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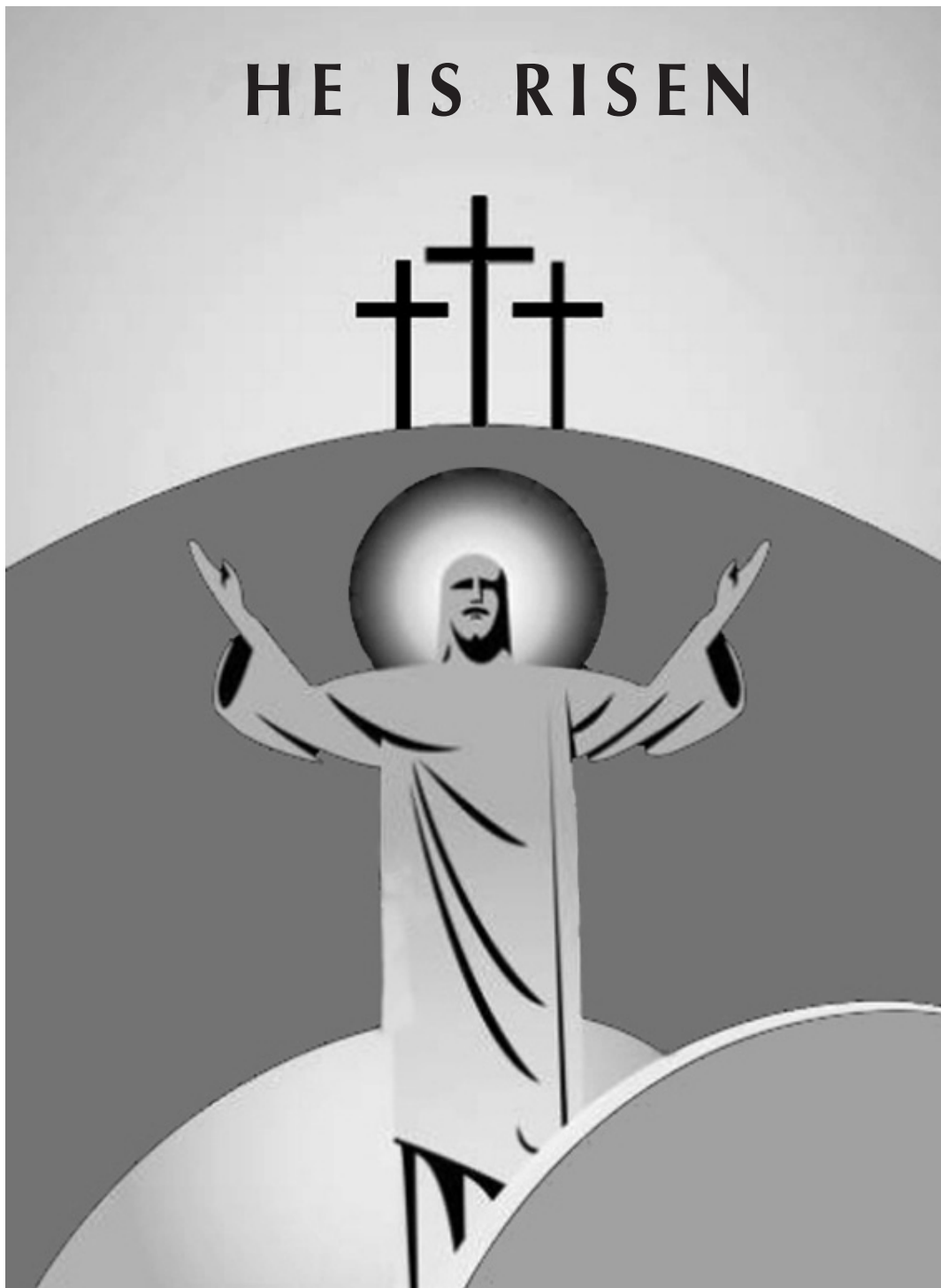
office@stmargaretmaryparish.ca

Very Rev. Msgr. Cornelius O'Mahony, Pastor

Rev. Mr. Rene Marechal, Deacon

Divine Dimaranan, Parish Administrator/Bookkeeper

HE IS RISEN



THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

APRIL 5, 2026

A Prayer for Easter Sunday Morning

Lord Jesus Christ,
in the silence of the tomb You sought out the lost
and entered the darkness no one else could reach.

