



**CHRIST IS RISEN!**  
**HE IS RISEN INDEED!**

On behalf of my staff, I want to wish you and your families a Blessed and Holy Easter season.

-Fr. Dennis



This week I have asked **Paul Fahey** to share with us.  
God Bless, Fr. Dennis

The picture above is one of my favorite religious images. It's an icon of the resurrection, specifically, of Jesus' descent into "the place of the dead". This is the event we remember every time we say the line in the Apostles' Creed about Jesus "descended into hell". After his death, Jesus went to the place where the righteous figures from the Old Testament were waiting for the Messiah to defeat sin and raise them to Heaven.

Notice in this icon that Jesus is clothed in the white robes of resurrection, and the robes are flowing upward, like he's dramatically breaking through the ceiling of Hell to rescue the souls waiting there. The two people Jesus is holding onto are Adam and Eve, the people who started this whole mess in the first place.

When we reflect on Jesus' passion and death we often focus on how our sins caused Jesus to suffer this way. There's a lot of truth in this kind of reflection, the Catechism says "our sins made the Lord Christ suffer the torment of the cross" (CCC 598). However, I think we also sometimes forget that Jesus freely suffered and died because of how much he loves us. The Catechism goes on to say, "In suffering and death [Jesus'] humanity became the free and perfect instrument of his divine love which desires the salvation of men. Indeed, out of love for his Father and for men, whom the Father wants to save, Jesus freely accepted his Passion and death" (CCC 609).

Jesus didn't become man and die on the cross in order to scold us and make us feel bad about our sins. He did all that to show us how much God loves us, how good God is. Jesus suffered through all the torture and humiliation because that's how desperately he loved Adam and Eve...that's how desperately he loves me. The cross is a symbol of God's goodness!

Go back to the icon and notice the skeleton in chains there at the bottom. This figure represents sin and death. Suffering and death are not part of God's plan for us, rather, they are things that God allows because of our free choice

to reject God and reject life. Jesus came as a conquering king. He came to bring about the Kingdom of God and to destroy sin, suffering, and death. God didn't create these terrible things but he took them upon himself. Everything that causes us to suffer, everything that kills us, Jesus freely let kill him. Then he defeated them.

This isn't merely an historical event. God wants to enter into every one of our deaths, into everything that kills us, whether it's illness, suffering, depression, loneliness, etc., and transform it. And he wants to do that right now, not just after we die and go to Heaven.

God became man, God suffered on a cross, so that we may experience healing, so that we may be restored, so that we may receive the Holy Spirit, so that we may become God. Jesus didn't come to simply bring us back to the Garden of Eden, he came to transform us, glorify us, and share his Divine Life with us.

And this transformation isn't our work, it's God's work. We cannot heal ourselves or make ourselves Holy, but God can. And all God asks for is our consent, our cooperation. We can stop carrying these burdens ourselves. We can stop trying to be perfect. We can

stop beating ourselves up when we struggle with a habitual sin. We just have to surrender our sins and weaknesses to God and let him transform us step by step. We don't have to convince God to love us, forgive us, heal us, or transform us. We just have to let him.

As we celebrate Easter, I encourage you to take a few moments and reflect on this infinite love that God has for you personally. Ask the Lord how he wants to heal you, how he wants to transform you next. Reflect on what's keeping you from accepting that next step. Is it sin, fear, shame, or feeling unworthy of his love? Surrender all of that to the Lord and let him heal you.

I want to end by sharing a passage from the pope's recent letter to young people. I encourage you to open your heart to our Holy Father's words and let them settle deeply there:

*"The very first truth I would tell each of you is this: 'God loves you'. It makes no difference whether you have already heard it or not. I want to remind you of it. God loves you. Never doubt this, whatever may happen to you in life. At every moment, you are infinitely loved.*

*...For him, you have worth; you are not insignificant. You are important to him, for you are the work of his hands. That is why he is concerned about you and looks to you with affection...He does not keep track of your failings and he always helps you learn something even from your mistakes. Because he loves you. Try to keep still for a moment and let yourself feel his love. Try to silence all the noise within, and rest for a second in his loving embrace.*

*...The second great truth is that Christ, out of love, sacrificed himself completely in order to save you. His outstretched arms on the cross are the most telling sign that he is a friend who is willing to stop at nothing....The same Christ who, by his cross, saved us from our sins, today continues to save and redeem us by the power of his total self-surrender. Look to his cross, cling to him, let him save you, for 'those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness'" (Christus Vivit 112-119).*

Christ is risen, truly risen. Alleluia!

