



# CHURCH *of the* RESURRECTION

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February 5, 2024

Greetings to the Resurrection parish family!



Holy springtime!

One waiting for a calendar spring to arrive will have to pause until March 20<sup>th</sup> for that seasonal day of nature. Yet, in the spiritual realm, we Catholics have “Lent” on February 14<sup>th</sup> of Ash Wednesday. “Lent” means “springtime” (for the heart, mind, and soul). It also happens that Ash Wednesday is St. Valentine’s Day in 2024.

Its timing persuades me to encourage you ahead to a springtime of loving, particularly in the Lord Jesus as your Eucharist, your Head of a parish and Church, and as Lord of your home and of being your Spiritual Director (Shepherd) towards an eternal life – the Eternal Spring.

## ☆ He’s the Eucharist ☆

We are loved by Him and we love Him in this Holy Communion. We receive Him bodily and soulfully at Mass, while we also visit Him and are visited by Him in times before the Blessed Tabernacle and in exposition rites held every Friday afternoon/evening here at our church, and on 1<sup>st</sup> Saturdays. *Are you heeding His call* to be loved and to love Him in these ways? Give the Lord some *valentines* in this sacred season. It’s our unique access, as Catholics, to the heart of God.



I encourage you to immediately get a book called 33 Days to Eucharistic Glory. It will greatly assist you in heeding this call to love in this Eucharistic Mystery we have in Christ Jesus. If you start it on Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup> in Lent’s first week, then you shall conclude the 33 days of meditation on Holy Thursday of the Lord’s Supper.

We will use the consecration prayer from the book in the solemn Mass of Holy Thursday, so I hope you’ll do the 33 days. See my columns in the last 2 bulletins available online at our parish website.

From Fr. John Barry

### Ash Wednesday - February 14, 2024 Schedule Church of the Resurrection

- 7:00 AM & 7:30 AM - Prayer Service with Distribution of Ashes
- 9:00 AM - Mass with Distribution of Ashes
- 5:00 PM - Prayer Service with Distribution of Ashes
- 7:30 PM - Mass with Distribution of Ashes



## “The Support of Our Parish Attitude”

In my six-and-a-half years with you, being given your parish to manage well, I have appealed in various ways to your keeping up monetary support to Resurrection. I am grateful for the responses, but I need to keep at it with you now, and to reach some new people, speaking to all members' responsibility to the Lord for the work going on here in these fields of His Vineyard.

As you have noticed, I highlight in my pastoral ministry the spiritual life and of our gladness of being able to worship the Lord here, for “we are His people, the flock that He shepherds.” (Ps. 100:3) I have to manage the business of the parish, too. I try to keep the call for money at a minimum here, so that when I do ask—it can have its impact. When I wrote recently in the Christmas e-letter and parish bulletin stuffer to the parish, I asked for a **step-up** in giving. I don't know why it got a tepid response. *Without* emphasizing much about rising costs and bills, or employee salaries, or of naming the creative ways we have used to get by for your best service—I decided that simply asking for a step-up giving was plain and direct, as it was a bit due. I thought the hoped-for response of a needed increase would come obvious just over the presence of a new priest added to the staff here with Fr. Dan Gallagher, who arrived in Advent. People know how we have needed this parochial vicar position filled since 2018, but we were still getting out of our debts—so it was curtailed. (During Covid, we rejoiced when we got the Keffer Center paid off, and had our budget met too—even via trying times—so I am so glad for how we have risen to challenges. I recall the theme I had for those first years here of “Rise Up, Resurrection!” You did rise up! Thanks! We have to keep doing so in 2024, too.)

Recall how St. Paul wrote to the Corinth church about the importance of their charity and support, in so that the Lord's work could continue: “On the first day of the week (Sunday) each of you should set aside whatever he can afford to support the church.” St. Paul, 1 Cor. 16:2. Then later in his pleasure with them, Paul writes how “God loves the free, cheerful and generous giver (to the support of His mission).” 2 Cor.9:7

So please support our adjusted budget to have two ADW priests in the parish, the Sunday sacristan added, and full staff in the office now.

In a personal dimension, I recall an Advent discussion I had with the Cardinal's Vicar for Clergy, I told him how it was quite short-handed during the Advent and Christmas season, since my religious who helps cover Riderwood and the Hospital would both be gone, and my usual weekend clergy help was away, too. I said that it's a lot to expect of one person to meet these kind of needs or demands at a parish like this of three institutions/responsibilities. The Cardinal just happened to have a priest return to the Archdiocese needing an assignment (Fr. Dan) and made him available right away. He has been with us two months now. A return call to me was made last Friday from him of whether the parish would be able to afford this ongoing help of a priest, and I said: “Yes! I need it! The parish folks need me healthy and able. I'll ask them to a step-up in giving to meet that need of him to help me and the other p/t staff we've recently added on (Jennifer in the office and

Lourdes for our weekend liturgies manager).” You know, we have a few pastors a decade older than me in this county still serving, for they’ve had parochial vicars to share the load along those years. I deserve it, too. This future hope for me in the parish would be to get my schedule back to something reasonable. I want to make it another decade in pastoring, but it will only happen if I have clergy assistance, lest my health and energy give out sooner. I have a chuckle when all my lay friends my age are retiring, as well as my younger brother—while I am working harder than ever, and adding on the many years done so without a diocesan priest helper. While I do get blessed to find religious and ‘pinch-hitters’ to share the work along the way in parishes (this is my fifth alone as pastor), I shouldn’t have too much on my plate, even if expected to keep up the spiritual life expected in this calling for you. I am not retiring, but just trying to get my priest speed down to a fair level. ☺

As you spend your money on varied things outside of food and housing, know that the tithe or sacrificial gift to the Lord’s work in His Vineyard, via parish support, (and to his priests serving them along with their staff persons) is always a well spent action, for it becomes a thanksgiving sign to the Lord Jesus and a show of cheer that His Church in your neighborhood is served and is giving witness and worship to Him. Praise the Lord, alleluia!

(P.S. The timing of the ADW Appeal going on now is much a separate thing about *extra* charity and causes, and it is well and good, but I am addressing **us**. We are first in line for ‘tithing’ or giving—this is your holy home and family. I want to be a good manager for you and keep having a good parish here for you, while calling all our members to shared care and responsibility for Resurrection.)

Fr. John Barry