

# Holy Family Parish



Art work by:  
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4011 Co. 416-20<sup>th</sup> Road, Gladstone, MI 49837

## Easter Sunday – April 12, 2020

### Parish Secretary

Pam Leisner 786-1209 (H) 789-1710  
Church Basement: 789-0307  
Office hours: Monday thru Thursday 9 am to 3 pm  
*Bulletin articles should be submitted  
by Noon on Wednesdays*  
E-mail Address: [secretary@holyfamilyparish.net](mailto:secretary@holyfamilyparish.net)  
Website: [www.holyfamilyparish.net](http://www.holyfamilyparish.net)

### Faith Formation Coordinator

Chris Olesak 428-9431  
Email: [colesak@allsaintsgladstone.org](mailto:colesak@allsaintsgladstone.org)

### Maintenance

Mike Rabitoy 786-1209

### Pastoral Council Members

Pam Marenger – President Diane Danhoff  
Wanda Chenier - Secretary Harold Flagstadt  
Kevin Dubord Tina Cryderman  
Pam Marenger – Liturgy Committee  
Bob Berbohm – Evangelization Committee

### Finance Council Members

Gerald Miron Piper Desy  
Bill Smith Mary Kay Nolde

### Sacrament of Marriage

Notice of six months is required

### REQUIREMENT FOR SACRAMENTS

The basic requirement for the sacraments of First Communion, Confirmation and Marriage is that you be a practicing Catholic. One parent must be a practicing Catholic to present a child for Baptism

### Sacrament of Baptism

Please notify the pastor during the pregnancy in order to schedule sacramental instruction, if necessary.

### Sacrament of Penance

Saturday 3:00 to 3:30 P.M.  
7:15 am - 7:45 am and 5:15 pm – 5:45 pm  
before daily Mass or by appointment

### Sacrament of the Sick

The sacrament is for anyone you know who has any continuing or serious illness, or is having surgery and would like to celebrate this healing sacrament.

### Private Mass Schedule for April 13<sup>th</sup> thru April 19<sup>th</sup>

Monday.....For the people of our parish  
Tuesday.....Deceased members  
Wednesday.....Jacob Swanson & Jackie Besaw & family  
Thursday.....Steve & Laura Young & Family  
Friday.....Karen Hites & Ray Ganner  
Saturday.....Ronald Hughes  
Sunday.....Tom & Dorothy Srock

# We Shall Be Different – and Ourselves

James V. Schall, S.J.

Alexander Solzhenitsyn told a sceptical Harvard Graduating Class in 1978: “If humanism were right in declaring that man is born to be happy, he would not be born to die. Since his body is doomed to die, his task on earth must be of a more spiritual nature. It cannot be unrestrained enjoyment of everyday life. . . .It has to be the fulfilment of a permanent, earnest duty, so that one’s life journey may become an experience of moral growth, so that one may leave life a better human being.”

The exiled Russian writer did not tell these American students of the haunting Easter Mass of Orthodox Russia, nor of his letter to the Moscow Patriarch about that cleric’s negligence in not insisting that Russian families and students learn and keep their Christian heritage.

Significantly, however, he did hint to them that what was important in the end was whether we as particular persons made spiritual progress or not. He did not tell them that their task was to make a “better world,” but to make better persons in whatever world they found themselves.

He seemed to believe better persons were in fact arising in the East, under persecution, arising not because of its system, but in spite of it, in a place where people really saw and lived under an experienced evil (whereas in the West, men only ignored evil, or, worse, defined it away). This is very Christian, for what passes through death to rise again is not “society,” but our own individual selves, selves that can be redeemed or lost in any society, corrupt or blessed.

The intellectual history of the western world, in some sense, has been an endless series of objections to the reality, even to the possibility of the Resurrection. Paul was right, the Crucifixion was indeed a scandal to the Jews and foolishness to the Greeks.

If this was so, what about the Resurrection of the Crucified One? Yet, we know that the Christian Church exists alone where there are bishops who hold the Creed that teaches the resurrection of the very body. “If Christ be not risen from the dead, our faith is indeed in vain,” Paul told the Corinthians.

