

# HE IS RISEN!

HAPPY EASTER



*Roman Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart*

*720 Merrick Ave*

*North Merrick, NY 11566*

**Pastoral Staff**  
**Rev. Stephen Brigandi, Pastor**  
**Rev. Joseph Scolaro, Weekend Assistant**

**Deacon Charles Kammerer**

**Coordinator of Parish Social Ministry**

Mrs. Ann Heverin  
 Outreach Office: 516-379-6123  
 Monday—Thursday 10am-1:00pm  
 parishoutreach@sacredheartnm.org

**Pastoral Associate**  
**Faith Formation Coordinator**

Miss Carol Tannehill ctannehillshc@gmail.com

**Director of Liturgical Music**

Mrs. Jeanne Nunez musiccoordinator@sacredheartnm.org

**Parish Center 516-379-1356**

**Parish Center Hours:**

Mon.—Fri. 9am—12pm & 1pm—4pm  
 (June/July/ August: Friday 9am—12pm)

Mrs. Mary Katz—Parish Business Manager  
 Mrs. Janet Muller—Parish Receptionist  
 Mr. Matthew O'Brien—Maintenance Director  
 St. Vincent de Paul Society: 516-379-1376  
 SVDP@sacredheartnm.org

**Parish Website:**  
**Sacredheartnm.org**

**Adult Christian Initiation**

If you are interested in exploring the Catholic faith or completing your initiation into the Church please call the Parish Center.



**Infant Baptism Preparation**

If you wish to arrange a baptism at Sacred Heart Church, please contact the Parish Center at 516-379-1356 ext.10. One of our baptism coordinators will be happy to arrange a time to meet with you. Ideally, both Godparents should be practicing Catholics. We will review the procedures for the sacrament and you will be able to fill out all the necessary paperwork. Baptisms are held on the first and third Sunday of each month at 2pm. First time parents need to attend a baptism class. They are held on the last Monday of each month in the Parish Center at 7:30pm. Crying babies welcome! Godparents are encouraged but not required to attend.



**Sacrament of Matrimony**

Please contact the Parish Center **at least one year in advance** of the intended date of the wedding. A priest or deacon of the parish will interview you, set the wedding date and help you register for the required marriage preparation program. Marriage Preparation is held in the parish three times a year. Please contact Deacon John: DeaconJohn@sacredheartnm.org for dates and times.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

A priest is available each Saturday at 4:00PM in the church. Please don't hesitate to call a priest at the Parish Center for an appointment for Confession at another time.

**Sacraments for the Homebound**

If you or a family member are not able to attend Mass and would like to receive the Sacraments of Communion, Reconciliation and/or Anointing of the Sick, please call the Parish Center.

**Eucharistic Adoration** Wednesday, 12pm-4pm





**Monday, April 6, 2026**

9AM Maureen Kelly

**Tuesday, April 7, 2026**

9AM Anna Amato

**Wednesday, April 8, 2026**

9AM Mary Maloney

**Thursday, April 9, 2026**

9AM Elizabeth & John Chambers

**Friday, April 10, 2026**

9AM Purgatorial Society  
Cassisi Family

**Saturday, April 11, 2026**

9AM Deacon John Heverin

5PM Peter A. Cinetti  
Joseph Michalski  
Josephine Esposito  
Rose & Frank DeCrsitifaro

**Sunday, April 12, 2026**

8AM Steve Melley  
10AM Henrietta M. David  
12PM Peter A. Cinetti  
5PM Deacon John Heverin  
Robert Cooper  
Parishioners of Sacred Heart

