



OUR ABSOLUTELY BEAUTIFUL CHURCH IS OPEN FOR EASTER 2018. WILL IT BE OPEN FOR EASTER 2019? NO FOOLIN': IT'S UP TO YOU!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

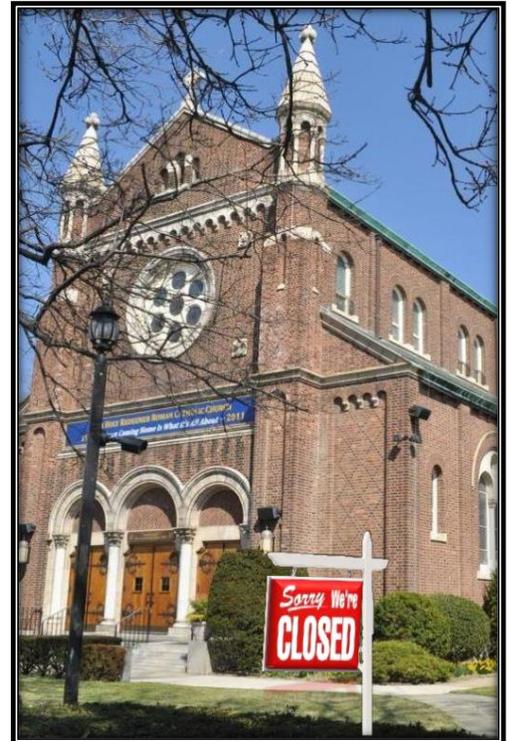
He is Risen! Truly Risen! Alleluia! Alleluia! How wonderful those words must have sounded when they reached the ears of believers such as Mary Magdalene outside the Empty Tomb and the Apostles in the Upper Room! Mary Magdalene, upon hearing the Good News outside of the tomb "ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, ..." (Saint John XX:2a). Simon Peter and John (the disciple whom Jesus loved) "went out and came to the tomb. (And) They both ran, ..." (Saint John XX:3,4a).

The Good News of the Lord's Resurrection did not remain in the ears of Mary Magdalene, Simon Peter and John. It did not remain in their heads like some scientific theory that needed to be proven with help from a scientific method. No, the Good News found its way from their ears to their hearts and so they ran.

In 1903, that connection of the Good News to the heart established the Parish of Our Holy Redeemer in Freeport. And in 1911, it built our absolutely beautiful church. If we want to keep those church-doors open so that our children can be Married here, our grandchildren can be Baptized here, our parents can be remembered at a Mass of Christian Burial here, ... then we must, in the words of Bishop Barres "commit ourselves to a radical fidelity to Sunday Mass". If we don't make this commitment, then the doors to our absolutely beautiful church may in fact be closed the next time we try to enter through them.

Please, on this *April Fool's Day*, don't be so foolish as to think that anything less than "radical" fidelity (that means everybody; every Sunday) will keep the doors of Our Holy Redeemer church from closing. Just remember what happened to Our Holy Redeemer School 50 years after the connection of the Good News to the heart opened it: it closed!

The doors of your church at 37 South Ocean Avenue in Freeport, New York opened for you on EASTER Sunday 2018 because 20% of Freeport's Baptized Catholics allow the Good News to enter their hearts and bring them to church EVERY Sunday. Our Holy Redeemer suffered, died, and rose from the dead to open the doors of Heaven for 100% of us. It is time for the other 80% of Freeport's Baptized Catholics to start coming home EVERY Sunday to keep the doors open for Him so that He can enter into your hearts and transform them, and you in turn can run into the world and proclaim the Good News: He is Risen! Truly Risen! Alleluia! Alleluia!



A Tweet for You from Pope Francis @Pontifex

The Word of God invites us to connect our ears to our hearts, and our hearts to our hands, in order to do good deeds.