

IN THE BEGINNING

Church of the Redeemer
Sarasota, Florida

APRIL 2024



Dear Redeemer Family,

It isn't completely uncommon at community events for someone in the room to see my clerical collar and make their way over to me before asking a leading question like this: "Father, you don't really believe that Jesus physically rose from the dead, do you?" When I confess that I do indeed believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus from the dead, my interlocutor often continues, "So, you're telling me that I should have blind faith in an event you didn't personally see?" You, too, may have encountered a variation on this theme in your own life at some point.

It is good for all Christians to have a "gentle and respectful" response ready — "a defense" as St. Peter calls it. Remember, our job is never to condemn or argue with a skeptic, but we should have something to say. Below are a few quick things you can commit to memory when someone challenges your belief and trust in the resurrection, whether at work, school, or a party. This list isn't exhaustive, but it is a good way to help others think about the central claim of our faith:

- The empty tomb! All four gospels claim Jesus rose from the dead.
- Pagan and Jewish writers from the first centuries agree that Christians believed Jesus rose from the dead.
- If Jesus wasn't raised, why did most of the witnesses to the event die as martyrs to uphold the claim? They could have recanted, yet they did not.
- The appearances of the Risen Jesus! He appeared 11 times to a variety of groups of people after He was raised. They all saw it and talked about it to others.
- An empty tomb is easily verifiable; if it wasn't empty, wouldn't there be oral or written claims to the contrary?
- The impact on history! We often fail to appreciate the experience and testimony of billions of followers who all agree that Jesus rose from the dead.

I am writing these things to you in Eastertide on purpose, because if Jesus wasn't raised: we are still in our sins, Jesus has no power over death, and there is no such thing as eternal life for our loved ones who've gone before or for us. Life, both now and eternally, is literally meaningless without the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Perhaps St. Paul said it best to the Corinthians. Some church leaders among them, claiming to be wise, were teaching against the resurrection of the dead:

If Christ is raised, how do some say among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? If there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

Christ IS risen! Keep the faith!

Your servant,

Father Charleston Wilson
Rector, Church of the Redeemer

"Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect."

— 1 Peter 3:15



You're Invited!

Do you believe social time with fellow parishioners is important?

Do you like to plan events and parties?

Are you interested in making new friends at Redeemer?

Join us for a planning meeting for a new ministry on Monday, April 8, at 6:30 p.m. in Goewey Hall.

At this first meeting, we will decide on a name for this ministry and discuss plans for parish-wide events, which we hope will foster deeper relationships between parishioners. All are welcome to attend!

Snacks and beverages will be provided.
Be ready to brainstorm!

Please RSVP by Wednesday, April 3, to Lakey MacArthur at LakeyAnn@Comcast.net.

— Milestones —

Births

Mack Jeffrey Kimmel to Danielle & Jeff Kimmel

John David Christopher Riner to Britt & Noah Riner

Olive Aila Siljestrom to Casey & Colby Siljestrom

Baptisms

Alexandra Selvog

Deaths

William "Bill" F. Connell

Marilyn Glandorf

Jennifer "Jennie" Papalia

Joining

Roberto Espinoza

Laura Harshly

Catherine Hodgson

Linda McCown

Paolo, Harper, Inka, and Israel (Izzy) Perez

Kathy Sun

Welcome Back

Patricia Coats

Karen Levering

Transfer In

Blake Haner from Saint John's Episcopal Church Tulsa, Oklahoma

Transfer Out

Neil Georgi to St. Boniface Episcopal Church Sarasota, Florida

Emma Hollingsworth to St. George's Episcopal Church Nashville, Tennessee



Redeemer, along with four other downtown churches — First Baptist, First Presbyterian, St. Martha, and First United Methodist — have supported Caritas for many years. Parishioners from Redeemer have played an active role in this outreach ministry that provides assistance for thousands of Sarasota residents a year who are in acute need. *Caritas now has an urgent need for more volunteers.*

Please consider volunteering to be part of a team of two or three people who hand out lunch bags or assemble allotments of food for individuals and families who come to the Caritas Food Pantry at First Baptist Church on Main Street. (The pantry window is on Adelia Avenue).

