



Take Your Time

.. Natural heart's ivy, Patience masks
Our ruins of wrecked past purpose. There she basks
Purple eyes and seas of liquid leaves all day.*

Patience.

The word haunts me this Easter. Yes, the promise of all ages has now been fulfilled in the Resurrection, and rejoice we do. But even so, we have to wait for our slow selves to understand it.

We are forced to learn patience.

Remember how Jesus was so unhurried when told that his friend Lazarus was in Bethany, not far away, dying? Jesus delayed going there for four days, or in other words "forever" in emotional time. Mary and Martha, those close friends of Jesus, did without him as they buried their brother and grieved. When he finally arrived, each sister cried lacerating words to him, "You could have saved our brother!"

Jesus wept. And then he replied, "I am the resurrection and the life." On this day we rejoice because we can see that his statement was true: it is spread out before us in the Great Celebration of Easter.

But what does it really mean? It takes patience, maybe years of it, to let the meaning of Easter sink in.

We cry out to God, "You could get rid of all the waiting if you wanted to. Why five weeks of Lenten delay and preparation? Why four days of mute deprivation for Martha and Mary? Why the eons of your seeming absence through history? How does an Easter celebration make up for all that?"

We followers of God and his Christ take a long, long time to get beneath the surface, to put ourselves into the hands of what is not, after all, a money-back guarantee, but just a promise. "You will be my people and I will be your God." It is so tough for us to drink the milk of trust in the same way a child does at its mother's breast.

We have to wait as our hearts decide slowly to entrust still another part of ourselves to God and his promise. Each year maybe just a little more.

Patience makes its roots only in the soil of trust.

Maybe the very length of the Easter Vigil Service helps us to take in this fact. There are ten readings, including the Epistle and the Gospel, together with a candle lighting ceremony ("Light of Christ"), and numerous Baptisms. Patience is the name of the game at Easter Vigil, maybe for the same reason Jesus made the two sisters wait.

In the darkness of Easter Vigil, lit only by candles, we hear, in sequence, how God created us and blessed us, how he called on and counted on Abraham, how he rescued the Hebrew people as they ran from their captors in the desert journey (and ran from God too).

For a "brief moment" God lost patience and turned away, we are told, but then "with enduring love" took his people back, offering water to the thirsty and grain to the poor. Can we trust this? How much?

"You will be my people and I will be your God."

Finally the Gospel is proclaimed, announcing an empty tomb. The women in the story believe, the men don't, at least not right away.

Do you believe? Is Jesus risen or is he not? Or is it just a child's fable after all? I suppose it could be, unless you have trust.

We must grow until we can experience the greatest of all Easter truths: God's love is stronger than life itself.

On this glorious Easter weekend, after we have waited like the disciples did, on those bottomless post-crucifixion days, and even while we sing songs about resurrection, still we do it only by faith and trust. To interpret. To hear anew, now more profoundly. To wait.

Ultimately we are asked which path we will follow: the skeptical calculating path of the doubters, or the trusting patient manner of those who keep learning to believe—above all and after all—in the tender mercy of God.