*In our thoughts and prayers.*

- |                           |                                 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>John Andino</i>        | <i>Phil Lattanzio</i>           |
| <i>Brenda Andujar</i>     | <i>Justin Maciorowski</i>       |
| <i>Taylor Agurto</i>      | <i>Ginger Marzano</i>           |
| <i>Milan Baranek</i>      | <i>Murray Family</i>            |
| <i>Kerri Bennett</i>      | <i>Jack Palamaro</i>            |
| <i>Rich Best</i>          | <i>Peter Palamaro, Jr.</i>      |
| <i>Rafael Bosch</i>       | <i>Matthew Pastolero</i>        |
| <i>Victoria Bosch</i>     | <i>Eileen Pio</i>               |
| <i>Joanne Brazenor</i>    | <i>Carl &amp; Joanna Pope</i>   |
| <i>Richard Bustamante</i> | <i>Tara C. Rebhan</i>           |
| <i>Elizabeth Campbell</i> | <i>Kathy Rincon</i>             |
| <i>Stan Cadet</i>         | <i>Vincenza Rini</i>            |
| <i>Matthew Cavanagh</i>   | <i>Tess Rivera</i>              |
| <i>Joan Cavanagh</i>      | <i>Michael Ryan</i>             |
| <i>Gloria Chirico</i>     | <i>Benny Sarnelli</i>           |
| <i>Carmine Colasanto</i>  | <i>Elizabeth Sheehan Bourke</i> |
| <i>Ralph Conetta</i>      | <i>Julian Sherman</i>           |
| <i>Alexandra Dazzo</i>    | <i>Randall Sinz</i>             |
| <i>Baby Kaylee</i>        | <i>Madeline Soregaroli</i>      |
| <i>Lisa DelCampo</i>      | <i>Mary Sweeney</i>             |
| <i>Eddie DelCampo</i>     | <i>MaryJane Steinberg</i>       |
| <i>Yolanda DeLustro</i>   | <i>Paul Stern</i>               |
| <i>Melvin Douglas</i>     | <i>Cathy Turbek</i>             |
| <i>Matthew Dwyer</i>      | <i>Robbie Urban</i>             |
| <i>Helen Dresner</i>      | <i>Christopher Vaccacio</i>     |
| <i>Derrick Edwin</i>      | <i>Anthony Villarreal</i>       |
| <i>Gloria Hannifin</i>    | <i>Mariah Villarreal</i>        |
| <i>Carl Hetzel</i>        | <i>Aidan Walden</i>             |
| <i>Alex Hubiera</i>       | <i>Kewnneth White</i>           |
| <i>Phyllis Hughes</i>     | <i>Christine Weigand</i>        |
| <i>Deborah Kruse</i>      | <i>John Witzenbocker</i>        |
|                           | <i>Robert Ziminski</i>          |

**Prayers for the Sick**

In an effort to make sure parishioners who are ill are properly prayed for we would like to keep our Sick List as up to date as possible. Names will remain for one full month, but will be **removed at the end of every month**, unless there is a request by the family to extend the prayers for the following month.

Prayer Shawl  
Ministry



The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on the following dates at 2pm in the Parish Center:

April 29th  
May 27th  
June 24th



*Let us remember all our parishioners who have been called home to our loving God. We especially remember Michael Majikas*



Our PB&J group is seeking new members. sandwiches are made Tuesday mornings after the 9am Mass.

Donations of peanut butter, jelly and bread are always appreciated.



**Anointing of the Sick**  
Friday, April 10, 2026

**First Saturday Mass**  
9am, April 11, 2026  
Rosary at 8:30am



**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**  
Wednesday's  
12pm-4pm

Exposition and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament is not only a very old devotion in our Church, but one that highlights the fundamental mystery of the Holy Eucharist— that our Lord is truly present, body and blood, soul and divinity in the Blessed Sacrament.

In his 1980 Holy Thursday letter to priests, *Dominicae cenae*, Pope John Paul II wrote, "Since the Eucharistic mystery was instituted out of love, and makes Christ sacramentally present, it is worthy of thanksgiving and worship. And this worship must be prominent in all our encounters with the Blessed Sacrament..." (#3).



If you or someone you know needs assistance, please call 516-379-1376 or email .

Today as we celebrate the feast of Easter, we find the challenge of also seeing and believing the resurrection that comes through our own lives of self-sacrifice. It is then that we are truly Easter people!

As you give your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Poor, know that you are a sign of God's love to those who are suffering, and you give them Easter hope and joy.



