

FROM THE PASTOR
APRIL 23, 2023
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE HOLY AND GREAT MARTYR ST. GEORGE

Christ is Risen! He is Truly Risen! We continue to glory in Our Lord's Holy Resurrection as we stand in the shadow of the Easter candle. The Holy and Glorious season of Easter will reach its culmination and wondrous conclusion on the Solemnity of Pentecost – May 28th. And Easter is made more joyous as we celebrate the liturgical commemorations of the saints. Today April 23rd we keep the Commemoration of St. George, on April 25th the Feast of St. Mark, and on April 26th the Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel. For our meditation of today I would like to turn our attention to St. George.

St. George is one of the most important saints in the life of the Church. He is the patron of England, of Russia, of Greece, and of Turkey. He is one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers. He is the patron of the Spanish province of Aragon and to this day it is the custom for children to make First Holy Communion on his Feastday in that province. The Cross of St. George is a red cross on a white field and it is the flag of England. We see it in the Union Jack. There are more Churches named for St. George than for any other saint. He is the patron of the Order of the Garter and of the Sacred Military Constantinian Order of St. George. (I am a member of that order and will be attending a special Mass today at St. Vincent Ferrer on Lexington Avenue). St. George is the patron of all soldiers, and all scouts. George was a soldier of the Imperial Roman Army and was martyred at the beginning of the fourth century. This was the period right before the conversion of the Emperor Constantine and, ironically, was the time of fiercest persecution of the Church.

George is always pictured riding a white horse and slaying a dragon while a maiden is in the corner whom he rescues. Actually, this is a symbolic depiction of our great martyr. Through his martyrdom he slays the dragon who is, of course, satan, the ancient enemy of our race. The Empress Theodosia was so impressed with George's courage that she herself sought baptism. She is the maiden in the picture.

*You fought the good fight with faith,
O Martyr of Christ, George.
You exposed the perversion of the persecutors
And offered an acceptable sacrifice to God.
Therefore you also received a crown of victory
And through your prayers O Holy One,
Obtained the forgiveness of sins for all.
-from the Byzantine Liturgy*

SPRING AT ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE

Our parish has just celebrated the Paschal Mystery: the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Week most beautiful and prayerful. I wish to thank Deacon Ray and our whole parish staff. Special thanks must go to the Altar Guild, Ushers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Serves, Knights and squires, and of course our organist Gary and cantor Eva, to the whole schola, and our guest musicians. Everyone worked to diligently to give us such an uplifting and holy celebration of the grace of the redemption.

We remind you that our little ones will be receiving First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 6th. They will participate in the May Crowning on Sunday May 14th after the 10.30AM Mass. On that day they will be enrolled in the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Our Confirmation students made their Confirmation yesterday Saturday, April 22nd.

Please see elsewhere in the Bulletin information about our Annual Communion Breakfast sponsored by the Marian Guild and the Knights of Columbus. The Guild members and the Knights and squires will attend the 10.30 Mass on Sunday May 22nd and the Breakfast will immediately follow the Mass. Our guest celebrant for the Mass and speaker at the Communion Breakfast is Father Christopher Heller who was ordained a priest in June of 2022. Father Heller's family have been long time parishioners here at St. Paul and he is presently serving as parochial vicar at St. Dominic's, Oyster Bay.

SAVE THE DATE

On Sunday June 4th St. Paul the Apostle Parish will celebrate the 15th Anniversary of Deacon Raymond P. D'Alessio' ordination to the Holy Diaconate. The actual date of Deacon Ray' ordination was May 18, 2008, We will observe it at the 10.30 Mass on Sunday June 4th followed by a reception in the Lower Hall. Deacon Ray has been such a humble servant of the Lord in our midst and has done so much for all of us to help us come closer to God and His Blessed Mother. We will give thanks for his ministry at St. Paul. Everyone is cordially invited to attend the Mass and reception.

Please remember that our Annual Golf Outing will be Monday June 5th. I am most grateful for the Committee of Don Cavanaugh, Tim Principe, Paula Maturo, and Anne Maione for all of their

dedicated service. Please make every effort to attend and support this endeavor. It is the principal fund raiser for the parish. Our honorees this year are Mr. and Mrs. Christopher and Joie Hein and their family. They have been long time and very dedicated parishioners of St. Paul.

In Jesus and Mary,
Monsignor James F. Pereda