Happy Easter,

-Paul

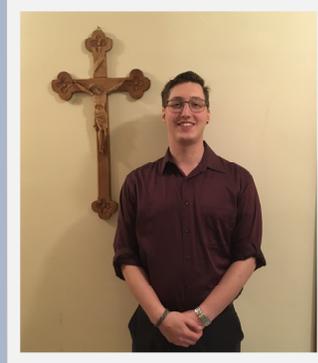
## PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THESE NEWEST MEMBERS OF CHRIST'S CHURCH.



**Robin  
Armbrustmacher**



**Jared  
Lewandowski**



**Seth  
Nelson**



**Dennis  
O'Hare**

# CONGRATULATIONS!

## *Thank You!*

**I want to thank all the families who have made donations so that we can purchase liturgical items.**

**I want to thank the families of:**

***Marian Halfman  
Dolores Schueller  
Gus Miller  
Denny Schafer***

***We have purchased the following items with their generosity:***

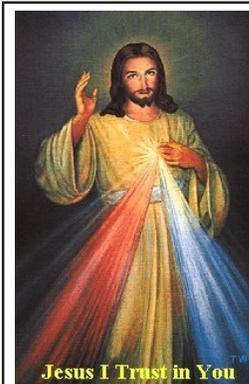
- \* A chalice
- \* Several Holy Communion vessels
- \* Tabor for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- \* Liturgical vestments
- \* Candelabras for the high altar
- \* Altar cross



Shared Pregnancy Women's Center annual Lifesavers Celebration/Fundraiser is Thurs., April 25th from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Grand Ledge Opera House. Admission is free! Silent auction, children's crafts, face painting, ice cream sundaes, and a short program at 7:15 featuring a client testimony and awards presentation. Join the fun and support us so we can continue helping women in unexpected pregnancies and walking alongside families with young children in the Lansing area.

### **Bible Study on Acts of the Apostles**

Happening now! A 10 week study on the Acts of the Apostles Fridays at 9 AM in the Youth Center. The study, "Lectio Evangelization" is taken from FORMED on our parish website (led by Dr. Mary Healy). The bible study is facilitated by Adam Halfman.



### **Regional Divine Mercy Sunday Devotions**

***St. Mary's Parish  
Westphalia  
2:30-4:30 p.m.***

**Adoration, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and confessions**

**Principal of Most Holy Trinity School**  
 Anne Hufnagel—AnneH@mhtparish.com

*By connecting our Catholic faith to life, we at Most Holy Trinity School seek to fulfill Christ's mandate to proclaim the Gospel, restore all things in Him, strive to lead our students to the Truth for the betterment of this world and prepare them for the age to come.*

**Important Dates:**

Tues., April 23	Mass @ 8:15 a.m.
Tues., April 23	Subsale
Thurs., April 25	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat at Lansing Catholic H.S.
Fri., May 3	Mass at 8:15 a.m./May Crowning
Fri., May 3	Grandparents/Special Friend Day

**2019/20 Registration:** Registration for Most Holy Trinity School for the 2019/20 school year is now underway. You can register students in several different ways: Go to the School website [www.mhtparish.com](http://www.mhtparish.com) and find the Registration & Admissions tab on the school page. There is a link to the online registration.

- You can call the school office at 593-2616.
- You can go this website: <https://goo.gl/forms/V1eOw8U2lwcJjAQg2>
- You can use this QR code:



**Grandparents/Special Friends Day:** Invitations went home with the students this week for their grandparents or special friends to celebrate Mass and May Crowning with us on Friday, May 3, 2019. There will be a short activity and refreshments following the May Crowning. Please remind your children to deliver their invitations maybe at Easter celebrations this weekend.

