



## **HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH**

Polish National Catholic Church  
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### **SUNDAY, APRIL 27 2025 – EASTER 2**

9:00 am – **Holy** Mass of the Eucharist to be celebrated in the Contemporary rite

10:00 am – Parish Committee to meet following Holy Mass,



The **Sacrament of Baptism** will be administered this Sunday, during Holy Mass, to Sophia Harrington, the daughter of Benjamin and Daisy Harrington,

May we all pray this day for the blessings of God to rest upon Sophia, as she is presented to the Lord, in the tradition that Jesus was presented by Joseph and Mary who presented their child into the temple.

### **ENTRANCE HYMN**

(Psalm 40:2-4)

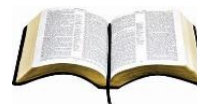
V. I waited for the Lord, who bent down and heard my cry, drew me out of the pit of destruction, out of the mud of the swamp, set the pit of destruction, out of the mud of the swamp, set my feet upon rock, steadied my steps. Alleluia.

R: And put a new song in my mouth, a hymn to our God. Many shall look on in awe and they shall trust in the Lord. Alleluia.

- C. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.  
R. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

### **THE GLORIA**

Glory to God in the Highest,  
And peace to His people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
Almighty God, and Father  
We worship You; we give You thanks  
We praise You for Your glory  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father  
Lord God, Lamb of God  
You take away the sins of the world  
Have mercy on us  
You are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
Receive our prayer  
For you alone are the Holy One  
You alone are the Lord,  
You alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ. With the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.



### **LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD**

#### **A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES (Acts 5:12-16)**

Many signs and wonders were done among the people at the hands of the apostles. They were all together in Solomon's portico. None of the others dared to join them, but the people esteemed them. Yet more than ever, believers in the Lord, great numbers of men and women, were added to them. Thus they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and mats so that when Peter came by, at least his shadow might fall on one or another of them. A large number of people from the towns in the vicinity of Jerusalem also gathered, bringing the sick and those disturbed by unclean spirits, and they were all cured.

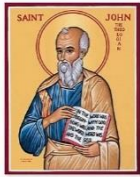
C. The Word of the Lord  
R. Thanks be to God.

## **GRADUAL**

(Psalm 116: 15-16)

V. Too costly in the eyes of the Lord is the death  
of His faithful. Alleluia.

R. Lord, I am Your servant, the child of Your  
maidservant: You have loosed my bonds.  
Alleluia.



## **A READING FROM THE REVELATION (Revelation 1:9-13, 17-19)**

I, John, your brother, who share with you the distress, the kingdom, and the endurance we have in Jesus, found myself on the island called Patmos because I proclaimed God's word and gave testimony to Jesus. I was caught up in spirit on the Lord's day and heard behind me a voice as loud as a trumpet, which said, "Write on a scroll what you see." Then I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me, and when I turned, I saw seven gold lampstands and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, wearing an ankle-length robe, with a gold sash around His chest. When I caught sight of Him, I fell down at His feet as though dead. He touched me with His right hand and said, "Do not be afraid. I am the first and the last, the One who lives. Once I was dead, but now I am alive forever and ever. I hold the keys to death and the netherworld. Write down, therefore, what you have seen, and what is happening, and what will happen afterwards."

C. The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

## **ALLELUIA VERSE**

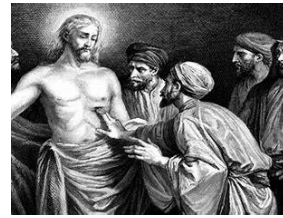
(Psalm 30:2,4)

C. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

V. I praise You, Lord, for You raised me up and did  
not let my enemies rejoice over me. Lord, You  
brought me up from Sheol: You kept me from  
going down to the pit.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.



## **THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT JOHN (John 20:19-31)**

C. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

C. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint  
John.

R. Glory be to You, O Lord.

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So, the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in His hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." Now a week later His disciples were again inside, and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see My hands, and bring your hand and put it into My side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of and that through this belief you may have life in His name.

