

**For The Bulletin Of
April 3, 2016**

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

From Father Robert

Lent is a practical time, a season we can easily understand, embrace, and use to progress in our spiritual lives. We choose to undertake penitential practices. They are concrete: give up something we enjoy; do something that will help us grow, do something positive to impact the life of another or others. These penitential practices come from and are directed to our everyday living.

Now we are in the Easter Season. This season is not so easily understood: risen life is not something practical deriving from certain spiritual practices. We know and believe Jesus rose from the dead; we cannot so easily grasp how this has an immediate effect on us. The resurrection is a mystery. Risen Life is different, a new happening, a fresh experience. Most surely, risen Life is of God. It instills Easter joy. Like the penance of Lent, it ought to make a difference in our daily living.

The gospel we hear today shows us why the resurrection makes all the difference in the world. When the risen Lord appears to the disciples locked away behind closed doors, fear is allayed by Presence, unbelieving is allayed by seeing-believing. The Lord comes to the disciples a first time on that first Easter Sunday evening when Thomas is not present. Thomas known quite clearly to the other disciples what he needs in order to believe that Jesus is alive. He must encounter, see, touch – put his

finger and hand in the wounds that he expects to see on Jesus' body.

A week later, when Thomas is present, Jesus appears to the disciples again, and responds to Thomas's unbelief. Jesus is not angry with Thomas for not believing; He does not judge him. He simply invites: here, see, touch, and believe. Seeing-believing – for Thomas and for us – is not merely an exercise in intellectual assent, but a practical encounter played out through our acceptance of the risen Life that is offered us. We know to whom and what our belief is directed: to Jesus and the gift of risen Life. We know how we receive risen Life: through Jesus' gift of the breath of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. Jesus' resurrection is as divine pledge of "life in His name." Risen Life is God's divine Life transforming who and how we are. Resurrection makes all the difference – for us, for all of creation.

Living The Paschal Mystery

Perhaps we unfairly fault Thomas. Perhaps he is a good model for us of authentic seeing-believing. Our believing cannot stand on hearsay, on blind acceptance of what others have seen and believe. Rather, our believing must be grounded in personal encounter with the risen Christ, in ongoing conversation with Him that leads to conscious choice, and in expressing our belief in Him by the way we reach out to others. Here is where the resurrection and the Life it brings becomes very concrete and practical for our daily living. Christ's risen Life within us enables us to choose to live the Gospel He preached. His risen life within us prompts us to set aside fear and doubt and embrace forgiveness and peace.

Jesus allays our fears and offers us a whole new relationship with Him – not one where we need to touch His wounds, but one in which we utter with joyful conviction, “My Lord and my God!” We enter into a whole new relationship with each other as we continue the works of Jesus that lead others to seeing-believing. Resurrection makes all the difference – for us, for all of creation.

As we begin the Second Week of the Easter Season, how has your life changed? Has Easter made any difference for you?

- What makes enough of a difference to me that I transform my life is...
- My experience of the resurrection transforms my life when...
- My seeing-believing looks like...

About Liturgy – The First Reading from Acts and the Easter Lectionary

During these eight Sundays of Easter the first reading deviates from the norm: rather than selected from Old Testament books, it is always taken from the Acts of the Apostles. This first book of the New Testament after the four gospels records for us the reception of Easter faith in the early Christian community. Although these first readings don't accord with the gospels for these Sundays in the usual way – either by a parallel theme or account, a promise-fulfillment motif, or a contrast – they do in one sense accord with the gospels.

The Easter Lectionary presents eight gospels that form a marvelous progression and whole: the first three Sundays of Easter all present appearance account of the risen Jesus; the Fourth Sunday of Easter is Good Shepherd

Sunday when we are assured of Jesus' continued care and love; the fifth through seventh Sundays of Easter prepare us to be disciples who receive the Holy Spirit and carry on the saving ministry of Jesus; the eighth Sunday is Pentecost when we celebrate the giving and receiving of the Holy Spirit. We move in these eight gospels from celebrating the risen Lord to being given the power (the Holy Spirit) to continue the works of Jesus.

