, April 13 from 3 pm - 5 pm. Please see the sign-up sheet/flyer in the Narthex. \$25 per person including shoe rental.



Coffee Hour Sign-up Sheet for April - June is available in the Narthex. Please consider hosting a coffee hour by suppling refreshments and/or serving.

A chart on the lobby bulletin board allows us to designate weekly <u>Sunday service</u> altar flowers or the monthly sanctuary lamp candle as special memorial/in honor of gifts. Use the envelopes provided to forward the gift (\$25.00 for flowers; \$15.00 for candle). Be sure to include information concerning who is being honored/memorialized

by your gift as well as your name, address and telephone number. You may also contact the church office at 516/931-0710.

PARISH CALENDAR THIS WEEK (March 31st - April 6th)

Today

Easter Sunday

9:30 am

Holy Communion

Tuesday

7:00 pm

Back to Basics (AA)

Next Sunday, Second Sunday of Easter

9:30 am

Holy Communion

SERVING AT WORSHIP TODAY

Sunday, 9:30 AM

ASSISTING MINISTER:

Christel LaVorgna

LECTOR:

Bill Artus

ACOLYTE:

Gavin Barone

MUSICIANS:

Gregory Hunter, Kevin Heathwood

USHERS:

Kevin Barcavage, Rich Humann

GREETER:

Ilse Zeeck

AUDIO/VISUAL:

Tyler LaVorgna

ALTAR GUILD:

Lauren & Bill Artus

PARISH PRAYER LIST

If you would like to have your name or your friend or family member's name added to the Prayer List, please call the office. Please remember to keep the office updated.

PRAY FOR OUR CONGREGATION

Lauren Artus

Dolly Braun

Dottie Eberhardt

Roger Engert

Dottie McPartlin

Lois Menik

PRAY FOR OUR FAMILIES

Joe (brother-in-law of Mark Hammaren)

Vinny Aiello (husband of Laureen Aiello)

Fred & Janet Barrell (brother-in-law & sister of Susan Portz)

Wendy & Joe Bezko Colligan (sister & brother-in-law of Jeanne Bezko)

Roseann DeGennaro (cousin of Laureen Aiello)

Joe DiSalvo (cousin of Maureen O'Brien)

James Ebersberger (brother of Jane Ebersberger)

John Parrett (husband of Claire Parrett)

Krista Parrett (daughter-in-law of Claire Parrett)

David Smiloff (brother of Debbie De Louise) Diana Smiloff (sister-in-law of Debbie De Louise) Arlene Stafford (aunt of Kathy Hesse)

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS

Dan Buckholt (friend of Allison Barone)

Robert Ciaccio (friend of The Barone Family)

Ed & Marie Gomula & The Gomula Family (friends of Debbie De Louise)

John Judge (friend of Jane Ebersberger)

Carol Lorenzut (friend of Bill & Lauren Artus)

Ellen Motoi (friend of Maureen O'Brien)

Betty, John & Mary Beth Ott (friends of Jane Ebersberger)

Bill Stanton (friend of Kelli Barone)

Stephanie Thorton (friend of Hesse Family)

The family and friends who mourn the loss of Rudy Eberhardt





2024 Easter Flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and presented



IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Our Grandparents
George Panaro
Albert & Rose Aiello
Robert Angstadt
Edythe Casey
Ed Dressler
Our Parents
Karin Mae Hagner

Edna & Archie Ruland

Mom & Dad Mom & Aunt Doris Isabelle Hunter & Annette Oswald

Joan & Thomas Heaney

Elisabeth & Erich Pfeiffer
Evelyn & Alfred LaVorgna
Renate & Rolf Geerdts
Carl & Madeline Meinhardt
Gene Spitzer
Lillian & Joseph Muller & Tina Shurman
Grandma Louise & Grandma Winnie
Sophie & Frank O'Brien
Grandpa Tony
Mr. Joe
Loved Ones

BY: Ahlers/Pendas Family Laureen & Vinny Aiello Laureen & Vinny Aiello Lois Angstadt Ann & Ed Casev Loretta Dressler Loretta Dressler Christine, Paul, Gabrielle & Jillian Stephen Christine, Paul, Gabrielle & Jillian Stephen Richie & Bette Humann Richard & Bette Humann Pr. Joann Heaney-Hunter & **Greg Hunter** Pr. Joann Heaney-Hunter & **Greg Hunter** The LaVorgna Family The LaVorgna Family The LaVorgna Family Judy Meinhardt Judy Meinhardt Their Families The O'Brien Family The O'Brien Family Sophie Pendas Sophie Pendas Paul & Susan Portz

IN HONOR OF:

Pastor & Greg
The Portz Family

My daughter & family: Chris, Paul, Gabrielle & Jillian

Maureen "Emu" O'Brien

BY:

BY:

Ahlers/Pendas Family

Jeanne Bezko

Joan Hagner

Sophie Pendas

Ahlers/Pendas Family
Ahlers/Pendas Family
"Emu"
Richard & Bette Humann
Bob & Nan Maurer
Joe Muller & Family
Claire Parrett
Sophie Pendas
Paul & Susan Portz
Christine, Paul, Garielle & Jillian
Stephen

IN THANKSGIVING FOR:

Our Parents & Families
Mason & The Choir
Sophie M. Pendas
All Of Our Blessings
Our Family
Our Angel Seleina
The Parrett Family
"Peggy" O'Brien
Our Family
Joan Hagner

