



SAINT PETER ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Eucharistic Parish

Merchantville, NJ 08109



Served By

Rev. Timothy E. Byerley, Ph.D., Pastor
Rev. John D. Wasilewski, Parochial Vicar
Deacon Michael F. Scott
Mr. Joseph Saffioti, School Principal
Kathy O'Callaghan, Assistant Principal
Stephanie Vostenak, Coordinator of Religious Education
Bobbie Bradley, Senior Ministry Director
Sr. Philomena Leahy, F.D.N.S.C., Ministry to the Sick & Homebound

A Program for Catholic Living

| | | |
|----------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|
| MASS SCHEDULE | Saturday Evening | 5:00pm |
| | Sunday | 7:30, 9:00, 10:30am & 7:00pm |
| | Weekdays | 6:45 & 9:00am |
| | Saturdays | 9:00am |
| | Holy Days | watch the bulletin for schedules |

Miraculous Medal Novena: Monday, 7:30pm - Rosary 7:05pm (except first Monday of the month which is a Mass of Reconciliation at 7:00pm)

Recitation of the Rosary: Monday through Saturday after 9:00am Mass

24 Hours Daily: Chapel of Perpetual Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Sign up for a holy hour. Call 856-665-4833 or 856-662-4338 or 856-304-2261

Information

Rectory: 43 West Maple Ave.
856-663-1373 Fax 856-488-0647
Rel. Educ.: 43 W. Maple Ave., 856-663-4490
Website: www.saintpetermerchantville.com
Senior Apostolate: 856-662-7577
School: 51 W. Maple Ave., 856-665-5879
Website: www.stpeterschool.org
Advancement Director: 856-665-5879

Education

ST. PETER SCHOOL

To register your children, please call the principal at 856-665-5879.
Religious Education: 856-663-4490
Public School CCD Classes
Kindergarten through 8th grade.
Tues. 5:30pm St. Peter School (all grades)

APRIL 5, 2020 - PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

Sacraments

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM - Baptisms are celebrated every Sunday at 12:15pm. Parents are expected to attend a Pre-Jordan Baptism class. Please call the Rectory to register for a class so that we have adequate materials. Godparents and children are welcome to attend.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE - In order to accommodate our own Parishioners, only Parishioners of St. Peter (Bride or Groom) will be able to be married in St. Peter Church. Couples planning to marry at St. Peter are expected to contact the priest to arrange a date and time first. Second, they must attend the Pre-Cana Conferences as mandated by the Bishop. The period of preparation for marriage is a minimum of six months to ensure completion of all arrangements before the wedding date. For Pre-Cana reservations call 663-1373. Only Parish Musicians are permitted for Wedding Masses. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK - The priests may be called at any time day or night for the Sacrament of the Sick. Furthermore, the priests will be happy to visit the Sick with Holy Communion upon request.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - (Confessions) Saturday from 4:00-4:55pm and 7:00-7:30 pm or contact one of the priests.

FUNERALS - The proper form of Church burial for a baptized Catholic is the Mass of Christian Burial, not a service at a funeral home. Viewings in the Church are not permitted. Funeral Masses are scheduled at 10:00am. No eulogies in church, and only Parish Musicians are permitted for Funeral Masses, **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

New Parishioners - ALL ARE WELCOME - Please register with the parish... so we know who you are, so if you ever need a letter, etc., you're on record, so you can be on our mailing list, and most importantly, so we can serve YOU!



Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord ~ April 5, 2020

COVID-19 Impacts Parish Finances and Staffing at St. Peter Parish April 1, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically altered our parish life, most notably cancelled Masses and activities, and has had a major impact on parish finances. The parish did not have the funds even to make it through the month of April and the Diocese has instructed pastors that, “at their own discretion they may need to make changes in staffing, office hours, and the like in order to maintain control over the parish budget and because of reduced need for services”. (Memorandum, March 17, 2020)

Being pro-active as the Diocese instructed so as to avoid a total parish financial free-fall, it was necessary to furlough, layoff, or change hours for all employees; all have been notified. No employee was unaffected by these changes, including myself (a voluntary salary reduction). I want to inform you of the changes I have made.

For now and for the foreseeable future I have:

- Reduced the pay and/or hours of 7 employees
- Furloughed 7 employees
- Laid off 2 employees

These changes resulted in a salary savings of \$24,359/month.

