

**Our Lady of Grace & St. Joseph**  
**Pastor's Message and Parish Announcements**

**April 23, 2021**

**Pope Francis: Words of Challenge and Hope (Excerpt)**

In the face of, or better, in the midst of this complex reality, the Easter message speaks concisely of the event that gives us the hope that does not disappoint: "Jesus who was crucified has risen." It speaks to us not about angels or ghosts, but about a man, a man of flesh and bone, with a face and a name: Jesus. The Gospel testifies that this Jesus, crucified under Pontius Pilate for claiming he was the Christ, the Son of God, rose on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, just as he had foretold to his disciples. The crucified Jesus, none other, has risen from the dead. God the Father raised Jesus, his Son, because he fully accomplished his saving will. Jesus took upon himself our weakness, our infirmities, even our death. He endured our sufferings and bore the weight of our sins. Because of this, God the Father exalted him and now Jesus Christ lives forever; he is the Lord. The witnesses report an important detail: the risen Jesus bears the marks of the wounds in his hands, feet and side. These wounds are the everlasting seal of his love for us. All those who experience a painful trial in body or spirit can find refuge in these wounds and, through them, receive the grace of the hope that does not disappoint. The risen Christ is hope for all who continue to suffer from the pandemic, both the sick and those who have lost a loved one. May the Lord give them comfort and sustain the valiant efforts of doctors and nurses. Everyone, especially the most vulnerable among us, requires assistance and has the right to have access to necessary care. This is even more evident in these times when all of us are called to combat the pandemic. Vaccines are an essential tool in this fight. I urge the entire international community, in a spirit of global responsibility, to commit to overcoming delays in the distribution of vaccines and to facilitate their distribution, especially in the poorest countries. The crucified and risen Lord is comfort for those who have lost their jobs or experience serious economic difficulties and lack adequate social protection. May he inspire public authorities to act so that everyone, especially families in greatest need, will be offered the assistance needed for a decent standard of living. Sadly, the pandemic has dramatically

increased the number of the poor and the despair of thousands of people. "The poor of every kind must begin once more to hope."

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**Holy Week Thanks:** There are many tasks to complete for our Holy Week and Easter services at both churches. We thank Gary Stavella, Ignatius Camporeale, Irene Marchetti LaBruza, Margaret Parry, Margaret Brophy, and Mary Rediger for their service to OLG. At St. Joseph, Maria Santiago, Socorro Martinez, Vivian Baeza, Claribel Fabian and Milagros Rojas for the plant. We also thank our staff Kathleen McNally, Gustavo Barrera and Guido Barrera for all the extra work required during these times.

**Newly Initiated Catholics:** We congratulate the newly initiated Catholics: Ramon Cueto, Kim Huang, May Huang, Kaitlin McKeighan, and Barbie Jo Mitchell. We thank Fr. Phil for preparing them to come into the church. If you know someone who would like to become Catholic or someone who needs to complete the Sacraments of Communion and/or Confirmation, send them to Fr. Phil.

**Mother's Day:** Mother's Day remembrance envelopes may be found on the church tables. We print your submissions in a future bulletin.

**Easter Collection Open Until Pentecost:** Easter is the second most important collection for us. Over the last months we have restored the OLG altar rail and pulpit and completed additional stained glass window work. We will soon install a new parish telephone system and the Parish Center boiler needs to be replaced. At St. Joseph we have engaged a contractor to repair exterior damage to the church and repair any openings so we can fix the church interior. Our Easter collection goal for both churches is \$37,000. Your generosity enables us to complete the work that will position our churches for the rest of this century. If each person, couple or family donates \$100, we will go over our goal. We hold the collection open until the Feast of Pentecost, May 23, 2021, and then publish a list in the bulletin unless you ask us to omit your name.

**First Communion:** First Communion will be celebrated the weekend of May 1st and 2nd. Pews in the front section of the Church will be assigned to the children and their families. Following the 10:30 am Mass, we will have the May Crowning with the First Communion Children outside on the corner

of Willow & 4th. All are welcome. Please pray for God's Grace on our Communicants.

**Parish Zoom Chat on Trans Life:** As we prepare for our 4th Annual Pride Mass on Sunday, June 27, 2021, our next two Zoom discussions will focus on LGBT topics. Join us on Tuesday, May 11, 2021, from 7:30 to 9 PM when Christine Zuba from South Jersey will share, "A Personal and Faith Journey as a Trans Catholic." If you would like to participate, you can email [olgrace@optonline.net](mailto:olgrace@optonline.net). We will send the Zoom link the day before.

**Does Someone Have a Spare Room?** There is a woman parishioner who is faithful to daily and Sunday Mass for the last year. She has had a successful life earning a Master's degree and doing post graduate work at Catholic institutions. She has taught students in school and married. Then an accident and some other personal matters changed her life. She is doing some tutoring in the area. Is some parishioner able to provide her with a room for a temporary period until she can see her way out of her current situation? She is a charming, loquacious and smart individual. She might also be a help to someone who lives alone. The parish is willing to help with financial support for food and lodging. Contact Fr. Santora or e-mail: [padrealex@yahoo.com](mailto:padrealex@yahoo.com).

**50/50:** April 26 tickets are available after Mass. Also, you may contact Socorro Martinez in the Parish Center, and she can mail them to you.

**Supporting our parish:** Our parish relies on the support of parishioners and friends. We welcome you to contribute in one of the following ways:

- Drop off your donations in church or in the secure mailboxes in front of the OLG office at 411 Clinton St. or the St. Joseph Rectory at 61 Monroe St.
- Mail your donations to either church: OLG at 400 Willow Ave. or St. Joseph Church at 61 Monroe St.
- Contact your bank or financial institution and designate a set amount each week or month that will be mailed as a check to either church: OLG at 400 Willow Ave. or St. Joseph Church at 61 Monroe St.

- Donate using Venmo or Zelle. For info, please visit: [www.olghoboken.com/images/pdf/Parish\\_Support\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.olghoboken.com/images/pdf/Parish_Support_Guide.pdf)

Peace and God Bless