## PARISHIONERS IN THE ARMED FORCES

**Sacred Heart Parish salutes and  
commends to prayer:**

Lt. Jack Tariche USMC, Okinawa  
 Capt. Richard DeTommaso, U.S. Army, Korea  
 PFC Kendrick McCann, U.S. Army, Korea  
 Sgt. First Class Lee Ann Gouveia, U.S. Army  
 L CPL Anthony Rusciano, U.S.M.C.  
 L CPL Troy Grassi, U.S.M.C., Iraq  
 SSgt. Edgar C. Francisco, U.S.M.C.  
 Col. James K. Lavine, U.S.M.C.  
 Lt. Col. Timothy W. Schnelle, U.S.M.C.  
 Pvt. Andrew Reynolds, U.S. Army  
 3rd CS P.O. Joseph La Form, U.S. Navy  
 L CPL Kevin P. Vaughan, U.S.M.C.  
 Lt. Colonel Christopher Darconte,  
 U.S. Air Force  
 U.S.M.C. Deployed Aircraft Carrier Iwo Jima  
 Sgt. Brandon Furia, U.S.M.C.  
 PFC Matthew Macario, U.S. Army,  
 Afghanistan  
 Lt. James Corino, Army  
 Lt. Commander William H. Mohr, Navy  
 Amn. 1st Class Daniel Gilroy, U.S.A.F.  
 Lt. Daniel T. Lopez, U.S. Air Force  
 Lt. Michael Napolitano U.S. Navy  
 John Devoti Lt. Col. U.S.M.C.  
 2nd Lieutenant Jordan Paladino- US Army  
 L CPL Frank DeTrano, U.S.M.C.  
 Lt. Paul Minerva, US Air Force, Qatar  
 Specialist Ryan Todd, US Army, S. Korea

### Prayer For The Safety of Our Service Men & Women

Almighty and Eternal God, protect these men and women as they discharge their duties. Protect them with the shield of your strength and keep them safe from all evil and harm. May the power of your love enable them to return home in safety to all who love them. May they ever praise you for your loving care. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## Sacred Heart Purgatorial Society

*Marianne Collins, Patricia A. Bove, Caroline & Francis Cacossa, Margaret E. Riordan, Joan Fisk, Everett Corum, Jr, James J. Stasi, Maureen & Robert Murphy, Ellen C. Rafter, Donald J. Johnson, Eileen Clarke, Dolores Kulich, Vera Farrell, Jennie & Christopher Maniscalco, William G. Mohr, Shaun Hughes, Edward Walsh & Family, Frances Forgione, Lillian Milana, Randall Cordero, Edward Hesse, Regina Platt, James Artura, Edward A. Kennedy, Carolyn McDonough, Carmel L. Carleo, Raymond P. Carleo, James G. Dwyer, James P. Soldo, Robert Tom Riordan, Henry Darnaud, Stephen J. Brigandi, Sr., Ryan Palma, John Fitzpatrick, Amesse Furchak, Richard Brazenor, Joseph & Dora Accurso, Mary & Frank Gandini, Pat Darienzo, Jr., Tom and Mary Carroll, Brother Hugh Patrick Turley, FMS, Michelle Palma Furchak, Charlotte & Joe Francomano, John Hursala, Mae & John Dugo, Ann Kelly, Margaret, Joseph, Jack & Catherine Eschmann, Kay Alida Eschmann, Richard Eschmann, Joseph Sommer, Charles Vaccaro, Epifania Napit, Nancy DeStefano, Lester Smith, Camille and George Pashalides, Patrick M. Darienzo, Thomas J. Maloney, Jack Faust, Theresa Reilly Fred J. Cardinale, Thomas McLoone, Joseph Massaro, Daniel Contartesi, Catherine Contartesi, Teresa & Joseph Sullivan, Helen & Joseph Tatarka, Fred & Theresa Peruggia, Josephine and Leo Scotto, Andy Marincsak, Cecelia & Albert Bardwil, Virginia Marquardt, Michael & Philomena, Peruggia Ronald Gandini, Edward J. Lunden, Elizabeth & John Chambers, Ann & Steve Petroglia, Frank, Eleanor & Jimmy Gill, Jerry Catalano, Sr. Marie Vianney Gallagher, Ida Guadagno, Catherine Darienzo Clare & Walter Shorak, Sr. Adeline Haig, Ginesia Reale, John D. Maxworthy, Patricia Grecco, Larry Gray, Jim Artura, Jim Vaccacio, Anne Rogan, Rev. Joseph D'Angelo, Rosemarie Pergolizzi, Antonio Rosselli, Sal Napolitano, Joe & Charlotte Francomano, Thomas Gallagher, Emma Gallagher, Mary Jane Palma, Brian Anthony Tavoulareas, Anna Carotenuto,, Lucy DeRose, Sheila Hackett Alma Boursiquot, Joan Kennedy, Edward Kennedy, Marie Faust, Louis Joseph Blanchard Charlotte & Joe Francomano, Daniel Rogan, Deacon John Heverin, Vivian Ordinez, Joseph Barreca*

### Pope's Prayer Intention: April For priests in crisis

Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.



