

# Church of the Incarnation

240 Main Street, Mantua, NJ 08051

Parish Office 856-468-1314 \* PREP Office 856-468-7566

Visit us at [www.incarnation-church.org](http://www.incarnation-church.org)



Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord \* April 5, 2026

We come together as a Christian community to minister the Gospel of Christ

## PARISH STAFF

Reverend Stephen J Rapposelli  
*Pastor*

Reverend Shaji Muttathottil  
*Parochial Vicar*

Thomas F. O'Brien  
*Deacon*

Peter Traum  
*Deacon*

Phil Curran  
*Deacon*

Mr. & Mrs. Casey Corigliano  
*Directors of Music*

Mr. Gerald Voltura  
*Director of Faith Formation*

Mrs. Patricia Houwen  
*Business Manager*

## PARISH MEMBERSHIP

**Welcome!**

Please register at the parish office or online by visiting our website at [www.incarnation-church.org](http://www.incarnation-church.org).

## MASS SCHEDULE

Monday - Friday.....7 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.

*(No 7 a.m. Mass from Memorial Day through early September)*

Saturday.....8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Vigil Mass)

Sunday.....7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m..

Holy Days.....5 p.m. (Vigil Mass)

7 a.m., 8:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Holy Day

Eucharistic Adoration.....Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

## BAPTISM

Baptisms are held every Sunday and some Saturdays at 1:00 pm. Baptism Preparation Sessions are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month via Zoom. Please call the office for an appointment.

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions are heard Monday through Saturday following the 8:30 A.M. Mass and on Saturdays from 4:00 P.M. to 4:30 P.M. in church or by appointment.

## CARE OF SICK

Arrangements should be made through the parish office for home visits with the Eucharist for the sick and elderly. The office should be contacted for the Sacrament of the Sick.

## SACRAMENTAL SPONSORSHIP

Sponsors for Baptism or Confirmation must:

Be a registered member of a Catholic parish

Be at least 16 years of age

Received Sacraments of Initiation:

Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation

If married, according to the laws of the Catholic Church



## Sunday, April 5 ~ Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

### Gospel: John 20:1-9

In vivid detail, John tells us that when Mary Magdalene visited Christ's tomb, the tomb was empty. She told the apostles, who ran to the tomb, and saw the "wrappings" on the ground. The disciple who entered first "saw and believed."

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### Mass Intentions

#### Saturday, April 4

No Morning Mass

8:00pm All Living and Deceased Members of the Parish

#### Sunday, April 5

##### Easter Sunday of the Lord's Resurrection

7:30am All Living and Deceased Members of the Parish

9:30am All Living and Deceased Members of the Parish

11:30am All Living and Deceased Members of the Parish

#### Monday, April 6

7:00am NO MASS

8:30am Jorge Perez r/b Carmen Perez

#### Tuesday, April 7

7:00am NO MASS

8:30am All Living and Deceased Members of the Parish

#### Wednesday, April 8

7:00am NO MASS

8:30am Christina MacKenzie r/b Joseph Little

#### Thursday, April 9

7:00am NO MASS

8:30pm Salvatore and Grace Vasta r/b Family

#### Friday, April 10

7:00am NO MASS

8:30am Agapito Capistrano r/b Capistrano Family

#### Saturday, April 11

8:30am Douglas Milke, Jr. r/b Connie Tracey

5:00pm Tina Daily r/b daughter, Christina

#### Sunday, April 12

##### Divine Mercy Sunday

7:30am John and Craig Forsman

9:30am Pasqualina Chiaradonna r/b Family

11:30am Rita Mendyk r/b Susan Mausolf

Alice Andrews r/b Frank and Rosemary Duras

For the Intentions of Matthew and Marie Carrera

r/b Dad and Mom

Patrick Grimes r/b John and Elizabeth Iannelli

Nancy Parcels r/b McClain Family

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### Readings for the Week

Monday, April 6

Acts 2:14, 22-33; Mt 28:8-15

Tuesday, April 7

Acts 2:36-41; Jn 20:11-18

Wednesday, April 8

Acts 3:1-10; Lk 24:13-35

Thursday, April 9

Acts 3:11-26; Lk 24:35-48

Friday, April 10

Acts 4:1-12; Jn 21:1-14

Saturday, April 11

Acts 4:13-21; Mk 16:9-15

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### Prayer for Religious Vocations

**Priest:** Let us pray for vocations.

All: O God, we earnestly beseech you to bless the Church with many priests, deacons, seminarians and religious who will love you with their whole strength, be faithful to their vocation and gladly spend their entire lives to teach your truths, serve your Church and make you known and loved.

