

## This Week in Our Parishes

<b>Monday, April 01</b> <i>Parish Office is CLOSED</i>	
No Mass	
<b>Tuesday, April 02</b>	
Mass @ St. Anthony	7:00 pm
<b>Wednesday, April 03</b>	
Adoration @ St. Anthony	5:00-6:00 pm
Mass @ St. Anthony	6:15 pm
<b>Thursday, April 04</b>	
Mass @ St. Agnes	9:00 am
<b>First Friday, April 05</b>	
Adoration @ St. Agnes	6:00- 6:45 pm
Mass @ St. Agnes	7:00 pm
<b>Saturday, April 06</b>	
Mass @ St. Agnes	5:00 pm
Mass @ St. Anthony	7:30 pm
<b>Sunday, April 07 – Divine Mercy Sunday</b>	
Mass @ St. Agnes	9:00 am
Mass @ St. Anthony	10:30 am
Mass @ St. Agnes	12 Noon
First Holy Communion Celebration @ St. Agnes	
Divine Mercy Prayers & Eucharistic Adoration @ St. Agnes Church	After the noon mass – 4 pm
<b>Monday, April 08 No Mass</b>	
<b>Tuesday, April 09</b>	
Mass @ St. Anthony	7:00 pm
<b>Wednesday, April 10</b>	
Adoration @ St. Anthony	5:00-6:00 pm
Mass @ St. Anthony	6:15 pm
<b>Thursday, April 11</b>	
Mass @ St. Agnes	9:00 am
<b>Friday, April 12</b>	
Mass @ St. Agnes	9:00 am
<b>Saturday, April 13</b>	
Mass @ St. Agnes	5:00 pm
Mass @ St. Anthony	7:30 pm
<b>Sunday, April 14</b>	
Mass @ St. Agnes	9 am
Mass @ St. Anthony	10:30 am
Mass @ St. Agnes	12 Noon

