



News Views

from the hill

Church of the Resurrection, Hopewell Junction, New York



RESURRECTION

Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

John 18:37

**Volume 7, Number 5 - 2009
Lent**

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How “Real” is Your Faith?

You may have been going to church for a long time. You may know lots of Bible stories. You may even pray regularly. But why? What is it that motivates you: a desire to be a good person, a sense of tradition, or a passion to connect with God? What do you really believe about God, anyway?

If you’ve ever wondered if there’s more to faith than what you’re experiencing now, you can benefit from asking questions and discovering more. Here are some crucial questions you can consider to make your faith real... questions about which way you should go in life.

“Is God more than a feeling?": God is bigger than your feelings. Living by your changing feelings will prove unreliable, but trusting God – who doesn’t change – will give you consistent faith. Remember that God loves you despite whatever negative feelings you may experience, and He is faithful whenever you struggle. Place your trust in biblical truth rather than your emotions.

“Do I own my convictions?": Instead of relying on the convictions of others, explore what you really believe, and why. Ask God to enlighten you and strengthen your core belief system. Get to know the Bible well, and apply its truths to your life. Decide to live out your convictions with courage, wisdom, and faith.

“Is my faith more than a habit?": Faith is much more than just following religious

traditions. God wants your faith to motivate you to freely worship Him out of love, not obligation. Faith should be dynamic; always helping you grow closer to God and become more like Christ. Ask God to give you a fresh vision of His purpose for your life. Then offer yourself to Him to do your part in His important work on earth.

“Is my faith only a group activity?": Faith isn’t a spectator sport. Move beyond just enjoying large worship services with your friends to spending time alone with God on regular basis. Pray about your deepest thoughts and feelings during your one-on-one times with God.

“Am I ready to take a u-turn?": If you’ve been heading in the wrong direction – away from God – decide to turn around and head toward Him through confession and repentance. God will meet you where you are and help you draw closer to Him.

“Do I push God away in the tough times?": What’s your response to tough times when they come? Realize that you need God all the time – and especially during tough times. Don’t isolate yourself from God when challenges hit. Instead, pray about your troubles and ask God to bring good purposes out of them.

“Am I ready to step into destiny?": Decide now to live out your faith to the fullest. As you do, you can be sure that God will be faithful to complete the good work He has begun in you.

- Courtesy of Crosswalk.com

Being Reconciled with God

In his letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul beseeches us to be reconciled to God. And his way of being reconciled may surprise you. Paul does not suggest a confession, or propose any self-examination, or lay out a lengthy program or exercise. He tells us that we should simply accept the grace of God when the time is right, and, behold, now is that acceptable time.

This is not a message many of us are ready to hear. Most of us were taught that the lengthy period of Lent was one of penitence and fasting, a time provided for those who were separated from the church by their sins, so they could be reconciled by acts of penitence and forgiveness. In fact, we will hear words very similar to those following this. That is, of course, one meaning of our Lenten season.

For most of us, Lent is the time of sometimes painful self-examination, during which we scrutinize our habits, our spiritual practice, and our very lives - hoping to make ourselves better, trying to make ourselves worthy of the love of God.

We "ramp up" our prayer, fasting, and self-denial in order to remove worldly distractions from our lives. And we take on Bible study, classes, and service projects in order to add meaning and depth to our existence.

For some children, Lent means no candy. Or a coin in the box whenever they say a bad word. For adults, it may be consuming less meat or alcohol, or attending that Lenten program at the church.

However we go about it, the goal is pretty much the same: Lent makes us ready for Easter. Quite simply put, we are better able to appreciate Resurrection joys come Easter Day by enduring these Lenten disciplines now.

Except, just a moment: St. Paul says we need to be reconciled to God - now, today.

Not after enduring a forty-day fast. Not after lengthy Bible study. Not even after we pray, but now, here, today: Be reconciled to God.

And the blessed apostle not only invites us to be reconciled to God, he actually beseeches us. That is, he pleads, implores, presses, begs, and demands. "We beseech you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ... Now is the acceptable time, now is the day of salvation."

For many of us, this could mean a whole new kind of Lenten discipline. Instead of putting our hand into the refiner's fire, we would be dancing in flames of love's delight. Instead of seeking to squelch the voice of sin within us, we would be cultivating the sounds of joy. Instead of wallowing in our guilt, we would be reveling in our gratitude.

For not only did God create us, and everything there is; not only is all of creation wonderfully good; and not only are we offered the grace of God; but we are also offered that again, and again, and again.