**Priest:** Bless our families, bless our children.

All: Choose from our homes those who are needed for your work.

**Priest:** O Mary, Queen of the clergy,

All: Pray for us. Pray for our priests, deacons, seminarians and religious. Obtain for us many more. Amen.

## **Gloria – will be sung**

### **First Reading – Acts 10:34a, 37-43**

Peter proceeded to speak and said: “You know what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name.”

**Responsorial Psalm** – This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad!

### **Second Reading – Colossians 3:1-4**

Brothers and sisters: If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.

## **Easter Sequence**

### **Gospel – John 20:1-9**

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don’t know where they put him.” So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States, second typical edition, Copyright © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine; Psalm refrain © 1968, 1981, 1997, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.

## **Nicene Creed**

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

**To everything there is a season and a time  
for every purpose under heaven.**

**Ecclesiastes 3:1**

**“...a time to be born...”**

**“...a time to welcome...”**

Miranda Mason, Sedalis Family

**“...a time to be married...”**

Nicholas Simila Jr. and Mollianna Schwarz

**...a time to be healed...”**

Ann Marie Agar, Sam Amadio, Bernadette Andrews, George Austin, Verna Bisconte, Rita Bruno, Carla Carelli, Colleen, Lynn Collins, Krista Collings, Bob Cooper, Jerrolyn Covely, Bob D’Alessio, Robert Deegan, Michael DiBernardo, Alberta DiFabio, Lucyna Dinces, Barbara & Stephen DiTullio, Michael Donahue, Rich Donofrio, Rose Dougherty, Joyce Drechen, Ellie & Les Edwards, Jack Ewen, Francis Ferry, Anna Forsman, David Freundlich, Marylou Furfari, Linda Gerwatoski, Jay Gigante, John Gilmore, Margaret Giordano, Michael Groody, Donovan & John Gura, John & Joseph Hart, Kathy Heisinger, Karol Hennessey, Nat Holland, George Ivan, Jason, Adalynne Johnson, Susan Kane, Karen, Carol Taylor-Kearney, Caroline Keenan, Marilyn Angelotti-Kelly, Fred Krumm, Steffanie Lerch, Patricia Manning, Anthony and Biago Marciante, Richard Marcantonio, Michelle Marhefka, Barbara Marker, Elwood Martz III, Maryellen McAteer, John McDevitt, Dorothy McKeever, Anne McMenamin, Barbara & Ira McManus, Christina McNasby, Jack & Tim McSorley, Hannah McStay, Joan Morlachetta, Katie Mutek, Peter Myers, Frank Nowak, Nicole P., William Pappernek, Sylvia Penamante, Lee Peters, Giovanni Poloney, Helen Powell, Rose Quigley, Barbara Ragonese, Janet Rainier, Teri Reed, Joan Reilly, Mary Reilly, George Rein, Angie & Pete Richman, Patti Roberts, Jim Roche, Karen Rucci, Jason Russell, Denise Sacco, Marguerite Sadler, Caterina & Santi Saya, Loretta Scardino, Mark Serock, Linda Sesko, Nicholas Simeo, Sr., Eda Shannon, Jason Shipman, Frank Smith, Chris Stalker, Nick Stansbury, Melissa Swanson, Janie Talemal, Jason Tallarida, Ernie Tolentino, Evelyne & Tom Tull, Lou Underwood, Rosemarie Villari, William Walsh, Justin Weaver, John Werner, Nancy Taylor-Williams, Dianne Williamson, Richard Wilson, Theresa Woods, Lois Worthington, Lori Wotypka, Lois Wunsch, Maria Wyzykowski, Catherine Zabrodski, Francesco Zarzycki, Jacqueline Zellner, their caregivers, all others in need of our prayers.

**“...a time to die...”**

Catherine Giunta

## ALTAR REMEMBRANCE

The altar bread and wine are donated in loving memory of Michael and Thomas Flood requested by their loving family.

## GRATEFUL STEWARDS

**“Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.” Colossians 3:2**

Do you put God first in all things? Possessions, money, power, ego can easily become gods to many of us. Do a quick check of what is important to you because of your stewardship. Is God at the very top of the list? If not, your priorities need to be re-adjusted. Don’t let earthly things become a god before God. This is also the first commandment – I am the Lord your God, you shall not have any strange gods before me.