*May the spirit of Easter fill our homes with light, our minds with kindness, and our works with beauty! Have a Blessed and Happy Easter!*

**Blessed Mother Statue**



The statue of Mary is available to take home on the weekends. Take this opportunity to enter into closeness with our Blessed Mother. Use the sign up sheet in back of church.



**St. Vincent Catholic Charities**  
 PROVIDING HELP. CREATING HOPE.

**Eat For A Good Cause**  
 Dine and Donate Fundraiser  
 Benefitting St. Vincent Catholic Charities  
 UKAI HIBACHI GRILL AND SUSHI  
 2314 Woodlake Drive, Okemos  
 Tuesday, April 23, 2019  
 11:30 AM—2:00 PM

Support St. Vincent Catholic Charities while enjoying delicious food! 20% of all proceeds from dine in and donate benefit St. Vincent Catholic Charities. Customers must show a flyer, which can be found on our Facebook page. Pull up Facebook and show the flyer from your phone!



**ST. JOSEPH CHURCH**  
**27TH ANNUAL**  
**MID-EAST FOOD FESTIVAL**

Thursday-Friday, May 2-3, 2019  
 Noon – 6 pm

**St. Joseph Melkite Catholic Church**

725 W. Mt. Hope at Rundle, Lansing, MI  
 Open During Construction on Mt. Hope Avenue

**Meat Combo:** Chicken Shawarma over Rice, Grape Leaves, Kibbee, Hummus, Bread, and Salad

**Vegetarian Combo:** Mujaddara, Hummus, Bread, Salad  
 Homemade Desserts/Church Tours

Call 248-238-8843, for Information and Pre-Orders



**“Building up the Benedict Option: Cultivating Authentic & Intentional Communities.”**

Presented by Leah Libresco in Mercy Hall at Church of the Resurrection in Lansing, 7:30 to 9:00 pm Sat., April 27. Leah is a convert from atheism. Her writing has appeared in *First Things*, *The American Conservative*, *Commonweal*, and *The American Interest*. She is the author of *Arriving at Amen: Seven Catholic Prayers that Even I Can Offer*, which tells how she learned to pray. She’s spoken on CNN and at Theology on Taps in multiple countries. For more info, see [LumenLansing.org](http://LumenLansing.org)



**Vacation Bible School**  
**\*\*Save the Date\*\***

We’re really excited that three Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist from Ann Arbor will be leading VBS this year! The date for that is June 24-28. We will have more details along with registration later this spring.

**Clean Community Event!**

The Department of Waste Management’s Clean Community Event will be held on Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup> at the Road Commission in St Johns (7:30am to 2:30pm) – 3536 S BR 127, St Johns, MI.



***Sponsor of the Week***

*Our thanks to the many businesses that make it possible for the bulletin to be cost-free to our parish.*

**Journey Federal Credit Union**



**Third Publication:** Zane Tobin & Alexandria Whitman

**Please pray for our friends and relatives who are sick or recovering, especially:** Regina Martin, Sean Dush, Charlene Thelen, Davison Curtin, Jeffrey Lee Thelen, Luke Martin, Sara Sanchez, Melissa Schulte, Marie Hengesbach, Edward Wohlscheid, Linda Rogala, Sarah Weber, Julie Wieber Schafer, Bill Barns, Bob Marshall, Dennis Smith, Sandy Herta, Dick Rehmann, Janet Simmon, Scott Kus, Steve Thelen, Tracy Schmitt, Gregg Platte, Frank Hufnagel, Janet Armbrustmacher, Marie Weber, Jenine Kloeckner, Jennifer Ledger, Josiah Ledger, Jordy Wohlscheid, Jennifer Grace Schrauben, Janet Simon, Dale Young, Brent Baese, Shane Grinnell, Richard Bushamp, Alan & Therese Kramer, Christopher Martin, Theresa Heeg, Bev Nurenberg, Jeff Wadell, Charles Wadell, Chuck Welch, Jeanne Alaga, Milo Platte, Timothy D. Thelen, Marilyn Dixon, Richard Rodgers, Carolee Smith, Charles Miller, Joyce Goerge, Father Den Morrow and a special intention.

