

OLV Rel. Ed. Newsletter



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April 2023: Faith

Signs of spring are surrounding, reflecting the presence of God. We see Christ's light shining around us and in us throughout our celebration of the miracle of Jesus' Resurrection. Remembering Christ lifting Himself onto the Cross, we can lift up our hearts, praising God for His faithfulness to us. The Resurrection reminds us that God has never left us. He is with us forever. Nothing can defeat God. Believing in the possibilities, there is no limit to what we can achieve together, through God, for His glory.

Lenten sacrifices are not always easy. Every season in life has its crosses, but Jesus gives crosses to His friends. He wants us to be our best selves, which we become through the adversities we rise above. Challenging times can make keeping faith feel like a daily battle, but fighting the good fight is about trying again, without giving up. Our liturgical year reflects this, as seasons like Lent are cycles of dying and rising again. To choose Christ each day is to choose faith, hope, and love, which allows us to die to the past, and be born into new life. We are transformed by God's love. Raising up eyes of faith to see God, we see the risen Lord inviting us to be with Him. Easter teaches us that what seems impossible is possible through God's mercy. We can have faith in God's promises, seeing what wonders He has worked in love for us.

-Katie Sadakierski

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<https://olveasthampton.org/religious-education/>

April Dates to Remember

- Apr. 2: Sixth Sunday of Lent
- Apr. 6: Holy Thursday
- Apr. 7: Good Friday
- Apr. 8: Holy Saturday/Easter Vigil
- Apr. 9: Easter Sunday
- Apr. 16: Divine Mercy Sunday
- Apr. 20: First Confession
- Apr. 27: Class Session 5
- Apr. 29: Feast of St. Catherine of Siena
- Apr. 30: World Day of Prayer for Vocations

*see our bulletins for Mass times:

<https://olveasthampton.org/bulletins/>



Easter Prayer

Behold the joy of Easter,
the miracle we were shown.
Rejoice your Resurrection,
our faith forever sown.

Prayer Source: Loyola Press ("The Joy of Easter")



Easter Vigil: the candlelight at the Easter Vigil reminds us of Christ's triumph over sin, darkness, and death. The flickering flames of the candles point up, reminding us to faithfully look to God as our source of light and truth in the world.

Saint Spotlight: St. Catherine of Siena

St. Catherine of Siena was born in Italy in 1347, on March 25, the Feast of the Annunciation. It was appropriate that St. Catherine was born on this feast, commemorating when the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that She would be the Mother of God. Like the angel, St. Catherine would bring her message of faith to others. Since childhood, St. Catherine lived out a strong faith. St. Catherine saw the beauty of God everywhere, in everyone. She saw her father as being like Jesus, her mother as being like Mary, and her siblings as being like the apostles. Looking at the people around her as reflections of God, as members of His family, led her to treat others with the love she would show to Christ. Early in her life, St. Catherine began fasting and giving her belongings to people in need. She practiced her faith, her belief in God's greatness and love, through sharing everything she had with other people, offering it all up to God. St. Catherine joined the Dominican sisters, who taught her to read. At first, St. Catherine stayed close to home to help her family and serve people in her local community, but she soon began to travel and spread the Word of God. When she saw challenges in the Church and world, St. Catherine shared her faith through her powerful words. Scribes wrote down her messages, which were sent to Church leaders to promote peace in times of war and confusion, when there were two popes (one being an antipope who was not elected to the papacy). St. Catherine believed in God's truth. Through sharing it, she led others to have faith in Christ, too. Never giving up, she worked hard to touch hearts with God's love.

Scripture Spotlight:
"Now God has both
raised up the Lord, and
will raise us up also by
his power."

-1 Corinthians 6:14
(DRA)

Song of the Month: Lift
High the Cross