## SJ CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

This year’s theme: “Missionaries of Mercy,” calls upon use to act with compassion toward others, bringing to life the corporal and spiritual works of mercy that strengthens the Church. This appeal assists our Seminarians, Elderly Priests, Vitality Catholic Healthcare Services and much more! To date we have raised over \$97,000.00 from 145 individuals and families. Please prayerfully consider a pledge.

### Stewardship Report

March 17 through March 23 - \$19,960.80

### FORGOT YOUR ENVELOPES?

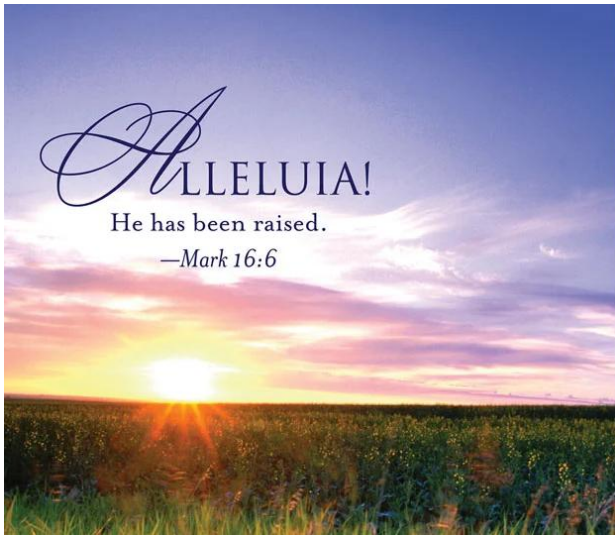
If you forgot your envelopes, are new to the parish or are visiting the parish and would like to make a donation. You can do so here. Be sure to select one-time gift – as recurring is default.



### STEPHEN MINISTRY

#### Need Someone to Talk To?

Ever felt this way? Caring communication with others is a basic human need. Stephen Ministers can help meet that need. For a listening ear, call 856-468-5536.



### EASTER BLESSINGS

On this holy day,  
and in this season of renewal,  
let us be thankful  
for the many blessings You give us.  
May our words and deeds today,  
and always,  
serve as reminders  
of the transformative power of Your love.  
May you and your families  
be blessed this Easter season  
with peace and joy.  
Amen.

*Fr. Steve, Fr. Shaji, Deacon Tom, Deacon Peter,  
Deacon Phil and Parish Staff*

### NO 7 A.M. MASS THIS WEEK

There will be no 7 a.m. weekday Mass this week. Our regular schedule will resume on Monday, April 13.

### OFFICE CLOSED

The parish office will be closed on Monday, April 6 in observance of Easter. We will reopen on Tuesday, April 7 at 9 a.m.

### FRIDAY FLOCKNOTE

Our Friday Flocknote goes out to all signed up parishioners every Friday at 2:00 PM. Are you in the know? If not and you would like to receive it, please call the parish office at 856-468-1314. We will need your name, email address and cell phone number to get you signed up. Don't miss another week!

Like us on Facebook – Incarnation, Mantua

### THE PARISH COOKBOOK HAS ARRIVED!

Our new parish cookbook is complete and ready to go home with you! **“Incarnation Blessings”** will be for sale the weekend after Easter. Price is \$20.00 per copy, cash & VENMO only. Stay tuned for a cookbook celebration event with recipe tasting to come! Thanks to all who contributed their favorite dishes and memories to this special heirloom.

### NEW GROUP FORMING FOR 40+

If you are interested in faith, fellowship and fun, and are between the ages of 40 and 60, please come to the first meeting of a new group on Wednesday, April 1 at 11:30 a.m. or 7 p.m. in the Father Salerno Room. This is an opportunity to connect with fellow parishioners through conversation and a variety of activities. Take some time for yourself, recharge your batteries and make new friends. Contact Michelle Cicirello at [cicirellom@gmail.com](mailto:cicirellom@gmail.com) with questions/suggestions.

### CHURCH TOUR

Have you ever wondered why we use certain colors, objects and symbols at church? Deacon Peter will give a walking tour of the church sanctuary at 7 p.m. on April 8. You've never seen God's house like this before! Explore all the nooks and crannies and discover the deep symbolism and meaning of its design. Find all the hidden gems of our Church and learn about the sacred items and vestments we use in the Holy Mass. Bring the whole family!