East er Remembr ances

Joan Hanson	Kenneth E. Seegar	Maggie Manzoni
Frank Levai	Irene F. Seegar	Tony & Mary Zuchowski
George Hubel	Michael C. Seegar	Ed & Olga Chmielewski
Richard W. Kempa	Katherine Ostrowski	Chester Petroski
Victoria Space	Howard & Caroline Seeger	Mark Meredick
Aaron Supancik	Charles & Mary Ostrowski	Nellie Kovalik
Veronica Bartkus	Vincent & Lottie Strazewski	Ethel Maslanka
Frances & Stanley Nowakowski	Joseph & Zosia Strazewski	Mary Golembieski
Raymond Whitehead	William Nash	Joy Markowski
Dolores Phillips	Ann & Ann Marie Nash	Joanne Sciartilli
Frank Zimowski	Billy & Nancy Nash	Betty Jane Caswell
Elizabeth Bernoski	Howard Seeger Jr.	Silvio & Irene Tomasetti
Edward Bernoski	Adeline Seeger & Family	Edward & Eleanor Kwiatek
Bridget & Stanley Cominsky	Charles Seeger	Charles & Catherine Zabielki
Shirley & Ed Buchla	Pearl Seeger & Family	Winifred Miller
Robert & Betty Fallon	Lou & Tess Seeger	Cora McGlynn
T.J. Manzer	Helen Seeger	Russell & Veronica Baxter
Matthew L. Menapace Sr.	Thomas Seeger & Family	Bill & Helen Brown
Jerry Ingoglia	Joan Thomas	The Gleason Family
MaryAnn Burdick	Al Thomas & Family	Rev. John O'Bell
Peter Petroski	Edward Ware Sr.	Rev. Robert Simon
Joseph Plonski Sr.	Shirley Ware & Family	Marge D'Allesandro
A. William Goodger	Richard & Joanne Seeger & Family	Steve & Dolores Garnecki
Ronnie Barrison	Lou & Kate Kittel	Jennifer Ginnochetti
Charlie Bolline Jr.	Living & Deceased of Seeger Family	Living & Deceased members of
Catherine & Walter Sadowski	Helen & Henry Posluszny	Meredick Family
Christian Genneken	Paul & Paulette Merchel	Living & Deceased Members of Sts
Mary Hadnagay	Fred & Elenore Wudarski	Peter & Paul Parish
Anna Updyke	Felix & Alice Borowski	Living & Deceased Members of St.
Catherine Murray	John Strazewski	Aloysius Parish
Edward Murray	Sophie Lubnicki	Living & Deceased Members of St.
Kay Snellbaker	Walter & Alice Dobrzynski	Matthew's Parish
Edward Hartman	Living & Deceased of Strazewski Family	Living & Deceased Members of St.
Evelyn Hartman	Thomas & Mary Laskowski	Mary of the Immaculate Conception
Gertrude Leahy	Peter & Bonnie Bardunias	Parish
D.J. & Mary Leahy	Tina Sadoski	Living & Deceased Members of St.
Art & Martha Pike	Living & Deceased of Laskowski Family	Therese Parish
Daniel & Katherine King	John Vernoski	Living & Deceased Members of the
Sanford Leet	Olga Vernoski	Blossburg Area Catholic Community
Virginia Marcikonis	Helen Marichak	Living & Deceased Members of St.
Paul Marcikonis	Elizabeth Marichak	Mary of the Assumption & St. Anthony
Peter Marcikonis	Rev. James J. Burdess	of Padua
Patrick B. Clarke	Ann Marie Szalku	Living & Deceased Members of St.
Mary A. Gilleran	Stephen Burdess	Martin of Tours and St. Paul
James Gilleran	Bishop William Skurla	Living & Deceased Bishops of the Dio-
Romolo Radicchi	Theresa Huffman	cese
Kathy Flor	Melbourne Huffman	Living & Deceased Clergy of the Dio-
Bill Goodger	Ann Marie Griffiths	cese
Pauline & James Salamida	Jo Ann Griffiths	
Francis Tully	George & Theresa Griffiths	
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Leet & Family	David Griffiths	
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Sanfillipo & Family	Alberta Griffiths	
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Posly & Family	Sr. Joan Katoski	
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Mc. Andrew & Family	Sr. Gertrude Grimes	
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Finagan & Family		



Current Events

There will be a **RETREAT DAY** for all students in our Parish Religious Education Program **NEXT SUNDAY** beginning at 9 a.m. and continuing until 3 p.m. The children will participate in a variety of activities centered around the Sacrament of the Eucharist. They will also participate in the 11 a.m. Mass. Lunch will be served.

Sr. Gertrude Grimes will be retreat master. A good time is planned for all.

P.S. Parents are welcomed to participate as well!!!!!!

St. John's Men's Club will hold their Annual Chicken Barbeque on Sunday April 22nd from 11—2

at St. John's Parish Hall.

Take out or Eat In

Cost: 7:00 full meal

4:50 chicken half only

Advanced tickets are available.

Call St. John's or see any Men's Club Member.

Annual DAUGHTER'S DINNER

Again, plans are being made for an evening of fellowship, food and fun. Mark your calendars for Tuesday, May 15, 2007 at 6 p.m. for the annual Covered Dish Dinner. Stories, Jokes, readings, etc. will be welcome for the program.

The "Be All You Can Be" Basket Raffle Tickets will be sold on the weekends of May 5th and May 12th. Donations for the basket can be dropped off in the Vestibule of the Church. The deadline for these items is Sunday, April 22, 2007.