For now and continuing into the future I have:

- Eliminated 2 full-time positions*
 - Parish Business Manager
 - Senior Ministry/Development Director
- Eliminated 1 part time position*
 - Parish Secretary
- Created 1 part-time position – at a maximum cost of \$26,870/yr* when fully implemented
 - Parish Bookkeeper

**This includes all costs related to the position: salary, taxes, pension, medical and severance.*

The net yearly savings from these decisions is \$158,068.

I have explained these decisions to our parish trustees, parish council president and finance council president. The Fiscal Year 2021 budget will have to be rewritten. We have been instructed to be very cautious as we plan for fiscal year 2021. It may take a long time, a year or more, to recover from the damage caused by the pandemic. In the long run, reduced giving may also be the result of some parishioners unable to sustain their previous generosity, or even perhaps a reduction in Mass attendance itself. As of March 17, 2020 the Senior Center has been closed; its future is uncertain.

Every one of these decisions affecting our parish employees was heart-wrenching. Each one of them is a great Catholic, a great employee and a great friend. As a pastor, this is one of the most difficult tasks to be confronted with. In cases like this, attempting to balance the financial survival of the parish (like every other parish in the country) with the respective wellbeing of these beloved individuals is never sufficiently achieved. If these cuts could be avoided, they would be. Please keep these outstanding people in prayer in their pursuit of employment or other means of income.

May God deliver us from this pandemic!

Our Lady, health of the sick, pray for us!

Fr. Tim Byerley, Pastor

POWERFUL PRAYERS

Recommended by
Servant of God Maria Esperanza
to be said **DAILY** during times of Crisis



Please join with your immediate family and your parish family of St. Peter in praying for an end to the Coronavirus Pandemic. Mary Esperanza prayed these prayers daily. May she join her prayers with ours at this critical time.

Servant of God, Maria Esperanza, pray for us!

Canticle of Mary: The Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my savior, for He has looked with favor on His lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is His Name.

He has mercy on those who fear Him in every generation.

He has shown the strength of His arm, He has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of His servant Israel, for He has remembered His promise of mercy, the promise He made to our fathers, to Abraham and His children for ever.

Parish Weekly



First Collection for the weekends of
March 21 – March 22 and March 28 – 29 was
\$12,910.36.

Second Collection (Catholic Relief which is sent
directly to the Diocese) was **\$343.00.**

*Thank you for building up God's Kingdom
in our Parish!*

Psalm 91

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High
and abides in the shade of the Almighty
says to the Lord: "My refuge,
my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!"

It is he who will free you from the snare
of the fowler who seeks to destroy you;
he will conceal you with his pinions
and under his wings you will find refuge.

You will not fear the terror of the night
nor the arrow that flies by day,
nor the plague that prowls in the darkness
nor the scourge that lays waste at noon.

A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand fall at your right,
you, it will never approach;
his faithfulness is buckler and shield.

Your eyes have only to look
to see how the wicked are repaid,
you who have said: "Lord, my refuge!"
and have made the Most High your dwelling.

Upon you no evil shall fall,
no plague approach where you dwell.
For you has he commanded his angels,
to keep you in all your ways.

They shall bear you upon their hands
lest you strike your foot against a stone.
On the lion and the viper you will tread
and trample the young lion and the dragon.

Since he clings to me in love, I will free him;
protect him for he knows my name.
When he calls I shall answer: "I am with you."
I will save him in distress and give him glory.

With length of life I will content him;
I shall let him see my saving power.





ALL MASS INTENTIONS WILL BE HONORED IN PRIVATE MASSES.

Intentions:

Monday, April 6

Patrick Kernan
George Figueroa

Tuesday, April 7

Kathleen Pedrick
Margaret Deacon

Wednesday, April 8

Patrick Kernan
Lee Catani

Thursday, April 9 – HOLY THURSDAY

Parishioners of St. Peter Parish

7:00 PM MASS WILL BE LIVE STREAMED – Check Website for details @

www.saintpetermerchantville.com

Friday, April 10 – GOOD FRIDAY

NO MASS TODAY

3:00 PM SERVICE WILL BE LIVE STREAMED – Check Website for details @

www.saintpetermerchantville.com

Saturday, April 11 – EASTER VIGIL

Living & Deceased Parishioners of St. Peter Parish

8:00 PM MASS WILL BE LIVE STREAMED – Check Website for details @

www.saintpetermerchantville.com

Sunday, April 12 – EASTER SUNDAY

9:00 AM MASS WILL BE LIVE STREAMED – Check Website for details @

www.saintpetermerchantville.com

Leona Nesterak
Anthony & Lena Pizzotti
Parishioners of St. Peter Parish

Requested by:

Marie Ralbusky
Dorofee Family

John & Karen Dunn
Ann Kelly

Marie Ralbusky
Her Children

Rob Piekarski
Dorofee Grandchildren

Sanctuary Lamp in the Church

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn for the Holy Souls in Purgatory the week of April 5 – April 9 requested by A Parishioner.