We are offered God's love in times of hardship, affliction, and tumult; in times of hunger, calamity, and sickness; and in times of peace, surplus, and prosperity.

We are offered God's love both in times of distress and in times of accomplishment; in times of triumph and in times of failure; in times of righteousness and in times of sin.

Yes, that's right: even when we sin. When we do things we know are wrong; when we hurt ourselves or others; when we lie, cheat and steal: that is when God loves us most.

Because when we sin, we need God even more. We need courage to turn away from darkness and to face the light. We need daring to turn away from the world's false comforts and to accept the enduring grace of God. And we need faith to turn away from death, and face the new life that is freely given to all of us.

To paraphrase the blessed Apostle, God has put no obstacle in anyone's way. God finds no fault in anyone's ministry. And so, as servants of God, we are called to commend ourselves in every way. We are called to seek those qualities St. Paul writes about: purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy

Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God.

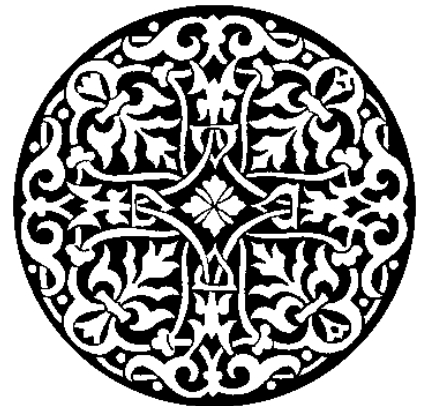
Some of these are character traits we can cultivate in ourselves. We can commit ourselves anew to promote forbearance through patience, to emulate purity through simplicity, to encourage knowledge through study, to foster kindness through gentleness, and to nurture truthful speech.

The rest are not things that are up to us, really. They are not results of our labors, or products of our will. The Holy Spirit, genuine love, and the power of God are not up to us. There is nothing we can do to create these, nothing we can do to snuff them out.

But we do have a choice. And that choice is whether to allow ourselves to be led by the Holy Spirit, whether to let genuine love enter our heart, and whether to open ourselves up to the power of God.

And in this we have an entirely new idea for a Lenten spiritual discipline. Not giving up things, if such a discipline makes us miserable. Not taking on things, if that makes us miserable. But cultivating good qualities and opening ourselves up to the power of God, because only that can make us truly satisfied and content.

- Rev. J. Barrington Bates



News + Views

from the hill

Give Blood Give Life

Who needs blood? Under normal circumstances, every two seconds someone in America will need a blood transfusion. Blood transfusions are used for trauma victims - due to accidents and burns - heart surgery, organ transplants, women with complications during childbirth, newborns and premature babies, and patients receiving treatment for leukemia, cancer or other diseases, such as sickle cell disease and thalassemia.

One pint of blood can literally save three lives! Unfortunately, fewer than 10% of healthy Americans regularly donate blood.

If only 1% more people gave a pint of their blood two or three times a year, there would always be enough to meet

the need - except perhaps in the event of a major disaster.

It takes less than an hour to go through the screening and donation process!

You need travel no further than to your own church to give this gift!

Resurrection's next Blood Drive is scheduled for Saturday, April 4th from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Start eating red meat and spinach to pump up that hemoglobin and mark the date on your calendar!

Invite and encourage your fellow parishioners, friends, friends, and neighbors to come too!

A new feature of the New York Blood Bank Program is that, for every pint given, a donor receives Points that can be redeemed for gift cards!

Jr. and Sr. High teens volunteering to help at the Drive can earn certificates towards their school's Community Service requirements.

What if, someday, you or a loved one needed a transfusion and there was no blood available? There is ALWAYS a need and NEVER enough donors - please, come, help!

PS If you are unable or unwilling to donate blood, there are still ways to support our Blood Drive: hosts providing warm hospitality and bakers providing homemade snacks have become part of Resurrection's reputation!

Sign up sheets are in the undercroft. For general information call 1-800-933-2566. For more information regarding medical eligibility for blood donation call 1-800-688-0900.

- Anne Kasin

Angels Anonymous

Did you know ...

That ... this ministry has been in existence for over 6 years and, among other things, has provided thousands of dollars worth of gas and grocery cards, retail gift cards, holding crosses, flowers and plants, dinner certificates, household and medical bill assistance, cleaning services, and admission tickets to both recreational and educational events?