# Blood Drive

**Sacred Heart Church &  
Fr. Reilly Council #6561  
Knights of Columbus of the Merricks  
Blood Drive**

**Saturday, April 11, 2026  
8:00am-2:00pm**

*Please click on link to make an appointment:*

[https://donate.nybc.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/331726](https://donate.nybc.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/331726)

*Or scan the QR code:*

*Or call 1-800-933-BLOOD*



For more information, please contact Neil Franzese at [neilfax@gmail.com](mailto:neilfax@gmail.com)


800.933.BLOOD - nybc.org

### Prepare to donate

- Eat well and hydrate
- Bring a photo ID
- Feel good and symptom free
- Must be 17+ or 12 with parental consent form
- Meet minimum weight requirements

For full eligibility requirements and COVID-19 information, visit [nybc.org/eligibility](https://nybc.org/eligibility).





*Come join us after the 10am Family Mass  
on April 12<sup>th</sup> for an Easter Egg Hunt as we  
celebrate the season of Easter!*

*Members of our Knights of Columbus have  
graciously offered to provide bagels  
and coffee.*

*We promise an Eggstraordinary time!  
You may even see a special guest!*



Knights of Columbus  
Father Jeremiah J. Reilly Council #6561  
720 Merrick Avenue  
Merrick, NY 11566



Frederick "Skip" Luberto: Grand Knight  
Kevin Agoglia: Deputy Grand Knight  
Richard Mason: Chancellor  
Malikew Dwyer: Warden

## The Jerry Catalano Stock Market Sweeps

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Here is a chance to participate in a fundraiser for our Council while able to win money at the same time. Each ticket costs \$10.00 which are individually numbered 000-999. For example, if the Dow Jones on March 21st ends at 1234.56, ticket 456 is the winner for that week. This will repeat for 26 weeks. Look for the Dow Jones closing amount each Friday afternoon (After 4:00 PM) on the news, in Saturday's Newspaper, online, on stock apps, etc.

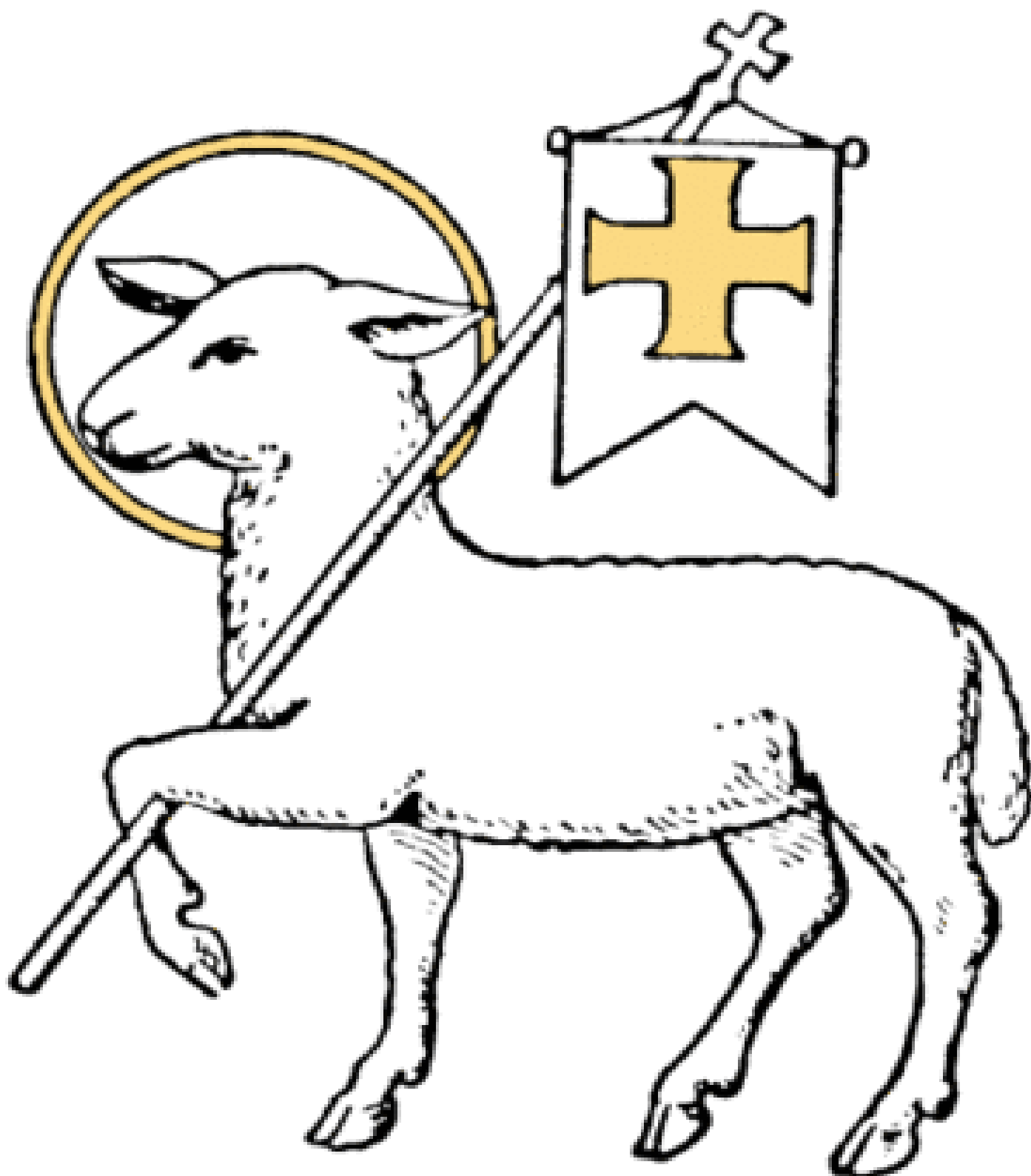
*Each Ticket Number is valid for 26 weeks starting Friday, March 6, 2026 thru Friday, August 28, 2026. The cost is only \$0.38 per week.*

