



News & Views

from the hill

Church of the Resurrection, Hopewell Junction, New York



RESURRECTION

Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

Revelation 3:20

Volume 7, Number 1 - 2008 *Lent*

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From the Rector

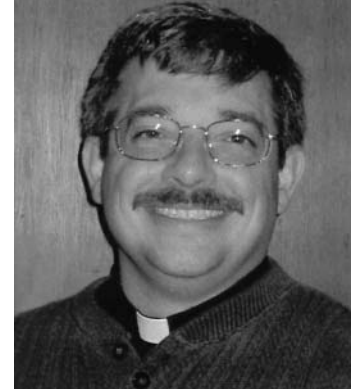
To give something up or to take something on, that is the question.

Lent is a time to reflect, a time to slow down, a time to change the way we do something so that we prepare ourselves for Easter. I remember growing up in a house that took this season of the church year very seriously. In our house, lent was a time to do without as a way of making a sacrifice. We were expected to give up something. The reason we were to do this was so we would experience some type of hardship. In this way we were suffering right along with Christ in his suffering albeit certainly not to the same degree. My Mom might give up the chocolate she craved and Dad would at times would lay his pipe aside for the forty days. We would eat fish on Fridays and attend the midweek Mass. The purpose of Lent is to be a season of fasting, self-denial, Christian growth, penitence, conversion, and simplicity.

On page 17 of the Book of Common Prayer we read concerning Days of Special Devotion:

“The following days are observed by special acts of discipline and self-denial: Ash Wednesday and other weekdays of Lent and Holy week, except the feast of Annunciation. Good Friday and all other Fridays of the year, in commemoration of the Lord's crucifixion, except for Friday's in the Christmas and Easter seasons, and any other Feasts of our Lord which occur on a Friday.”

Lent can also be an opportunity to grow in your relationship with God by adding a discipline of personal piety. Some people choose to set aside time daily, devoted to just being in the presence of God in meditation or prayer. Some take on the discipline of learning how to use the Anglican Rosary and still others



decide to start saying one or more of the daily offices out of the Book of Common Prayer.

This year, the church will offer an opportunity for you to explore God's purpose for your life as we begin a educational series entitled "Doing Life Together". Beginning Wednesday the 13th of February, those interested will meet in the fellowship hall for a brief time of worship followed by a light soup supper. After breaking bread together we will watch a short video and discuss God's purpose for our lives. Those of you with families don't have to miss out on this one because we have planned activities for the younger children as the adults are gathered for the class. There will also be an area for the older children to do homework. This way the whole family can participate and still make it home for bedtime.

Whatever it is that you decide to do this Lenten season, I pray that it will be a special time of spiritual growth as you discover the goodness and Blessings God has for each and every one of us.

Peace be with you,

Fr. Mic +

Lenten Series

For our Lenten Series this year we will be using the first part of the Doing Life Together video series - an introductory group study, Beginning Life Together.

Doing life together was God's plan from the beginning of time. From the relationships of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in the Trinity, to the twelve apostles, to the early house churches, and even Jesus' final words in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20)-all share the pattern of life together. God longs to connect all of his children in loving relationships that cultivate the five biblical purposes of the church deep within their hearts.

Beginning Life Together will get you going on a whole new adventure - it provides an overview of the timeless pathway God created to fulfill his plan for your life - the five biblical purposes God intends for living together in community.

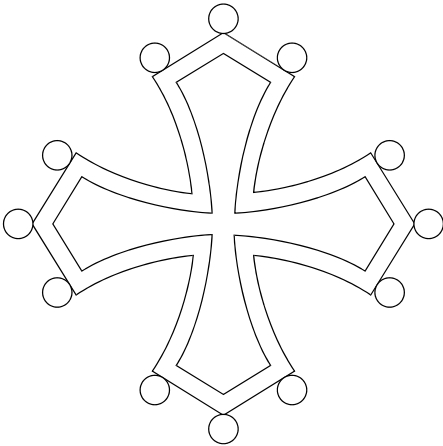
Our series will begin on Wednesday nights with a simple Eucharist downstairs followed by a bread and soup supper. The children will stay downstairs for their own video series and the adults will venture upstairs and watch the video with discussion to follow.

For those unable to attend the Wednesday evening group, the series will be available on Sunday mornings at 8:30 in lieu of the Adult Ed classes.