That ... it was created and has existed solely for the benefit of Resurrectionites in crisis and has been solely subsidized by Resurrectionites wanting to make a difference in those same lives?

If you have donations or questions, please contact Anne Kasin.

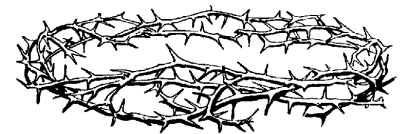
It's all anonymous!

PS - with the current economy, the needs WILL be greater ... Resurrection isn't immune!

- Anne Kasin



And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done. And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy. And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.



Matthew 26:40-45

Parish Life

This committee really does like to think of itself as "the life of the parish!" We are composed of Deke and Debbie Rothacker, Jorge and Marisol Cintron, Al and Kathy Pagan, Theresa Simone, and Joe Simone. Fr. Mic as Priest, Joe Haubrich as Vestry Rep, and Anne Kasin as Chairperson fill out the 11 person committee.

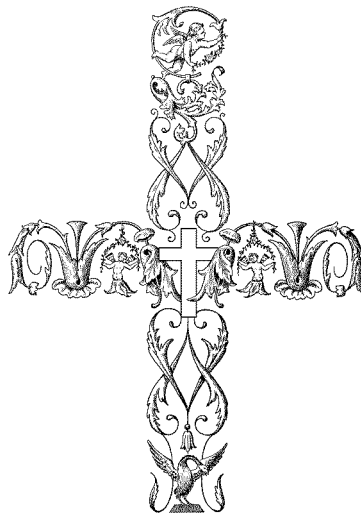
Our mission is to plan and oversee the various yearly events of Resurrection's life. We strive to incorporate purely social fun, service to our parish and its family members, outreach to the community, evangelism to the unchurched, and connections with other denominations. We actively solicit ideas and assistance, we help to mentor chairpersons of events, and we welcome constructive feedback.

We would like to sincerely thank all those who took the time to complete the surveys that we distributed at the Annual Meeting - they have provided us with enthusiasm for most of our ideas, reconsideration for some of our other ideas, and an exciting list of new suggestions.

Best of all, many of you were bold enough to sign your names and volunteer to help!

Watch your home mailboxes for our Monthly Calendar of Resurrection Events, regularly check the Parish Life Bulletin Board in the undercroft, and come to as many events as spark your interest! Bring your friends too!

PS - and contact any of us whenever you want!



How to Get Along When You Don't Agree

People often have very different viewpoints and experiences ... surprise! Even in a church!

Passion is a great motivator but it can cause friction when disagreements become personal blowups.

The beauty of our Church is that it allows for respectful disagreement.

The challenges that we often face require that we all work together - getting stuck in a negative back-and-forth is the easiest way to fail.

Focus on what unites us rather than what divides us.

Be respectful of one another even when it is tempting to judge.

Care more about reaching a compromise than winning an argument.

Put yourself in other peoples' shoes - always consider their perspectives and concerns. Treat others as you want to be treated. Live life by that golden rule.

Never ever assume. Seek to understand. Stick to the facts. End on common ground. Don't be hesitant to say "I'm sorry."

The Wednesday Night Healing Mass Service

Fr. Mic asked me months ago to write a little article about the Wednesday night Healing Mass. It's taken me a long time because I find it hard to tell you what it means to me. It feels good. I feel so personally blessed when he lays his hands on my head and prays for me. Being prayed for "by name" directly to Jesus is an overwhelming feeling. It lifts my spirits and helps me to feel that God is really there handling my fears, concerns and health so that I can go on and do the things I'm about in my life. It's exhilarating - like feeling His "wind beneath my wings" buoying me up in the days ahead. Is it just my own imagi-

nation? Wednesday evening during Lent is a shortened Mass because of the Lenten discussion program. I encourage you to come to that, or after Lent is over come to the 7 p.m. Healing Mass and see how it feels to you.

- Eileen Doherty

Locks of Love

Locks of Love is a wonderful nationwide program which collects human hair that has been cut and donated to make wigs for financially disadvantaged children under the age of 18 suffering from long term medical hair loss from any diagnosis.

Are there any girls (or women) in our congregation who would be interested in growing the prerequisite length of hair and then participating in a festive and celebratory parish group haircutting and donation?

Check out the website at <http://www.locksoflove.org> for more information.

A sign up sheet is in the undercroft. If there are enough participants, we'll come up with a plan! Details to follow.

