




Father Thomas F. Clark, S. J.

Happy Birthday


BYRON	CORNELIOUS	4/1
WILFRED	JOHNSON	4/1
JOY	DIKE	4/1
JEREMY	MINOR	4/2
VINCENT	GREGORY, III	4/2
NOLEN	STAFFORD	4/2
MARCUS	FLENOIR	4/3
TARAHNA	LEWIS	4/3
MARVEL	MARTIN	4/3
KHLOE	GREGORY	4/5
MARIE	JACKSON	4/5
LARRY	KNIGHT	4/5
KEISA	MATHIS	4/5
WALTERENE	WHITFIELD	4/5
ANACEN	MARTIN	4/6
COURAGE	IDUSUYI	4/6
JARED	NELSON	4/6

Announcements and Upcoming Events

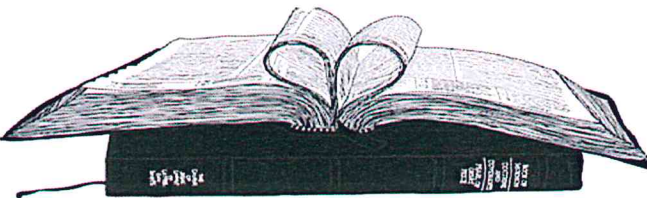
FATHER CLARK ON RETREAT
APRIL 9-16

 Father Clark will be on retreat from April 9-16. During that time Father Mark McKenzie, SJ, the Provincial's Pastoral Assistant, will be filling in and celebrating the daily and weekend masses as well as being available for any pastoral emergency. Father Clark is very grateful to Father Mark for the generous contribution of his time.

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

 St. Francis Xavier is hosting a Zydeco Dance on Friday April 6, 2018. Music by Mike Broussard and the Nu'Edition Zydeko. Free Zydeco Lessons from 7:30 until 8:00 Dance from 8:00-til 12:00. Tickets are \$20.00 and can be purchased at www.eventbrite.com.

Also come out and join us at our Parish Fair April 7 & 8. April 7 starts with a cash Bingo at 6:30. April 8: food, fun and games. BBQ chicken dinners starting after 8:00-Mass. A performance by the Southern University Pep band immediately after 11:00 Mass. Country store, silent auction and more.....This is all a part of their yearlong centennial celebration.



Mass Readings

April 1st - April 8th

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Acts 10:34A, 37-43; Psalm 118; Col. 3:1-4

Gospel: John 20:1-9

Monday

Acts 2:14, 22-33; Psalm 16

Gospel: Matt. 28:8-15

Tuesday

Acts 2:36-41; Psalm 33

Gospel: John 20:11-18

Wednesday

Acts 3:1-10; Psalm 105

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

Thursday

Acts 3:11-26; Psalm 8

Gospel: Luke 24:35-48

Friday

Acts 4:1-12; Psalm 118

Gospel: John 21:1-14

Saturday


Acts 4:13-21; Psalm 118

Gospel: Mark 16:9-15

Sunday of Divine Mercy

Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 118; 1 John 5:1-6

EASTER GRATITUDE

 Thanks to all who contributed so generously to our celebrations of Holy Week and Easter. Thank you to Walterine Whitfield and the Beautification Committee for beautifully decorating the sanctuary for each of the services and especially for Easter Sunday; thank you to Nina Gray and the Gospel Choir and Keith Thierry and the Traditional Choir and those who joined them for their music ministry throughout the week; thanks to the altar servers who served beautifully at the table of the Lord; thanks to our lectors, Eucharistic ministers, and ushers who served us so well this week; thanks to the parish staff who performed many unseen tasks to prepare for this week; thanks to all who participated in the liturgy: thank you for your faith, your love, and your daily witness to the Risen Lord. May the Risen Lord Jesus bless us all with his Easter gifts of peace and new life!

This Week's Prayer

God of Easter surprises, bring back to life friendships faded because of hurt feelings, marriages broken from deceit, love crushed by meanness. In the doing, hope glimmers like dawn's first ray of sun and thaws even the most frozen heart. Amen.

Easter Living

What does Easter mean to you? In a 2009 Barna Group study, only 42% of Americans said the meaning of Easter was Jesus' resurrection. Of Catholics, the figure was only 37%. Annual Easter spending is stronger than ever, though, topping \$14 billion (including 120 million pounds of candy).

The Resurrection matters. The Resurrection is about us. It is about freedom from all that keeps us from being who God wants us to be. It shows us that darkness, sin, and death are not an end, but just a beginning. **God's love always has the final word.**

After 40 long days of Lent, don't skip over Easter! Maybe the promise of resurrection sounds too good to be true. Or perhaps we are too comfortable in our own tombs, and terrified of where resurrection might lead us.

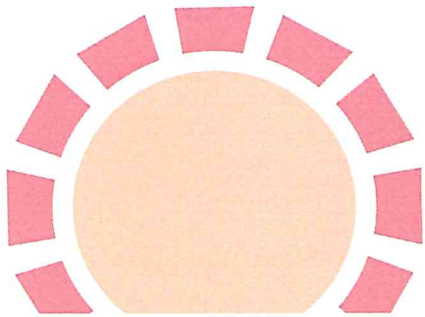
Some of us may be in a place of grief that is not easy to suddenly leave behind. If this is your situation, remember that the Risen Christ came to his friends to console them in their trauma and grief. Jesus is there for you, too.

We invite you to use these pages to help you reflect on Easter and how it can transform you this year. Do come back to join us for Mass next week as the Great 50 Days of Easter continue. Christ is Risen! Alleluia!



To understand Easter and live it,
we must renounce our dread of
newness and of freedom!

—Thomas Merton, *Seasons of Celebration*



THE LORD
HAS TURNED ALL OUR
SUNSETS
I N T O
SUNRISE

ST. CLEMENT OF ALEXANDRIA

Easter season is a time of hope. There still is fear, there still is a painful awareness of sinfulness, but there also is light breaking through. Something new is happening, something that goes beyond the changing moods of our life. We can be joyful or sad, optimistic or pessimistic, tranquil or angry, but the solid stream of God's presence moves deeper than the small waves of our minds and hearts. Easter brings the awareness that God is present even when His presence is not directly noticed. Easter brings the good news that, although things seem to get worse in the world, the Evil One has already been overcome. Easter allows us to affirm that although God seems very distant and although we remain preoccupied with many little things, our Lord walks with us on the road and keeps explaining the Scriptures to us. Thus there are many rays of hope casting their light on our way through life.

—Henri Nouwen, *A Cry for Mercy*