The selections from the Acts of the Apostles simply record for us how those first Christians received the Spirit and carried forward Jesus' mission. We see in this “mini history” how the new Life of Jesus' resurrection re-created these people. These accounts from Acts, then, make concrete what the gospels promise and help us see how we make risen life real in our own lives.

The Floral Arrangement in front of the Altar this weekend is placed to the Glory of God and in loving memory of John Silva, by his wife, Pam.

Easter Cards for Archbishop Brunett

Thank goodness that the Easter Season is 50 days! There is ample time to send Archbishop Brunett greetings for the season. Please send your cards and personal notes as follows:

**Archbishop Alexander J. Brunett
Archbishop Emeritus
Archdiocese of Seattle
710 9th Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98104**

Divine Mercy Celebration

You are invited to join us at 3:00 p.m. this afternoon for the Divine Mercy Celebration which includes Sung

Evening Prayer, Singing of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and Blessing of Images of the Divine Mercy. Following Evening Prayer, you are invited to join us in the parish hall for a reception. We are grateful to **Bobbie Ochang and Steve Andreatta** for coordinating this annual event.

Mystagogia Begins

Following the Triduum and the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation at the Great Vigil, the final period of the RCIA begins. It is called “Mystagogia” and is focused on what happened to the newly-baptized and initiated and prepares them for Pentecost. Please continue to keep **Tina and Xochil** in your prayers as they continue on this faith journey.

The Environment Committee

Last week, the members of the Environment Committee did great work to prepare the church for the Triduum and especially for Holy Thursday and Easter. On behalf of all of us I would like to thank the following who created the environment for Holy Thursday: **Lorraine Lohmeier, Denise Moss, Antonio and Rowena Cayaban, Pablo and Norma Villegas, Rich Confetti, Don Benson, Jose Palomino, Mila Rodrigo, and Tom and Stevie Catchings.** The Easter Environment was prepared by **Theresa Nelms, Rich Confetti, Don Benson, Jose Palomino, Estrella Rusk, Pablo and Norma Villegas, Tom and Stevie Catchings, Gail Burgarino, Denise Moss, Lorraine Lohmeier, Harlan Young, and Carole Miller.**

We are also deeply grateful to all those who contributed to generously to make the trees, blooming plants, and cut floral

arrangements possible along with the beautiful fabric panels at each of the Icons. Your contributions will be recognized in a bulletin of the Easter Season.

We also wish to thank **Marc Douville** who built and maintained the New Fire of Easter for the Great Vigil. Marc is also the artisan who created the Fire Sculpture and won national recognition in “Modern Liturgy” magazine for its design, execution, and installation.

CCISCO Night Walk Against Violence

The next CCISCO Night Walk Against Violence takes place this coming Friday, April 8th, at 6:15 p.m. from Antioch Church Family, 55 E. 18th Street. We will walk to the intersection of Cavallo Road and E. 18th St. Following the witness we will return to the church for an evaluation and prayer. I hope you will join us.

Leadership Dinner

On Saturday evening, April 9th, the Leadership of our parish which includes the Pastoral Staff, the Pastoral Council, and the Finance Council will meet for dinner immediately following the 5:00 p.m. Vigil Liturgy. The cohesive working of the leadership is critical for the parish’s life and movement forward. Please pray for us as we seek to lead and guide the work and ministry of the parish.

Antioch Womens’ and Childrens’ Shelter

I hope as many of you as possible will join me in support of **Gary Kingsbury** as he presents the proposed Antioch Womens’ and Childrens’ Shelter Project to the Antioch City Council on Tuesday, April 12th, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting

takes place in the City Council Chambers located on 2nd Street.

CROP Walk

This year's CROP Walk takes place on Sunday afternoon, April 17th, leaving from St. Andrew's Lutheran Church on San Jose Avenue, at 3:00 p.m.

Registration begins at 2:00 p.m. I hope you will join me for this annual event which raises money for various organizations that address hunger in the world as well as locally.

Keep Antioch Beautiful!

