

## *From the Desk of Fr. Matthew Arbuckle*

**JMJ**

**HE IS RISEN! (HE is risen indeed! Alleluia!)**

May God grant all of you a blessed and Happy Easter. We can now again say “Alleluia” and permit ourselves whatever penitential sacrifice we gave up during Lent. Enjoy! With death, Christ has conquered our death. HE IS RISEN!

It is my hope that our Lenten penances have perhaps started a virtuous habit: maybe by eating or indulging less of something we are a little better trained to deny ourselves a pleasure in order to grow closer to our suffering Savior. Maybe we began a prayer discipline that we did not previously possess. Whatever the case, we should build on these things rather than drop them cold now that Lent is over. Whatever sufferings you offered, they are of long-term value to your soul as long as you continue to build on them.

At this time I want to draw particular attention to those souls who humbled themselves before Almighty God, cooperated with His call, and entered Holy Mother Church through the waters of Baptism or who became fully initiated through Confirmation and the Eucharist. Their names, now written in the book of life, should inspire us to obediently go where the Master calls. May God be praised for our newest Catholics: Artemio, Mark, Abigail, Brennan, Joe, Lexi, Carl, Scott, Silvia, Kimberlee, and Cynthia. Now let’s start praying for more people to join the Catholic faith next year.

Thank you to the team who did so much work for preparing and catechizing in RCIA headed by Chad Grube. There are several hands at work teaching, praying, encouraging, looking after the kids, sponsoring, and simply being present in support of those catechumens and candidates who are making a profound life-long commitment. Thank you to the RCIA team for your invaluable work in the mission of Evangelization – may God reward you abundantly.

The most traditional Catholic song for the Easter season is the *Regina Caeli*. Obviously, anything that has “Alleluia” in it will be unleashed, but the Regina Caeli has pride of place as the prayer offered in place of the Angelus during Easter. It’s quick, lively, and easy to learn – so perhaps make learning the Regina Caeli one of your Easter resolutions.

Happy Easter to everyone. HE IS RISEN!

**St. Joan of Arc...pray for us! (ALLELUIA!)**