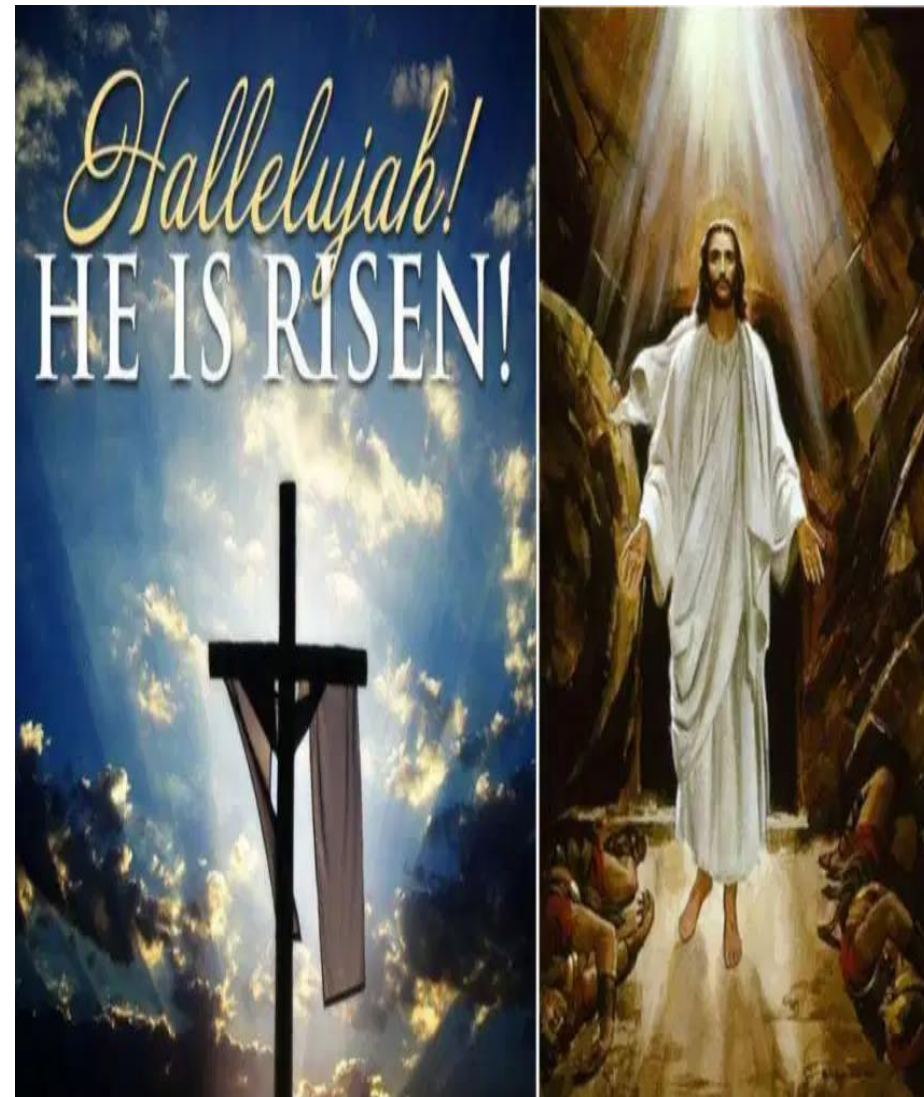


### The Twin Roman Catholic Parishes of **St. Agnes & St. Anthony**

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**A BLESSED HAPPY EASTER TO EVERYONE**

**March 31, 2024**

**Easter Message from our Pastor St. Agnes/St. Anthony**

Easter is the greatest and the most important feast in the Church. It marks the birthday of our eternal hope. “Easter” literally means “the feast of fresh flowers.” We celebrate it with pride and jubilation for three reasons:

**The Resurrection of Christ is the basis of our Christian Faith**, for it proves that Jesus is God. That is why St. Paul writes: *“If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain; and your Faith is in vain... And if Christ has not been raised, then your Faith is a delusion, and you are still lost in your sins... But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep” (1 Cor 15:14, 17, 20)*. If Jesus Christ did not rise from the dead, then the Church is a fraud and Faith is a sham. But if Jesus really did rise from the dead, his message is true! Without the Resurrection, Jesus would have remained forever a good person who had met a tragic end. People would remember some of his teachings, and a handful of people might try to live according to them. All the basic doctrines of Christianity are founded on the truth of the Resurrection. *“Jesus is Lord; He is risen!” (Rom 10:9)* was the central theme of the *kerygma* (or “preaching”), of the apostles. There is a story of two women who stood before Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. One asked, “Why can’t we build structures like this anymore?” Her friend answered, “The people who built this had Faith. Today we have only opinions. And you can’t build a cathedral with opinions.”

**Easter is the guarantee of our own resurrection.** Jesus assured Martha at the tomb of Lazarus: *“I am the Resurrection and the Life; whoever believes in Me will live even though he die” (Jn 11:25-26)*. Christ will raise us up on the last day, but it is also true, in a sense, that we have already risen with Christ. By virtue of the Holy Spirit, our Christian life is already a participation in the death and Resurrection of Christ .

**Easter is a feast which gives us hope and encouragement in this world of pain, sorrows, and tears.** Easter reminds us that

life is worth living. It is our belief in the Real Presence of the Risen Jesus — in our souls, in His Church, in the Blessed Sacrament, and in Heaven — that gives meaning to our personal, as well as to our common, prayers. Our trust in the all-pervading presence of the Risen Lord gives us strength to fight against temptations and freedom from unnecessary worries and fears. The prayer of St. Patrick, the Apostle of Ireland, reads: “Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ within me, never to part.”

**As we follow the risen Lord**, We are not supposed to lie buried in the tomb of our sins, evil habits, dangerous addictions, despair, discouragement or doubts. Instead, we are expected to live a joyful and peaceful life, constantly experiencing the living presence of the Risen Lord Who loves us in all the events of our lives and amid the boredom, suffering, pain and tensions of our day-to-day life.

**The conviction of the real presence of the Risen Lord with us and within us and all around us, enables us to lead disciplined Christian lives.** It will help us to control our thoughts, desires, words, behavior and actions.

**The awareness of the presence of the Risen Lord within us inspires us to honor our bodies**, keeping them holy. Our conviction that the loving presence of the Risen Lord dwells in our neighbors and in all those we encounter, should encourage us **to respect them**.

**We need to become witnessing Christians, radiating the Risen Lord around us** in the form of selfless love, mercy, compassion and a spirit of humble service. Every time we try to practice Christian charity, mercy and forgiveness we share in the Resurrection of Jesus.

On behalf of Deacon Guy Germain, Deacon Michael Pucylo, Deacon Ramon Morales, Parish Staff.

**Wish you all a Blessed Easter.**

*Fr. Varghese Mundavelil*

*Pastor*