



Highlights of diocesan news in printable format — April 5, 2023

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From the Bishop

This Holy Week, I invite you to look for Jesus

This is a transcript of a video message.

This is Bishop Hughes in the Diocese of Newark. Holy Week has begun. And whatever your plans are for this week, whether you're going to a service every single day, or you're only able to go to the next one on a Sunday, which would be Easter, this week is still meant for you. It is a time that church and Christianity has set aside for 2000 years, to think about the approach of Jesus to the cross, to his death, and resurrection. It is a time where we reflect, it is a time where we think on Scripture, where we gather together to pray, to sing ancient hymns that remind us of the journey that Jesus took, and to think of our own journey and following Jesus.

And I want to invite you, in the remaining days of Holy Week, no matter what your plan is, or what you're actually able to do – sometimes we have a big plan, and we're not able to stick with that plan. That wherever you are, during Holy Week, I invite you to look for Jesus. To see the things that Jesus would see around you. Who are the people that need his compassion? Who are the people that need his love? Who are the people who are looking for companionship, that need a blessing, that need to know that they are cared about? Wherever you see those people you are seeing through the mind of Christ, you are seeing through the eyes of Christ, and you are seeing Christ in another person.

Now, it may be that you're called to do something for that person. And it may be that your only call is to

notice that they are there to say a prayer for them, to offer a word of encouragement, and to continue on through your day. But as a way of making this week holy, something simple that all of us can do is to look for Jesus. Whether you're sitting in church, or you're sitting on public transportation, or in your car, or in a meeting, whether you're in the grocery store or preparing a meal, talking with friends or family, wherever you happen to be. Look for Jesus this week.

I promise you, it will make your week dedicated to God. And at the end of the day, that's what holy means. Something that's been dedicated to God. I'll be thinking of you and praying for you. That your Holy Week truly is one dedicated to God.

Diocesan Announcements

Report from the Confirmation Retreat

On Saturday, March 25, nine adult and 58 youth Candidates for Confirmation, Reception or Reaffirmation joined Bishop Hughes, Canon Wright and members of the Youth Commission for the 2023 Confirmation Retreat at Grace, Madison.

Churches sending youth Candidates were asked to collect items for homeless teens and young adults -- five items for each youth Candidate, so that they could assemble care packages. The churches donated generously, and the youth Candidates were able to assemble nearly 250 care packages for homeless youth, plus 12 large shopping bags of toiletries to donate to food pantries across the diocese.