Dates for the program: Wed., Feb. 13, 20, 27, March 5, 12. Sun., Feb. 17, 24, March 2, 9, 16. The sixth session, the groups will come together on Wed., March 19 so everyone will be finished before Easter.

We will have some of the older Youth Group members available after the children's video for help with homework during the time the adults are finishing their program upstairs.

Call the office with any questions you may have. (226-5727)



Almighty and everlasting God, who dost govern all things in heaven and earth, mercifully hear our supplications and grant to the congregation of the Church of the Resurrection, all things that are necessary for its spiritual welfare; enlighten and guide its priest; strengthen and increase the faithful; visit and relieve the sick; turn and soften the wicked; rouse the fallen; restore the penitent; remove all hindrances to the advancement of thy truth; and bring all to be of one heart and mind within the fold of thy Holy Catholic Church; to the honor and glory of thy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

A short word about Church Etiquette

The five minutes before the start of our weekly Eucharist is set aside for preparing our hearts and minds for worship. The church bell is rung at 9:25, an announcement is made asking for quiet, and the prelude prepared by our organist begins. At 9:30 the processional hymn starts. Early arrivals have often come precisely for this quiet time and Joe has spent time practicing his music. The majority of our parishioners, however, seem to arrive between 9:28 and 9:32. While it is natural to want to greet one another, it is important to remember to be considerate of those who have started their worship at 9:25.

“Christmass” at Resurrection

Thank you to all who had a hand in the extensive prep that went into our glorious celebration of our Lord's Nativity - from the Altar set-up to the special music and the beautiful flowers and greens! LEMs, acolytes, lectors, Sunday School teachers, Youth Group, ushers and greeters, priest - both obviously, and behind the scenes! All three Eucharists were well attended - over 170 came in all! A special thanks to Paula Shriver who patiently persevered to coordinate the Pageant with its precious and sometimes precocious cast.

The Saint Nicholas Brunch

Actual faces and personalities were matched to our Christmas outreach this year when Resurrection hosted 11 families from Poughkeepsie Protective Services and their Shelters at a festive party in the undercroft! A special thank you to Debbie Evans, Brenda Curran, and all of our Youth Group for the time and effort that went into making the event so successful. They shopped, wrapped, decorated, greeted, read stories, played games, served food, handed out presents, and helped to clean up afterwards. Thanks also to everyone in the parish who gave so graciously and generously of their time and service and donations so we could serve these families. Check out our website to see some of the photos of the event!

Narthex Picture Boards

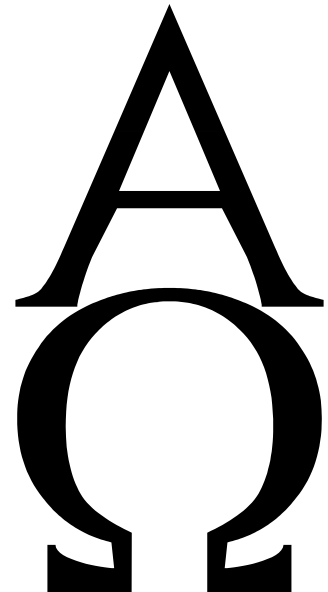
Did you send out a photo card this Christmas? Did you send one to the church so it could be used on the Know Thy Neighbor picture board? It's never too late - call or see Regina Furphy! Informal snapshots are fine too - the goal is to have all of our parishioners represented. It's a wonderful way to get to know who's who!

Adult Ed Bible Study

This informal weekly class meets in the undercroft between our two Sunday morning services (from 8:30 - 9:15AM) We are currently studying the Book of Job. All are welcome to come - Bibles, coffee, and fellow inquiring minds are all provided! Note: during Lent the class will be a duplicate of the Wednesday evening Lenten video series - the regular curriculum will resume on Sunday, April 6th.

We Usually Don't Know Until You Tell Us!

If you, or a loved one, are sick and need hospitalization, please don't assume that the hospital will contact the church or Fr. Mic! You, or someone close to you, must telephone the church office (226 - 5727) or the rectory (226 - 5696) and give such information. There are answering machines in both places in case no one is available to take the call right away. The Parish's prayers and its Priest's visitation/ministrations can only commence if we know there is a need!



News & Views

from the hill

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone." '



Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him." '

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone." ' Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test." ' When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Luke 4: 1-13

Angels Anonymous

Thank you for the many kind donations contributed to this fund during the recent holiday season! Due to this generosity, Angels have helped to make Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's a bit brighter in various ways for several of our parish families. It has all been most gratefully received and appreciated.