C. The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.



## **PROFESSION OF FAITH – THE NICENE CREED**

**I believe** in One God, the Father, the Almighty,  
 Maker of heaven and earth  
 Of all that is seen and unseen.  
 I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
 The only Son of God,  
 eternally begotten of the Father.  
 God from God, Light from Light, True God  
 from true God, begotten not made  
 Of one being with the Father.  
 Through Him all things were made  
 For us and for our salvation.  
 He came down from heaven:  
 By the power of the Holy Spirit  
 He was born of the Virgin Mary  
**AND BECAME MAN.**  
 For our sake, He was crucified under Pontius Pilate  
 He suffered death and was buried.  
 On the third day He rose again  
 In fulfillment of the Scriptures.  
 He ascended into heaven and  
 Is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
 He will come again in glory  
 To judge the living and the dead  
 And His kingdom will have no end.  
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 The Lord and Giver of Life  
 Who proceeds from the Father,  
 With the Father and the Son  
 He is worshipped and glorified.  
 He has spoken through the prophets.  
 I believe in One, Holy, Catholic  
 and Apostolic Church  
 I acknowledge one baptism  
 for the forgiveness of sins.  
 I look for the resurrection of the dead  
 And the + life of the world to come. Amen.

## **OFFERTORY VERSE**

(Psalm 56:12b-13)

V. O God, I will present my thank offerings to You.  
 For You have delivered me from death and my feet  
 from stumbling, that I may walk before God in the  
 light of life. Alleluia.

## **PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

Lord, our God, accept the offering of Your rejoicing  
 Church which You have enlivened this day; and  
 grant us the gift of perpetual gladness, for You have  
 given us cause for great joy. We ask this in the name  
 of Your Son, Jesus Christ Who lives and reigns with  
 You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

## **COMMUNION VERSE**

(Ezekiel 37:13a)

V. Then you shall know that I am the Lord when I  
 open your graves and have you rise from them, O  
 My people! Alleluia.



## **ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

**Let us Pray:** Most loving Jesus, I adore You in the  
 Most Blessed Sacrament, in which You are truly  
 present. I love You above all things and I long for  
 You in my soul. Since I cannot receive You  
 sacramentally, I ask You to come spiritually into my  
 heart and heal my soul. I embrace You and unite  
 myself with You; may I never be separated from You.  
 Inflame my heart with the fire of Your love, my Lord  
 and Savior. Amen

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

C. The Lord be with you.

R. And also with you.

C. Let us pray. Lord, Jesus Christ, to You belong the  
 keys of life and death by the will of the Father.  
 Preserve us through these Holy Mysteries that our  
 redemption may be assured and our doubts  
 relieved. For You live and reign with the Father,  
 and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.



## **REFLECTION OF TODAY'S GOSPEL**

With, the countless volumes of Christian works,  
 dealing with the Resurrection of Jesus and its

aftermath, I personally believe, that if one seeks to know the “spiritual” essence of Easter, in their Christian faith, they will be called upon to reflect upon the many lessons, that are found in the “Word of God” during this Easter season, for they will serve as essential “tools of our Christian faith.” Among them:

1. The Appearance of Jesus to His Apostles.
2. His greeting of “peace” His Apostles.
3. The revealing of His wounds to His Apostles
4. His “Mission” statement.
5. The story of Thomas caused Didymus.
6. His Breath of the Holy Spirit unto His Apostles at His Resurrection.
7. The Confession of faith of Thomas

In the Gospel for today, we read, that this was the first time, that Jesus came to His first chosen, following His Resurrection. He greeted them with words of “Peace,” and He showed them His wounds. It happened that on this first Easter evening, He came to many, but Thomas was not there.

Today’s Gospel is not only about the story of the **“doubting”** Thomas. but it is also the message that our Lord said as He greeted all His Apostles including Thomas; “Peace be with you.”

**“Peace”** is a most powerful word, which brings to mind, during this holy season, on how the Lord comes to each of us, as the “Prince of Peace” which becomes a “redemptive peace,” a “forgiving peace” and most importantly a “loving peace.” Did not our Lord teach us, on His “Sermon of the Mount” as found in the Gospel according to St. Matthew, who spoke in “The Beatitudes: “Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be call children of God.”

I believe that we are all called upon to not only know the peace, as we read in Philippians 4:6 “which surpasses all understanding” but to share this peace with the message “We have seen the Lord.”

How the world needs to have this the “peace” which Jesus offers to us this Easter season.

Three years ago, in 2022, I wrote: **Note**; modified.