Sanctuary Lamp in the Convent Chapel

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn for the Holy Souls in Purgatory the week of April 5 – April 9 requested by A Parishioner.

Father's **Q**uick **Q**uote: **“R**emember that a week before he was crucified like a criminal, he rode into the city a king.”
~ *Unknown*

Parish Sick List

Please contact the Rectory @ 856-663-1373 to add a loved one to the list. **You are kindly asked to inform the person that their name will appear in the Bulletin.** Please pray for: Fr. Ronan Murphy, Thomas Abate, Sr., Steve Bagocius, Theresa Berrios, Joseph Blahut, Theresa Brown, Anthony Ciarroccki, Barbara DeFranco, Joseph DelRossi, Ray Dick, David DiMenna, Rose Marie Finnegan, Michael Franzese, Vijay Gambhi, Matthew Herb, Bridget Hopkins, Bob Jamison, Ellen Jamison, Thaddeus Kanigowski, Lori Kauffmann, Emma King, Jack Laggy, Joseph Lesniak, Horace Louby, Jose Marrero, Savannah McHughes, Jacob Mika, Matthew Moran, Mary Narleski, Eileen O'Brien, Danielle Pasculli O'Connor, Marilyn Ott, Frank Pedano, Bob Piekarski, James Poulson, Rafael Rubino, Elsie Schatzle, Steve Schatzle, Anna Marie Schickling, Fred Schwartz, James Shue, Theresa Smurlo, Rose Smyth, Mark Stevens, Frank Tarantini, Joe Teti, Michael Uricheck, Matthew Valentine, Joseph Vena, IV, Alan Young. **May God heal them in mind, body and spirit! Thank you for your prayers for our sick and shut-ins. IMPORTANT: PLEASE call the Rectory @ 856-663-1373 when your loved one has recovered!**

Readings for Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord – April 5, 2020

Reading I – Isaiah 50:4-7

The Lord GOD has given me a well-trained tongue, that I might know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them. Morning after morning he opens my ear that I may hear; and I have not rebelled, have not turned back. I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; my face I did not shield from buffets and spitting. The Lord GOD is my help, therefore I am not disgraced; I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame.

Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24

***R.* My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?**

All who see me scoff at me; they mock me with parted lips, they wag their heads: “He relied on the LORD; let him deliver him, let him rescue him, if he loves him.”

***R.* My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?**

Indeed, many dogs surround me, a pack of evildoers closes in upon me; They have pierced my hands and my feet; I can count all my bones.

***R.* My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?**

They divide my garments among them, and for my vesture they cast lots. But you, O LORD, be not far from me; O my help, hasten to aid me.

***R.* My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?**

I will proclaim your name to my brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will praise you: “You who fear the LORD, praise him; all you descendants of Jacob, give glory to him; revere him, all you descendants of Israel!”

***R.* My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?**

Reading II – Philippians 2:6-11

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

THE PASSION OF THE LORD – Matthew 26:14-27:66

N. – Narrator

† – Christ

†

“You have said so.”

V. – Voice

C. – Crowd

N.

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said,

N. The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. One of the Twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said,

†

“Take and eat; this is my body.”

V. “What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?”

N.

Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying,

N. They paid him thirty pieces of silver, and from that time on he looked for an opportunity to hand him over. On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the disciples approached Jesus and said,

†

“Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, from now on I shall not drink this fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it with you new in the kingdom of my Father.”

V. “Where do you want us to prepare for you to eat the Passover?”

N.

Then, after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them,

N. He said,

†

“This night all of you will have your faith in me shaken, for it is written: *I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be dispersed;* but after I have been raised up, I shall go before you to Galilee.”

† “Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, ‘The teacher says, “My appointed time draws near; in your house I shall celebrate the Passover with my disciples.”’”

N. The disciples then did as Jesus had ordered, and prepared the Passover. When it was evening, he reclined at table with the Twelve. And while they were eating, he said,

N.

Peter said to him in reply,

V.

“Though all may have their faith in you shaken, mine will never be.”