A Series of Chocolatey Events

I had this idea - and Anne Kasin "made me do it"! Without the Resurrection team players, it wouldn't have come off. Do you realize how many people contributed to that 1-1/2 hour Sunday experience? Anne, Debbie Evans, and Regina Furphy made organizational recommendations that helped a great deal. Dornella Seth, Pamela Henry, and Lorna Ruttly prepared coffee hour goodies for all of us and worked with Kevin Sherman (stop-watch timer) and Karen Locke to supervise games and give out prizes. Fr. Mic, Patti and Al Benson judged the Bake-off. Our thanks go to Amanda and Emily Scribona, Kathy Pagan, Lucy Simone, Marcelina Shriver and Gerri Rhodes who entered delicious desserts into the contest. It was won by Vanessa Neely with her chocolate cake with white chocolate frosting. This group helped you all to contribute \$45 to Resurrection in the Silent Auction for their superior desserts. Many others were drawn in to helping as they could see help was needed. Everyone who participated in the four games (Coloring, Tower Building, Tossing Kisses, Chocolate Pie Eating) received a little prize. So we just hope everyone went home happy. I know the last group, there for the pie eating, were having a great time!!!

In these days of toil, wars and trouble, this was a wonderful way to have fun together! We're a great group!

- Eileen Doherty

The Casserole Patrol

Many of our own parishioners are already in the habit of cooking a little extra and then freezing a dinner to contribute to this special ministry. For those who may be hearing about it for the first time, this is how it works.

When food is available, it can be taken to someone who is sick, recovering from surgery, or just unable to prepare meals themselves. Our shut-ins and our frail elderly, as well as our families in crisis of any sort can also benefit from this program.

Food needs to be packed securely in a sturdy airtight freezable container and it needs to be well labeled as to what it is and the date on which it was prepared. Bring it to church and put it in the undercroft kitchen freezer.

Fr. Mic and the Lay Eucharistic Visitors will then take the food along when they go out on their Pastoral Care calls.

Thank you!

Communications

I love this Church and everyone in it - so I'd like more people to know about it. So many people out there carry so much stress around with them. The Resurrection I know is a place to pray, socialize with great people, and trust that Christ is with us every day. If you feel that way too, I hope you might want to work with me on more communication with the outside world.

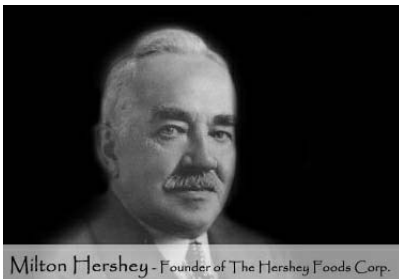
Deke Rothacker will continue doing the newsletter (thanks be to God and Deke).

The web page...

<http://nyresurrection.homestead.com/> needs a lot of work. Fr. Mic and Rob Furphy have started ideas on improving it. The actual work of doing the changes will require many hands. Please let me know if you can pitch in on that and we can work things out to accomplish it.

I'd also like to see if we can place more information in area newspapers and local radio for events here. We all have a good time and I think "there's always room for one more".

Please contact me, Eileen Doherty...
exparad@aol.com, 221-1458 home,
914-474-5564 cell. Thank you.



Milton Hershey - Founder of The Hershey Foods Corp.

"One is only happy in proportion as he makes others feel happy and only useful as he contributes his influences for the finer callings in life."

Milton S. Hershey

News + Views

from the hill

Relay for Life

Relay For Life is a fun-filled event designed to celebrate survivorship and raise money for research and programs of the American Cancer Society.

During the event, teams of people gather at schools, fairgrounds, or parks and take turns walking or running laps. Each team tries to keep at least one team member on the track at all times.

You can participate in a Relay for Life event with your fellow parishioners from Resurrection! Our event is on Friday, June 19 at 5:00pm. Our team is High Hopes. For info contact Regina Furphy 896-1446 or Tracey Segnit 226-7495.



A Meditation...

Prayer...

Gracious Lord, how grateful I am for the gift of prayer, for knowing I can bring everything to You.

Reading...

Luke 6:12-16

One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles: Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called Zealot, Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

Reflection...

What did Jesus do before choosing his disciples?

It is not a coincidence that Jesus spent a night in prayer before he chose the team that would have to work closely with him (12). Luke shows that this was the way Jesus worked when facing key moments (see 3:21; 9:18). So often, when we are under pressure, prayer is one of the first things to go.

Even after such care and prayer, the team has some strange members! Thomas turns out to be a doubter. Simon denies Jesus when he most needed support. James and John argued so much that Jesus called them "sons of thunder" (see Mark 3:17)! And then there was Judas....