Web Site

By now you should know that Resurrection has a web site - it is listed on the front of the bulletin each week: <http://nyresurrection.homestead.com/> . Below is a description of some of the pages beyond the home page with the picture of the church:

Resurrection Today:

Contains the announcements from the current week, along with the Sunday scripture readings. As a bonus, if you scroll to the bottom, you will enjoy "God's Billboard" for the week. (Contact me if you should see a good one.)

Members Area

This is where we put the prayer list, as well as the acolyte Lem Lay-reader schedule. This page is password protected as people asking for prayer may not

want casual browsers to see their names, or know when children will be at church. Contact a warden or the web master if you need to know the password.

Archives

Here you can find old newsletters, and bulletins from the last 3 months.

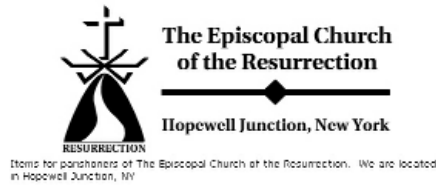
Push Me

Each week this should take you to a site of some interest. Past links have included the "Lego Church", Advent Art, news about our new presiding bishop, and the history of the Christmas tree. Please feel free to suggest future targets to the web master.

That should give you an idea. If you have good photos of a church activity, or any other suggestions, please contact me.

Resurrection's online web store...

Items like coffee mugs, hats, t-shirts and more, all with the Resurrection logo imprint, can be purchased online. A portion of the proceeds from sales at the store is returned to Resurrection. You can visit the site anytime. If you have any suggestions or questions you can speak to any Vestry member. The address is...
<http://cafepress.com/nyresurrection>



Apparel [Back to Top](#)



Hats & Bags [Back to Top](#)



Stickers, Buttons & Magnets [Back to Top](#)



Ecumenical Blood Drives

Last spring Resurrection investigated the possibility of expanding our own recent annual Blood Drives in order to promote the concept of regular donations being collected at various rotating sites. To that end, we had some of our parishioners donate at the First Reformed Church of Fishkill in August, we hosted a successful Drive here at Resurrection in October, some recently donated again in Fishkill in early January, and now the next Drive will be at Resurrection again in April! Please mark your calendars on Saturday, April 5th from 1 - 6:30 PM and plan to help! One pint of your blood can literally save three lives! If you are unable to donate blood, there are other ways in which you can still help - baking cookies, making phone calls, or providing hospitality and child care to donors. More information will follow.

Buildings and Grounds

Although it appears to be quiet there is always something going on within Building and Grounds. Recently we have had some landscaping done in front of the office, and the entrance leading into the church. We are also looking into the mold problem in the crawl spaces under both the church building and the rectory. Some of the other topics of discussion are a new fence for the playground, renovations to the nursery and the entire undercroft, and a storage building. We are planning a work day for Souper Bowl Sunday..Feb 3rd.If you would like to help with a project or have some new ideas please don t hesitate to let us know.

Missions Committee

This year the Missions Committee would like to make bimonthly collections of items needed by Hudson River Housing. They supply individual shelters in Dutchess County: River Haven, Hudson River Lodging and DCCH (Dutchess County Collation for the Homeless).

In January we started collecting; pillows, blankets, towels, wash clothes and cleaning supplies. There will be a box downstairs for your donation.

In March; Infant formula, diapers, feminine hygiene products, toothbrushes & toothpaste, deodorant and pajamas (size X-large).

In May; Sample sized shampoo, sample sized soap bars, shaving cream & razors, laundry detergent & bleach, paper towels.

In July; Dish detergent, school supplies, backpacks, games (board games, chess, etc.)

The Missions Committee would like to thank you for your help in trying to reach out to help those in need.

If you have any questions about the committee you can contact Liz Pavelka, 297-4907.

Men's Group

Men... if you are looking for a night out the Men's Group meets every last Monday of each month. You do not need to be versed in the Bible just come and see for yourself what we are all about. We meet at 7:00pm and end by 8:15-8:30pm. If that's not good for you we also meet each Tuesday morning for breakfast at 8:00am at the Plaza Diner in town by Eckerd's. Good commaderie and some laughs always gets the day going. Come check it out. See Joe Haubrich for more details.

