

ST. MARY'S CHURCH & ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH  
**Prayer Gathering for Easter Week**

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**Giver of our Life, Destroyer of our Death –  
by dying, your beloved Son survived the cross and showed us the way to eternity.  
Through living the lessons of his life, may we praise and glorify you.  
By following him beyond his death, may we share heaven with you forever.  
We ask this in the power of your Spirit, through Christ, our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

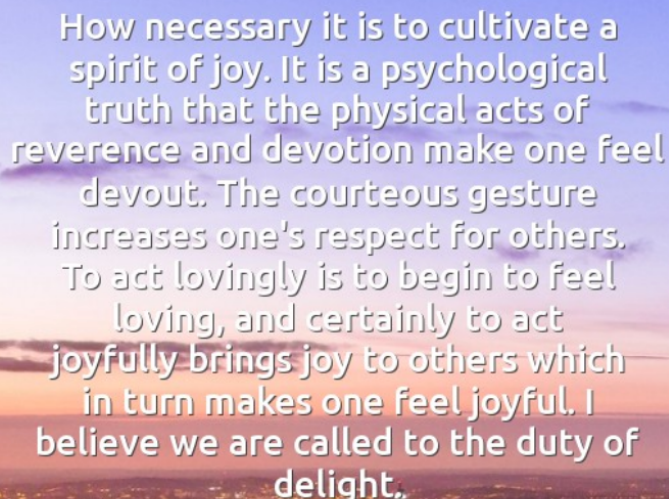
GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

*"They did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead."*  
**The resurrection is the ultimate example of something seeming "too good to be true." Because of that, many can't bring themselves to believe it. ...Do you? Why?**

*"He went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head..."*  
**Have you ever seen a resurrection in your life? How?  
When have you faced a dead end that later became a new beginning?**

POSTED RECENTLY



How necessary it is to cultivate a spirit of joy. It is a psychological truth that the physical acts of reverence and devotion make one feel devout. The courteous gesture increases one's respect for others. To act lovingly is to begin to feel loving, and certainly to act joyfully brings joy to others which in turn makes one feel joyful. I believe we are called to the duty of delight.

Dorothy Day

DISCUSSION

*"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad!"*  
**What does the fact that every day of our lives has been made by God have to do with our "duty to delight"?**

**When you are going through a hard time, what do you do to reconnect with your joy?**

## DUTY OF DELIGHT LITANY

Jesus is risen from the dead...	<b>And so today, I will praise you, God.</b>
The gates of heaven are open wide...	<b>And so today, I will praise you, God.</b>
The snares of death cannot hold me...	<b>And so today, I will praise you, God.</b>
The brutes have not triumphed over the meek...	<b>And so today, I will praise you, God.</b>
Many days continue to be a struggle...	<b>Yet even today, I will praise you, God.</b>
I wish my health were more robust...	<b>Yet even today, I will praise you, God.</b>
I wish my physique were more attractive...	<b>Yet even today, I will praise you, God.</b>
I wish my loved ones hurt me less often ...	<b>Yet even today, I will praise you, God.</b>
I wish finances did not keep me awake...	<b>Yet even today, I will praise you, God.</b>
I wish COVID would leave us alone...	<b>Yet even today, I will praise you, God.</b>
And through it all, you are by my side...	<b>So even today, I will praise you, God.</b>
Never have I faced a day without your love...	<b>So even today, I will praise you, God.</b>
For all my blessings, I offer my thanks...	<b>And so today, I will praise you, God.</b>
For all the growth yet ahead, I pledge my trust...	<b>And so today, I will praise you, God – To delight in you is my duty and my joy.</b>

## OUR FATHER

[OPTIONAL] PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION (St. Alphonsus Ligouri)

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament.  
I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already here, and unite myself wholly to You.  
Never permit me to be separated from You. AMEN.**

## CLOSING PRAYER

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. AMEN.**

## SIGN OF THE CROSS +

## READING 1

A reading from Psalm 118

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad!

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,  
for his mercy endures forever.

Let the house of Israel say,  
*"His mercy endures forever."*

The right hand of the LORD has struck with power;  
the right hand of the LORD is exalted.  
I shall not die, but live,  
and declare the works of the LORD.

The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone.  
By the LORD has this been done;  
it is wonderful in our eyes!

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad!

The Word of the Lord

*Thanks be to God*

## READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

On the first day of the week,  
Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning,  
while it was still dark,  
and saw the stone removed from the tomb.

So she ran and went to Simon Peter  
and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them,  
*“They have taken the Lord from the tomb,  
and we don’t know where they put him.”*

So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb.  
They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter  
and arrived at the tomb first;  
he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in.

When Simon Peter arrived after him,  
he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there,  
and the cloth that had covered his head,  
not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place.

Then the other disciple also went in,  
the one who had arrived at the tomb first,  
and he saw and believed.

For they did not yet understand the Scripture  
that he had to rise from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord

*Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ*

*John, chapter 20*