

The Easter Message of Hope

Dear Friends,

The Easter Candle, which stands so prominently in our church, is the symbol of Christ. It is called the Paschal Candle because *Christ passed from death to life* by undertaking freely and lovingly His passion, death and resurrection. Through this Paschal Mystery, we have been saved by Christ. The solemnity of Easter is at the heart of the whole liturgical year, just as every Sunday is at the heart of every week for God's Holy People.

As we look to the meaning of the Paschal Candle this Easter, may we find hope for our lives. We can often become worn down by the cares and responsibilities of life but Christ offers us hope. The Easter Candle is the symbol of Christ. In the waters of baptism, Christ freely gives us three gifts...**FAITH, HOPE and CHARITY**. We will be asked at the end of our lives to render stewardship on how well we developed these gifts in cooperation with God's grace. If these gifts grow in our lives, we and others will see the difference. Virtue is noticeable when it is exemplified. This is why the disciples of Antioch were called disciples for the first time (Acts 11:26).

The Easter Gospel is certainly one of love and belief. It was shown in the devotion of Mary Magdalene toward the Master. She could never forget how He changed her life. It was further demonstrated by the faith of the beloved disciple John, who was the first to believe that Easter day. Just as Christ was an anchor of hope to His disciples and followers so too is He an anchor of hope to us. The reality of Jesus' Resurrection is the source of our hope. The virtue of hope brings us strength and grace which prevents us from *despair* on the one hand and *presumption* on the other. Each of us made in the image of God has much to offer our loved ones and neighbor and to render toward the Father. We should not despair who we are and what we have. Sometimes people search for fulfillment of life in the wrong places. Harmful addictions and behaviors are a threat to themselves and others. We all need Christ because through Him we are saved. We have great hope because Christ has conquered everlasting death and sin by His passion, death and resurrection. We share in the sure and certain hope of eternal life if we live the faith fully during our earthly pilgrimage. We are blessed to have the gift of Christ's true Church to be our home as we prepare for our eternal destiny. Kindly view the Church this way: *the Church is Christ and the Church is not optional because Christ is not optional. Without Christ, there is no hope and salvation. The Church and Christ are one.*

Pope John Paul II in his Inaugural homily of Installation at Saint Peter's in Rome on October 22, 1978, which will become his Feast Day, spoke the words of Christ, "Be not afraid!" With the gift of hope, we need not be afraid that we are not adequate parents or spouses, that our work lacks results or success, or that outreach to others is absent or incomplete. Look to Christ and His gift of hope. He encourages with confidence to move forward to be the best parents and spouses in challenging times, to do our work each day as best we can, and never to forget others when opportunity allows. The virtue of hope is strengthened when in our brokenness we come to the altar of the Lord at Mass. It is there, every Sunday, that our transformation to wholeness comes to pass. There we recognize the grace of fullness in the presence of Christ who is our mediator to the Father. This is our hope and the hope of every Catholic.

A Blessed Easter Season to All.

Father Michael Lawlor

Pastor



THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Mass Intentions

Saturday, May 7	4:30 pm	Francis McKeon
Sunday, May 8	8:00 am	Parishioners of St. Paul
	10:15 am	Deceased Family Members Of First Communicants
	5:30 pm	Sheila Fales
Monday May 9	9:00 am	Peter Iori, Jr.
Tuesday May 10	9:00 am	Jane Ratsy
Wednesday May 11	9:00 am	Mary Borrelli
Friday May 13	9:00 am	Father John Pashby
Saturday, May 14	4:30 pm	Deceased Family Members Of First Communicants
Sunday, May 15	8:00 am	Erna Burri
	10:15 am	Carole LaMontagne
	5:30 pm	Parishioners of St. Paul



*A Blessed Mother's Day
to all of our mothers
who through their
sacrificial love
have done so much for
us and for our families.*

~ Fr. Lawlor



Eucharistic Adoration
Saturdays 8:30 - 3:00 pm

You are invited to Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel for prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament on Saturdays between 8:30 am until 3:00 pm. We need individuals to sign up for selected half-hours throughout the adoration period. Sheets are at the doorways of the Church.