A weekly prize of \$100.00 will be awarded to the ticket number corresponding to the last three digits of the closing amount of the Dow Jones Industrial Stock Average for each Friday. You will be notified if you are a winner via the phone number provided on your return stub. There is no limit to how many weeks each ticket can win. Also, no limit to the number of tickets you can purchase.

*For tickets please contact Lou Otarola at 516-375-1581 and I will arrange to get the tickets to you ASAP. Please Make Checks Payable to:  
Fr. Jeremiah J. Reilly Council #6561*

"Thank You for Your Support and Good Luck."  
All ticket sales are retroactive back to week one.

Fraternally,  
Lou Otarola, PGK



One of the most important symbols of Christ is the lamb. “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.” Please display this picture on your door during the great the Easter Season. It is taken down on Pentecost, May 24, 2026



DIocese OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Easter 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Happy Easter to you and your families!

This Easter Sunday, Easter Octave, Divine Mercy Sunday and Easter Season we continue to pray and contemplate our Lord's Resurrection appearances, and we give thanks for Pope Leo XIV and his worldwide spirit of Catholic mission.

In his Cycle of Catechesis on the Resurrection of Christ, Pope Leo writes: "The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is an event that one never finishes contemplating and meditating on, and the more one explores it, the more one is filled with wonder, drawn in as if by an overwhelming yet fascinating light. It was an explosion of life and joy that changed the meaning of reality itself, from negative to positive; yet it did not happen in a striking way, much less a violent one, but gently, hidden, one might say humbly." (October 22, 2025 Audience)

Pope Leo recognizes that there is much sadness in the world – "a feeling of precariousness, at times profound desperation." We think especially of the daily crosses and trials of those from war-torn and violence-ridden areas of the world.

The Holy Father then reflects on the despair of the two disciples on the Road to Emmaus. Their hearts burn and their joy is restored as the Risen Lord explains the Scriptures to them and they recognize Him in the breaking of the bread. In this way, the Paschal Mystery gives us hope and strength in every trial and circumstance.

Pope Leo concludes: "May the unexpected joy of the disciples of Emmaus be a gentle reminder to us when the going gets tough. It is the Risen One who radically changes our perspective, instilling the hope that fills the void of sadness. On the paths of the heart, the Risen One walks with us and for us. He bears witness to the defeat of death and affirms the victory of life, despite the darkness of Calvary... He alone makes the impossible possible!"

May the Light of the Risen Christ illumine our path to holiness on earth and our path to eternal life and happiness with God in Heaven.

Sincerely yours in the Risen Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John O. Barres". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend John O. Barres  
Bishop of Rockville Centre

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## SUNDAY CONNECTION—LOYOLA PRESS

### Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we begin the Easter Season, our 50-day meditation on the mystery of Christ's Resurrection. Our Gospel today tells us about the disciples' discovery of the empty tomb. It concludes by telling us that they did not yet understand that Jesus had risen from the dead. Thus, the details provided are not necessarily meant to offer proof of the Resurrection. The details invite us to reflect upon a most amazing gift, that is faith in Jesus and his Resurrection.

