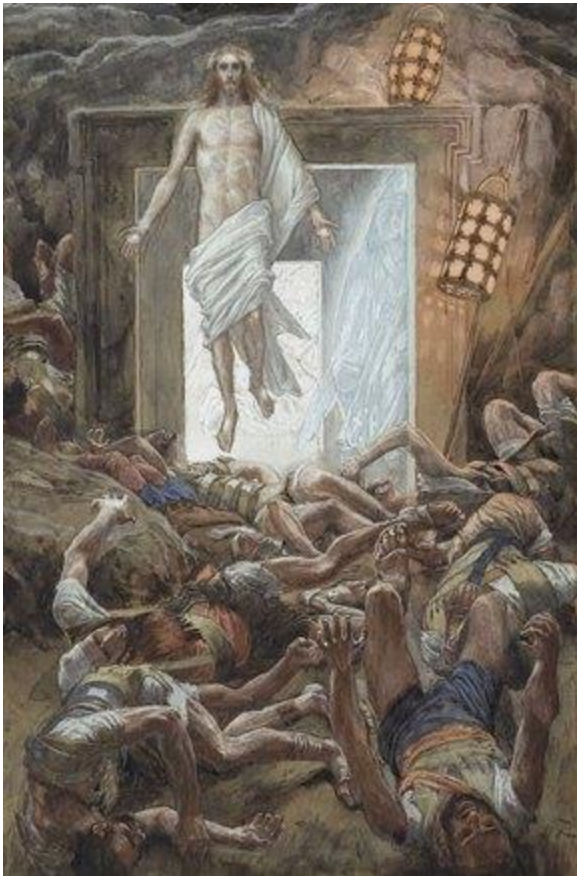




## The Diocese of Trenton



### **Easter 2021: 'Behold, I make all things new' (Revelation 21:5)**

**A message from Bishop David M.  
O'Connell, C.M.**

The three days before Easter Sunday are, indeed, instructive. They speak of commitment to something great, of sharing our very selves with one another, of the sacrifice that comes with love, of the precious yet limited time we have on this earth, of the hope that beyond this life, there is even more, even better --- in fact, an eternity of joy for those who have faith in God and live their lives in love!

These are good lessons. These are all part of the Easter message for those of us who believe in the Life, Death and Resurrection of the Lord

Jesus Christ --- and they are comforting for all people of good will, no matter what their faith traditions may be. Easter and this wondrous season of new life all around us is a time of peace and promise.

The past year has not been easy, to say the very least. That is true because of the pandemic and the economy but those are not the only reasons. Within society at large --- while some wonderful things have occurred through the heroism and generosity of many --- there have been some tensions, some hurts, some racism, some distrust, some divisions, and some incivility --- anything but the peace or promise of Easter.

The great thing about the cycle of life and the change of seasons is that we can look always forward to the next thing in our lives, hopefully wiser and more caring than in the cycle and season that went before.

We have a few days now during Holy Week and Easter to take a deep breath, to pause and reflect on what is really important, to pray and grow closer to God, to embrace those we love in the ways that only such holy days provide, to place the hurts we have felt or still feel in the wounded hands and feet and side of the Lord who was nailed to a cross in these very days, to die to ourselves and our own selfishness and pride only to rise to a new and different life in which those things are left behind. Take the time, make the time to do all these things as life is renewed all around us!

Easter is a special time for Christians, for everyone really. While Holy Thursday and Good Friday --- and the sacrificial events they commemorate --- always come first, there is now and always will follow the sunrise of Easter and the peace and promise of eternal life.'

"Behold, I make all things new," Jesus said. In faith, let us let HIM do so. "For, behold," he reminds us, "I am with you all days, even until the end of time" (Matthew 28:20).

Happy Easter to you all!

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## Catholics to connect in-person and virtually to commemorate Holy Week and Easter

### *Overview and Streaming schedule for Holy Week and Easter*

This Holy Week and Easter, hundreds of thousands of Catholics in the Diocese of Trenton will take part in Masses and services either inside or outside their churches while observing pandemic precautions or at home via livestream. The special events of Holy Week will commemorate the final days of Jesus Christ's earthly life and celebrate on Easter Sunday, April 4, the joy of new life with his Resurrection.

In light of the ongoing risk of COVID-19 infection, the dispensation from the obligation of Mass attendance, issued last spring by Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M., remains in place until further notice. Pandemic directives issued by the Diocese strongly urge all those who are ill, in high risk categories or concerned about attending in-church Masses to connect to Holy Week events through their parish's livestreaming opportunities.

The Diocese will livestream/record all of Bishop O'Connell's Holy Week Masses and services via its [digital](#) and [social media](#) sites.

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR DATES, TIMES AND LINKS.

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## The Monitor Magazine explores the question: How are we different this Easter?

Just like the Holy Women at the Tomb – whose depiction graces the cover of The Monitor Magazine’s April issue – we find ourselves eagerly awaiting the **Promise of Easter** after a time of darkness and fear. In this newly posted issue, the magazine highlights some of the ways that the Church and her people have adapted and thrived since last Holy Week and Easter at the start of the pandemic crisis. Look for stories on how our parishes have been working hard to connect with more of their community with great results.



We encourage you to spend some time during this Easter season reading over the **Easter message of Bishop David M. O’Connell, C.M.**, as well as the Scripture reflections from **Father Garry Koch**.

The April issue also delivers news updates on efforts to combat COVID-19 through a Church-led vaccination awareness program and gives a birds-eye view of what really is happening at **the U.S. southern border with the influx of migrants**, many of them unaccompanied minors.

Join us in celebrating the final winning season for **Trenton Catholic Academy’s girls basketball team**; the 101 years of service and solidarity provided by **Mount Carmel Guild** in Trenton; 10 years of shepherding young mothers in crisis by Good Counsel Homes in Riverside, and the **105-year-old lifelong Catholic** who beat COVID!

We continue to follow some of our many programs and events highlighting the **Year of St. Joseph** and **Year of the Family**. Look for those stories and much more in this latest issue, including our Spanish-language section, **El Anzuelo**.

The print magazine has been mailed to subscribers; if you are not yet a subscriber, [click here](#) to learn more! NOTE: Due to ongoing restrictions in our churches, we are providing temporary open access to our digital edition. Just click [HERE](#) for a sneak peek of the April issue.

Also, remember to check in throughout the month at [TrentonMonitor.com](http://TrentonMonitor.com) because news happens every day. Have

questions? Reach out to us via [Monitor-Subscriptions@DioceseofTrenton.org](mailto:Monitor-Subscriptions@DioceseofTrenton.org).

On behalf of our publisher, Bishop O'Connell, and our entire team here at The Monitor, I wish you and your loved ones a truly blessed Holy Week and an Easter season full of promise!

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## Have you made your gift to the Annual Catholic Appeal yet?

The 2021 Annual Catholic Appeal is underway and we ask anyone who has not yet made a gift to please give it your careful consideration? Did you know that you are able to select the ministries and programs to which you would like your gift directed? To learn more [here](#).

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