This month, in lieu of the regular monthly neighborhood cleanup, we are participating in the city-wide "Keep Antioch Beautiful" project. Residents are invited to go to a variety of sites to work together to clean up those areas and at the same time to beautify these parts of our city. Please see the flyer at the back of my insert today to learn how you can sign up and participate. The areas to be cleaned are:

- a. *Nick Rodriguez Community Center*
- b. *Antioch High School*
- c. *Deer Valley High School (groups from this check in site will be sent across the street to Prewett to address the trail.) This will also allow those that come to this area to go into the neighborhoods around DVHS. The proximity of neighborhoods is why DVHS was selected vs. Prewett as the location of the check in site.*
- d. *Turner Elementary*
- e. *Park Middle School*
- f. *Carmen Dragon Elementary*
- g. *Mission Elementary*

Antioch Police Department Explorer Program

The Antioch Police Department Explorer Program is a progressive and educational opportunity for young men and women between the ages of 16 and 21 who have an interest in learning about law enforcement. Our explorers are afforded the opportunity to learn more about law enforcement, the criminal justice system, and the community in which they live. Explorers are required to volunteer at least 10 hours a month. They perform various tasks such as scene security, traffic control, safety presentations, tours of the police facility, community events, safety fairs, and many other law enforcement related tasks. Explorers are allowed to "ride along" with officers during their shift. The program is supervised by sworn personnel who offer insight into the exciting world of law enforcement.

The explorers receive training each month in areas such as evidence collection, crime prevention, firearms, traffic control, community policing, and many other law enforcement related topics. Explorers also participate in a yearly competition against other police explorer programs.

Eligibility Requirements:

To become a City of Antioch police explorer, candidates must be at least 16 years of age and no older than 20 years of age at the time of application. Candidates must also possess a valid California driver's license, maintain a 2.0 grade point average, be able to volunteer 10 hours a month, and have a desire to learn about law enforcement. For further information, please contact the Antioch Police Department, Lt. Trevor Schnitzius, 925-779-6973.

Thank You's

On behalf of all of us, I would like to thank those parishioners who continue to give so much of themselves to maintain our building:

...to those who cleaned the church last Saturday in preparation for Easter:

Pablo Villegas and Steve Rojek.

...to those who cleaned and maintained the bathrooms in the church and parish hall: **Robert Goncalves, Gino Ramos, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, and Harlan Young.**

...to our **counting teams** who are here every week to count the weekly collections.

...to our volunteers who assisted in the parish office last week: **Mary Ng, Harlan Young, Karen Oliver, Barbara Jackson, Rowena Cayaban, Joe Fanfa and Bev Iacona.**

...to our St. Vincent de Paul and Mobile Mall volunteers who transported last week's donations: **Bob Carvalho and Barbara Jackson.**

...to our faithful weekly bulletin assembly team: **Bob Carvalho, Carole Miller and Bev Iacona.**

St. Joseph's Festival Dinner Thank You's

The Social Events Committee would like to thank everyone who made our tenth annual St. Joseph's Day Dinner a huge success! Thank you especially to our Confirmation students who served and helped that evening. They are **Illianna Vitug, Isabelle Nguyen, Diantha Ngo, Joren Hitosis, Andrew Nguyen, Madison Perry and Daphne Francisco.** Special thank you to **Joanna Burgarino, Marie Collins, Lesley Eubanks, Mary Ewing, Emily Douville, Jane Sharpe, Susan Batterton, MaryAnne Douville, Maryann Peddicord, Chip Sharpe,**

Steven Rojek, Will and Catherine Avitabile and Father Robert. The dinner was delicious, as always! A big thank you to **Dave Costanza, Carole Miller, Tomas Lucia, Brian and Vicki McCoy, Mark Costanza and Al Cosce.** A wonderful thank you to all who donated baskets, auction items and the delicious desserts!! And last but not least, a huge THANK YOU to **Mike and Ella** for their wonderful entertainment and to those parishioners and guests who came to celebrate and honor our most holy St. Joseph.

Marla Plurkowski, Social Events Committee

Building Fund Donation from J.S. Paluch Company

Thank you to John Marsh, Parish Consultant, for the \$1,000 donation to our Building Fund. J.S. Paluch is the company that does such a great job publishing our weekly bulletins. We very much appreciate their generosity.