**Please contact the office to add or remove a name from the list. Thank you.**

*Let us also keep in our prayers all those from the Parish Community who are in the Armed Services.*

**Our Parish Stewardship**  
**God's Treasure at Most Holy Trinity**

<b>April 13 &amp; 14 Collection.....</b>	<b>\$10,002.00</b>
<b><u>Special Collections</u></b>	
<b>Easter Flowers .....</b>	<b>\$170.00</b>
<b>Cemetery .....</b>	<b>\$205.00</b>
<b>Easter Offering .....</b>	<b>\$70.00</b>



The Rosary is prayed before the 8:15 a.m. weekday Mass. The intention for this week is for all those who volunteer and serve in the sacramental life of the Parish, that they receive Easter blessings and peace for their generosity.

**Spring Rummage and Bake Sale**

St. Michael Parish, 345 Edwards St., Grand Ledge  
Wed., April 24, 5 pm-7:30 pm  
Thurs., April 25, 8 am-4 pm  
\$2 per bag begins at noon!

**Readings for the Week of April 21, 2019**

<b>Monday</b>	Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11; Mt 28:8-15
<b>Tuesday</b>	Acts 2:36-41; Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22; Jn 20:11-18
<b>Wednesday</b>	Acts 3:1-10; Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9; Lk 24:13-35
<b>Thursday</b>	Acts 3:11-26; Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9; Lk 24:35-48
<b>Friday</b>	Acts 4:1-12; Ps 118:1-2 and 4, 22-24, 25-27a; Jn 21:1-14

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday - April 22**

7:00 p.m. + Richard Jandernoa

**Tuesday - April 23**

8:15 a.m. + Genevieve Pung (2nd Anniversary) including Donna White & Living & Deceased Family Members

**Wednesday - April 24**

6:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration  
7:00 p.m. + The Late Leo & Catherine Luttig on the occasion of their 100th Wedding Anniversary

**Thursday - April 25**

8:15 a.m. **No Mass**

**Friday - April 26**

8:15 a.m. + Henry Goerge

**Saturday - April 27**

1:00 p.m. **Wedding of Zane Tobin & Ally Whitman**  
4:30 p.m. + Louis & Esther Wirth & Living & Deceased Family Members

**Sunday - April 28**

8:30 a.m. + Joe Hafner, including Toni & Joanne  
10:30 a.m. People of the Parish

**Ushers for April 27 & 28**

4:30 p.m. - Tony Schafer, Jerome R Thelen, Lonnie Schueller, Volunteer

8:30 a.m. - Jerome Spitzley, John Hufnagel, Kurt Thelen, Volunteer

10:30 a.m. - Brett Stump, Kirk Phillips, Dale Koenigsknecht, Hilary Stump

**Servers for this week**

Mon., 7:00 p.m. - Peter & Xavier Simon, Damien Miller

Tues., 8:15 a.m. - MHT School Volunteers

Weds., 7:00 p.m. - Aaron & Josie Simon

Thurs., 8:15 a.m. - Andrew & John Irrer

Fri., 8:15 a.m. - Adult Volunteer

**Servers for April 27 & 28**

4:30 p.m. - Brooke, Emily & Amber Epkey, Volunteer

8:30 a.m. - Joseph, Aubrey & Elizabeth Epkey, Volunteer

10:30 a.m. - Dominic Horak, Braeden Andros, Tristan & Quentin Smith

**April 21, 2019**

**Pastor - Fr. Dennis Howard**

**Parish Office Hours -- 8am-noon, 1-3pm**

**Parish Office: 593-2162**

**Email: [office@mhtparish.com](mailto:office@mhtparish.com)**

**Website: [mhtparish.com](http://mhtparish.com)**

**MHT School - 593-2616**