Dylan Thomas echoed this same Paul in his poetic refrain, again and again: “And death shall have no dominion. . . .And death shall have no dominion.”

What are the alternatives to the literal truth of Christ’s, and subsequently our own, resurrection? The theme of the deluded apostles has been worked over and over. It is mostly exhausted and cannot account for the evidence.

The only real objection, and it is an intellectual one based on the presumed impossibility of a real personal resurrection, is that somehow our corporate and continued existence as a race will proceed down the ages and give human life a kind of exalted nobility which we might share, having once been living humans ourselves. The world will get “better.”

Christianity is committed to the belief in the value and uniqueness of each human person, not only of those born but even of those conceived. We are already named in the Word in whom all things are made. Each human person with his own unique name will rise on the last day.

We shall not pass away into everlasting nothingness. And we shall be ourselves, not gods, but members each, as Augustine said, of The City of God.

The only unbelievable element in Christianity, then, is what makes it believable, that is, its Resurrection, its Easter, with its promises. This faith is very hard on abstractions, very hard indeed.



**Image:** *The Resurrection* by Benvenuto di Giovanni, 1491 [National Gallery, Washington, D.C.]

William Blake in his *Jerusalem* sensed very clearly who the enemy really is:

I have tried to make friends by corporeal gifts but have only  
Made enemies. I never made friends but by spiritual gifts,  
By severe contentions of friendship and the burning fire of thought.  
He who would see the Divinity must see him in his Children,  
One first, in friendship and love, then a Divine Family, and in the  
midst,  
Jesus will appear; so he who wishes to see a Vision, a perfect Whole  
Must see it in its Minute Particulars, Organized, and not as thou,  
a Fiend of Righteousness, pretendest.

Everything about this faith, this Resurrection, militates against denying ultimate, whole existence to us Minute Particulars, to us, persons with names. And this is why the drama of human existence is not so much constituted by our existence as a fact, but by our existence as a choice.



The astronomer Professor Robert Jastrow wrote recently:

Now we see how the astronomical evidence leads to a biblical view of the origin of the world (the word the Bible used to describe the universe). The details differ, but the essential elements in the astronomical and biblical accounts of *Genesis* are the same: the chain of events leading to man commenced suddenly and sharply at a definite moment in time, in a flash of light and energy. (“Have Astronomers Found God?” *The New York Times Magazine*, 25 June 1978, p. 19.)

If stories about our beginnings are not so far-fetched after all, perhaps stories about our end need not be so improbable either.

Easter Sunday is a festivity, a celebration. Its only interest and value to us is if it is what it implies, the Resurrection of Jesus, the pledge of ours. We know that we shall be different. We also believe that we shall be quite literally ourselves, with our own name, as Jesus was not some new or Third Man, but himself, Jesus. Any other belief would be despair.

And on Easter Day, Christianity is not a religion of despair.

### James V. Schall, S.J. (1928-2019)

James V. Schall, S.J., who served as a professor at Georgetown University for thirty-five years, was one of the most prolific Catholic writers in America.



## HOLY FAMILY PARISH

4011 County 416 - 20<sup>th</sup> Road  
Gladstone, MI 49837

8 April 2020  
Spy Wednesday

Dear Parishioners of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Church,

Last year on Spy Wednesday (April 17<sup>th</sup>), Father James V. Schall, S.J., died. I have been reading his books and articles with avidity for almost thirty years, so his death a year ago was like the death of a friend. He has been present to me in his writing for most of the years I have been a priest. I thought I would share with you a short Easter article he wrote some years ago both to remember him and as a small Easter gift from me. The article, “We Shall be Different—and Ourselves,” is enclosed.

Many priests are using “live streaming” (whatever that is) and other means which require a technological savvy which I lack. I hope that you do not feel too put upon by my sending you an old-fashioned letter. We old people prefer letters. They are aids to our failing memories and provide an opportunity to read and reread at a speed in keeping with our halting footsteps and slow thought processes.