Each of the four Gospels tells us that Jesus' empty tomb was first discovered by women. This is notable because in first-century Jewish society women could not serve as legal witnesses. In the case of John's Gospel, the only woman attending the tomb is Mary of Magdala. Unlike the Synoptic accounts, John's Gospel does not describe an appearance of angels at the tomb. Instead, Mary is simply said to have observed that the stone that had sealed the tomb had been moved, and she runs to alert Simon Peter and the beloved disciple. Her statement to them is telling. She assumes that Jesus' body has been removed, perhaps stolen. She does not consider that Jesus has been raised from the dead.

Simon Peter and the beloved disciple race to the tomb, presumably to verify Mary's report. The beloved disciple arrives first but does not enter the tomb until after Simon Peter. This detail paints a vivid picture, as does the detail provided about the burial cloths. Some scholars believe that the presence of the burial cloths in the tomb offers evidence to the listener that Jesus' body had not been stolen (it is understood that grave robbers would have taken the burial cloths together with the body).

The Gospel passage concludes, however, that even having seen the empty tomb and the burial cloths, the disciples do not yet understand about the Resurrection. In the passage that follows, Mary of Magdala meets Jesus but mistakes him for the gardener. In the weeks ahead, the Gospel readings from our liturgy will show us how the disciples came to believe in Jesus' Resurrection through his appearances to them.

Our Easter faith is based on their witness to both the empty tomb and their continuing relationship with Jesus—in his appearances and in his gift of the Holy Spirit.

**Court Bishop Kellenberg #1756  
Catholic Daughters of the Americas  
Presents at Sacred Heart its Second Annual**



**Save The Date  
Friday, May 1st**

**Fundraiser**

**Friday, May 1st, 2026 at 7 pm SH School Gym, Merrick  
Details will follow in the April 2026 SH Church Bulletins**

### Paschal Candle Memorial



Each year at the Easter Vigil we light a new Paschal Candle and bring the light of Christ, which had been absent during the Triduum, back into our church and celebrate the Resurrection.

The candle is placed near the baptismal font after Easter, used for baptisms throughout the year to symbolize the light of Christ in the new believer.

It is placed near the casket during funerals to represent the deceased's baptism and Christian hope in the resurrection.

If you would like to memorialize this year's Paschal Candle (\$1,000), please contact Carol at the Parish Center.



# THE CHURCH

## Organizations & Ministries

<b>Ministry</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
Altar Linens	Janet Muller	frontdesk@scaredheartnm.org
Altar Servers	Janet Muller	Parish Center: 516-379-1356
Baptism Preparation	Deacon Charlie	deaconcharles@sacredheartnm.org
Bereavement	Shirley Douglas	shirdoug530@yahoo.com
Catholic Daughters	Marie Reale	marg12453@gmail.com
CYO	Ray Murphy	rm1693@aol.com
Eucharistic Ministers	Liz Saviano	elizcsav@gmail.com
Faith Formation	Carol Tannehill	ctannehillshc@gmail.com
Knights of Columbus	Skip Luberto	Sharpens1@optonline.net
Ladies Auxiliary	Barbara Massaro	(516) 826-6577
Lectors	Alison Casey	queenali67@aol.com
Liturgical Environment	Anne Engelhart	annkengelhart@gmail.com
Men's Group	Deacon Charlie	deaconcharles@sacredheartnm.org
Ministry of Consolation	Shirley Douglas	shirdoug530@yahoo.com
Music Ministry	Jeanne Nunez	musiccoordinator@sacredheartnm.org
OCIA	Shirley Douglas	shirdoug530@yahoo.com
OCIA	Ginny Daly	gdaly11@gmail.com
Outreach	Ann Heverin	parishoutreach@sacredheartnm.org
Over 50 Club	Mary DeSantis	(516) 378-1335
PB&J Group	Diedre Soehner	parishoutreach@sacredheartnm.org
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Marie Gandini	gandinime@gmail.com
Pre-Cana	Janet Muller	frontdesk@scaredheartnm.org
Pro-Life Ministry	John Paul Rincon	jprincon1@gmail.com
	Malvina Godfrey	mmb9271@verizon.net
Rosary Society	Joanne Bivona	Parish Center: 516-379-1356
Scripture Study	Shirley Douglas	shirdoug530@yahoo.com
St. Vincent de Paul	Francine Fennessey	svdp@sacredheartnm.org
Ushers	Rick Schmitz	rickschmitz191@gmail.com

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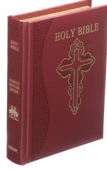
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