Assignments can be tailored to your schedule. The work is straightforward, but the reward is enormous. Prayerfully consider joining this effort to help God's children in need. **Contact Diane Miles at DMilesToGo@Outlook.com.**

Mark your calendar: Join us at Redeemer on Saturday, April 20, for a Bed Build Day!

Help assemble beds for at-risk children in our community. There will be something for every age group to do, from using power tools to sanding to painting! Finished beds will be distributed free of charge to area families in need.



April Highlights at Redeemer

Parish Office Closed: Monday, April 1, and Tuesday, April 2

Faith Fitness: Tuesdays and Thursday, April 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, and 18, noon-12:35 p.m. (April 18 will be the last class until October.)

First Fridays on Palm Avenue: Friday, April 5, 5:30-7 p.m., Palm Avenue Terrace

Diocese of Southwest Florida Bishop Doug Scharf Visits Redeemer: Sunday, April 7, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services, Church

Confirmation: Sunday, April 7, during the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services, Church

Kirkin' o' the Tartans: Sunday, April 7, during the 11 a.m. service, Church

Coffee Talk Women's Book Group: Monday, April 8, 9:30 -11 a.m., Gillespie Hall (*Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt.)

Fellowship Ministry Planning Meeting: Monday, April 8, 6:30 p.m., Goewey Hall

Books and Beyond Men's Book Club: Wednesday, April 10, 6 p.m., Room 220 (*The Rickover Effect* by Theodore Rockwell)

Grace — Is It Really Sufficient? Adult Class: Wednesdays, April 10, 17, and 24, 6:30 p.m., Goewey Hall (This class will also meet on Wednesday, May 1.)

Redeemer Forum — Resurrection House Presentation: Sunday April 14, 10:10-10:40 a.m., Goewey Hall

Grace Gang Women's Bible Study: Thursday, April 18, 12-1 p.m., Goewey Hall

Redeemer Forum — Christianity in the City of Rome During the First Two Centuries, Part 3: Sunday, April 21, 10:10-10:40 a.m., Goewey Hall (presented by Mike Hartenstine)

Evensong: Sunday, April 21, 5:15 p.m., Church

Night Shift Women's Book Club: Monday, April 22, 6:30-8 p.m., Room 220 (*Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt.)

Redeemer Forum — Christianity in the City of Rome During the First Two Centuries, Part 4: Sunday, April 28, 10:10-10:40 a.m., Goewey Hall (presented by Mike Hartenstine)

Visit RedeemerSarasota.org/Calendar for more info about upcoming events and RedeemerSarasota.org/Register to sign up for programs and events.

— Special Gifts —

*Gifts in memory of
Becky Thornhill*

Designated for the Memorial Fund
from

BJ Creighton
Mary Jane & Mike Hartenstine
Janice Hutchison
Kathy Manchester
Britt & Noah Riner
Annie Williams

**Designated for the
Rector's Discretionary Fund**
from

Sara & Ken Bailey
Renee Hamad
Melanie & Tim Hensey
Edwina Dalton Phillips
Carolynne & Roland Shumate
Susan & James Tollerton

Designated for the GATORS
from
Belinda Coffrin

Designated for Mission & Outreach
from

Arlette & Dwight Shackelford

**Designated for the
Foster Youth Initiative**
from Randa & Robert Touchstone

~

*A gift in memory of
Fred Mackenzie*

Designated for the Memorial Fund
from Joan Nixon

*A gift in memory of
Helen Tonini*

Designated for the Memorial Fund
from Kathy Manchester



Join the Episcopal Thrift House Team!

This time of year, when some head up north, there is a special need for volunteers at the Episcopal Thrift House. There are opportunities Monday through Saturday, and shifts need not be weekly. There are two shifts: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Volunteers work in teams of three or four people. Tasks include hanging up clothes, pricing items, helping customers, and cashiering. Help raise funds for area charities! **Contact Diane Miles at DMilesToGo@Outlook.com.**



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

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

RedeemerSarasota.org | 941-955-4263

Making new Christians and making all Christians new

Bishop to Make Official Visit
 to Redeemer in April

Sunday, April 7

9 a.m. mass
 Confirmation

11 a.m. mass
 Confirmation and
 Kirkin' o' the Tartans



THE RT. REV. DOUGLAS SCHIARF
 Sixth Bishop of the Diocese of Southwest Florida

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.