“Every day, we see and hear of the atrocities committed in Ukraine, by Russian troops]from Bucha to Kyiv, which some have said, and has not since seen, since the atrocities of WW2 committed by the German “Einsatzgruppen,” or death squads, which the Nazis sent into Poland and Russia, These death squads were

formed mostly of criminals, convicts, sadists and the mentally impaired, who went and killed indescribably men, women and children, the young and the old, without mercy.

In 2022, senior Russian officials forced “conscripts as young as 18 or 19-year-old, to “kill everyone,’ as one communication, which later recorded.” The uncovering of “mass” graves of the innocent” bear testimony, as seen in the satellite images, and confirmed these horrors.

As an avid reader of history, I remember many years ago, reading a book entitled: “The Rape of Nanking” by the author Iris Chang, whose grandparents experienced another horror and wrote of the atrocities committed by the Japanese army in the Chinese capital at that time, Nanking. The Japanese commander in charge, General Matsui Iwane, a relative of Emperor Hirohito, was told by senior military advisers to “kill everyone.”

Through this order, it is estimated that by consensus, that in six weeks, over 200,000 and as many as 300,000 Chinese would be brutally killed and where up to 80,000 young girls and women would be raped at the hands of the Japanese. Without the efforts of the 15-man International Committee for the Nanking Safety Zone, led by the Nazi official, John Rabe, many more atrocities would have taken place.

Amid all the problems we also see in our society, this peace is so needed. But the realization that this peace must begin not outside of us, but rather within oneself. It is in the quietness, that is found in prayer, in our own “upper room” shut off from all the confusion and the chaos, of the outside world. That we can begin to experience the Presence of the Risen Lord, when He comes to us in our prayers and found through receiving of the Holy Eucharist.

The other key message in today’s Gospel is found in the words of our Lord who gave a universal truth of our faith: “How blessed are those who have not seen but yet believe.” When we come as witnesses to His Resurrection in our lives, we truly begin to experience and feel a Presence of peace, love, forgiveness and most importantly, the victory of Easter.

Thomas, called Didymus, or the “twin,” was one of the first chosen by our Lord, It has been said that Thomas represents the logic and the intellect of the human mind. He needed physical proof to believe that Jesus was indeed alive, and when Jesus came back to Thomas, a



week later, Jesus did not reject Thomas' demand of physical proof, but rather respected it,

Jesus came to prove to Thomas, through His love, of Thomas to touch the imprint of the nails in His hands and the willingness for him to thrust his hand into His side, if this is what it would take for Thomas to believe.

I believe that Jesus, as being of two "perfect" natures, understood human nature. He knew but that it was not through the human intellect or logic that one would come to understand and eventually believe in the miracle of His resurrection, which was beyond all human intellect and logic, even to this day.

"As the Father has sent me, so I send you." We read in the New Testament that the Apostles were not the only ones to experience His "resurrection from the dead." Jesus shared with others this joy, of conquering death and sin. and Who opened the gates of the kingdom to all, through His "perfect sacrifice" unto the remission of sins. This was and is the central theme of Christianity.

With the breathing of the Holy Spirit by Jesus upon the Apostles, I believed, that it quickened each of them to know with what they were dealing with was bringing them beyond their physical senses and understanding into the "Eternal Spirit" of God.

Just as Jesus received the fulness of the Spirit at His baptism, Jesus now in His glorified body, brought all His Apostles into a higher consciousness of being.

And so, the story of the 'doubting Thomas' took place in the "Upper Room" in Jerusalem, where Thomas was to make His confession of faith "My Lord and My God." I think that this is the profession of faith that we all need to come to know as we dedicate ourselves to the "Risen Christ."

"Be not unbelieving but believe" is what our Lord says to us this Easter season. There is something that exists within each of us, that questions at times, our faith, on whether the Lord is truly "alive" in our lives. When we go through personal trials, our faith naturally falters. But then, there are the times that in our despair, and when we truly seek the Lord in prayer, that He comes to us, in the quietness of our hearts, and assures us that He is with us always. John reminds all of us, at the end of His Gospel, that Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples which are not written in his book, But they are written that one may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of and that through this belief you have life in His name.

This statement of faith was to be confirmed in the words of the First Letter of Peter 1:8-9, who also saw the Resurrected Lord: "Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and although you do not now see Him you believe in Him and rejoice with unutterable and exalted joy. As the outcome of your faith, you obtain the salvation of your souls."