For information on the Basket, please contact Fran Lipschutz at 756, 2468 or Martina Lingobardo at 756-2879.

Reservations for the Dinner are a must! R.S.V.P. to Rachel Gilleran (727-2653), Eileen Hartman (434-2316) or Martina (756-2879).

EASTER GREETINGS

Heart-felt greetings are extended to all our parishioners and friends who have gathered here to celebrate this glorious feast of Easter.

May you know the joy and peace that the Risen Lord brings into our lives and our world.

We are always grateful to see so many of our parish "children" returning home for the holidays and friends who come from far and wide to be with us for the holidays. Know that you are always welcome at St. Martin's and St. Paul's

We extend a word of thanks to all who helped to prepare for the celebration of these solemn and holy days: the liturgical ministers (lectors, servers, ministers of communion, ushers, greeters, choir), those who helped to set up and clean up for the various services, our decorating crew and all who came to worship with us on this holy Easter Day.

May the God of Life bless you and keep you.



WE NEED YOU!

Volunteers, men and women, are needed to make a commitment to visit the sick, shut-in, and bereaved of our parish community. Sign up sheets are located in the vestibules of the churches. This is a great way to show Christ's love and caring in word and deed. Contact Fran Lipschutz (756-2468) for more information.

The Great Bend Knights of Columbus will hold a Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, April 14th from 4-7 p.m. at their hall on Kilrow St. in Great Bend. Dinner includes spaghetti & meatballs, salad, bread & butter, dessert & beverage. Cost is \$6.00 per person. \$18.00 per family. Take-outs and Deliveries available. FMI, call 570-879-4875.



Bright Week

Monday
No Morning Mass
Rectory Office Closed

Tuesday
9 a.m. Mass
Rectory Chapel

Wednesday
9 a.m. Mass
Rectory Chapel

Thursday
No Morning Mass
Rectory Office Closed

Friday
No Morning Mass
Rectory Office Closed

Saturday
No Morning Mass

3 p.m. Confessions SM
4 p.m. Vigil Mass
Second Sunday of Easter

Sunday

Second Sunday of Easter
(Divine Mercy Feast)

8:00 Confessions SP
by request only

8:30 a.m. Sunday Mass SP

9:00 a.m. Parish Religious Education Program—SM

11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass SM

Religious Education Retreat Day continues until 3 p.m.

Please Remember
in Prayer this Week

- Travis Andrews
- Helen Burdick
- Robert Gilleran
- Astrid Glodek
- Gertrude Leahy
- Marlene Mazzocchi
- Joseph Monteforte
- Julia Padaletti
- Angelo and Joann Petriello
- Bailey Reuss
- Florence Stone
- Sharon Walk

Mass Schedule for the Week of April 8—15, 2007			
9:00 a.m. unless otherwise posted	Feast	Intention	Offered by
Monday	Monday of the Octave of Easter	NO Mass Scheduled	
Tuesday	Tuesday of the Octave of Easter	Gertrude Leyendecker	Wally Smith
Wednesday	Wednesday of the Octave of Easter	Louis Mazzocchi	Marlene & Family
Thursday	Thursday of the Octave of Easter	No Morning Mass Scheduled	
Friday	Friday of the Octave of Easter	No Morning Mass Scheduled	
Saturday	Saturday of the Octave of Easter	No Morning Mass Scheduled	
Second Sunday of Easter			
Vigil	4:00 p.m. SM	Richard Gralewski	Mr. & Mrs. Chris Herbert
Sunday	8:30 a.m. SP	Parishioners	Pastor
Sunday	11:00 a.m. SM	Matt Menapace	Betty & Matt

Scriptures for the Week	
Monday Octave of Easter	Acts 2: 14, 22-23 Matthew 28:8-15
Tuesday Octave of Easter	Acts 2:36-41 John 20:11-18
Wednesday Octave of Easter	Acts 3:1-10 Luke 24:13-48
Thursday Octave of Easter	Acts 3:11-26 Luke 24:35-48
Friday Octave of Easter	Acts 4:1-12 John 21: 1-14
Saturday Octave of Easter	Acts 4:13-21 Mark 16:9-15
Sunday Second Sunday of Easter Feast of Divine Mercy	Acts 5:12-16 Revelation 1:9-19 John 20: 19-31

Saint of the Week

St. Stanislaus of Krakow

April 11th

Stanisław Szczepanowski or Stanislaus of Szczepanów, born Tomasz Wieczorek (July 26, 1040 – April 11, 1079) was a Bishop of Krakow known chiefly for having been slain by Polish king, Boleslaw the Bold. Stanislaw is venerated in the Church as Saint Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr (as distinct from St. Stanislas Kostka).