Heartfelt Thanks

We cannot begin to express our gratefulness to all of you as we dealt with the loss in our family. To see your many faces, hear your phone messages, read your cards and feel the support of your prayers has given us such comfort. What a blessing to belong to such a wonderful parish family.

The Simones



Reflections on the Gospel of Saint Matthew

by the Rev. Dr. Susanna E. Metz

Matthew's Gospel isn't a diary of facts and figures. It's all about Jesus' mission and ministry: who Jesus is and what Jesus teaches his followers about their own ministry in the kingdom of God. The beginning of the 4th chapter gives us a glimpse into the person of Jesus. Remember, he's just been baptized and is now seriously considering his ministry by taking time apart for prayer. Jesus understood that his baptism was a life-forming event, an event that would propel him into a world that would both celebrate his message and condemn him for it. Baptism should be the same for us. Matthew uses the image of the temptations to help us understand that connection between Jesus and us.

There are certainly many ways to consider how that connection works. One way might be to think about the place - the desert - and what the temptations might say to us. The place for Jesus was a real wilderness; if you've ever been to Israel, you can imagine how desolate and harsh it probably was then. People die in deserts, drained of every bit of life and will by the heat, the thirst, and the physical isolation. It always seems a huge understatement for Matthew to write, "Jesus fasted forty days and nights, and afterwards he was famished." Famished! It's a miracle he wasn't crazed out of his mind! He should have been dead. So we begin to see this

place as not only a physical place, for Jesus certainly went into the desert to pray, but also as that place deep within ourselves where we come face to face with God and our humanness. Remember, we're not supposed to figure out how Jesus lasted forty days in the desert. We're supposed to come to a better understanding of the ministry and mission of Jesus in relation to the whole story of salvation.

And that's where the temptations come in. Again, this isn't a story where we're supposed to focus on what the devil might have looked like or what it might have been like for Jesus to "be put on the pinnacle of the temple." Didn't anyone see him up there? That's not the point of this passage. This is about relationship. It's about connection. Matthew's point in describing the temptations was to connect Jesus to the ongoing story of salvation begun in the Old Testament. We see this connection in Jesus' replies to the devil's temptations. Jesus first quotes Deuteronomy, "One does not live by bread alone." Jesus is identifying with humanity instead of relying on his divine power to change stones to bread. His ministry is to the people of God, and he accomplishes that by sharing their humanness.

In the other temptations, Jesus continues to model how we humans should behave. Again, Jesus quotes Deuteronomy when he points out that only God is worthy of humankind's worship. God alone is the sovereign Lord; God expects humanity's service. This homage is actually not even the

devil's to offer or expect. We're reminded of the conversation between the devil and God in the book of Job. The devil tries to tempt God by assuming an equality that doesn't belong to him.

The last temptation shows Jesus' faithfulness—his discipleship. He again quotes Deuteronomy, pointing out that one shall not tempt the Lord (as quite frankly the Jews had attempted to do many times before). This reminds the readers of Matthew's Gospel that a faithful Jew is faithful to God's commands. A faithful Jew knows that God is sovereign Lord and is worthy of homage and service. A faithful Jew keeps the commandments and model for living as written in the Torah.

So, this place, this desert—whether the physical place or that place deep within where Jesus understood his connection to God and also to humanity—is a holy place. We learn from examining this place in Jesus' life because we can connect it to that place in our own lives where we struggle with our relationship to God and to humankind. We can be supported in that struggle by this account. It helps us put things in order. It helps us remember that, when we might be tempted to put something in our lives before faithfulness to God's law, we can remember that God is God and that God is our help and our salvation. God resides in all the places of our lives and makes them holy.

Have You Seen Jesus?

From the Editor

Many Christians here in America struggle with “seeing” Jesus. Sure we have many images of our Savior. For centuries some of the world’s most famous and beloved artists have created literally thousands of depictions of Christ.

Whether the glorious masterpiece by Michelangelo gracing the altar wall at the Sistine Chapel or Da Vinci’s “Last Supper”, thousands of artists have illustrated Jesus’ image for hundreds of years. While many of these works of art adorn Churches throughout the world, the question remains... have ***you seen*** Jesus?

The context of this puzzling question contains not so much our image of an historical Jesus, rather the image of Jesus for today. This is a relatively easy concept on Sunday mornings as we all gather on the hill in Hopewell Junction to worship our Savior, for indeed he is all around us - above the alter, in all but one of our stained glass windows. We also have icons and other pictures of Jesus surrounding us in our worship.

