

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Alleluia He Arose!

I wish to express a heartfelt Easter greeting to you dear people of God both at St. Mary Immaculate, Elora and St. Martin de Tour, Drayton. As Spring is upon us with the green grass coming out pretty soon, the Church celebrates the resurrection of Christ, which concludes forty days of Lent and gives us a new lease of life. In his passion, crucifixion, death, and resurrection Christ has given us hope that light always overcomes darkness; joy comes after sadness. Surely, because he lives, we can face tomorrow, because he lives all fear is gone! Therefore, let us celebrate the risen Christ by living the present moment in such a way that one day we can rise to be with him eternally in the joys of his heavenly kingdom. While we rejoice and celebrate, let us remember to pray for people all over the world, especially those in war-torn countries like Ukraine and many parts of Africa, where many have died, many displaced and a great number do not have the possibility of celebrating Easter as we do here in Canada. May God's power which rolled away the stone from the tomb put an end to the sorrow and pain in the lives of victims of war. In sum, I sincerely express my sentiments of appreciation to everyone in our two parishes, especially those who functioned in various capacities towards this successful Triduum and Easter celebrations. May the joy of the resurrection be felt in our families, businesses, and world. Happy Easter ... Alleluia!!

Mass Schedule – 1st Week of Easter

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| <u>Holy Saturday</u> | 8:00 p.m. | Mass for the People |
| <u>Easter Sunday</u> | 9:00 a.m. | Mass for the People (St. Martin's) |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Mass for the People |
| <u>Tuesday</u> | 7:00 p.m. | Special Intention |
| <u>Wednesday</u> | 9:00 a.m. | A.I.D. |
| <u>Thursday</u> | 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. | Eucharistic Exposition & Adoration +Larry Cyr & Deceased Members of Kowalchuk Family |
| <u>Friday</u> | 9:00 a.m. | +Eva Bacci (Pellegrini Family) |

OFFERINGS

| April 9 th & 10 th | St. Mary's | St. Martin's |
|--|-------------|--------------|
| Weekly Offerings | \$ 1,778.00 | \$ 415.00 |
| Weekly Loose | 64.10 | 20.00 |
| Building Maintenance | 100.00 | 50.00 |
| Good Friday Offering | 95.00 | |
| Easter Offering | 190.00 | |
| Share Lent | 870.00 | 40.00 |
| Total: | \$ 3,152.10 | \$ 525.00 |

Thank you for your generosity!

FROM OUR BISHOP

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We will soon celebrate Easter, the high point of our liturgical year. As Spring breaks in around us, we marvel at the almost magical appearance of new life pushing up through the ground and out of the branches in the trees. The birds sing as they build nests and prepare to lay eggs and welcome new life!

Throughout the season of Lent, we were horrified by the shocking death and destruction of the war in Ukraine. The remarkable courage of the Ukrainian leader, the brave soldiers, and the committed citizens have given us heart and hope that they might actually succeed in saving their homeland.

The Delegation of Indigenous First Nations, Inuit, and Metis representative to the Vatican to meet with Pope Francis also lifted our hearts and gave us fresh hope that a new relationship is possible. The possibility of a Papal visit to the Indigenous peoples at Lac Ste. Anne, Alberta provides us more opportunity for such hope.

We celebrate our greatest hope at Easter – the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. The Resurrection is for us an eternal wellspring of hope. No matter how dark, how desperate, how impossible a situation we find ourselves in – if we look to the Lord who has conquered even death, there is always reason for hope.

Easter reminds us that even death does not have the final say. “Where He has gone, we hope to follow!” As I get older, I know more and more people who have made that journey. I think of them and pray for them especially during the Easter season.

I pray for you sisters and brothers in Christ, for you our Parish Priests, in gratitude for your faithful, creative, and generous service especially during these past two difficult years; for the Parish Secretaries, Pastoral Workers and volunteers who make our Parishes places of hope and joy; and for all those who long for our prayers – that they too may experience the healing love of the Lord. Happy Easter my friends. Pray for Pope Francis – he always asks us to do so. And pray for me!

Sincerely in the Risen Christ,

+Douglas Crosby, OMI

Bishop of Hamilton

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE PARISH

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|--------------------------|--|
| April 17 & 24 | Religious Articles for Sale – before and after Mass - St. Mary's |
| April 24 | Confirmation - 2:00 p.m. St. Mary's |
| April 26 | CWL Meeting – St. Mary's – after Mass |
| May 29 | First Holy Communion – 3:00 p.m. St. Mary's |