

## Holy Trinity Polish National Catholic Church

200 Grace Street

McKees Rocks, PA 15136

Visit our website: [htpncc.org](http://htpncc.org)

### Mass Intentions

Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 30, 2023

8:00 AM **Slezak Family**

Remembered by Sue and Dan Malerbo

10:00 AM **Marlene Milcic**

Remembered by Michael and Carrie Clark

Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 7, 2023

8:00 AM **James Devinney**

Remembered by Gretchen and Mike Grimes

10:00 AM **Nell Schneider**

Remembered by Terry



**Fourth Sunday of Easter** Jesus is Risen!. Alleluia! Thank you, God, for the gift of your Son!

In this fourth week of Easter the scriptures give us a growing picture of how the Holy Spirit is guiding the early community of believers. Peter's preaching is full of fire and it is effective in bringing many into the fold by accepting baptism. Sunday's gospel moves us to reflect on Jesus as the gate, the gatekeeper. People may look to find salvation in a variety of ways. As disciples of Jesus we look to find salvation through the work of our shepherd and following him. In the tenth chapter of the Gospel of John, Jesus describes the intimate relationship he has with us: "I know my own and mine know me." We recognize his voice and we follow him.

*I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly."*

***We Pray*** Good and gracious Lord, we thank you for your role as gate and shepherd. We are blessed to be your lambs led on the path of everlasting life in You. Through Your death we have eternal life, free from the grasp of robbers and thieves. Thank you for being the single Way to get us to our desired destination.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** Next Sunday our parish family will celebrate First Holy Communion as four members of our parish family approach the Table of the Lord to receive the precious body and Blood of our Lord. As they make their final preparations this week for this sacramental encounter with Jesus, please keep them and their families in your prayers. May they recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread and be inspired to follow him more completely..

**SUPPORT FOR PINK TIE AFFAIR** The Pink Tie Affair directly supports people fighting breast cancer in many remarkable ways. The annual golf outing which this year is going to be held on Saturday June 10 is their largest fundraiser of the year and Holy Trinity supports this effort by putting together a "tree" of PA scratch off tickets. Over the next several weeks we will be collecting tickets. Thanks for supporting this very important ministry!

**PARISH COMMITTEE MEETING** The Parish Committee will meet after the 10 AM mass today, April 30.

**BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT NEW YEAR HOLY HOUR** As a Eucharistic people, adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament focuses our attention on the love of God that permeates our lives and our world. On Saturday, May 13, our parish will host a Holy Hour beginning at 10:00 AM. All are welcome!

**2023 SUPPORT ENVELOPES FOR HOLY TRINITY** Thanks to all who have picked up their envelopes for 2023 and for your generous support of Holy Trinity parish. Those remaining are available on tables in the entrance to the church. If you would like to have a set of envelopes for the year please see Paulette or Fr. Mike. Your generosity is appreciated!

**IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING AMBIT ENERGY** First, please let me say Thank You for being a customer with Ambit Energy. Ambit was purchased by Vistra Corporation a few years ago. Vistra has begun raising the rates for electricity when it is time for a customer to renew. When you receive your renewal notice from Ambit Energy, it would be best NOT to renew. Simply call Duquesne Light at 412-393-7100 or West Penn Power at 800-686-0021.

Let them know that you want to return to them as your supplier. Please feel free to call me for any questions or help you may need. We miss you and care about you very much. Debbie and Roger Stutzman 412-849-8894

**VOLUNTEER(S) NEEDED** The parish outreach via Facebook and YouTube is a valuable asset for parishioners who are not able to participate in Mass. It is also a valuable tool to share and a way to invite others, who may not be participating in the life of a church, to visit our parish for worship and consider joining in our community life of prayer. We are so grateful to Justin and Joe for installing camera;s and all of the technology to make this all possible. Since this is becoming a regular part of our life, we are also looking for one or two members of the parish who would be willing to learn how to live stream the Mass in times when Justin is not available. He has made the process as straightforward as possible and will teach and mentor all who would like to learn. Please contact Justin or Fr. Mike to learn more about this opportunity to serve our parish family.



**AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION** Most loving Jesus, I adore You in the Most Blessed Sacrament, in Which You are truly present. I love You above all things and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot receive You sacramentally, I ask You to come spiritually into my heart and touch my soul. I embrace You and unite myself with You; may I never be separated from You. In flame my heart with the fire of Your love, my Lord and Savior.

**Easter 2023** As we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord for the next seven weeks we will mark the Ascension forty days after Easter and conclude the feast with Pentecost on the fiftieth day after Easter. We begin the deepening realization of, and reflection upon, the meaning of

the gift of life we have received in God's raising Jesus from the dead so that we might have eternal life.

St. Paul invites us to live in this passing world with our hearts set on the world that will never end. This week let us try to open our hearts to a felt sense of what a difference it makes that the tomb is empty, that Jesus is alive, that he allows us to recognize him in the breaking of bread, and that he missions us to proclaim this Good News.

As we begin each day this week, we can simply thank God for our being alive today. Even more, we can thank God for the life that Jesus won for us. Throughout the day, and at different brief moments, we can remember that this is Easter Week and ask to live more freely today, more gratefully. We can name the grace in our own terms and in the context of what we are experiencing, what gets us discouraged or what gives us life. Overall, we want to live the freedom we have been given. If death has no hold on us, so many of our fears would melt away. If we realized our ultimate home is in heaven, our spirits would be lighter and we would walk around more gratefully.

So, as we go through this week, we can let ourselves believe in the Resurrection that was won for us. "Lord, I believe in the gift of life you have given me in the death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus." We can say this act of faith, or sing any of the wonderful Easter songs in the back of our minds, as many times as it takes to let ourselves feel the effects of Easter. (Adapted from Creighton OnLine Ministries)

**Scripture: "I fear no evil; for you are at my side. With your rod and your staff that give me courage." Psalm 23**

**Reflection and Action Item:** Easter is a season of joy and alleluia! It is a time to celebrate the Resurrection of our savior, Jesus Christ. It is a time to rejoice in the gift of encounter. Plan to use the seven full weeks after Easter Sunday to help people encounter Christ anew. Take time to encounter the Lord anew. Continue to read the Bible and pray each day. In these activities we make the time this Easter season to encounter the Resurrected Christ anew. Then we continue to bring the light of Christ to areas where darkness and sin by spreading joy, especially in our parishes and families.

*May the glory and the promise of this joyous time of year bring peace and happiness to you and those you hold most dear. And may Christ, Our Risen Savior, always be there by your side to bless you most abundantly and be your loving guide.— Author Unknown*