But what about when we leave Church? What about Tuesday afternoon? What about Thursday morning? Amongst our hectic lives and our 47” HDTV LCD TVs, or our double-mocha lattes and trips to the mall, or burning the latest pop tunes on our iPods or making doubly sure that we remember to put the new releases in our Netflix movie queue... can we imagine seeing Jesus. During and after our daily grind of “busy-ness” do we see Jesus? What does he look like?



Part of our struggle is that many of us can’t image a Jesus accept for the traditional image of Him. The flowing robe, the sandals, the shoulder-length hair, the beard (although our friend Mr. Buonarroti depicted a “clean-shaven” Jesus in the Sistine Chapel) - we all have an image of our beloved Saviour that in some ways is very comforting, yet in other ways can be distant and remote. Can we imagine what Jesus looks like today? Can you imagine Jesus in a three-piece suite strolling down Market Street in Poughkeepsie? Can you see Jesus telling us a parable in jeans and a comfy sweatshirt on the hill outside of Church on a beautiful Spring morning? Can you see Jesus in shorts and paint-stained t-shirt helping to paint the undercroft on a Parish workday? Better yet, can you see Christ playing Playstation 3 with your children?

Take some time this Lenten season and try to picture Jesus in your everyday life. What does he look like... what is he saying to you?

This process helps us to understand that our beloved Saviour is not merely an

“image” from the past, but a living part of the present - our present. Jesus is alive today as He has been for 2,000 years, but sometimes we forget that truth in the midst of our post-modern technologically driven world. We keep our image, and sometimes our understanding of Jesus, limited to a one hour - once-a-week portion on Sunday mornings. So what about the other 167 hours per week?

Meditation, especially during Lent, is one popular disciplines for many Christians. To close your eyes and meditate on the Holy Scriptures can help us “place” ourselves in Jesus’ time. We can imagine ourselves hearing our Saviour preach to us the beatitudes. We can follow the crowds throughout Galilee as His followers grew. We can witness His miraculous healings and see with our own meditative eyes all the lives he touched along the pathway to the cross.

But consider for a moment refocusing that Lenten meditation in the other direction. Turn this paradigm of understanding around 180 degrees. Try and take a few moments during Lent to close your eyes and see Jesus by your side today. See him healing our loved ones or those for whom our prayers are offered each week. See him protecting our children and caring for those in need right here in our community. See him, sitting by your side (in khakis and a golf short if that helps) talking to you about your faith, and how He yearns for all of us to be closer to Him, to hear His voice and to follow. If we open our hearts and our minds to the Gospels, putting aside all the modern day distractions and changes, we can see Jesus clearly each and everyday.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

BCP Page 265

SAVE THE DATES !!!

Important upcoming events for the beginning of Lent

Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 5

Evening Prayer and Pancake Supper 6 p.m.

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 6

Holy Eucharist 7 a.m. & 7 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 8, (and every Friday in Lent)

Stations of the Cross and Benediction 7 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 8

Worship planning committee meeting 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 13

Lenten series begins - 6 p.m. Simple Eucharist, followed by soup and bread supper and the program Beginning Life Together (sign-up sheets in the undercroft - six sessions continue through Wed., March 19).

Sunday, Feb. 17

Lenten series available during Adult Ed time 8:30 a.m. (the first five sessions continue through Sunday, March 16, the sixth session will be held together on Wed. of Holy Week, March 19)

Sunday, March 16

Palm Sunday, one service, 9:30 a.m.



Lent is not all about giving things up. It's also about adding good things to our lives or to others' lives - the kind of good things that follow on what Jesus asks of us.

- *Reconcile yourself to someone you don't like, or even hate or did something bad to, or just intentionally stayed away from.*
- *Do random acts of kindness for people, just because they're there; give them little tastes of God's love.*
- *If you haven't taken the time lately to be in a refreshing, natural spot, do so. We live in the midst of God's natural beauty in the Hudson Valley. Even if it's a brief stay, even a half-hour or so, try it.*
- *Study, meditate, and pray over one or two Scripture passages for each day, through a daily lectionary (assigned Bible readings for each day), the Daily Office (Scripture-based devotions for set times of day), or devotional booklets or email lists.*
- *Think upon something ordinary that you do every day, and think about God while doing it, in a way that ties into what you're doing. Or think of a place you come to regularly, and each time think where Christ might be in this place, what Christ might do there, or what you might be led to do for Christ.*
- *Attend special worship services. Perhaps it's a liturgical church's daily morning or evening prayer service (Matins and Vespers). Perhaps it's a Wednesday Lenten service. Or maybe it's time you started going to the Sunday morning services every Sunday.*
- *Try to find a new way every day to bring to mind Jesus' death on the cross, and why it happened.*