On this Easter morning,
open our hearts to recognize Your hidden work—
in our lives, in our struggles, in our waiting.
As You called Adam from the shadows into light,
call us also out of all that binds us,
that we may rise with You to new life.
Strengthen the grace of our baptism,
that we may walk as children of the Resurrection,
trusting that no silence is empty
and no darkness is without Your presence.
For You are alive and reign forever and ever.

Amen.

The King is asleep.....a reflection for Easter Sunday.

There is an ancient homily that begins, "Today there is a great silence over the earth," which is usually read in the stillness of Holy Saturday. It invites us into the mystery of Christ's descent into death, where even God seems silent and the world holds its breath. Yet when these same words are read again in the light of Easter Sunday morning, they take on a new resonance. What once sounded like stillness now reveals itself as the quiet before a decisive victory; what appeared as absence becomes the hidden work of redemption already unfolding.

On Easter morning, the "great silence" is no longer empty. It is filled with meaning. The silence of the tomb is not defeat but preparation. The King who "sleeps" does not sleep as one overcome, but as one who rests in the completion of His saving work. In the resurrection, we come to understand that even in death, Christ was active, seeking out "our first parent like a lost sheep," entering into the deepest places of human estrangement in order to bring humanity home. The silence, then, is not the absence of God, but the presence of God in a way hidden from human sight.

This transforms how we understand the resurrection itself. Easter is not simply the reversal of Good Friday, as though death had the final word until it was suddenly taken back. Rather, Easter reveals that the victory over death was already at work in the very heart of death. When the homily proclaims that "God has died in the flesh, and the underworld has trembled," it points to a paradox: death is undone from within. The resurrection is not an isolated miracle, but the unveiling of a triumph already begun in Christ's descent among the dead.

For the baptized, this has profound implications. Baptism is not merely a symbolic washing or a moral commitment, it is a participation in this very mystery. As St. Paul teaches, we are "buried with Christ" in baptism so that we may also rise with Him. The silence of Holy Saturday, therefore, is not only Christ's experience, it becomes ours. There are moments in the Christian life that feel like silence: times of waiting, uncertainty, or apparent absence of God. Read in the light of Easter, these moments are not meaningless. They are places where Christ is already at work, even if unseen.

To be baptized is to live within this pattern of death and resurrection. The old self, marked by sin and separation, is sought out by Christ just as Adam was sought out "like a lost sheep." No depth of darkness, no distance from God, places us beyond His reach. The resurrection assures us that Christ's descent was effective, that those who were "sleeping from the ages" are raised, and that we too are called into that new life.

When we hear the words of the homily on Easter morning, we no longer hear only silence. We hear the echo of a victory already won, the stirring of life beneath the stillness. The King who slept has awakened, and in His rising, He draws all the baptized into His life. What seemed like an ending is revealed as a beginning; what seemed like silence becomes a proclamation. Christ is risen, and in Him, the silence of death is forever broken.

(This text is a slightly longer version of Msgr. Con's homily for Easter)

Please note: we are happy to accept Mass intentions for Mass during the week and for the Saturday evening Mass at 5.00 pm. We no longer accept Mass intentions for Mass on Sunday morning at 9.00 or 11.00 Both of these Masses are reserved "for the people", a term from the Code of Canon Law which requires the pastor or the presiding priest to offer the "**Missa pro populo**", Mass for the "spiritual and temporal well-being of their parishioners every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation." (Canon 534) Please contact the office well ahead when you require a Mass intention for a specific date. Intentions for a date that falls on a Sunday can be transferred to the Saturday at 5.00 pm.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY



Join us in prayer as we come together to pray for the **Divine Mercy Chaplet** on **Sunday, April 12th**, immediately following the **9:00 AM** and **11:00 AM Masses** (approximately 10 minutes).

Let us pause, reflect, and entrust ourselves to God's mercy. All are welcome to participate in this beautiful devotion. We hope you can join us!

REFLECT ON THE GOSPEL

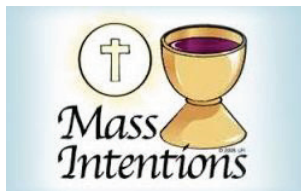
Reflect upon next Sunday's Gospel throughout the week. The Second Sunday of Easter (or of Divine Mercy) is: **John 20.19-31**

OUR GIFTS TO GOD

March 29th ,2026 Collection

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Regular Sunday Env. | \$ 6,499.00 |
| Loose Cash | \$ 1,088.00 |
| St.M.M. Parish Outreach | \$ 200.00 |
| Mission Coop- HAITI | \$ 230.00 |
| Building Fund | \$ 432.00 |
| Share Lent | \$ 422.00 |
| Easter | \$ 210.00 |

We thank you for your continued, dedicated and regular financial support for St. Margaret Mary Parish.



