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A TITHING AND M-E-R-C-Y PARISH

32 Hebron Road *Bolton, Ct 06043*

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EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD
APRIL 12, 2020

When we awoke this morning, we found ourselves blessed with another day. It is Easter Sunday. As that thought crossed our minds, did we find ourselves saying "so what" or "alleluia"? For many, today is truly a day of alleluia. For others, it is just another day of "so what." Faith makes a huge difference. It not only makes a difference in how we understand today and the significance of what we celebrate, it also makes a huge difference in terms of how we understand ourselves.

Succeed, live well, be productive, find your niche, follow your dreams, make money, protect your social status, be politically correct, and keep your preferences to yourself are pretty good examples of the messages our secular life wants us to hear. In and of themselves, they don't sound all that harmful. But when really examined, they are. The life of resurrection embodied in the Gospel tells us a much different story.

Life keeps us busy. We are always connected, distracted, occupied, and working. For many of us, an agenda awaits us before we even start our day, and unfinished stuff is brought with us when we retire at night. Make the best of life and "find your own road to happiness are messages we all too easily believe. The "so what" response to the new life of resurrection is often the result of believing that life is only what I make it. What God has to say isn't important to me securing my next raise.

Sadly, we live as if the grave is the end. While we may give the wonder of heaven a blink now and then, its glory really doesn't impress us or matter all that much. It's all about the here and now and what I need to do today to get where I want to be tomorrow. We tend to put off considering the one significant "tomorrow" that will come the millisecond after we take our last breath. When that happens, will we want to be thinking "so what?" or "alleluia"?

There is only one Jesus, one mission, and one resurrection. There is also only one of us. Have you ever pondered what one solitary, humble human life can do? Faith, not our world, tells us how special we are. We are not robots. We are not replaceable. We have one shot. There are no do-overs. Love is at our core and unites us together as one with the God of love who so desperately wants us to be with Him forever. This may not match our secular agenda, but it ought to make our true inner agenda leap for joy. There doesn't need to be an end. I can live forever. Alleluia!

Prayer Line
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Fr. Bill Olesik

Director of Faith Formation
Amie Tillmann
860-646-6314 or saintmauriceccd@gmail.com

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Don Benevides 860-871-0752

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Mrs. Theresa Ciscon
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Sharon Scorso 860-646-1423

Website
www.saintmauricebolton.org

WEEKEND MASSES: (temporarily suspended)
Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.
Sundays at 7:30 and 10:00 a.m.
Holy Days at 9:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION):
By appointment only.

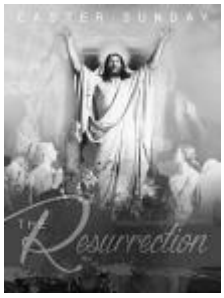
SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:
Please call the rectory (860-748-4560) to arrange for a meeting with the Pastor.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:
Arrangements must start more than 6 months before marriage. Necessary interviews, a pre-cana course and plenty of paperwork is required.

VISITATION TO THE SICK:
We are most anxious to help anyone who is not able to celebrate Mass with us in Church due to illness, handicapped or age. If you wish the Sacraments, please call 860-643-9553.

COMMUNICATIONS

If you are getting this bulletin by mail, it means we don't have an e-mail address for you. If you don't use e-mail and don't want to, we want you to stay connected and will mail the bulletin each week. However, e-mail is cheaper and faster, so if you use e-mail please send a message to tmanning818@sbcglobal.net. Please include your home address so we can coordinate the lists, your phone number if it is OK to call you, and your cell phone if it is OK to send text messages. This information will not be published or shared. Messages will be kept brief and to a minimum.



EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

APRIL 12, 2020

Livestream Schedule for the Cathedral

of Saint Patrick
Masses will be livestreamed on the Diocesan Website
NorwichDiocese.org/Masses
Holy Saturday
Easter Vigil in the Holy Night
April 11th 8PM
Easter Sunday The Resurrection of the Lord
April 12th 9AM
The Cathedral will be closed to the public during these liturgical celebrations.

Live Stream from St. Bernard Church Rockville
Sunday 10 A.M.

ST. MAURICE PRAYER LINE
Please remember all the special intentions on the St. Maurice Prayer Line and Faith Formation Students Prayer Requests.
Keeping you all in our prayers during this difficult time. Thank you, Mary Ann

FROM SAINT MAURICE PARISH

STEWARDSHIP
Father Bill asks that you mail in your weekly offertory.
http://www.saintmauricebolton.org/

- Set up your profile to **Donate Online**
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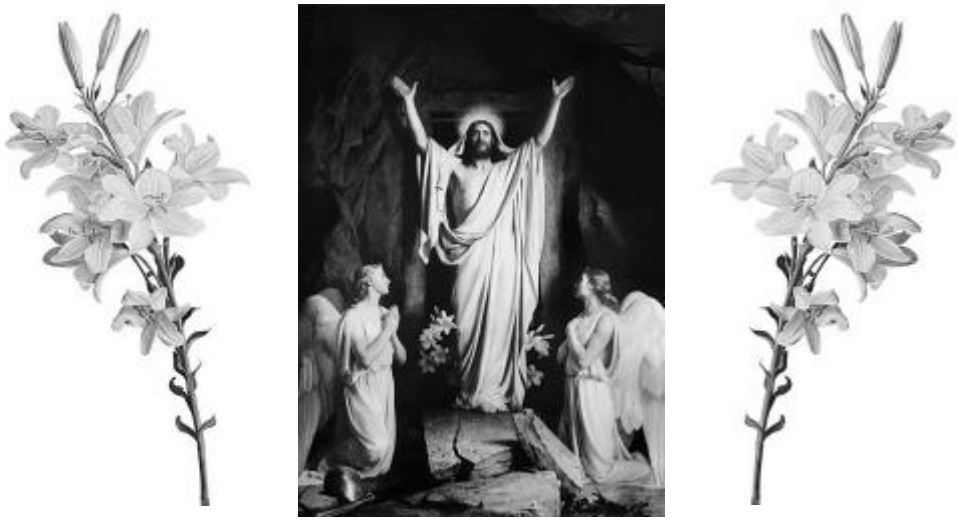
This will get St. Maurice through the current crisis.
"Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth." Colossians 3:2
Do you put God first in all things? Possessions, money, power, ego can easily become gods to many of us. Do a quick check of what is important to you. Is God at the very top of the list? If not, your priorities need to be re-adjusted. Don't let earthly things become a god before God. This is also the first commandment – I am the Lord your God, you shall not have any strange gods before me.

