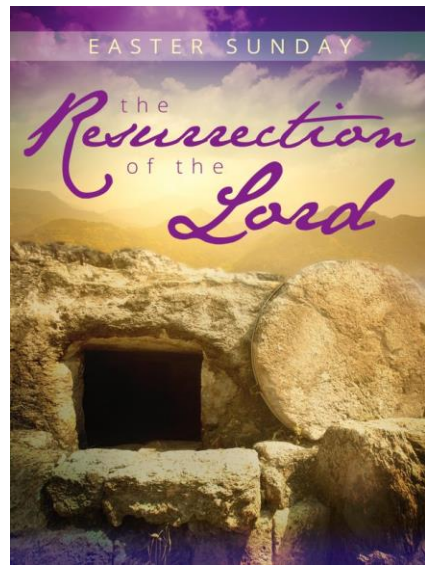


Blessed Easter April 9, 2023



Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

"Healing the pain of abortion, one weekend at a time."

Rachel's Vineyard is a retreat of healing and reconciliation for women and men whose lives have been touched by abortion. The retreat will be held May 19-21, 2023, at the Dominican Retreat & Conference Center in Niskayuna. The weekend will combine discussions, spiritual exercises, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a Memorial Service and a Mass of Entrustment. Participation is strictly confidential and offers a beautiful opportunity to experience God's love, forgiveness, and compassion. The cost is \$195, which includes a private room, meals and retreat materials. Financial assistance will be available for those unable to pay the entire cost. For more information or to register contact: Pat Mousaw, 518-222-1160 or Katie Bolibaugh, 518-495-3574 or e-mail: rachelsvineyardalbany@yahoo.com

St. James North Creek

Intentions & Mass Cards:

Please call Kathy DeBartolo at 518-494-7873

4/9 Easter Flower Intentions

Offertory: 4/1 \$935 3/25 \$445

Diocesan Appeal: We still have \$1,869 to go. We have collected \$5,383, which is 75% of our goal of \$7,252, with 25 gifts to date. We strive for 100% participation, not equal gifts. Thank you; your stewardship is deeply appreciated.

Church of the Blessed Sacrament

Bolton Landing

Intentions & Mass Cards: Please call Rita Whitney at 518-338-6858.

4/9 Easter Flower Intentions

4/2 Kathy Spahn *Req. Dawn Faller*

Offertory: 3/26 \$894 4/2 \$1,156

Diocesan Appeal: So happy to report we have collected \$22,315, which is 89% of our goal of \$25,008, with 68 gifts to date. We still have \$2,693 left to achieve our assessment. We strive for 100% participation, not equal gifts. Thank you; your stewardship is truly appreciated. **Thank You!**

Until our new envelopes arrive, please take the generic envelopes and put your name on them. Inside the envelope, please let us know what you are contributing to. THANK YOU for your patience.

Our 2nd Collections

4-09-23 Easter Gift

4-16-23 Buildings & Maintenance

St. Isaac Jogues

Chestertown/Hague

Intentions & Mass Cards: Please call Kathy DeBartolo at 518-494-7873

4/9 Easter Flower Intentions

4/16 Mass Intention Available

Offertory: 3/26 \$2,533 4/2 \$2,655

Diocesan Appeal: Wow! We have collected \$19,583 which is 99.6% of our goal of \$19,659, with 67 gifts to date. We have only **\$76** left to go. Fantastic job!

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Easter Sunday and Object Permanence

When you play peekaboo with a very young baby who has not yet developed object permanence, you feel kind of mean. As soon as your hands obscure your face, their little eyes widen with alarm and their expression crumbles into confusion and despair.

Because they can no longer see you, they believe you no longer exist. Their little brains are unable to understand that just because a thing cannot be seen, it is still there, still alive, still full of love and care and protection.

Aw, man, you can hear them thinking. I guess I don't have a mom anymore.

On Easter morning, Mary Magdalene sees the burial cloth but no body. Her human mind makes sense of the situation the best way it knows how, she assumes the Lord has been taken. I'm sure I would have thought the same thing, in her position.

She cannot conceive, on her own, the reality that Christ has risen from the dead. It doesn't matter that he has told his disciples again and again that this will happen. They were not ready to understand then.

In many ways, Easter is when the human race really achieved object permanence. But we still struggle with it, don't we? I certainly do. So often I can be heard accusing God: "You weren't there. Where were you? I couldn't find you."

But I looked for him in the flesh. I looked for him in the stale yeast of the world — in money or success or affirmation or (worst of all) convenience and pleasure. Of course, I would not find him there, among the dead.

Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. — Colossians 3:2 ©LPi

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Easter Blessings & Thank You

Thank you to everyone who helped make this Lenten season so spiritually rewarding. Thank you to everyone who helped to beautifully decorate our churches for the Triduum and those who gave of their time and artistic ability to prepare our churches for Easter. Many thanks to our Triduum liturgy leaders. Thank you to those who set-up, cooked and cleaned-up at our Holy Thursday dinner. Thank you to our Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Greeters and Altar Servers and all volunteers at our liturgies. We are so blessed and rewarded by the energy and enthusiasm of everyone.

A heartwarming thank you is extended to our Cluster Choirs under the direction and guidance of Denise Conti, Gerry Marmillo and Mike Linke.

Thank you to our teachers who bring joy and promise to our families.

It was gratifying to see our newly formed Cluster working together to bring Easter Joy to our community. The vision of our Cluster, in which we share one priest in several churches, is now being shared throughout the Diocese. While working as a Cluster has its challenges, this union allows us to continue to bring the Good News to all.

Thank you! Thank you! We are so enriched and blessed with the many talents in our Cluster. God's grace has been bestowed on us. We are truly an Easter people.

We wish all of you a Blessed Easter!

North Country Ministry

North Country Ministry is excited to be opening a Clothing Center at the YMCA Adirondack Center in Brant Lake. This program will eventually be open Wednesdays from Noon-4 pm. In order to open this program, we are going to need volunteers to help run the program. As we look to expand our programs in the coming year, we are looking for more volunteers to help make this growth possible. Anyone interested in volunteering regularly or occasionally should contact Daphne at daphne@ncmfrinds.com or (518) 623-2829 X305. We are so thankful for our volunteers and all who help North Country Ministry to offer a Hand of Hope to those in need.