

**For The Bulletin Of
April 1, 2018**



Easter Day – The Feast of the Resurrection

From Father Robert

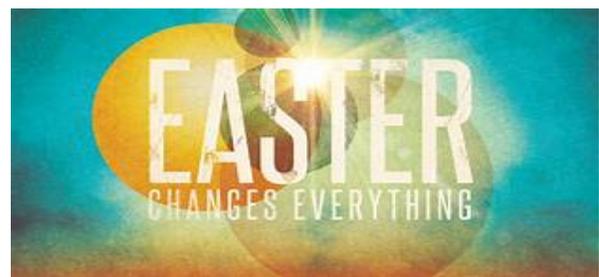
Welcome! And, thank you for joining us for Easter Liturgy today. You are one of God's Easter gifts and blessings to us and I hope being with us will be a blessing to you as well. Whether you are here for the first time, or are returning to the Catholic Church, you are welcome! This is an amazing community of faith and our worship is characterized by powerful preaching, glorious music, and a warm and welcoming community. There is a place for you with us. If you would like more information about our parish, please do not hesitate to call the parish office or ask to speak to a member of our pastoral staff or myself. On behalf of the Pastoral Staff, the Pastoral Council, the Finance Council, and myself, we wish you a very blessed and happy Easter Day.

Reflecting On The Easter Gospel and Living The Paschal Mystery

Easter morning must have been a confusing, even frightening time. Jesus had just been killed by the state, an imperial occupying power. Most of the disciples had scattered. Now when

Mary of Magdala comes to pay her final respects, she finds the tomb empty. It might be hard for us to imagine, but apparently the early disciples did not understand that Jesus was to rise from the dead. Though they had been with Jesus during His earthly ministry, they were unprepared for this victorious act of God over death itself. To us, the resurrection of Jesus is a central point of faith. For them, it seems to have been wholly unexpected. The gospels are remarkably candid about this embarrassing face.

But are we ready for God to conquer death in our lives? Or is this something wholly unexpected as well? Each of us has experienced loss, and sometimes it can be comforting to hold on to this loss. We want to visit the tomb, as a symbol of a past that is no longer present. The disciples will never experience Jesus in the same way. His earthly ministry is over. Something new is in store and it is something wholly unexpected. With respect to our own personal losses, those moments will never be the same. God will bring something new, wholly unexpected from those crises.



In this as in the other gospel accounts, the first indications of Jesus' resurrection were the discovery of the empty tomb. The appearances of the risen Jesus came later. Initially the women discovered the tomb empty, pondered its meaning, and reported to

the remaining disciples. Only the Beloved Disciple, likely the “eyewitness” behind the Fourth Gospel, was one who believed upon finding the tomb empty. No other disciple did. But for most disciples, the empty tomb was not enough. Thus the risen Jesus appears.

We see similar movements of faith in our own lives. We find our own empty tombs, signifiers of something greater. But often we do not grasp the full meaning until later, until something equivalent to a resurrection appearance. Let us be attentive to the empty tomb signs and experiences in our lives that leave us pondering, wondering how God is acting in the world. It could be that we will experience a resurrection, new life from death, meaning from loss.

I hope you will be able to take some time either today or in the days of the coming week to reflect on the meaning of the resurrection in your own life.

* Where is the Risen Lord present among us? How is the Good News of the Risen One proclaimed in the faithfulness and compassionate charity of people in your life?

* When have you seen seemingly misplaced compassion, forgiveness, or reconciliation “vindicated?”



Thank You

Many individuals have contributed their time, talents, and energy to make our

liturgies of the Triduum and Easter possible. On behalf of all of us, I would like to thank our **Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, Adult Acolytes, Sacristans, Ushers, Greeters, the Members of the Art & Environment Committee** for creating such a beautiful and inspiring Easter Environment, **the Altar Guild, Don Pearson – Director of Music/Organist/Artist-In-Residence, our Parish Choir and Cantors, our Office Staff**, and all those who contributed so generously to make our Easter Environment possible. Thank you to each and every one of you for all you have done!



It is with great joy that we welcome all those who were initiated last evening at the Great Vigil of Easter through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. Congratulations to: **Charles Frank, Adam Haas, Lisa Lombardo, Jean Rogers, Carolyn Van Gilder, Haley Garrett, Dezire Jackson, Jose Moreno, Jesus Moreno, James White, Dominic Enea and Ysabella White.**



...to our faithful parishioners who prepared all the palm fronds for distribution and blessing last Saturday morning: **Pablo and Norma Villegas, Hanny Reingold, Carlynn Costello, Carole Miller, Pat Kramer, Kathleen Maasberg, Carolyn Van Gilder, and Nancy DiMaggio.**

...to our faithful volunteer parishioners who arrive early each Saturday morning to clean and prepare the church for the weekend: **Jun Bajet, Angela Bueno, Kathy Romeo, Mency Osborne, Rose Salamanca, Emilia Freking, Carole Miller, and Steve Rojek.**

...to our faithful parishioner volunteers who clean and maintain the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall each week: **Robert Goncalves, Virginia Noack, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, and Harlan Young.**

...to **Mary Anne Douville** and **Faultless Cleaners** for all the dry cleaning, sewing and miscellaneous other tasks that are completed by her for the parish.

...to **Dilcia Aparacio** who does such an excellent job of washing, ironing, and caring for the Sacred Linens.

...to our Sacristans and Altar Guild who prepare the sanctuary for the celebration of Eucharist each week: **Peter Degl'Innocenti, Pam and Rich Confetti, Vincent Rodriguez, Harlan Young, Rowena Cayaban, Monika Kauer, Cynthia Enrique, Belen Farin, Nancy Santos and Rose Salamanca.**

...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:

Melodye Costanza, Harlan Young, Yvette Young, Alicia Perez, 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: **Dave Costanza, Beth Enea, Richard Enea, Kathy Augusta and Vince Augusta.**

...to our wonderful Parking Lot Security who keep watch over our vehicles during the weekend liturgies and our penance service: **Vince Augusta, Don Benson, Steve Rojek and Bob Goncalves.**

