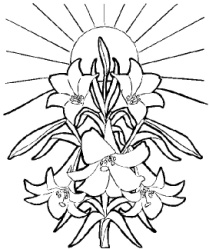
Saint Ephrem’s Newsletter… for you!

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The name “April” is derived from the

Latin word ***aperit,*** which means to open. April is the month of the growing season, when trees and flowers begin to open.



An Easter Prayer

Good and gracious God,  
Our most glorious Creator,  
As we greet the signs in nature around us:  
Of Spring once again regaling us in bloom,  
In the songs of returning birds and fields soon to be planted,  
We give you praise for an even greater sign of new life: the resurrection of your Son,  
Our Lord Jesus Christ, that we especially celebrate at this time.

The sadness and despair of his death has given way to the bright promise of immortality.  
For the Resurrection is our guarantee that justice will triumph over treason,

Light will overcome darkness, and love will conquer death.

As we celebrate, we also dare to ask for your grace that we may live the promise given to us,  
By imitating the life of Jesus in reaching out to the poor, the marginalized, the least among us,  
As we strive to be neighbor to all those we meet.  
We praise you in this Easter season. Change our lives, change our hearts to be messengers of Easter joy and hope.  
We make our prayer through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord forever.  
  
Amen.  
  
*- Fr. Larry Snyder***,** president of Catholic Charities USA,

To all of our homebound parishioners,

Finally…spring looks like it actually may be a reality…as I write this the weather forecast for these next few days looks so promising!!! Thanks be to God that we will begin—however slowly-to see temperatures going into the high 60s and 70s!!

April also will be bringing us a few remaining weeks of Lent and on April 21 we will celebrate the Lord’s Resurrection!

Please know and be sure that each of you are remembered in prayer during these days and especially during our Holy Week and Triduum services!

*The following is a thought from the*

Little Black Book *, a publication out of the Diocese of*

*Saginaw, MI…*

“Pretzels are a popular reminder that Lent is a time of prayer.

Italian monks in the 7th century are often credited with creating pretzels, which they gave as a treat to children who had learned their prayers. The pretzels were a bread shaped in the form of arms crossed in prayer. They were called

*bracellae,* which is Latin for “little arms.”

Today, in may parishes, children who have not yet made their communion are encouraged to cross their arms in prayer and come up in the communion live to receive a blessing”!!!