### **THOMAS THE DOUBTER**

When I think about today's Gospel, I think about Saint Thomas. Was he as guilty, as most of us would have been, of not believing without seeing in the "Resurrection of Jesus?"

One of deciding factor of my faith is that I firmly believe, that Jesus, who suffered such a Passion, would have been as "fresh." following His resurrection to His disciples and others found in Holy Scripture and to those who saw Him that first Easter day eventually to Blessed Saint Thomas, a week later.



### **SOME THOUGHTS ON THE BAPTISM OF JESUS THE CHRIST**

**Today**, following the reading of today's Gospel, we will welcome and receive Sophia Harrington officially and will present her unto the Lord, for the administration of the Sacrament of Baptism.

The Baptism of Jesus was so significant that Matthew Marl and Luke recorded this event, to the world of the Jews in Matthew, to the Romans in John Mark. And to the Greeks in Luke, This was to mark a time in history and to the known powers of the baptism of Jesus and the beginning of His public ministry.

During the season of Advent, we read of the message of John the Baptist and his call to

repentance in “preparing the way of the Lord”. In Matthew 4:11, we hear John speak: “I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.”

Those who came to be baptized by John in the River Jordan recognized and confessed their sins and accepted God’s forgiveness. But Jesus was to be baptized not only in water, but also in the Holy Spirit, thus drawing all mankind into a spiritual communion with Him.

In Luke 3:23, we learn that Jesus was about 30 years of age when he began His ministry. It was believed that at 30 years of age, one was physically and mentally mature. It was an age when one was ready for leadership. It was an age when one was no longer a child or a young adult. It was an age when one became a man (or a woman). In the Holy Bible we read that:

- David became King when he was 30 years old; he was a mere shepherd before his anointing: “David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years” (2 Samuel 5:4)
- Ezekiel was called by God as a prophet at age 30: “Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the river of Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God” (Ezekiel 1:1).
- The priests officially entered service at age 30: “From thirty years old and upward even until fifty years old, all that enter into the host, to do the work in the tabernacle of the congregation” (Numbers 4:3).
- John the Baptist was age 30 when he came out from the wilderness to pave the way for the Messiah (Jesus). We know John was roughly 30 because the Bible says he was born 6 months before Jesus, and Jesus started his ministry at age 30.

- Jesus officially started his ministry at age 30. Before this time, he worked as a carpenter and “grew in stature, wisdom, and favor with God and man.” “Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry. He was the son, so it was thought, of Joseph (Luke 3:23).

At the Baptism of Jesus, we see the manifestation of the Blessed Trinity. In Mark 1:9-11, we read: “In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opened and the Spirit descending upon him like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, “Thou art my beloved Son; with thee I am well pleased.”

In the Synoptic gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, John witnessed the Spirit of God descend upon Jesus in the form of a dove. In Palestine, the dove was a sacred bird. A dove was not hunted nor eaten. In Genesis 1:2 we read that the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. The Rabbis used to say that the Spirit of God moved and fluttered like a dove breathing order to God’s creation. In Genesis 8, we read of Noah sending out a dove 3 times following the Great Flood and the last time the dove did not return, indicating that the floodwaters had receded enough to support life. The word “dove” is mentioned in Holy Scripture 47 times. The dove represents the Holy Spirit that also indwells in every believer after they have repented and trusted in Christ. Jesus was to usher in another “helper” following His resurrection from the dead and it was to be the Holy Spirit that was to baptize those who gathered at the Feast of the Pentecost.

In the Nicene Creed, all baptized Christians profess: “I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father”. The Spirit of God is known in Hebrew as “Ruach” or the breath of God, that gives life not only to the world, but to everyone born. In Genesis 2:7, we read: “then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.” Baptism marks a beginning in the life of an

individual as a true believer in Christ. Jesus was to proclaim to Nicodemus in John 3:5: “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”