### APRIL BREAKFAST DATE

Incarnation Council #6364, Inc. presents its monthly breakfast April 12 from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Join your local Knights of Columbus for eggs, pancakes, omelets, bacon, sausage, French toast, potatoes and more. Adults, \$8. Children 12 and under, \$4.

### LET'S GO PHILS

We have a limited number of tickets available for sale to see the Phillies vs. the Giants at Citizens Bank Park Wednesday, April 29 at 6:40 p.m. Tickets are \$22 each and can be purchased from the office. Call the parish office at 856-468-1314 to reserve your tickets. **Please note** transportation is not provided.

### JOSEPH'S HOUSE DELIVERY

Our next delivery for Joseph's House is Monday, April 6. Drop off will be available on Easter Sunday and Monday, April 6 until 9:00 a.m. Thank you for helping those in need!

Visit us at [www.incarnation-church.org](http://www.incarnation-church.org)

## HOAGIE SALE

The Knights of Columbus will hold their next hoagie sale on Sunday, April 19 after all morning Masses. Buy a hoagie, two or three to enjoy or purchase a \$10.00 voucher and stop by Primo's in Clarksboro to choose your own sandwich!

## SUMMER PREP TEACHERS NEEDED

Do you want to help pass on our Catholic faith to the next generation? We are seeking catechists to teach PREP classes this summer. There are three sessions available: June 22-26; July 6-10; and July 20-24. All classes are from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. No experience necessary! To volunteer, call Abbie at the PREP Office: 856-468-1314.

## AN EVENING OF PRAYER AND SONG

Fr. Rapposelli is hosting an evening of reflection at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 28. Come to the church for a time of quiet prayer and deep encounter with our Lord in Eucharistic Adoration accompanied by the music from the album "Quiet Reflections" by John Michael Talbot.

## DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY

St. Padre Pio Parish, 4680 Dante Ave., Vineland, is having an Oldies Dance Party from 7 to 11 p.m. Saturday, April 18, hosted by Bob Kelly of Fox 29 News and "Kelly Drives," with music by DJ Joel. Admission is \$50.00 per person and includes buffet dinner, salad, beer, coffee, and dessert. BYOB. Donations of desserts are gratefully appreciated. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. For tickets or information, call Janice at 856-305-4177. Make checks payable to St. Padre Pio Parish and mail to the address above – tickets will be mailed to you.

## THE MASS EXPLAINED

Have you sat in church for years, quietly unsure of what was happening or why it mattered? Maybe you are exploring the Catholic faith for the first time or beginning to share it with your children. On April 22 at 7 p.m., Fr. Steve will offer a teaching Mass. Learn more about what each part of the Mass is about, why we say the prayers we say, what the gestures and colors mean, and much more. This whole-parish event is open to anyone who wants to get more out of Mass each weekend.

## EGGS AND THE EASTER BUNNY?

What do egg hunts and the Easter bunny have to do with the Christian celebration of Jesus' resurrection from the dead?

**Easter Eggs** - Easter eggs are said to represent Jesus' emergence from the tomb to new life. Decorating eggs for Easter dates back to at least the 13th century and may have been a way some communities broke their Lenten fast at Easter.

**The Easter Bunny** - Rabbits, known to be prolific procreators, are an ancient symbol of fertility and new life. German immigrants to America reportedly brought stories of an egg-laying hare known as "Osterhase" or "Oschter Haws"; thus, the Easter bunny was introduced to our culture!

Some sources claim that the integration of the rabbit was imagery that dates back to the 6th century when monks were sent from Rome to England to preach the Gospel and used pagan imagery (including rabbits) to make sense of the Christian story.

Cathi Douglas from the OC Catholic writes, "Other Easter symbols include Easter lilies, shaped like trumpets symbolizing immortality; butterflies, which undergo a metamorphosis and emerge into a new and beautiful form; the Lamb, a symbol associated with Jesus; and lights and candles, including the Paschal Candle or Easter Candle, lit on Easter Sunday."

## CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL INFO FAIR

Is the pressure of choosing the right Catholic high school keeping you up at night? We've all been there — surrounded by stacks of brochures and dozens of open browser tabs, only to realize that every school is starting to look exactly the same. It's exhausting to feel like you're "guessing" when it comes to your child's future.

Don't spend another month falling down internet rabbit holes only to end up more confused than when you started.