No contemporary biography of the saint is in existence. At the time of his Canonization, a life appeared written by a Dominican Vincent(?) (Acta SS. May 11, 196) which contains much legendary matter.

His parents, Belislaus and Bogna, pious and noble Catholics, gave him a religious education. He made his studies at Gnesen and Paris(?). After the death of his parents, he distributed his ample inheritance among the poor.

Lambert Zula, Bishop of Krakow, ordained him a priest and made him pastor of Czembocz near Krakow, canon and preacher at the Cathedral, and later, vicar-general. After the death of Lambert, Stanislaus was elected Bishop, but accepted only on explicit command of Pope Alexander II. He worked with his wonted energy for his diocese, and inveighed against vices among high and low, regardless of consequences.

Boleslaw II had become King of Poland. The renown he had gained by his successful wars he now sullied by atrocious cruelty and unbridled lust. Moreover, Stanislaus had several serious disputes with the king about a piece of land belonging to the church which was unjustly claimed by Boleslaw, and about some nobles, who had left their homes to ward off various evils threatening their families, and who were in consequence now treated cruelly by the king.



Stanislaus spared neither tears nor prayers and admonitions to bring the king to lead a more Christian life. All being in vain, Boleslaw was excommunicated and the canons of the Cathedral were instructed to discontinue the Divine Office in case the king should try to enter the Cathedral.

Stanislaus retired to the chapel of St. Michael in a suburb of Krakow. The king was furious and followed the Bishop with his guards, some of whom he sent to kill the Bishop. These dared not obey, so Boleslaw slew him himself during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Stanislaus body was first buried in the chapel, but in 1088 it was transferred to the Cathedral by Bishop Lambert II. St. Stanislaus was canonized in 1253 by Pope Innocent at Assisi.

The Lord makes clear in Scripture that when He returns He's not going to deal with sin, because He's done that once and for all. When He comes again, it's "to bring salvation to those who eagerly await Him" (Heb 9:28).

So when people ask me why is the message of Divine Mercy important for the world today, the answer is simple: Through the message of Divine Mercy, our Lord is preparing us for His final coming.

He told the great prophet of Divine Mercy, St. Maria Faustina, in one of a series of revelations in the 1930s: "Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My Mercy" (Diary of St. Faustina, 300).

Helena Kowalska, known today throughout the world as St. Maria Faustina (1905-38), was designated by Our Lord Himself as the "Secretary" and "Apostle" of His Mercy. The Lord told her: "You will prepare the world for My final coming" (Diary, 429).

The mission the Lord gave her was not only to remind the world of the great mercy of God as revealed in Sacred Scripture, but also to teach us new forms of devotion to The Divine Mercy and to initiate a movement of apostles of The Divine Mercy who show a childlike trust in God and love of neighbor.

Private revelation

Still, some people pay no heed to the message of Divine Mercy because it comes by way of a "private revelation." But it's important to remember what St. Paul said. He said the Church is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets (see Eph 2:19-22). Then St. Augustine and St. Thomas after him identify the prophets of the Church as the people who receive private revelations.

But why does God resort to private revelations? Father Karl Rahner, SJ, the great German theologian writing about private revelations, said that all the mysteries of the Church, taken together, can not be emphasized all at once — and to the same degree. So from time to time, he says, the Holy Spirit puts a spotlight on a particular mystery that the Church and the world need to pay special attention to at a given time

Message tailored to our times

The revelations of The Divine Mercy are particularly tailored to our times.

It is quite evident that Pope John Paul II took these revelations very seriously. In 1981 he wrote an entire encyclical dedicated to The Divine Mercy entitled *Dives in Misericordia* (Rich in Mercy), illustrating that the heart of the mission of Jesus Christ was to reveal the merciful love of the Father. In 1993 he beatified Sr. Faustina.

