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## The God of Surprises

*From a Homily by Pope Francis; April 1, 2018*

**St. John Chrysostom Parish** (est.1867)

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### Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

April 4, 2021

**The Shroud of Turin:****Silent Witness of the Resurrection**

\* For the history and evidence regarding the famous Shroud of Turin, visit: [www.shroud.com](http://www.shroud.com)

\* The Shroud is a challenge to our intelligence. It first of all requires of every person, particularly the researcher, that he humbly grasp the profound message it sends to his reason and his life. For the believer, what counts above all is that the Shroud is a mirror of the Gospel. In fact, if we reflect on the sacred Linen, we cannot escape the idea that the image it presents has such a profound relationship with what the Gospels tell of Jesus' passion and death, that every sensitive person feels inwardly touched and moved at beholding it. The Shroud is thus a truly unique sign that points to Jesus, the true Word of the Father, and invites us to pattern our lives on the life of the One who gave himself for us.  
 ~ Pope St. John Paul II



\* The Shroud invites us to contemplate Jesus of Nazareth. This image speaks to our heart and moves us to climb the hill of Calvary, to look upon the wood of the Cross, and to immerse ourselves in the eloquent silence of love. ~ Pope Francis

First: the announcement. There is an announcement: the Lord has risen; that announcement which traveled by word of mouth ever since the early days of Christianity: it was a greeting: The Lord has risen. And the women who went to anoint the Lord's body were met by a surprise. The surprise.... God's announcements always bring surprises because our God is the God of surprises. It has been like this from the beginning of salvation history; ever since our father Abraham. God surprises you: "Just go, go, leave your land and go". And one surprise always follows another. God is not able to make an announcement without surprising us. And the surprise is what moves your heart, what touches you in the very place you do not expect. To use the language of young people: the surprise is a low blow; you do not expect it. And he goes and moves you. First: the surprising announcement.

Second: haste. The women run, they hasten to say: "But we have found this!". God's surprises place us on a journey, immediately, without delay. And so they run to see. Peter and John run. The shepherds on that Christmas night run: "Let us go to Bethlehem to see what the angels have told us". And the Samaritan woman runs to tell her people: "This is the news: I found a man who told me everything I have done". And the people know the things that the woman has done. And those people run; they leave what they are doing, even the housewife leaves the potatoes in the pot — she will find them burnt [on her return] — but the important thing is to go, to run in order to see that surprise, that announcement. It still happens today. In our neighbourhoods, in the villages, when something extraordinary happens, people run to see; they go in haste. Andrew wasted no time and went in haste to tell Peter: "we have found the Messiah". Surprises, good news are always announced in this manner: in haste. There is a person in the Gospel who takes his time. He does not want to take risks. But the Lord is good. He awaits him with love. It is Thomas. "I will believe when I see the wounds" he says. The Lord also has patience for those who are in no hurry.

The surprising announcement, the hastened response, and the third thing I wish to mention to you today is a question: "What about me? Do I have a heart that is open to God's surprises; am I capable of going in haste or do I persist with the refrain: "well, I'll see tomorrow, tomorrow, tomorrow?". What does the surprise tell me? John and Peter hastened to the sepulchre. The Gospel said that John "believed". Peter also "believed", but in his own way; with his faith somewhat clouded by regret for having denied the Lord. The surprising announcement, the running, the hastening and the question: And what do I do on this Easter Day 2018? What do you do?

St. John Chrysostom

## Octave of Easter

April 7- 9

*The eight days from Easter Sunday to the Second Sunday in Easter is called the Octave of Easter and are celebrated as solemnities. It is truly one great, long day of rejoicing!*

<b>Easter Wednesday</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	+Audrey Poole by <i>Ralph &amp; Rosemarie Recoskie</i>
<b>Easter Thursday</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	+Yvon Ouellet by <i>Knights of Columbus</i>
<b>Easter Friday</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Special Intentions by <i>Michael &amp; Marie Howlett</i>

## ✠ Second Sunday of Easter ✠

~ *Sunday of the Divine Mercy* ~

April 11

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>3:45 p.m.</b>	<i>Confessions</i>
	<b>4:30 p.m.</b>	+ Kathy Wagner by <i>Family &amp; Friends</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	Intentions of the People ( <i>Missa pro populo</i> )

**Divine Mercy Sunday:** will be celebrated next Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup> with Exposition of the Holy Eucharist beginning at 2:30 p.m. and the recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 3:00 p.m.

*The Paschal Mystery of Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection is the summit of the revelation of a deeper justice permeated with mercy which springs completely from the love of the Father and the Son which bears fruit in the Spirit of Love. In the Paschal Mystery, eternal love touches the most painful wounds of humanity, showing love to be more powerful than sin. The Father is the source of mercy; the Son, the way of mercy; the Holy Spirit, the life of mercy.*



## IN YOUR PRAYERS, PLEASE REMEMBER:

- that our risen Saviour may transform and fill us with the joy of his glorious and life-giving resurrection;
- those who have been affected by the coronavirus: the sick, the dying, their families and care givers; those who struggle with fear, anxiety and depression;
- those who have lost their jobs and are suffering economic hardship;
- parishioners who are sick; and those who have died, especially: Fr. Brady McNamara.

## ~ PARISH STEWARDSHIP ~

**SUNDAY OFFERINGS:** Sunday, March 28 - \$3,791.30 Thank you for your continuing commitment during these difficult times. **Sunday Envelope Offerings can also be put through the mail slot on the parish office door.**

**CHURCH EXTERIOR RESTORATION COLLECTION:** The amount of \$5,693.50 from the month of February was recently sent to the Chancery Office in Pembroke.

**SUPPORT THE FUTURE OF YOUR CHURCH:** Consider a bequest to St. John Chrysostom Exterior Restoration Project through your will and leave an extraordinary legacy gift for the glory of God and to ensure that future generations continue to have a home to celebrate our Christian Faith.

**DIRECT DEPOSIT:** Why not use direct deposit for the sake of convenience and for the continual support of our parish? Just call the parish office to set it up! We have 53 parishioners who have chosen this option.



**St. John Chrysostom Parish is now using a new communication tool to reach and register people in our parish.** The weekly church bulletin will also be emailed out to parishioners using a new, safe and secure

network called **flocknote**. (For those without email, we will continue to print a limited number of bulletins for pick up at the church or parish office.) There is no need for you to log in, create an account, or download anything to get messages from the church: it just works! When you receive an email from the parish through **flocknote**, just open it as usual and read the message and open any links or file attachments. You can even respond or ask a question.

This program will allow the parish to build and maintain a central database with contact info for our members keeping all information private and only accessible to parish administration.