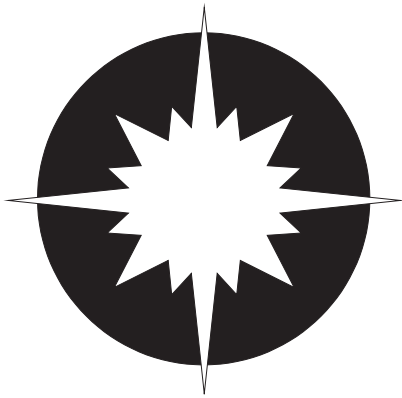
News & Views

from the hill

O God, our times are in your hand. Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

BCP p. 830



Grant, O Lord, that as we have been received into the congregation of Christ's flock and signed with the sign of the Cross, in token that hereafter we should not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified, so we may manfully fight under his banner against sin, the world, and the devil, and may continue Christ's faithful soldiers and servants unto our life's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Amen

February Birthdays

- 4 Essie Churchill
 - 5 Liz Pavelka
 - 6 Barbara McLain
 - 8 Peter Hajosch
 - 8 Dennis Haubrich
 - 8 Christopher Hoerter
 - 12 Tristyn Koren
 - 14 Kim Shockman
 - 14 Serena Starzyk
 - 18 Paul Curran
 - 19 Peter Hajosch
 - 24 James Wood
 - 26 A.J. Simone
-
-

March Birthdays

- 2 Julian Benson
 - 2 Thomas Starzyk
 - 5 Audra Furphy
 - 3 Susanne Beyer
 - 11 Michalyn Curran
 - 12 Kathleen Hajosch
 - 14 Scott Neely
 - 23 Dana Anderson
 - 23 Joe Simone
 - 26 Gabrielle Tutoni
 - 26 Nicole Tutoni
 - 28 Joseph Haubrich
 - 31 Barbara Simone
-
-

April Birthdays

- 3 Joseph - Paul Angot
 - 3 Robert Hoose
 - 7 Ansu Philip
 - 9 Jeff Hoerter
 - 11 Joseph Diano
 - 11 Sherry Metzger
 - 16 Christina Beitzell
-
-

February Baptismal Anniversaries

- 3 Barbara Dinehart
 - 14 William Happ
 - 27 Dannielle Beitzell
-
-

March Baptismal Anniversaries

- 3 Michael Diano
 - 3 Betty Richter
 - 7 Marisa Diano
 - 9 Bill Svenson
 - 10 Paul Curran
 - 10 Regina Furphy
 - 11 Thomas Crisman
 - 28 Ashley Hajosch
 - 30 Ilona Pagan
-
-

April Baptismal Anniversaries

- 5 Gregory Anderson
 - 6 James Wood
 - 10 Yvonne Fontana
 - 12 Marcelina Shriver
 - 13 Noel Fontana
 - 13 Barbara McLain
 - 14 Nicholas Benson
 - 14 Erika Svenson
 - 15 Serena Starzyk
 - 18 Victoria (Tory) Starzyk
 - 19 Tristyn Koren
 - 19 Dot Wood
 - 21 Barbara Simone
 - 22 Karen Metzger
 - 23 Robert Haughton
 - 26 Cynthia Russo
 - 27 Joseph Haubrich
 - 29 Joseph Simone
-
-

*Don't see your birthday or anniversary listed here? Please contact the church office at 226-5727, or by e-mail at...
nyresurrect@yahoo.com*

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from the hill



RESURRECTION

**Church of the Resurrection
Hopewell Junction, New York**

*182 Route 376
Hopewell Junction, NY 12533*

*Phone: 845 226-5727
E-Mail: nyresurrect@yahoo.com
<http://nyresurrection.homestead.com/>*

Thank you, Heavenly Father, for being ever-present in the midst of our parish family. As we try to learn to be truly supportive of one another in our human frailties and shortcomings, help us to be kind and tolerant, patient and understanding. Keep our words gentle and honest and free of idle gossip. Keep us knit together in love, compassion, and forgiveness and remind us to be ever mindful of your will and your ways, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