Christ, then and now, has to work with the raw material of sinful people because there is no other material

available. The wonder is that his transforming power made spiritual giants out of all of them, except Judas. And even the treachery of Judas was used to bring Christ's greatest glory - the cross.

If you and I are ever tempted to shop around for the perfect church, today's message is that it doesn't exist! God, however, can do wonders with imperfect ones!

Apply...

Thank God that he works with imperfect people like you and thank him for your church, imperfect as it may be.

Prayer...

Lord Jesus, help me to see myself and others as people who, though imperfect, are greatly loved by You.

- Source: Scripture Union



The Episcopal Church of the Resurrection

Hopewell Junction, New York

Items for parishioners of The Episcopal Church of the Resurrection. We are located in Hopewell Junction, NY

Apparel

View All Items



Hats & Bags

Back to Top



Stickers, Buttons & Magnets

Back to Top



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>

News + Views

from the hill

Plan and Prepare

There's SO much going on at Resurrection this Spring!

April 4th (Saturday from 1-5 p.m.)
Blood Drive ... eat healthy and get that hemoglobin up!

- Linda Hoerter, chairperson

April 12th (Sunday between the two services) Easter Breakfast ... plan to attend and sign up to help too!

- Lorna Rutty, chairperson

April 19th (Sunday during Coffee Hour)
Easter Egg Hunt ... please buy some extra plastic eggs and candy!

- Vanessa Neely, chairperson

April 25th (Saturday at 5 p.m.) Game Night with Salad and Baked Potato Bar... bring your favorite games and lettuce and potato toppings!

- Jody Durso, chairperson

May 2nd (Saturday 5 p.m.) Cinco de Mayo dinner ... tickets on sale soon!

- Youth Group Fundraiser

May 10th (Sunday after the 9:30 a.m. service) Mothers' Day Brunch invite your Mom now!

- The Mens' Group

May 15th and 16th (Friday and Saturday 9 a.m.-3 p.m.) Yard Sale start your cleaning out now and bring your items to the undercroft starting Monday, May 11th!

- Joanne Mikiel, chairperson

May 21st (Thursday 7 p.m.) Ascension Day Eucharist followed by Make a Sundae on a Thursday Party

- Chairperson TBA

June 13th (Saturday evening) Hudson River Cruise reserve your spot NOW!

- Kathy Pagan, chairperson

June 19th (Friday night) Relay for Life ... sponsor and attend this Cancer Fundraiser as part of our High Hopes Team!

- Regina Furphy, chairperson

Take your vitamins, people ... this is an active parish!

Cruise Along the Hudson

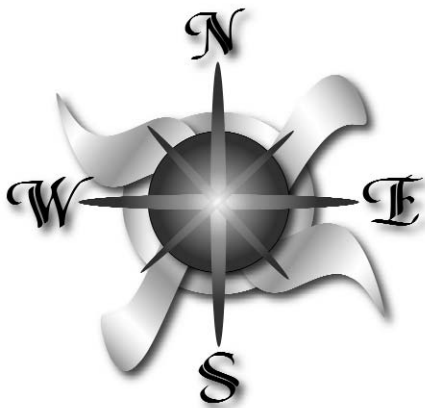
Be part of history... Resurrection's first Cruise along the Hudson River!

The fun will take place on Saturday, June 13th, departing from the landing in Newburgh, NY. Enjoy delicious food, great music from our DJ, and a wonder-

ful sunset cruise down the majestic Hudson River. You can even e-mail your musical requests ahead of time to Kathy Pagan and have your songs played during the event. E-mail your requests to... allykats51598@aol.com

Get your tickets today! In an effort to ensure we have a full capacity for our

cruise, we will be opening this event to other local parishes come mid-April. So don't miss out - reserve your space right away. Tickets are \$50 per person and include the cost of the cruise, dinner and music. Cash bar. Limited to attendees 18 and over please.



HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2009
at Resurrection



Palm Sunday

The Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday in Holy Week

Lenten Program 6 p.m. Simple Eucharist, dinner, and program

Maundy Thursday

The Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper 7 p.m. with washing of feet followed by the procession of the Sacrament to the Altar of Repose, then the stripping of the altar, and the Watch through the night

Good Friday

The Liturgy of Good Friday 3 p.m.

Confessions from noon to 2:30 p.m. & 4 to 6 p.m.