In 1997 he visited Blessed Faustina's tomb in Lagiewniki, Poland, and proclaimed: "There is nothing that man needs more than Divine Mercy. ... From here went out the message of Mercy that Christ Himself chose to pass on to our generation through Blessed Faustina." In 2000 he canonized St. Faustina, the first canonized saint of the new millennium, and on that same day he also established "Divine Mercy Sunday" as a special title for the Octave Sunday of Easter for the universal Church.

In his homily on Mercy Sunday in 2001, Pope John Paul II called the mercy message given to St. Faustina "The appropriate and incisive answer that God wanted to offer to the questions and expectations of human beings in our time, marked by terrible tragedies. ... Divine Mercy! This is the Easter gift that the Church receives from the risen Christ and offers to humanity at the dawn of the third millennium."

In Lagiewniki, Poland in 2002, at the consecration of the new Shrine of The Divine Mercy, the Pope referred to a passage in the Diary in which the saint recorded: "As I was praying for Poland, I heard these words: I bear a special love for Poland, and if she will be obedient to My will, I will exalt her in might and holiness. From her will come forth the spark that will prepare the world for My final coming" (Diary, 1732).

The Holy Father said: "Today, therefore, in this Shrine, I wish solemnly to entrust the world to The Divine Mercy. I do so with the burning desire that the message of God's merciful love, proclaimed here through St. Faustina, may be made known to all the peoples of the earth and fill their hearts with hope. May this message radiate from this place to our beloved homeland and throughout the world" (the emphasis is the Holy Father's).

Then, with direct allusion to Our Lord's statement to St. Faustina, and quoting the last part of it, the Holy Father declared: "May the binding promise [writer's emphasis] of the Lord Jesus be fulfilled: From here there must go forth 'the spark which will prepare the world for His final coming' (Diary, 1732). This spark needs to be lighted by the grace of God. This fire of mercy needs to be passed on to the world. In the mercy of God: the world will find peace and mankind will find happiness! [Holy Father's emphasis]."

The Pope calls this a "binding promise." That's a startling phrase. Some people just gloss right over it. But the Pope took the word of the Lord seriously, and he calls it a "binding promise."

Prophetic revelations

Why did Pope John Paul II so strongly recommend that we pay heed to the Divine Mercy message and devotion given to the world through St. Faustina? Clearly, he did so because he saw it as more than just a collection of "private revelations"; rather, he saw them as prophetic revelations. In other words, revelations given to us by God to proclaim the heart of the Gospel in a way especially suited to meet the needs of our era.

Now, 101 years have gone by since our dear saint's birth on Aug. 25, 1905. And on Oct. 5, 69 years will have passed since her departure to take the place destined for her, close to God. However, we who wish to stand ready and "eagerly await Him" should not forget her promise to us: "Poor earth, I will not forget you," she wrote. "Although I feel that I will be immediately drowned in God as in an ocean of happiness, that will not be an obstacle to my returning to earth to encourage souls and incite them to trust in God's mercy. Indeed, this immersion in God will give me the possibility to boundless action" (Diary, 1582).

May our going ever deeper into St. Faustina's life and writings, and our counting on her promised help, bring about what our Lord so much desires from us and needs from us to be able to fulfill His divine will in us: boundless trust in Him who is the unfailling Divine Mercy in Person.



Liturgical Ministers

Saturday, April 14 Vigil of the Second Sunday of Easter

Servers	R.J. Klein Olivia Klein
Lectors	Bob Klein
EMOC	Matt Menapace

Second Sunday of Easter Divine Mercy Day 8:30 a.m. St. Paul's

Lectors	David Lee
EMOC	Marilyn Czachor

Second Sunday of Easter Divine Mercy Day 11:00 a.m. St. Martin's

Servers	Justin Lee Theresa Whitehead
Lectors	Eileen Hartman
EMOC	Betsy Supancik Charlene Kempa Pat Stewart

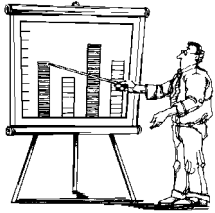
Liturgical Minister Classes now forming

Classes for anyone desiring to be a server will be held on Sundays following the 11 a.m. Mass beginning April 22nd. Classes will last about 1 hour.

Classes for New Minister of Communion will take place beginning May 20th

Classes for new Lectors will be held in June.

If you are interested in becoming a Server, Lector, or Minister of Communion, please contact Fr. Ken or Betsy Supancik.