**The Crowning of Mary
will take place following the
10:15 am Mass on May 15.
Come dressed in your
First Communion finest.
Parishioners of all ages
are invited to attend.**



Church Parking

**Please park as best you can while
at the same time maintaining a
right of way and courteousness
toward our neighbors' driveways. As always,
we welcome you to church and thank you for
cooperating with safety standards and car
accessibility around our perimeter.**

Second Collection Next Weekend

Next week's second collection supports The Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC). CCC develops media programming, projects and resources that promote Gospel values. 50% of the collection supports local communications efforts, such as televised Masses and diocesan newspapers. The other fifty percent supports the development and production of a wide range of national media programming.

Please Pray For...Lois Gagne, Beverly Thibeault, Antinetta Mazzetta, Scott Stone, Richard Heck, Margaret Sands, John Siczewski, Sue Pagliarani, Carolyn Pelletier, Julie Coats, Evelyn E. Nelson, Rita Pooler, Lisa Carey, Carolyn Dutton, Marie Magill, Beth Rebello, Paul Haggerty, Glen Brothie, Donna Wilson, Linda Wilson, Terry Plourde, all who are ill, in nursing homes, and for those hospitalized.



**Class of 2011
Graduation Mass
Sunday, May 22
5:30 PM**

All graduating seniors and their families are invited to attend. We look forward to wishing you well and congratulating you on a job well done!

RCIA Candidate Inquiry

R Those men and women who would be interested
C in seeking information about becoming Catholic
I through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
A are kindly asked to contact the rectory for more
information. Through instruction and rites,
individuals are able to inquire about the Catholic
Church. We would be happy to speak with you
and acquaint you with the program.

Grand Annual Appeal

Our Parish Grand Annual Appeal, now it has begun. A letter of request has been sent to your home and is available as well at the doorway of the church for your sacrificial gift to the parish. Also, additional envelopes for Grand Annual can be found at the doors of the church.

Through your kind generosity and support, you assist your parish of St. Paul to meet its operating expenses. The Grand Annual complements the Sevenfold Offertory so we can meet all our fiduciary responsibilities. You are familiar with the repointing of the front façade of the church and the repair of the church roof from last fall. We hope to address the repointing of the exterior façade of the Rust Street side of the church and the restoration of the rose window at the front of the church through your sacrificial funding this year. **Please remember every gift to the Grand Annual counts.** You may leave your gift in the offertory collection or mail/drop off at the rectory.

RESPECT LIFELINE: *Population and climate change should be addressed from the broader perspective of a concern for protecting human life, caring for the environment, and respecting cultural norms and the religious faith and moral values of peoples. Population is not simply about statistics. Behind every demographic number is a precious and irreplaceable human life whose human dignity must be respected.* ~USCCB, Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence, and the Common Good (2001)

SENIORS HELPING SENIORS



Once again, Seniors from the Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School graduating class of 2011 are giving back to the community. On Friday, May 27 from 8:30 – 12:30, work groups of five seniors each will be working at the homes of senior citizens in the towns of Hamilton or Wenham. Chores could include lawn care, raking, cleaning flower beds, cleaning porch furniture, washing ground floor windows, etc.

If you would like to place a work order, call Ms. Lisa Heitz (978-468-0496) by Wednesday, May 18th!

Book of Jeremiah Bible Study

A new bible study on the book of the prophet Jeremiah meets on Thursday nights. The sessions will meet in the Church hall from 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

2011 Annual Catholic Appeal

“Offering Hope by Sharing God’s Gifts”

As a supporter of the 2011 Appeal, you should have received a letter of gratitude from the Cardinal recently. Two weeks, a letter of reminder and a request for participation to this year’s Appeal was sent. We hope our parishioners can respond by their gift/pledge.

This annual appeal greatly helps Cardinal O’Malley to assist many people through our apostolates and Central Offices. Our parish is at 67% of goal. Remember every gift counts. Please consider these three (3) steps in responding to the Archbishop’s request:

- (1) **REVIEW** – the literature in the Annual Appeal Packet;
- (2) **REFLECT** – what gift might I consider giving year to assist our Archbishop and help make a difference in people’s lives;
- (3) **RESPOND** – take the Pledge Card in the packet and kindly return it to the Cardinal’s Processing Center by direct mail.

Your gift will be credited to you and the parish as you share God’s gifts. Thank you.

Additional Annual Appeal Packets are located at all doorways of the church.

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