

# Resurrection Weekly

Volume 1 Issue 5

April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017[www.resurrectionparish.ca](http://www.resurrectionparish.ca)

Resurrection Weekly is resolved to bring you the most current and up to date details on this year's catechumens. Each week we will be doing an exposé on three of our newly elected Elect. If you would like help write a story that covers how you see God working in their lives please send your stories to Tashia: [sacraments@resurrectionparish.ca](mailto:sacraments@resurrectionparish.ca)

## Back from the Dead! Lazarus

The following is an editorial from a previously written reflection on this week's gospel.

Things get broken. Toys break, material wears thin, pottery gets smashed. And life can get broken. Relationships fail, dreams crumble, goals lose focus, marriages die, people betray each other, nations fight against nation, people compete against each other rather than with each other. At times nothing seems to last, nothing seems to be forever. Perhaps life is too fragile; perhaps our expectations are too high. But the hopes and dreams we place in people, in ourselves, in our country, in our church can wither and fade, leaving in their trail a sense of gloom and death. Life can seem broken at times.

Such broken dreams and unkept promises speak of death. Death is a harsh and cruel reality. There is no escaping death. Death can strike at any moment and does not discriminate. In that sense, death is very humbling because we all stand on equal ground before the great mystery of death. Yet death also meets us in very "everyday" ways as has been mentioned. Death is very present in our lives.

Jesus is faced with the painful reality of death in today's Gospel. Lazarus, a dear friend, is dead. Jesus weeps because of the great loss and emptiness he experiences in the death of his friend, and he raises Lazarus to life. Jesus' focus is God and the work of God. All the signs and wonders Jesus works are meant to focus on the great abundance and generous compassion of Abba. Jesus restores life to that which appeared dead, hope where it seemed hopeless, a vision for tomorrow where grief seemed to be the only answer.

Lazarus returned from the dead. The breath of life flowed through his whole person. Yet we must be careful not to confuse this with the resurrection. Lazarus will die again. The corpse of Lazarus was resuscitated. The same man Lazarus walked again, was with his family and friends. While we can presume that his life was changed because of the experience, Lazarus was nonetheless the same man revived from the dead. Such is not the experience of resurrection. In the resurrection, Jesus was raised to glory and was transformed: he was no longer a body of this earth.

We are talking about a different, can category of experience than "visual." The whole person of Jesus (his total humanity and therefore all his relationships) is transformed into God forever. The resurrection of Jesus is God's yes to Jesus, confirming and affirming Jesus' life and ministry. In the resurrection that which is corruptible is transformed into incorruptible.

Lazarus is raised from death as a sign of God's presence. We have a greater sign in the resurrection of Jesus. In Christ's resurrection, the possibility of new and transformed life is available for all of us. Though we may not share in the fullness of such transformed life, God has affirmed the self-sacrificing love and lifestyle of Jesus as reflective of full human living, living which can be transformative. Perhaps we lie in the tomb of our sin, or of our own blockage. Perhaps the very pulse of life has been drained from us because of lost loves and broken friendships. Maybe the zeal with which we began our work or study has dwindled. Perhaps we have allowed our dreams to wither and fade, leaving us dry and barren. Jesus calls out to us in a new way, a greater way than he did to Lazarus: "Come out!"

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## Up Close and Personal: The Candidate Edition



Jake McGeough is the only candidate born and raised in Regina, SK. He is the youngest (24) of three boys: Matt and Cam, born to Laurie & Tim McGeough.

McGeough is a teacher at Riffel High school where he is in charge of the Functionally Integrated Alternative Education Program (F.I.A.E.P.) “I really enjoy my job. I have 16 wonderful students who are the most caring, fun, and positive people I have ever met,” McGeough told us here at Resurrection Weekly. McGeough is blessed to be involved in several extra-curricular activities including, “That’s Possible Theater,” which is a play production that involves mainstream students and students with disabilities. He also coaches Special Olympics Basketball, Hockey, and Football.

McGeough was baptized Catholic but never attended Mass too much growing up. He was able to grow his faith through bible camps and through his Catholic secondary education. He has been on his faith journey towards full reception for a while now and would like to thank his sponsor for all her guidance and support as he enters the last stages of his candidacy.



Amanda Parker is the mother of one of our catechumens, Sophie. She was very excited that on her daughter wanted to give

herself to God and the church by being baptized. Parker wants to become fully initiated into the Catholic Church in part because of the witness of her daughter.

Parker is a stay at home mother of three. Her oldest child is Tanisha, 24, Sophie 9, and Memphis 3. She is a Registered Dental Assistant, Teachers Aid, and Nail Technician. Parker is married to Jason. They have been married for almost eleven years.

“I have really enjoyed coming to Resurrection Parish these last few months, and I have really enjoyed RCIA and making some new friends.” Parker is looking forward to strengthening her relationship with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Parker has been forming relationships with the wonderful people here at Resurrection, and feels blessed that she gets to go through the RCIA process with her daughter.

## Presentations During Lent

During Lent our Catechumens and Candidates celebrate two different presentations. The first takes place after the first Scrutiny (on the third week of lent). The catechumens and candidates are prayed over and are presented with their own copy of the Creed. They are told during the liturgy that, “The words [in the creed] are few, but the mysteries they contain are great. Receive them with a sincere heart and be faithful to them.”

After the gathered community has professed the creed we pray, “that it become more than just words on a sheet of paper for you but that it becomes a way of life!”

The second presentation takes place after the third and final scrutiny. This is the presentation of the Lord’s Prayer. The elect are invited to deepen their faith and understanding of God, through the grace of God the Father. “Give them new birth in your living waters, so that they may be numbered among your adopted children.” Likewise the Candidates are called to be attentive to Christ’s voice, and we ask the Holy Spirit to send them strength and courage to call God, Father in all circumstances in their lives. Amen!