† “Amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me.”

N.

Jesus said to him,

†

“Amen, I say to you, this very night before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.”

N. Deeply distressed at this, they began to say to him one after another,

N.

Peter said to him,

V.

“Even though I should have to die with you, I will not deny you.”

V. “Surely it is not I, Lord?”

N. He said in reply,

N.

And all the disciples spoke likewise.

† “He who has dipped his hand into the dish with me is the one who will betray me. The Son of Man indeed goes, as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed. It would be better for that man if he had never been born.”

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples,

†

“Sit here while I go over there and pray.”

N.

He took along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to feel sorrow and distress. Then he said to them,

N. Then Judas, his betrayer, said in reply,

†

“My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me.”

V. “Surely it is not I, Rabbi?”

N. He answered,

N.

He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying,

† “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will.”

N. When he returned to his disciples he found them asleep. He said to Peter,

† “So you could not keep watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

N. Withdrawing a second time, he prayed again,

† “My Father, if it is not possible that this cup pass without my drinking it, your will be done!”

N. Then he returned once more and found them asleep, for they could not keep their eyes open. He left them and withdrew again and prayed a third time, saying the same thing again. Then he returned to his disciples and said to them,

† “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Behold, the hour is at hand when the Son of Man is to be handed over to sinners. Get up, let us go. Look, my betrayer is at hand.”

N. While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, accompanied by a large crowd, with swords and clubs, who had come from the chief priests and the elders of the people. His betrayer had arranged a sign with them, saying,

V. “The man I shall kiss is the one; arrest him.”

N. Immediately he went over to Jesus and said,

V. “Hail, Rabbi!”

N. and he kissed him. Jesus answered him,

† “Friend, do what you have come for.”

N. Then stepping forward they laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. And behold, one of those who accompanied Jesus put his hand to his sword, drew it, and struck the high priest’s servant, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him,

† “Put your sword back into its sheath, for all who take the sword will perish by the

sword. Do you think that I cannot call upon my Father and he will not provide me at this moment with more than twelve legions of angels? But then how would the Scriptures be fulfilled which say that it must come to pass in this way?”

N. At that hour Jesus said to the crowds,

† “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to seize me? Day after day I sat teaching in the temple area, yet you did not arrest me. But all this has come to pass that the writings of the prophets may be fulfilled.”

N. Then all the disciples left him and fled. Those who had arrested Jesus led him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. Peter was following him at a distance as far as the high priest’s courtyard, and going inside he sat down with the servants to see the outcome. The chief priests and the entire Sanhedrin kept trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus in order to put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. Finally two came forward who stated,

C. **“This man said, ‘I can destroy the temple of God and within three days rebuild it.’”**

N. The high priest rose and addressed him,

V. “Have you no answer? What are these men testifying against you?”

N. But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him,

V. “I order you to tell us under oath before the living God whether you are the Christ, the Son of God.”

N. Jesus said to him in reply,

† “You have said so. But I tell you: From now on you will see ‘the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power’ and ‘coming on the clouds of heaven.’”

N. Then the high priest tore his robes and said,

V. “He has blasphemed! What further need have we of witnesses? You have now heard the blasphemy; what is your opinion?”

N. They said in reply,
C. “He deserves to die!”

N. Then they spat in his face and struck him, while some slapped him, saying,
C. “Prophecy for us, Christ: who is it that struck you?”

N. Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. One of the maids came over to him and said,
C. “You too were with Jesus the Galilean.”

N. But he denied it in front of everyone, saying,
V. “I do not know what you are talking about!”

N. As he went out to the gate, another girl saw him and said to those who were there,
C. “This man was with Jesus the Nazorean.”

N. Again he denied it with an oath,
V. “I do not know the man!”

N. A little later the bystanders came over and said to Peter,
C. “Surely you too are one of them; even your speech gives you away.”

N. At that he began to curse and to swear,
V. “I do not know the man!”

N. And immediately a cock crowed. Then Peter remembered the word that Jesus had spoken: “Before the cock crows you will deny me three times.” He went out and began to weep bitterly. When it was morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate, the governor. Then Judas, his betrayer, seeing that Jesus had been condemned, deeply regretted what he had done. He returned the thirty pieces of

silver to the chief priests and elders, saying,
V. “I have sinned in betraying innocent blood.”

