

St. Michael Church
401 S. Main St.
Newark, NY 14513
March 13, 2018

Dear Parishioners,

Soon we will celebrate the most holy time of the year, Easter. The day of Easter falls on April 1st this year but we do not celebrate it as just a single day. It's too important to be just a single day. It is a season that lasts until Pentecost.

Easter as a single day is the time of the Resurrection. Jesus Christ is Risen Today! This alone is reason enough to celebrate. We sincerely hope that you will join us on Easter as we celebrate Masses at 8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

The Resurrection is a central mystery of our faith. To understand it we need to know what happened immediately before. That's why we celebrate not just for a single day. We celebrate these events with special services before Easter. These services make up our Easter Triduum.

The Triduum begins on Holy Thursday (March 29th) as we celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00 p.m. This Mass commemorates the institution of the Eucharist and the Priesthood. When Jesus gave us the Eucharist he spoke of it as his body and blood given up for us. When are they given up? The Crucifixion. That brings us to Good Friday when we celebrate Jesus' Passion at 3:00 p.m, recalling how much he suffered out of his love for us. His suffering makes possible the forgiveness of our sins. We are thankful that our God loves us this much.

That leads us to Holy Saturday and the Easter Vigil beginning at 7:30 p.m. The vigil begins with the blessing of the Easter fire remembering how Jesus brings light into the world. It continues with a few scripture readings summarizing the story of our Salvation. Then, we welcome those who have been preparing through RCIA to become full members of our Catholic Church. It culminates in the Eucharist as Jesus gives his body and blood for us.

These are very sacred celebrations. We hope you can join us for these solemn celebrations. You will find a schedule of these celebrations and all our Holy Week services on the back of this letter.

As we prepare for Easter, we might realize that there are times where we have fallen into sin. This leads us to the Sacrament of Reconciliation to confess our sins. You can do this every Saturday (except Holy Saturday) from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. The last opportunity for confessions before Easter will be Tuesday, March 27th, from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m

From Fr. Jeff and all the staff at St. Michael's Church
Happy Easter