IN THE BEGINNING

Church of the Redeemer

Sarasota, Florida

APRIL 2023

Dear Redeemer family,

Historically, the Church has addressed many questions over the centuries. For example, how many angels can fit on the head of a pin? What should we say about monophysism? Should altar candles be bleached or unbleached beeswax? Yes, these are all things the Church has actually addressed publicly, believe it or not. And while they may sound funny, they aren't totally unimportant.

In the days immediately following our Savior's resurrection from the dead, however, the Apostolic community addressed only one reality. Indeed, the Apostolic Church had no interest in, nor time for, enlightenment inquiry. They truly were a "band on the run" (Paul McCartney) proclaiming we've "got a good thing" (Dusty Springfield). What they considered worthy of proclamation—indeed, *the* matter of "first importance"—was that Jesus Christ rose from the dead. Even more importantly, behind their proclamation, they rightly believed that since Jesus was alive they had nothing (!) to fear, not even death! Can you imagine living life without any fears?

What frightens you the most? Is it economic volatility? Another pandemic? Social, family, and political division? Sickness? Death?

If death has been conquered, if our sins have been forgiven, and we who trust in the Lord's work will live with Him in eternity, why do we let so many lesser, temporal things hold so much sway over our lives? I don't have a short answer for this, except to say I wish it wasn't so. I know we are sheep, and sheep are easily startled. But for God's sake, we are *redeemed* sheep.

This Eastertide let us sing not as those ruled by fear but as those eternally liberated by God's redeeming love!

Your servant,

The Rev. Charleston D. Wilson
Rector, Church of the Redeemer

Pictured above:
The Gospel reading during the 9 a.m. Easter Day mass at Redeemer in 2022.

Milestones

Deaths
Larry Brown
W.R. Smith
Ewilda "Willa" Williams

Marriages
Sue Baker & Fred Fairchild

Joining
Suzanne Kallaher
Amelia Kallaher
Linda & Patrick McGeehan
Fred Shafer
Terry & Rod Woodson

Baptisms
Lorenzo Miguel Ortega
Samuel Perry Polenz
Oscar Carretero Villar

Transfer Out
Alice & Garland Pollard to
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
in Boca Grande, Florida

What is Maundy Thursday?

Maundy Thursday is part of the Triduum, the three holy days before Easter. The service commemorates the institution of the Eucharist by Jesus "on the night he was betrayed." The Prayer Book liturgy for Maundy Thursday provides for celebration of the eucharist and a ceremony of the washing of feet, which follows the Gospel and homily. Following this, the altar is stripped and all decorative furnishings are removed from the church.

adapted from *An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church*

April Highlights at Redeemer

Palm Sunday Masses
Saturday, April 1 at 5:30 p.m. (contemporary) and Sunday, April 2 at 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m., and 1 p.m. (1 p.m. in Spanish)
During the 9 a.m. mass, children will present tableaus of Holy Week scenes.

DeSota Baroque Concert: Sunday, April 2 at 7:30 p.m. ($25)
Florida's premiere baroque group will present the Big 4 composers of the Baroque era: Bach, Handel, Telemann, and Vivaldi, along with other gems. The concert will feature Sun-Young Gemma Shin, Rafael Ramirez, Thea Lobo, and Aaron Romm. Purchase tickets at the door or at RedeemerSarasota.org/GreatMusicSeries.

A Service of Tenebrae: Wednesday, April 5 at 7:30 p.m.
This service will include psalms, readings, and the use of 15 candles.

Maundy Thursday Masses: Thursday, April 6 at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.
This solemn service will include the washing of feet and the stripping of the altar.

Good Friday Stations of the Cross ~ Main Street Pilgrimage
Friday, April 7 at 7:20 a.m.
Join hundreds of pilgrims to walk the Stations in downtown Sarasota. Trolley service to Regal Hollywood starts at Redeemer at 6 a.m. Gather at 7 a.m. for 7:20 a.m. start.

Good Friday Liturgy & Veneration of the Cross: Friday, April 7 at noon

Easter Vigil Mass: Saturday, April 8 at 6 p.m.

Easter Day Masses
Sunday, April 9 at 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. (1 p.m. in Spanish)
Children are invited to an Easter egg hunt on the parish lawn after the 9 a.m. mass.

Putting Technology in its Place: Living Faithfully in a Digital World
Wednesday, April 12, April 19, and April 26
This clergy-led class for adults will address the ever-present distractions of technology and the resulting spiritual, relational, and emotional struggles. How do we learn to truly connect and not just survive the new digital normal?

Wine, Women, & Flowers: Thursday, April 13 at 6:30 p.m.
Hear parish flower pros share secrets behind Redeemer's magnificent flower displays. Bubbles and light bites will follow. Sign up at RedeemerSarasota.org/Register.

GATORS (Gathering Adults to Redeemer Singles) 7th Anniversary Party
Friday, April 14 at 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Ahead of the Coronation on May 6, we'll celebrate Charles III, the new head of the Church of England, with a festive dinner. Sign up at RedeemerSarasota.org/Register.

Confirmation Sunday: Sunday, April 16 at 9 a.m.
During the 9 a.m. mass, Bishop Scharf will confirm several youth and adults.

Kirkin' o' the Tartan: Sunday, April 16 at 11 a.m.
This service celebrates Scottish heritage through song and the blessing of clan tartans.

