

WEEKLY MEDITATION— EASTER SUNDAY

How great must have been the joy that the apostles experienced on Easter Day! We can't appreciate the greatness of Jesus' resurrection unless we acknowledge the full reality of his death. Jesus died in darkness and abandoned, but he trusted in God to face the darkness and wait for the Resurrection. His leap of faith was not in vain. The Father raised him up.

Jesus entered the dark kingdom of death and emerged victorious. He won his victory — he conquered death, but that victory has to become a reality in us, his disciples. The surprise gift of Easter is that the Resurrection is also for us. Jesus has been raised in our flesh and blood. It is our death that has been defeated. As we go on in life, we become increasingly conscious of

our mortality and the inevitable journey towards physical death. The forces of darkness may seem overwhelming, but the victory is already won. We must trust the victory, and not live as if death still dominated us.

To be a Christian is to be a person of hope because of what happened on the third day. Christian hope is not a superficial optimism; rather, it is a deep trust in God.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

He is risen,
as he said he would be!
Happy Easter!

This is the day for celebration. This is the day that Christ our brother broke the chains of death and rose in triumph from the grave. Think about it! Meditate on it deeply until its meaning penetrates the heart and is felt by the heart!

Jesus broke these chains not merely for himself but for all of us! He wants us to share in his great victory over sin and death. And we, in our heart of hearts, want to cooperate with him out of love and gratitude.

Thank you, dear Jesus, for your gift of eternal life. You have made it possible for us to return to the Father and to know his love intimately.

Almighty Father, who are we that you would love us this much? No less than your very own children. All praise and glory to you now and forever!

WISDOM'S CORNER

With Radiant Hope

*A description of an Easter ceremony
in Russia under Communism
when it was dangerous to be a believer:*

Someone at the back of the church lit a candle, a single point of light. The church remained in darkness.

Then there was another lit candle and another. Swiftly the flame was passed from one believer to another. In less than a minute the church was ablaze in light. Each candle lit up the face behind it, a face marked with suffering. But now that suffering turned into joy because of the certain knowledge that the Lord has risen.

These people did not debate the Resurrection, they knew it. They persevered in faith despite hostile surroundings. Their faith preserved them.

Lord, may the splendor of your Resurrection enable us to walk in radiant hope!

THE THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

"God is always working on your behalf."

They found the stone rolled away from the tomb; but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

The Gospel of St. Matthew 24:2-3



"Peace be with you," the Risen Lord spoke to his disciples. "Why are you troubled? And why do questions arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet, that it is I myself. Touch me and see..."

The Gospel of St. Matthew 24:36, 38-39

Happy Easter — and Thank You!

Dear Parishioners & all Friends of St. Jerome's,

How do we response to God, who loves us so intimately that he gave us his only Son, Jesus Christ, True God and True Man? **Our natural response is of course grateful love.** Part of that grateful response is loving our neighbor as ourselves. Another part of that thankful response is participating in our liturgical remembrance of Jesus' Passion, Death and Resurrection. We thank you for giving thanks to God by coming to Eucharist — this past Holy Week and every Sunday! (After all, "Eucharist" is the Greek word for "a giving of thanks.")

A big thank you goes out to those who so selflessly scrubbed and cleaned our church this past Tuesday night so that our House of Prayer was ready for all of its Easter finery.

We also thank those who donated Easter flowers to adorn our church, and we ask for God's blessings upon their intentions for their loved ones being remembered by their gifts.

We thank Louis Scalise and Ken Zekich, their families, Ivan & Vesna Jureta, and Ginny Vulich for their work at decorating the church.

Finally, we want to thank you for making generous Easter donations to our parish community. Thank you for your love that you are constantly showing and for your strength and dedication that helps hold all of us together, united in Christ Jesus our Lord.

May your Eastertime be blessed!

Fr. Joe Fr. Ivan

St. Jerome Property Fund

Mortgage Debt from New Parking Lot:	\$ 400,000
Donated to Date:	\$ 182,146
April Donations Thus Far:	\$ 250
Needed for monthly mortgage payment:	\$ 11,900

Divine Mercy Sunday Mass

God's mercy is infinite, and we all need to dip into his ocean of mercy, time and time again. This coming Sunday, we will have a special afternoon Mass celebrating God's mercy, at 3 p.m., the hour of mercy. Please join us.

Pancake Breakfast Raffle Winners

The St. Jerome School HSA wishes to thank all who helped make the Palacinka Breakfast and its \$13,000.00 Raffle an enjoyable success for our school. **The winners of the raffle were:** 1st prize of \$10,000: Salvatore diMenza. 2nd, \$1,000: Mike & JoAnn Passarelli. 3rd, \$1,000: Rick Siani. 4th, \$500: Gina Arredia. 5th, \$500: "Corpus Girls" (Irene, Lisa, Dee Dee & Renee). *If you have not picked up your picture with the Easter Bunny, get them at the rectory.*

Chicago White Sox tickets on sale for 'St. Jerome Croatian Night' June 8

At the Parish Office, we are selling our Parish's 400 reserved tickets (in right field) for the Thursday, June 8, 7 p.m. game against the Detroit Tigers. Every ticket is \$28.00.

We now need your old photos, video of Velika Gospa

In preparation for our 100th annual Velika Gospa Assumption Day procession, we are gathering "Velika Gospa" memorabilia. Please let us know of anything you might have that we could borrow such as pictures, negatives, film, video, etc., particularly from the early years. Any items or information would be appreciated! *Please don't wait any longer, as the production process will begin soon.*

Jazz music at St. James

An evening of music and dancing featuring Charles Wright & the Konstant Groove Jazz Band and Cerqua Rivera Dance Theatre: **this Saturday, April 22, 7 p.m. till Midnight.** Secured parking, hors d'oeuvres, cash bar. Tickets \$25 (\$15 with student ID). Raffle Tickets: \$100 (\$5,000 Cash Prize). Saint James Catholic Church, 2942 S. Wabash, 312-842-1919, ext. 203.

Papal Exhibit is extended till May 29

More than 300 papal objects — including a papal ring, a papal tiara, Pope John Paul's famous crosier cross, and the famed Mandyon of Edessa — are part of a special exhibit in the Milwaukee Public Museum, 800 W. Wells Street. Adult tickets are \$18.50, plus handling fee. Ordering your tickets in advance is *strongly recommended*. Call 888-700-9069 or go to www.mpm.edu The exhibit lasts until May 29 and is the only Midwest stop during the exhibit's U.S. tour.

WEDDING BANNERS

Dominic Leodoro & Dina Marie Edwards (III)
Tim McCartney & Ljubica Lišnić (I)