Financial Stewardship

“Each person should give what he in his heart has decided to give – not reluctantly or under compulsion for God loves a cheerful giver.”

Second Corinthians 9:7

Your Offering last Sunday

Your Offering last Sunday	
	April 1, 2007
Loose	374.00
Candles	8.25
Offertory SM	1368.00
Offertory SP	413.00
Children's Offering	17.00
Dues	73.00
Fuel	35.00
Diocesan Assessment	9.00
Easter Flowers	10.00
Your offering to the Parish	2,307.25
National Collections	
Rice Bowl Collection	51.00
Holy Land Collection	5.00
Total National Collections	56.00
Additional Account Deposits	
Easter Remembrance (STIPEND FUND)	77.00
Debt Reduction (Building Fund)	50.00
Total Additional Account Deposits	127.00
Total Deposits last Sunday	2,490.25

Parish Checkbook this Week

Balance Forward 04/03/07	3,281.85
Income	
Loose	374.00
Candles	8.25
Offertory SM	1368.00
Offertory SP	413.00
Children's Offering	17.00
Dues	73.00
Utilities	35.00
Diocesan Assessment	9.00
EASTER Flowers	10.00
National Collection: Operation Rice Bowl	51.00
National Collection: Holy Land	5.00
Donation	476.50
Total Income	2,836.75
Balance Forward	3,281.85
+ Income this week	2,839.75
Total Available Funds	6,121.60
Expenditures	
Administration	2,573.38
Rectory	559.38
Liturgy	15.00
Religious Education	-0-
Plant Operation and Maintenance	1,303.75
St. Mary's School	667.50
Total Expenditures	5,119.01
Funds Available	6,121.60
-Total Expenses	-5,119.01
Balance (04/04/07)	1,002.59

THANK YOU

A Word of thanks is given to all parishioners who heeded the call of the Parish Finance Council and increased their offerings by \$2.00 or more per Sunday. This increased revenue helps the parish to meet its financial obligations. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Keep up the good work.

A Word of Encouragement would be appreciated for

Robert Gilleran
626 Whipporwill Lane
Largo, FL 33770

Bob had cardiac surgery in March and has suffered a slight set back. His return home has been delayed by this unfortunate incident.

Joseph Monteforte has been moved to a Rehabilitation Center. His address is

Joseph Monteforte
Magee Rehabilitation Hospital
1513 Race St.
Room 560-2
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Joe has expressed his gratitude for your thoughts and prayers.

“How shall I make a return to the Lord for His goodness to me?”

The Empty Tomb

Mary Magdalene went to Jesus' tomb. It was still dark.

Find these things hidden in the picture. 



Mary went to the disciples with some news!

Write a word to fit the definition. Transfer the numbered letters to the boxes.

Pacific or Atlantic

18 21 6 4 11

symbol of peace

20 18 5 9

make well

3 10 4 17

take a nap

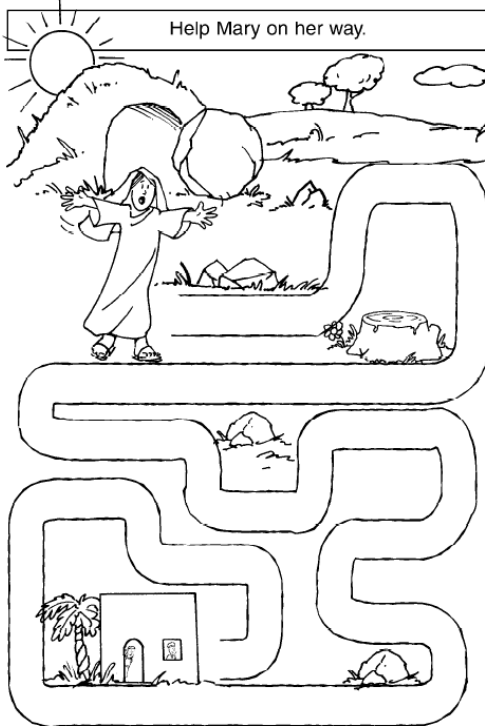
19 15 8 13

short for hello

14 1

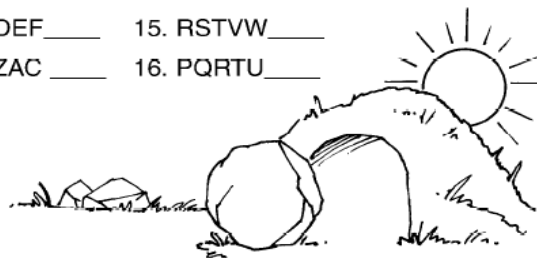
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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The tomb was empty. Mary ran to get Peter and John. They came back with her.