At this fair, you can find the right Catholic high school for your child in just one night.

**Details: Wednesday, April 22, 2026**

**5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

**Our Lady of Hope Regional School  
420 South Black Horse Pike | Blackwood, NJ**

Click here to secure your spot today!  
<https://bit.ly/SJCSHsfair>



## LIVING AS MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

Our Scripture reading for the Easter Vigil comes from the Gospel of Matthew 28:1-10. This passage tells of the women who come to the tomb and find the angel sitting on the stone. It is significant that the angel rolled away the stone and then sat on it. There is an important reason why Matthew has told us this curious detail about the angel sitting on the stone. The stone was the obstacle that would block the women from entering the tomb so as to experience the Resurrection. The stone is what would separate them from their encounter with Jesus. The stone is the barrier that stands in the way of their next step of discipleship. To enter the tomb and experience the risen life of the Lord is a symbol of our baptism when we are immersed into the death and resurrection of Jesus. The stone stands as an obstacle to that experience of sacramental encounter with the Lord. It would not take any real effort for an angel to roll the stone away, so we should wonder why the angel chose to sit on the stone once it was rolled away. It wasn't because the angel was tired; rather, the angel was making a statement and Matthew wants us to pay attention to this truth – the stone has become a throne! Matthew is telling us that the power of Jesus' resurrection is able to turn the obstacles of our lives into the thrones of God's glory. That's a powerful message. The stone that Pilate has sealed in an effort to suppress the Gospel message has become the throne of God's glory. Every stumbling block for us can be turned into a steppingstone of discipleship through the power of the resurrection. What was meant to be an instrument of defeat can become the symbol of triumph. Certainly, that was true with the cross of Calvary, and it is meant to be true for every cross we face as well. This reflection invites us to consider the many obstacles we face in our desire to encounter the Lord deeply in our lives. Perhaps it is a personal weakness, addiction, painful situation, or some other seeming impediment that is beyond our ability to overcome. The power of God can do for us what we cannot do for ourselves. That is part of the good news of the resurrection of Jesus. Our hope is not in our own strength but in God's all-powerful ability to transform us through grace. The women were so concerned about the stone because they knew it was beyond their power to move it. When we know the power of God, then we can submit our lives to the Lord with confident trust.

Think about it: What are the stones that are current obstacles to greater faith in my life?





## SOUTH JERSEY CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

### 2026 APPEAL: “MISSIONARIES OF MERCY”

*This year's theme: “Missionaries of Mercy,” calls upon use to act with compassion toward others, bringing to life the corporal and spiritual works of mercy that strengthens the Church.*

Through the Catholic Ministries Appeal, we support those in need throughout the six counties of the Diocese of Camden.

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#### ***YOUR GIFT TO THE CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL PROVIDES:***

##### ***SOCIAL, COMMUNITY AND HEALTH CARE SERVICES***

Your generosity provides services through Catholic Charities offices in the six counties of South Jersey. VITALity's Hospital Chaplaincy is able to provide spiritual and emotional support to patients, their families and staff through your donations. Together, we offer support to the weak, vulnerable, and disenfranchised.

##### ***EVANGELIZATION AND FAITH FORMATION***

Lay leadership training, intercultural ministries, ministry with the deaf and persons with disabilities, marriage enrichment, adult faith formation, liturgical catechesis and other evangelization efforts, including ManUp, which, along with your gifts, kindle the fire of faith into a bright beacon for all to see.

##### ***YOUTH, YOUNG ADULT AND CAMPUS MINISTRIES***

Your donation enables programs like Summer in the City, Catholic Scouting, Theology on Tap, college campus ministries and Newman Centers, and support for a growing number of parish-based Youth Ministry programs and many more activities to build community and prepare our youth and young adults for the mission that God has chosen for them.

##### ***VOCATIONS, SEMINARIAN & PERMANENT DIACONATE FORMATION, CARE OF PRIESTS***

Your support ensures that pastors and clergy continue to bring the light of Jesus into the world. Through prayers and support, we currently have seminarians studying for the priesthood in the Diocese of Camden.

##### ***CATHOLIC EDUCATION – “FORMING MINDS AND HEARTS IN GRACE”***

Catholic schools are an integral part of the teaching mission of the Church.

Catholic schools build faith, develop leadership ability and provide academic excellence in a safe environment. Your gift will help keep tuition affordable for families to send children to schools that will support Catholic values, develop character and provide academic excellence.