Holy Saturday

Rehearsal for Easter Vigil 1 p.m.

Easter Day

Easter begins with the Great Vigil

Sunday, April 12 at 5:45 a.m.

This ancient and richly symbolic service begins with the darkness of the tomb and leads to the lighting of the New Fire, the reading of the ancient stories, the renewal of baptismal vows, and the first Eucharist of Easter.

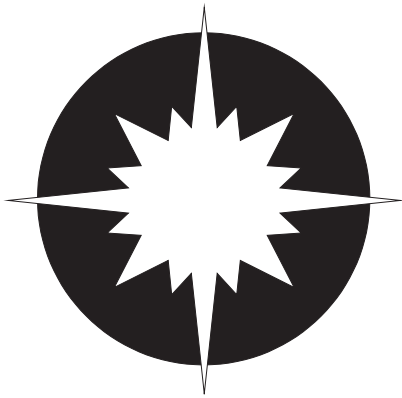
Breakfast follows.

The Holy Eucharist 10 a.m.

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

April Birthdays

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

April Baptismal Anniversaries

- 5 Gregory Anderson
- 6 James Wood
- 12 Marcelina Shriver
- 13 Barbara McLain
- 14 Nicholas Benson
- 14 Erika Svenson
- 15 Serena Starzyk
- 17 Marianne Dazi
- 18 Victoria (Tory) Starzyk
- 19 Tristyn Koren
- 19 Dot Wood
- 21 Barbara Simone
- 25 Peter Hajosh
- 26 Cynthia Russo
- 27 Joseph Haubrich
- 29 Joseph Simone

May Birthdays

- 3 Anthony Simone
- 5 Amy Haggerty
- 6 Anne Kasin
- 11 Al Benson
- 13 Michael Tomkovitch
- 13 Joey Lisowski
- 14 Matthew Evans
- 14 Megan Haggerty
- 16 Carleigh Koren
- 18 Thomas Crisman
- 18 Linda Sella
- 19 Gayle Rhodes
- 21 Brenda Curran
- 21 Lois Harbart
- 22 Daniel Tutoni
- 23 Janine Iarossi
- 27 Bertrand Mazzuto

May Baptismal Anniversaries

- 1 Al Benson
- 3 Ansu Philip
- 12 Brenda Curran
- 13 Liam Carlson
- 19 Joseph Diano
- 19 Gayle Rhodes
- 20 Susanne Beyer
- 22 Christopher Hoerter
- 24 Alexander Anderson
- 26 Salvatore Triano
- 28 Essie Churchill
- 29 Michalyn Curran
- 30 Lauren Neely
- 30 Jessica Schokman
- 31 Michael Tomkovitch
- 31 Dominic Triano

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

nyresurrection@gmail.com

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from the hill



RESURRECTION

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

*182 Route 376
Hopewell Junction, NY 12533*

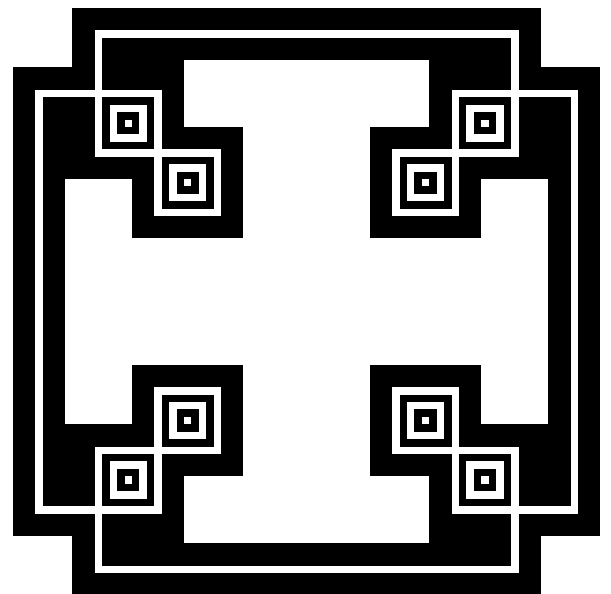
*Phone: 845 226-5727
E-Mail: nyresurrection@gmail.com
<http://nyresurrection.homestead.com/>*

To God

Dear Sir,

The reason I am writing is this. My Mommy and I are going to spend Easter with Aunt Bea. My Daddy can't come. We are supposed to fly, but my Mommy is scared to go. Maybe you better come with us.

Morton



Excerpt from "Children's Letters to God"

Simon & Schuster - 1966