N. They said,
C. “What is that to us? Look to it yourself.”

N. Flinging the money into the temple, he departed and went off and hanged himself. The chief priests gathered up the money, but said,
C. “It is not lawful to deposit this in the temple treasury, for it is the price of blood.”

N. After consultation, they used it to buy the potter’s field as a burial place for foreigners. That is why that field even today is called the Field of Blood. Then was fulfilled what had been said through Jeremiah the prophet, *And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of a man with a price on his head, a price set by some of the Israelites, and they paid it out for the potter’s field just as the Lord had commanded me.* Now Jesus stood before the governor, (Pontius Pilate,) and he questioned him,
V. “Are you the king of the Jews?”

N. Jesus said,
† “You say so.”

N. And when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he made no answer. Then Pilate said to him,
V. “Do you not hear how many things they are testifying against you?”

N. But he did not answer him one word, so that the governor was greatly amazed. Now on the occasion of the feast the governor was accustomed to release to the crowd one prisoner whom they wished. And at that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So when they had assembled, Pilate said to them,
V. “Which one do you want me to release to you, Barabbas, or Jesus called Christ?”

N. For he knew that it was out of envy that they had handed him over. While he was still seated on the bench, his wife sent him a message, “Have nothing to do with that righteous man. I suffered much in a dream today because of him.” The chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas but to destroy Jesus. The governor said to them in reply,

V. “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?”

N. They answered,

C. **“Barabbas!”**

N. Pilate said to them,

V. “Then what shall I do with Jesus called Christ?”

N. They all said,

C. **“Let him be crucified!”**

N. But he said,

V. “Why? What evil has he done?”

N. They only shouted the louder,

C. **Let him be crucified!”**

N. When Pilate saw that he was not succeeding at all, but that a riot was breaking out instead, he took water and washed his hands in the sight of the crowd, saying,

V. “I am innocent of this man’s blood. Look to it yourselves.”

N. And the whole people said in reply,

C. **“His blood be upon us and upon our children.”**

N. Then he released Barabbas to them, but after he had Jesus scourged, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus inside the praetorium and gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped off his clothes and threw a scarlet military cloak about him. Weaving a crown out of thorns, they placed it on his head, and a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying,

C. **“Hail, King of the Jews!”**

N. They spat upon him and took the reed and kept striking him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him off to crucify him. As they were going out, they met a Cyrenian named Simon; this man they pressed into service to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha — which means Place of the Skull —, they gave Jesus wine to drink mixed with gall. But when he had tasted it, he refused to drink. After they had crucified him, they divided his garments by casting lots; then they sat down and kept watch over him there. And they placed over his head the written charge against him: This is Jesus, the King of the Jews. Two revolutionaries were crucified with him, one on his right and the other on his left. Those passing by reviled him, shaking their heads and saying,

C. **“You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, if you are the Son of God, and come down from the cross!”**

N. Likewise the chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him and said,

C. **“He saved others; he cannot save himself. So he is the king of Israel! Let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now if he wants him. For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”**

N. The revolutionaries who were crucified with him also kept abusing him in the same way. From noon onward, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o’clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

† *“Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?”*

N. which means,

† *“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”*

- N. Some of the bystanders who heard it said,
- C. **This one is calling for Elijah.”**
- N. Immediately one of them ran to get a sponge; he soaked it in wine, and putting it on a reed, gave it to him to drink. But the rest said,
- C. **“Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to save him.”**
- N. But Jesus cried out again in a loud voice, and gave up his spirit.

Here all kneel and pause for a short time.

- N. And behold, the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth quaked, rocks were split, tombs were opened, and the bodies of many saints who had fallen asleep were raised. And coming forth from their tombs after his resurrection, they entered the holy city and appeared to many. The centurion and the men with him who were keeping watch over Jesus feared greatly when they saw the earthquake and all that was happening, and they said,
- C. **“Truly, this was the Son of God!”**
- N. There were many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him. Among them were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who was himself a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be handed over. Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in clean linen and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed. But Mary Magdalene and the other Mary remained sitting there, facing the tomb.

- The next day, the one following the day of preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said,
- C. **“Sir, we remember that this impostor while still alive said, ‘After three days I will be raised up.’ Give orders, then, that the grave be secured until the third day, lest his disciples come and steal him and say to the people, ‘He has been raised from the dead.’ This last imposture would be worse than the first.”**
- N. Pilate said to them,
- V. “The guard is yours; go, secure it as best you can.”
- N. So they went and secured the tomb by fixing a seal to the stone and setting the guard.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



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