##### ***INCENTIVES FOR PARISH INITIATIVES***

When our parish collects its goal amount, up to 10% is returned to our parish for our local charitable needs. Additionally, for this Jubilee Year, 100% of all funds received above our parish goal will also be returned to our parish to foster our charitable and ministerial work.

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**We invite all parishioners to participate in this important effort.  
Please prayerfully consider a sacrificial gift to help continue  
the mission of the Church here in the Diocese of Camden!  
You can donate online at <https://www.camdendiocese.org/sjcma/> or  
fill out a pledge card located in the church gathering space.**



Church of the Incarnation, Mantua, NJ

Rev. Stephen J. Rapposelli, Pastor

### One Minute Meditations

#### St. Anselm of Canterbury

Born in Aosta, Italy, he attended a Benedictine school as a youth. After traveling around France and Italy for his studies, St. Anselm entered the Benedictine Order. When the current Archbishop of Canterbury died, Anselm, who by then was a Benedictine abbot, was promoted as Canterbury's new Archbishop. St. Anselm navigated church reforms, theological study, and political tensions. He was exiled for resisting the king's interference in Church matters but was allowed to return in peace.

#### Glorious wounds

Every Easter, we celebrate that Jesus definitively conquered sin, evil and death. God, not evil, has "the last laugh." Yet, He still has His wounds. The Resurrection transformed what were wounds of rejection into glorious trophies - proof of His love, power, and trustworthiness as our Savior. When we encounter difficulty, even great suffering, we can look to the glorious wounds of our Savior with hope. If we stay close to Him, we'll be victorious too.

"It comes down to this: If Jesus didn't rise from the dead, then Christianity is a fraud and a sham. If He did rise from the dead, then He is who He said He is, and our lives must change accordingly. There is no middle ground."

Bishop Robert Barron

## Don't Just Celebrate Easter. Step Into It.

At the heart of Christianity is not just an idea or a rule of life, but an encounter with the Risen Christ and the new life of grace He offers. Easter invites us to step into that life more deliberately. Here are four simple ways to begin:

**Encounter the Risen Christ.** Mary Magdalene stood before Jesus and didn't recognize Him until He spoke her name (John 20:16), and her grief became joy. That encounter is possible for us. Come to Mass with intention. Don't just attend—arrive expecting to meet Him. Listen closely, pray honestly, and remember that in the Eucharist, Christ is truly present.

*Practical step: Before Mass, pray, "Jesus, help me recognize You today."*

**Take an "Emmaus walk."** Two disciples left Jerusalem discouraged, and Jesus met them on the road. He helped them to see God's faithfulness in their lives. He can do the same for you. Take time this Easter season for a quiet walk with Him. Speak openly about what's

on your heart, and listen for His voice.

*Practical step: Ask, "Lord, where have You been at work in my life that I haven't seen?"*

**Choose mercy.** Jesus gave His Apostles the power to forgive sins (John 20:21–23), ensuring His mercy would always be available. We're called to receive it—

*"Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors for Christ." John Paul II*

and extend it. Forgive, hold back harsh words, and choose patience.

*Practical step: Identify one situation where you can offer a concrete act of mercy this week.*

**Be open to mission.** The Resurrection sends us out. God still calls ordinary people for His work. Your mission may be simple: show patience, reach out, or step up where needed.

*Practical step: Ask, "Where am I being nudged to act?" Then take one small step.*

Easter isn't just celebrated—it's lived, one step at a time.

## Why Do Catholics Do That? Why do Catholics believe in the Resurrection?

The Resurrection is not only a matter of faith; it has also been examined through historical and forensic inquiry. The New Testament accounts draw on early eyewitness testimony, preserved with notable consistency compared to other ancient sources. The Shroud of Turin has likewise been widely studied, with some researchers noting

features consistent with a first-century Roman crucifixion, while the image's formation remains unexplained. Finally, despite intense early persecution, Christianity spread rapidly, reflecting the deep conviction of its first followers. Together, these considerations suggest the Resurrection is rooted in both faith and historical reflection.

## After Lent, the work begins

Pope Leo XIV described Lent as a time to “place the mystery of God back in the center of our lives.” Yet the growth in holiness and renewal of faith that begins in Lent is meant to continue well beyond the season.