Mass at 7:00pm on Tuesday
9:00am on Wednesday – Friday

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Tues., April 7 7:00 pm. | †Antonio Di Paolo †Brian Mascarin †Ida Shaw †Florence Giambruno †Lucia Vecchi |
| Wed., April 8 9:00 am | Intentions of Ida Hockridge |
| Thurs., April 9 9:00 am | †Lilian Stefan Piwowar †Robert Carson |
| Fri., April 10 9:00 am | †Domenico Colasurdo †Nicola Cocca |
| Sat., April 11 5:00 pm | †Intentions of Christopher K. Intentions of Maria K. †All Souls in Purgatory †Engracio Estravillo |

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL TRAINING DAY

Many of our parishes are blessed to have teens and young adults involved in the preparation and leadership of Vacation Bible School experiences. The Office for Youth Ministry and the Office for Evangelization and Catechesis warmly welcome all VBS coordinators and youth leaders to a day of formation and training on Saturday, May 9th, 2026. For more information, and to register please visit: <http://bit.ly/419nh7w>. For all other questions regarding VBS, reach out to us at: youthministry@hamiltondiocese.com.



THE DIOCESAN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Are you celebrating your 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th, or 60+ Wedding Anniversary in the year 2026?

You are cordially invited to join Bishop Dabrowski and couples from across the Diocese of Hamilton for a Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday, May 31, 2026 at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King in Hamilton at 1:30 pm. (Space allows room for Anniversary couples only - those married 60 years or more may bring one guest if you require assistance). Registration is found under Upcoming Events on the home page at hamiltondiocese.com or call the Family Ministry Office at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249.

WHEN LIFE CHANGES GRIEF PROGRAM

Using Dr. Bill Webster's grief material these programs are intended to help you to understand your grief and provide practical tips and support for helping you through. Part two (for those who have completed part one), The Ongoing Journey, will be offered at the Chancery Office at 700 King St. West on Wednesday evenings from April 8 - May 13 from 7:00-8:30pm. All are welcome. To register look for the program start date under Upcoming Events on the Diocesan home page at hamiltondiocese.com or call the Family Ministry Office at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249.



FIRE SAFETY PLANS

PLEASE REMEMBER!

The new FIRE SAFETY PLAN for the Church, meeting rooms and rectory will be presented to staff, group leaders and volunteers who have responsibility for meetings and guiding people into and out of the buildings on **Tuesday evening, April 14th at 7.30 pm**. Everyone will hear about the report and procedures that need to be in place so that we are in compliance with the regulations of the Fire Department, City of Hamilton and the Diocese. A new requirement of the Fire Department is that we have a fire drill during one Mass each year which we will also discuss.



FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION

The final Teaching Mass for children preparing for First Communion will be at **11:00 AM (only) on Sunday, April 19th**.

Reconciliation for Grade 2: Children are invited to celebrate First Reconciliation on any Saturday during April from 4.00 to 4.45 PM. Thank you for your cooperation.



CRAFT TABLE DONATIONS

We are hoping for donations of: 100% cotton fabric, bias-tape-double folded extra wide - white, heavier cotton/canvas fabric (solid colors), fusible light/medium weight interfacing, 100% natural cotton batting, Bernat blanket yarn, loops and threads sweet snuggles yarn, loops and threads sweet snuggles lite yarn, classic cotton yarn. Tulle, wreath frames, Christmas bulbs. Gift certificates for Michael's or Fabric land would also be appreciated. All donations can be left in the hearth room in the box labelled "craft donations".

I would like to thank you all for your generosity! If you would like to join our crafters team or you need to contact me, my contact info is: Jan Tratnyek 905-921-2047.

PARISH MOVIE NIGHT – THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who came and attended our Movie Night – *The Chosen* last Saturday, March 28, after the 5:00 PM Mass. It was a great success and truly a wonderful way to begin our Lenten season.

THE YEAR OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI The Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed this to be the "Year of St. Francis of Assisi," a special Jubilee in celebration of the 800th year since the holy death of St. Francis. The Diocese of Hamilton has put together a special webpage in celebration of this moment of faith. Join us in prayer and contemplation as we turn our hearts towards this saint of simplicity, peace, and joyful discipleship. All resources for adults and young people can be found here: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/year-of-st-francis-of-assisi/>.

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