Readings for the week of April 12, 2020

Sunday:	Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 [24]/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10
Monday:	Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 [1]/Mt 28:8-15
Tuesday:	Acts 2:36-41/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22 [5b]/Jn 20:11-18
Wednesday:	Acts 3:1-10/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 [3b]/ Lk 24:13-35
Thursday:	Acts 3:11-26/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9 [2ab]/ Lk 24:35-48
Friday:	Acts 4:1-12/Ps 118: 1-2 and 4, 22-24, 25-27a [22]/Jn 21:1-14
Saturday:	Acts 4:13-21/Ps 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21 [21a]/Mk 16:9-15
Next Sunday:	Acts 2:42-47/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 [1]/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Our world wants us to believe that life is only what we make of it. Today, we realize how untrue that is. Life is ultimately about what God makes of it, and the resurrection of Jesus reveals this. Alleluia, Christ is risen! Who do you understand yourself to be? What we did yesterday, are doing today, and may do tomorrow pretty much determine how we perceive ourselves. We even perceive Jesus this way in limiting our vision of him to his earthly accomplishments. But, we know through today's triumphant celebration that Christ is much more than his earthly legacy. The transfigured and resurrected Christ is the beginning, the end, and the fulfillment of all things and every person. All that Jesus did stands in second place to who we now know him to be. Do we realize that this will be our journey too? Christ is risen. Alleluia, alleluia!



EASTER SUNDAY: ACTS 10:34a, 37-43; COL 3:1-4; JOHN 20:1-9

EASTER REFLECTIONS

The phoenix: The late Catholic Archbishop of Hartford, John Whealon, (d. August 2, 1991), had undergone cancer surgery resulting in a permanent colostomy when he wrote these very personal words in one of his last Easter messages: "I am now a member of an association of people who have been wounded by cancer. That association has as its symbol the phoenix, a bird of Egyptian mythology. The Greek poet Hesiod, who lived eight centuries before Jesus was born wrote about this legendary bird in his poetry. When the bird felt its death was near (every 500 to 1,461 years), it would fly off to Phoenicia build a nest of aromatic wood and set itself on fire. When the bird was consumed by the flames, a new phoenix sprang forth from the ashes. Thus, the phoenix symbolizes immortality, resurrection and life after death. It sums up the Easter message perfectly. Jesus gave up His life, and from the grave He was raised to life again on the third day. New life rises from the ashes of death. Today we are celebrating Christ's victory over the grave, the gift of eternal life for all who believe in Jesus. That is why the phoenix was one of the earliest symbols of the Risen Christ. The phoenix also symbolizes our daily rising to new life. Every day, like the phoenix, we rise from the ashes of sin and guilt and are refreshed and renewed by our living Lord and Savior with His forgiveness and the assurance that He still loves us and will continue to give us the strength we need." Archbishop John Whealon could have lived in a gloomy tomb of self-pity, hopeless defeat, and chronic sadness, but his Faith in the Risen Lord opened his eyes to new vision of life.

Bright light in the "black holes" of life: Have you ever heard of a "black hole"? If you have ever watched movies or TV programs about travelling in outer space like the TV series Star Trek you will know what a black hole is. Roughly speaking, it is a spot in the vastness of space, which astronomers believe is like a giant vacuum or whirlpool sucking everything around it into the hole. Using Newton's laws, scientists first theorized black holes in the 1790s but it wasn't until 1994 that the Hubble Space Telescope discovered a massive supersized black hole - fortunately a long way from our own galaxy. There is also a black hole in our galaxy, the Milky Way. What if scientists said that it was not beyond the realms of possibility that one day our sun and everything around it would be sucked into this "black hole," and everything would be gone? "Black holes" are symbols of hopelessness, and the message of Easter tells us that there is something beyond those "black holes". Maybe this "black hole" includes grief for a loved one, anxiety over a work situation or what is happening in our family. Maybe it is a "black hole" of depression and stress, and we feel there is nothing we can do to change what is happening. Maybe it's the "black hole" of sickness and pain. Maybe it's the "black hole" of guilt and failure. Whether those "black holes" are right here and now or show up at some time in the future, Easter tells us there is hope, there is a living Savior and Friend who will help us when we feel as if we have been sucked into the deepest darkness. Easter tells us that there is nothing to fear. We have a Risen Savior who promises never to leave us, to love us always, always to brighten our darkest paths, and to guide us from death to eternal life in Heaven. Even when we are in the middle of something deep and dark, our Risen Savior will always be there with us. *"I am the Living One! I was dead, but now I am alive forever and ever. I have authority over death and the world of the dead" (Revelation 7:8).*

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