**Keep custody of the heart.** To guard the heart is to protect it from whatever disrupts our relationship with God. It means “allowing the word of God to touch our hearts and welcoming it with a docile spirit.” The habits formed during Lent can help sustain this: a daily Morning Offering, reading the Gospel, or setting aside time to visit the Blessed Sacrament. A healthy spiritual life depends on staying connected to the God who loves us most.

**Keep custody of the tongue.** This is a form of fasting that

lasts all year. Pope Leo urges us to “disarm our language,” avoiding harsh words and rash judgment. Refusing gossip and slander is an act of self-denial. Instead, we are called to measure our words and practice kindness and respect. This simple discipline can bring new life not only to our own hearts, but to those around us.

**Keep custody of your time.** What we give our time to shapes who we become. It’s easy to let our days fill with noise, distraction, and busyness that leave little room for God. Be intentional about how you spend your time. Protect moments for prayer, rest, and what truly matters—your family, your vocation, your relationship with the Lord. Even small choices, repeated daily, create space for grace to grow.

### from **S**cripture

#### John 10:1-10, The Good Shepherd seeks us

In this passage, Jesus uses the image of a shepherd to reveal who He is, how He cares for us, and how He invites us to respond. But why a shepherd?

In Jesus’ time, shepherding was a demanding and often dangerous way of life. A good shepherd knew each sheep personally and remained constantly with the flock. Many sheepfolds had no gates; at night, the shepherd would lie across the entrance, becoming the barrier that protected the sheep from danger. If a sheep was lost, injured, or attacked, the shepherd would go after it, tending to its wounds and, if

necessary, risking his own life.

The meaning is clear. Without the steady care, guidance, and protection of the shepherd, the sheep would not survive. In the same way, we depend on God. Jesus, our Good Shepherd, knows each of us by name. He does not abandon us. He seeks us out when we are lost, heals us when we are wounded, provides for our needs, and protects us—even to the point of laying down His life.

In response, He asks for our trust, so that He may lead us safely home.

### Feasts & Celebrations

**April 2 – Holy Thursday.** Today, we celebrate Jesus’ institution of the Holy Eucharist and the Priesthood to perpetuate it. Today, we celebrate He who remains really present to us in the Blessed Sacrament. Pray for priests.

**April 12 – Divine Mercy Sunday.** In 1931, Jesus appeared to St. Faustina and asked that the Sunday after Easter become the “Feast of Mercy.” Jesus promised special graces to those who honor Him as the King of Mercy and pray The Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

**April 17 – St. Stephen Harding (1134).** St. Stephen and two companions founded the Cistercian religious order in Citeaux. As abbot, he guided the community through many hardships. St. Bernard of Clairvaux and

several companions joined him and revived the order. St. Stephen founded twelve more religious communities throughout France.

**April 20 – St. Agnes of Montepulciano (1317).** At a young age, she begged her parents to let her enter the Franciscans. When she was thirteen, the pope asked her to found a monastery at Proceno. Inspired by a vision, she founded a Dominican order at Montepulciano.

**April 30 – Pope St. Pius V (1572).** Born to a poor family in Italy, Antonio Ghislieri became a Dominican, taught theology, and became Pope Pius V. As Pope, he established seminaries and hospitals, and published the Roman Catechism, Roman Breviary, and the Missal. He promoted the praying of the Rosary for the victory of Christian forces at the Battle of Lepanto (1571). He is also known for efforts to implement the Council of Trent.

### Q & A Why Do Catholics eat bacon on St. Mark’s feast day?

The Feast of St. Mark the Evangelist (April 25) has become, for many Catholics, a fitting day to enjoy bacon. The Church has a long tradition of honoring saints through liturgical celebrations, local customs, and even particular foods—practices that help preserve our shared spiritual heritage and remember their heroic witness.

In 828, Venetian merchants transferred the relics of St. Mark from Alexandria, Egypt, to Venice, Italy. To pass safely through Muslim-controlled ports, they hid the relics beneath layers of pork, a meat considered unclean under Islamic law. According to tradition, port officials, repelled by the cargo, chose not to inspect it closely, allowing the relics to reach Venice safely, where they remain today. In remembrance of this event, some Catholics mark his feast day—or the anniversary of the relics’ arrival on January 31—by eating pork.

Honoring a saint’s relics is a tangible expression of reverence, much like placing flowers on the graves of fallen soldiers. It reflects respect for their lives, their witness, and their service to God. Ultimately, in honoring the saints, we honor the God who formed them.

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