The Holy Week celebrations will not be quite right without you here at the church. I do miss you very much. This ongoing denial of the means of salvation, those close encounters with Christ in the Sacraments, the use of some sacramentals, and the opportunity to stand and say out loud what we believe in the Creed, is a sore trial. Let us continue to pray for one another, for our safety during this pandemic, for an end to our confinement and for a return to the opportunity of the intimate union with Jesus in Holy Communion. I renew my recommendation of Spiritual Communion for the celebration of Easter.

You have been real troopers with your generosity to the church. Your contributions through the mail have been most generous and we bank collections that are akin to those we deposit when you are able to come to the church for Mass on Sunday or Saturday evening.

Christ is risen indeed! Lent of the year of grace 2020 is past. Our efforts at repentance and reform have been accomplished—or not—and ready or not we move on to the celebration of the joy that cannot be contained in the celebration of one day. The Easter octave, unlike all the other octaves of the Church year is an octave of Solemnities. The Church recognizes that the joy of Easter cannot be confined to twenty-four hours so Easter Sunday is extended for a whole week. The great joy of Easter Sunday overflows into Easter Monday, Easter Tuesday, Easter Wednesday, Easter Thursday, Easter Friday, Easter Saturday and, indeed, the Second Sunday of Easter. Celebrating them alone with a seminarian or two does not quite reach the expression of joy the Church had in mind for these days, but even the trials of these days cannot completely overcome the joy of Christ’s victory. As we celebrate Easter in a much different way than we anticipated only a few months ago, let us remember that Jesus Christ did suffer and die for our redemption and he did overcome sin and death.

With continued prayer and gratitude, I remain with you,

In Christ,

Father Francis Dobrzanski,  
Pastor.

### Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

## Masses

Livestreaming of WNOA's radio broadcast of 10:30 a.m. (Eastern) Sunday Mass at St. Peter Cathedral: [wnoaradio.com](http://wnoaradio.com)

Livestreaming and on demand Vatican Masses: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxIsefy19g9A5SGWA4FvGIA/>

Livestreaming of Masses and other content is available through EWTN on cable, streaming device channels such as Roku, Amazon Fire, and online at [ewtn.com/tv/watch-live/united-states](http://ewtn.com/tv/watch-live/united-states). On demand streaming of Masses is available through EWTN at [video.ewtn.com/daily-mass/](http://video.ewtn.com/daily-mass/)

Livestreaming of Masses and other content is available through Relevant Radio at [relevantradio.com/faith/daily-mass-video/](http://relevantradio.com/faith/daily-mass-video/)

## Daily Mass readings

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Mass Readings: [usccb.org/bible/readings/](http://usccb.org/bible/readings/)

## Reflection and prayer

Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), [issued a reflection and prayer](#) on Coronavirus (COVID-19): [Reflection and printable prayer card](#)

For those interested in Eucharist Adoration, visit [www.ewtn.com/catholicism/adoration](http://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/adoration) for a livestream from the EWTN Eucharistic Adoration Chapel to join in those praying before the Blessed Sacrament.

### God does not abandon us

God does not abandon us. Now is the time even more to gather and pray together with your family at home. Make your house a little hermitage. Set aside a prayer-corner where the family can gather for prayer and where individual family members can take turns praying in private and quiet.

## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

58 envelopes were returned for Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>

Adults.....	\$4,364.00
Loose.....	100.00
General Maintenance.....	28.00
Fuel.....	-0-
Roof Fund.....	100.00
Mass Stipends.....	50.00
Donation.....	1,000.00
St. Vincent DePaul Society.....	87.00
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$5,729.00</b>

With no Sunday Masses, there are no collections taken up. Please consider mailing in your regular contribution. *Thanks very much to those of you who have already sent us your contributions. You are a lifeline for the survival of the parish.*

### *Holy Family Altar Society Fundraiser Pureamitea.com*

Order from pureamitea.com and use discount code "AMEN" at check-out. YOUR Altar Society gets 10% of the total sale and YOU get 10% off!

## THIS WEEK'S READINGS

### **Monday**

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

### **Tuesday**

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

### **Wednesday**

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

### **Thursday**

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

### **Friday**

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

### **Saturday**

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

### **Sunday**

Acts 2:42-47      1 Pt 1:3-9      Jn 20:19-31