

**ST. GILBERT PARISH**



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Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Gilbert Parish,

God’s faithfulness to us is endless and he longs for us to experience his mercy, healing and joy. This is true at all phases of our lives and in any place that life might lead us. A fine example of this is the amazing story of Mary Magdalene, the first person to encounter the Risen Lord in a garden on the first Easter Sunday morning.

Jesus had a particularly special relationship with Mary Magdalene, one that expresses great warmth and unbroken faithfulness. Mary’s response to one whom she thought was the gardener, “Tell me where they have placed him,” reveals that she was seeking a God who is limited by suffering and death, but that was about to suddenly change. Her seeking was being purified and corrected because she was never going to discover the living God in a lifeless body. Through her exchange with the “gardener” and by responding to the call to discipleship, she discovered not only the presence of the Risen Lord, but divine love which transcends sin, suffering and dying.

The most important lesson we learn from this story is that the Risen Lord is always present in our lives, constantly offering us his love and forgiveness. The presence of the Lord never withdraws from us, even when we encounter difficult or challenging circumstances. We are all sought by God but not all of us are willing to be found. We often subconsciously turn away from the Lord without realizing that spiritual identity is one of the most important aspects of our humanity. Ignoring it can be gradual, almost imperceptible at times, but nonetheless a real erosion. Modern life serves up so many distractions and temptations that we can easily lose connection to what is most important in our lives, the presence of the Risen Lord himself.

May this Easter season be a holy and special time of blessing for you and your family. Know that you are remembered every day in our prayers and good works. As we remember you, please also remember your parish, St Gilbert Church. ***WE INVITE YOU TO CELEBRATE HOLY WEEK AND THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM AND EASTER WITH US VIRTUALLY ON FACEBOOK LIVE.*** Together we can become one with our God in his passion, death and glorious resurrection.

Please see the schedule below for VIRTUAL LITURGIES. - **ALL ON FACEBOOK, FOLLOW ST. GILBERT CHURCH**

- Palm Sunday - Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> - at 11 AM -- FACEBOOK LIVE
- Holy Thursday - Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 PM Mass of the Lord’s Supper – FACEBOOK LIVE
- Good Friday - Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> - 3 PM Living Stations of the Cross - FACEBOOK LIVE  
7:00 PM Celebration of the Lord’s Passion – FACEBOOK LIVE
- Holy Saturday - Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 PM Easter Vigil Mass – FACEBOOK LIVE
- Easter Sunday - Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> - at 11 AM – FACEBOOK LIVE

If you are joining Mass for the first time or the first time in a long time, we welcome you and invite you to continue to be Christ for the world with us. As you reflect during the Easter season, please consider a donation to your parish. During this catastrophic world event, we like others, are greatly feeling the financial effects of this Pandemic. It is only with your continued assistance that we can continue our mission to serve the members of this community and our world. To make a secure electronic donation, <https://www.givecentral.org/location/378>. You can also **TEXT-TO-GIVE** by texting 1-224-219-0357, then enter the word EASTER or DONATE in the text box and hit send. It is that simple and highly secure.

In an effort to maintain accurate records, please email the business office with new personal information such as phone, email or address. Send to: [business.office@stgilbert.org](mailto:business.office@stgilbert.org)

Rejoice in a Blessed and Joy-filled Easter,

Fr. John Chrzan  
Fr. Christian Shiu  
Fr. Gus Belauskas  
& the whole staff of St. Gilbert Parish