



CCB Parent Connector

The Catholic Community of Billerica

St. Andrew, St. Mary, & St. Theresa



APRIL 2017

www.billericacatholic.org

Dear Parents,

Happy Easter!

I love Easter! For me it is the best and happiest "ending" of any story about evil v. good. But this isn't just any story. And it isn't the end. It is the story of our life in Christ, and it is just the beginning! Whether or not you had a fruitful and prayerful lent, you can start new today. Jesus died for you. And He conquered death for you as well. So that you may have "life in abundance." Think about that. What an awesome love that is. I pray you feel that love.

I also hope you have been enjoying Matthew Kelly's book "Rediscover Jesus: An Invitation". For those of you who did not receive a copy at your baptism meeting, please let me know! It is a wonderful book to rediscover who Jesus is for you now, as an adult and parent. We can all deepen our relationship with Jesus. And the Easter Season is a beautiful time to do so! Spring rushes toward us with the gift of new life and transformation all around us. Why not allow the Holy Spirit to breathe life into our friendship with the Risen Christ!

One of my favorite finds in the Rediscover Jesus book is the Prayer of Transformation on page 103. What a beautiful prayer to offer each day to God:

Prayer of Transformation

Loving Father,
Here I am.

I trust that you have an incredible plan for me.
Transform me. Transform my life.
Everything is on the table.

Take what you want to take and give what you want to give.
Transform me into the person you created me to be,
so I can live the life you envision for me.

I hold nothing back;
I am 100 percent available.
How can I help?

Amen.

Easter blessings to you and your family,

Adrienne (Adrienne.cullen.ccb@gmail.com)



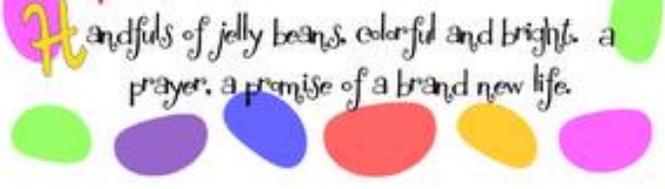
Resurrection Eggs for Preschoolers

Gather 6 plastic eggs, each a different color. Place the items below - one in each egg. As you tell the Resurrection story, let your child open the eggs. Explain each item in the following order:

-  Bread crumb: Jesus ate dinner with His friends. *Luke 22: 14-15*
-  Cross: The next day, Jesus died on the cross. *John 19: 17-18*
-  Strip of cloth: He was wrapped in cloth and placed in a tomb. *John 19: 40*
-  Rock: A stone was placed in front of the tomb. *Matthew 27: 59-60*
-  Empty Egg: Jesus' friends came to the tomb and saw the stone had been moved. The tomb was empty! *Luke 24: 1-3*
-  Candy: Jesus is alive! That's the Sweet Surprise of Easter. *Matthew 28: 5-6*

a jelly bean prayer

-  red is for the blood He gave.
-  green is for the grass He made.
-  yellow is for the sun so bright.
-  orange is for the edge of night.
-  black is for the sins we've made.
-  white is for the grace He gave.
-  purple is for His hour of sorrow.
-  pink is for the new tomorrow.

 Handful of jelly beans, colorful and bright, a prayer, a promise of a brand new life.

Divine Mercy Sunday Holy Hour – April 23, 2017 – St. Theresa Church – 3 P.M.



You are invited to join us for a holy hour on Divine Mercy Sunday. For those unfamiliar with the message of Divine Mercy, here is an explanation from <http://www.thedivinemercy.org/message/>

The message of The Divine Mercy is simple. It is that God loves us – all of us. And, he wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share His joy.

On Divine Mercy Sunday extraordinary graces are available to the faithful flowing from the Paschal Mystery of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection. These graces were promised by Christ through private revelations granted to St. Faustina, a Polish nun and mystic.

In addition to attending the Holy Hour on April 23, you may want to pray the Divine Mercy Novena beginning on Good Friday. (<https://www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/mercy/novena.htm#1>).

If you have any questions or would like more information, give me a call or email!