

Addictions Healing HELPLINE:
856-342-4057

NJ Hotline for Addiction: Dial 211. This is an information and referral service that connects you with substance use disorder and support services

National Suicide Prevention Helpline: 800-273-8255

SUPPORT GROUPS

- ◆ **The Church of Incarnation, 240 Main St., Mantua (Community Connections) Contact: Bill Dougherty at bill-doc@comcast.net**
- ◆ **The Church of Incarnation 240 Main St. Mantua (Calix Society) Contact: Jen Drees at jendrees@yahoo.com**
- ◆ **St. Charles Borromeo "I Thirst Ministry", 176 Stagecoach Rd., Sicklerville. Contact: Ralph Burnley at addiction@saint-charles-borromeo.org**
- ◆ **AFIRE We Thirst Ministry -https://www.apeopleafire.org/**

INVITATION

You are cordially invited to Catholic Charities' **VIRTUAL Addictions Healing & Recovery Prayer Service** on Wednesday, April 27 at 7 PM. Contact JoAnne Farrell at 856-342-4057 to RSVP for the ZOOM link

Addictions Healing & Recovery Newsletter

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Easter Renewal & Redemption

This month's newsletter message are excerpts from "Easter Recovery: Renewal & Redemption" (2013, Lakeview Health) and "Death & Resurrection-Addiction & Recovery" (2017, T. King). These writings tell us the story of salvation and continue to resonate renewal, joy, and hope!

The Easter season brings so many conflicting feelings, which happens a lot in both addiction and recovery.

Palm Sunday starts with Jesus triumphantly entering Jerusalem, but in only a few days there is betrayal, trial and death. How did things fall apart so quickly? Can you

imagine what it was like for His disciples? You probably can. Seeing it all fall apart, not knowing what was going on and wondering how could it possibly get better? You've been there. But it can and it did.

Everything turned around with Christ's resurrection. We can all live again because of Him. I think the wonder of it all is exemplified in my favorite Bible verse. Technically, it's not a whole verse, but it is part of a verse and you can find it in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke: "He is not here." When the disciples went to the tomb Sunday morning, those were

the words they heard, the words that made it all possible. He has risen from the dead. Christ's resurrection saves us all. Made it possible for us to get from the depths of addiction, where it seemed like there was no escape, to the grace of recovery.



Easter is about our renewal in Christ and our second chances in life here. Remember to celebrate that renewal. Happy Easter! The Lord is risen. Share your Easter joy.

“Easter is about our renewal in Christ and our second chances in life here.”

This Easter season, please pray for all those who have lost loved ones to overdoses that they might be comforted.



Pray for those who have lost loved ones to the shame that is our War on Drugs and mass incarceration.

Pray for those who struggle with addiction to drugs and alcohol (and those that love someone who do) that they

might find freedom from their pain and the promise of new life.

Pray for our first responders and medical staff as they try and show compassion and understanding to those caught in the cycle of addiction.



“For our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed. Therefore, let us celebrate the feast, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.” - 1 Cor. 5:7-8

Easter is a reminder that there is hope

Easter is spring time, when life blooms and the world begins its renewal. It marks new beginnings, a time of redemption and grace.

In the Easter story, Jesus was with his friends, the disciples, during the last supper. He predicts what is going to happen, that someone is going to betray him. Peter tells him, “Not I. I’ll never do it!” However, before the rooster crows the next morning, Peter has already denied Jesus three times.

Despite this, Jesus offers grace and forgiveness. This lesson can be applied to a life in active addiction, where one may have driven family and even God from your life as you fall deeper into addic-

tion. Seeking Jesus in one’s life can help put things into perspective. Forgive other people, and most importantly, forgive yourself. By then will you be able to have reconciliation and be able to move on into your new life.

Another takeaway from the Easter story is the fact that God is in control. There is a bigger plan, a bigger picture. Dealing with substance abuse and addiction can be so difficult and overwhelming that you may only see darkness, chaos and hopelessness around you.

Easter is a strong reminder that though there are things we don’t see or feel yet, life has a way of working out through all trials and tribulations. Sometimes, all it takes is for you to take that leap of faith to change your life.

Accessed from: <http://bridgesofhope.com.ph/index.php/rising-from-addiction-what-you-can-learn-from-easter/>



Reflection—Ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart to those suffering with addiction, their families, those grieving from the loss of a love one, and those in recovery.

Gospel Reading: John 20:1-9

“They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put Him!”

- John 20:2b

My offering: I will take time today to praise our Lord Jesus