Write the missing letter from each set on the lines.

- JKLNO _____
- XYZBC _____
- PQSTU _____
- VWXZA _____
- NOPQS _____
- YZBCD _____
- ACDEF _____
- XYZAC _____
- LMNPQ _____
- LMOPQ _____
- FGHJK _____
- HIKLM _____
- CDFGH _____
- QRTUV _____
- RSTVW _____
- PQRTU _____



Mary stood by the tomb and cried. A man asked her why she cried. She said she didn't know where they had taken Jesus.

Then He said, "_____!"
1 2 3 4

She looked at Him then and said,

"_____!" (which means Teacher).
5 6 7 8 9 10 11



It was _____!
12 13 14 15 16

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of
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of Tours
and
St. Paul
the
Apostle

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Fax:
(570) 756-2105

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parish@martinoftours.com

Pastor
Rev. Kenneth M. Seegar

Parish Pastoral Council

Betsy Supancik, Chairperson
Michael Brieckle
Mark Fallon
Diane Frye
Rachel Gilleran
Charlene Kempa
Chris Lake
Andrew Whitehead

Parish Finance Council

Michael Brieckle, Chairperson
Richard Lake
Robert Lambert
Matthew Menapace
Russ Pepe
Rita Reavey
Betsy Supancik,

Religious Ed Program

Chris Lake, DRE
Charlene Kempa
Alfie Lambert
Maureen Maloney
Diane Monteforte
Amber Rockwell
Ruth Zeck

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Quite naturally the First Sunday of Lent starts out with the temptations of Christ in the desert.

Why naturally? Because Lent is a time to take off the blinders of sin and prepare to listen truly during Holy Week. Jesus models this kind of listening in the Gospel.

He had been pulled into the desert by the voice that said "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." ([Lk 3:21-22](#)). Jesus already knew he was close to God, but even so, this voice echoed words of scripture that might have shocked him:

In the book of Isaiah hundreds of years before, it was the Messiah to whom God referred, saying, "Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen in whom my soul delights, upon whom I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations" ([Isaiah 42: 1-4](#))

Jesus needed time to digest this terribly wonderful message, especially as applied to himself. He had to become empty in order to receive it.

The devil knew about Jesus already, with a dumb and greedy knowledge.

If Jesus was this great servant of God, his strengths could be used. Maybe he also had a need to receive glory, to be someone who could tell God and others what to do.

Full and at the same time rapacious, the devil comes to Jesus, who is hungry. "Use your power," the devil says slyly to him. "No point in being empty. Just give a Godly command and this stone will turn into bread."

"One does not live by bread alone," Jesus answered from the scriptures.

Jesus' quotation comes from Moses' great second speech to the people of Israel, as do all his responses today.

[God had] let you be afflicted with hunger, and then fed you with manna, a food unknown to you and your fathers, in order to show you that not by bread alone does man live, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of the Lord" ([Deuteronomy 8:3](#)).

Note to reader: How do you assuage your hunger?

The devil moves on to a glory temptation. Join me, worship me, he says. All the kingdoms in the world will be yours. (Translation: you can be bigger than this heavenly father of yours is.) Jesus answers, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and him alone shall you serve" ([Deuteronomy 6:13](#)).

Note to the reader: what do you and I worship and serve—instead of God?

Two temptations have failed. But even the devil can quote scripture. He uses Psalm 91, the part about God commanding the angels to guard the beloved one ([verses 11 and 12](#)). Just throw yourself off these heights, the devil suggests smoothly. God's angels will have no choice, they will have to come save you. Take advantage of who you are.

The Devil is inviting Jesus to step out of the intimate loving relation he already has with the Father and instead to make himself isolated, proud, alone and without love, but with power.

Note to the reader: Isn't this what power does?

Jesus says ([Deuteronomy 6:16](#)), "You shall not tempt the Lord your God." You shall not tell God and the angels what to do. You are only as big as you are.

Listen, listen. This is what Lent is about.