All-Parish Book Club Dinner and a Show: Thursday, April 20 at 6:30-8 p.m.
Discuss *Something Wonderful: Rogers and Hammerstein's Broadway Revolution* and enjoy a show tune sing-along and dinner. Sign up at RedeemerSarasota.org/Register.

Defining Moments Adult Class: Sunday, April 30 at 10:10 a.m.
Learn about encounters with God that set people on a new trajectory.

Visit RedeemerSarasota.org/Calendar for more information about upcoming events.

Right or Left?

I was riding motorcycles with my brother in the beautiful Ozark Mountains of northern Arkansas. We had a beautiful day and a wonderful ride over mountains and through hardwood forests. We even rode a ferry across the lake. Overall, a very successful day of riding and fellowship.

We were on our last leg of the Whole Hog. The Whole Hog is an all-day motorcycle route that took us across two mountains and through three state parks. It was supposed to return us to Harrison, Arkansas (or close to it!). My brother was the navigator for our trip and had spent weeks planning our daily routes and programming his GPS (Global Positioning System). The day had been spot-on with his navigation. However, our last short trek ended at an unexpected crossroads. The road we were on dead-ended into a road that was not marked on the GPS. We had no idea which way was the correct way. My brother turned to me and asked: "Right or left?"

Our faith can reach unexpected dead-ends, too. Sometimes that happens when we are challenged by unexpected events. It could be the sudden death of a close friend, the separation from a loved one, or a medical emergency. Whatever the reason for the unexpected dead-end, we may be left with a simple decision: "Right or left?" Of course, the decision likely will have nothing to do with the navigational direction. Rather, it will be about which decision seems to be correct or incorrect at the moment. When we find ourselves in these situations, a decision may lead to joy or even more sorrow. The point is, we have to choose, or we risk becoming stagnant, leaving our faith to diminish.

I decided to turn left that day we were riding in the Ozarks. We ended up riding another few miles before entering Harrison, Arkansas. That day, the decision to go left was correct, and it led to a good meal and rest.

We all make correct decisions *and* incorrect decisions, but it is not all about right or wrong. Rather, it is about how you handle the consequences of your decisions. I hope you make more right decisions and learn from your wrong decisions. But right or wrong, I pray that all of your choices lead to the God who loves you enough to give His son as a ransom for your life. (John 3:16)

Happy Easter!

— Father Michael Hurst, Senior Assistant Rector

Special Gifts

Patricia Gardner Arnheim
Bill & Linda Bearslee
Peggy Collins
Melinda Ethington
William & Katherine Hodges
Robert & Clare Kingsbury
Charlie & Susie Shugg
Kathleen Voorhes
Anne Williams
John Willmott & Eleanor Smith
in memory of Toby Arnhiem
designated to the Jeffrey Kern Scholarship Fund

John & Judith Bevans
in memory of Robert Brooke
designated to the Music Program

Bohdan Bulawka
in memory of Connie Bulawka
designated to the Memorial Fund

James & Susan Tollerton
in memory of Dr. Bob Gillett
designated to the Rector's Discretionary Fund

Marsha Mathis & Meg Mathis
in memory of Diane Gossett
designated to Martha's Guild

Thomas & Barbara Brown
Elizabeth A. Dement
Edward & Karen Hasler
Carl & Lee Ann Lambrecht
Nancy Leach & Barbara
Sherie Philpott
Mr. & Mrs. William Seider
Betty Arnold Smith
Charles & D. R. Stottlemyer
T. Raymond Suplee
James & Susan Tollerton
E. John Wagner
Barbara Wheeler
John & Susan Wiener
in memory of Vivienne Lambrecht
designated to the Memorial Fund

Elaine Ellis
in memory of Patricia Leahy
designated to the Memorial Fund

Diane Knox
in memory of Donald & Gail Maynard
designated to the Memorial Fund

Mae Smith Miller
Charles & D. R. Stottlemyer
in memory of Barbara Clarke Meyer
designated to the Memorials Fund

Judith Brodkin
in memory of Bob Philpott
designated to the Memorials Fund

John Humpreys & Nancy Reale Gifford
in memory of Jean Wisniewski
designated to the Memorials Fund

Church of the Redeemer
222 S. Palm Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34236

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Making new Christians and making all Christians new

> What is it in your life that you believe is your greatest disability? The thing, physical or otherwise, that you simply cannot conquer or modify by your own striving or strength?
>
> Jesus knows what is most disabled, desolate, and disastrous in my life, and He says, 'Charleston, I alone can make great pain have greater purpose.'
>
> And then, against all odds, often suddenly, we find intimacy with God in the very pain.
>
> FATHER CHARLESTON WILSON
> March 19, 2023 Sermon

Watch this sermon and others on the Redeemer YouTube channel.

941-955-4263 | RedeemerSarasota.org

YouTube
Church of the Redeemer Sarasota

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WEEKLY SERVICES

Daily Mass
Monday-Saturday at 10 a.m.

Morning Prayer
Monday-Saturday at 9 a.m.

Evening Prayer
Monday-Friday at 5:15 p.m.

Saturday at 5:30 p.m.
Contemporary Mass*
A service with contemporary music

Sunday at 7:30 a.m.
Rite One Mass
A service without music for early risers

Sunday at 9 a.m.
Rite Two Choral Mass*
A service for all ages with traditional music
(Children's Chapel during mass)

Sunday at 11 a.m.
Rite One Choral Mass*
A service with traditional music

Sunday at 1 p.m.
Rite Two Mass*
A service in Spanish with contemporary music

*in person and livestreamed

Nursery care at the 9 and 11 a.m. masses.