### OUR PARISH CALENDAR

8:45 am Morning Devotionals  
9:00 am Holy Mass of the Eucharist

### THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE (April 28 – May 3<sup>rd</sup>)

Mon. 4/28	<b>Private Prayer and devotions</b> Vitalis & Valeria, Martyrs Pollio, Martyr Theodore and Didymus, Martyrs
Tues. 4/29	<b>Mass for health and healing</b> Peter of Verona, Martyr Wilfred the Younger, Bishop Hugh the Great, Abbot
Wed. 4/30	<b>Solemnity – Joseph the Workman</b> Joseph the Workman Catherine of Sienna, Virgin & Doctor Maximua, Martyr
Thurs. 5/1	<b>Feast – Philip &amp; James, Apostles</b> Philip & James, Apostles Sigismund of Burgundy, K. & M. Peregrine Laziosi, Prince
Friday, 5/2	<b>Mass to the Holy Angels of God</b> Athanasius of Alexandria, Bp. & D. Exupenius & Zoe, Martyrs Waldebert, Abbot
Saturday, 5/3	<b>Solemnity – Finding the Holy Cross</b> Finding the Holy Cross Timothy & Maura, Martyrs Juvenal of Narni, Bishop



**NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2025**  
**EASTER 3**

9:00 am – Holy Mass of the Eucharist to be

celebrated in the Traditional rite.  
10:00 am – Fellowship Hour



### **PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING**

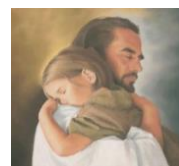
In our prayers, may we remember all our brothers and sisters, who are sick and ill and ask for God's blessings of health and healing.

Let us pray. O Lord, God of mercies, in Your kindness stretch out Your hand and heal all our brothers and sisters who are in any way ailing. Make them worthy of health, deliver them from their present sicknesses and illness and grant them recovery in Jesus' holy name. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



### **LENTEN COLLECTION BOXES**

As we come to the close of the Lenten season, I ask that all donations be collected. As previously stated, our Parish will choose a charity where these monies will be dispersed. I wish to thank all who gave towards helping others. May God bless your generosity.



### **OUR PARISH OUTREACH PROGRAMS**

**“Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.” - Philippians 2:4**



**Our Food Ministry: “To Feed the Hungry”**

**“I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat.”  
- Matthew 25:35**

Our next grocery “give-a-way” date will be **Saturday, May 17th**, from 10 o’clock till supplies last. We are still in need of the following:

- Cereals and packets of instant oatmeal.
- Fruit juices, - V8, Apple and cranberry.
- powder milk / condensed milk.
- Hot chocolate and tea bags.
- Pasta and spaghetti sauce.
- Boxes of Mac-n-cheese.
- Canned tuna in water.
- Canned meats- chicken, salmon, etc.
- Ramen noodles.
- Soups- all varieties.
- Canned veggies and fruits.
- Children’s snack packs.



**Please note:** Through our Parish ministries, we are continuing to collect full sized containers of personal care items as well as full size cleaning items to aid others less fortunate through the various survival centers in our area. Some of those items that are needed:

- Bar soaps and body wash, shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant, hand sanitizers, toilet paper, and personal products for incontinence (pads & panty liners, baby powder, baby wipes and diapers.
- Liquid dish soap, laundry detergent, paper towels, bathroom and kitchen cleansers, dish sponges/scrubbers, trash bags.



### **Collecting plastic tops**

One of our dear parishioners, Maryanna Foster, who works closely with veterans, has asked for our

help in collecting **white or clear plastic bottle tops** that will be donated to aid in the making of prosthetics for veterans in need. A collection container has been set up in the vestibule of our church. Please help donate your plastic tops to this new ministry. May God bless all of our endeavors.



### **Can Soda Tabs**

We are also collecting tabs from soda cans that are then donated to aid the **Shriners Hospitals for Crippled children**. Please save your can soda tabs. There are containers that are located in our Parish vestibule for this purpose. Thank you to all who have donated to this cause and may God bless all our endeavors.

## **THE EASTERN DIOCESE OF THE PNCC**

### **ED MISSION & EVANGELISM COMMISSION WEDNESDAYS AT NOON – CALL TO PRAYER**

On Wednesdays, at 12:00 Noon, during the month of April, members of the Eastern Diocese as well as others, are called to “prayer” and are asked to offer these two devotions prayers:

**Let us Pray:** Lord Jesus Christ, Savior of the world, You taught us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. Enlighten the hearts of our enemies that they may seek the peace that only You can give. Grant us grace to forgive and to be forgiven. Enable us all to work toward justice and embrace Your love that reconciles us with one another. In Your blessed Name we pray. Amen.

### **THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**Our Father** who art in Heaven, hallowed by Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us our daily bread and forgive us of our trespasses this day as we forgive those who trespass against us and led us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Ame





**May we pray for peace in our world and pray for all innocent victims of violence both here and abroad. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.**