

**For The Bulletin Of  
April 21, 2019**



***From Father Robert***

A very warm and joyous welcome to all of you who worship with us on this glorious day! What a blessing you are to us as we gather together to thank God for the new life that is given to us in the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ! We want you to know that you are welcome with us and that this is truly a “house of prayer for all people,” regardless of where your life’s journey has taken you in the past. For us as Catholic Christians, Easter is much more than a day – it is an entire season of seven weeks which we take to celebrate, reflect, and meditate on what it means for Jesus to rise from the dead, culminating in the great feast of Pentecost, the giving of the Holy Spirit. This is an especially significant year for our parish as we celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our founding on the first weekend of June, which is actually The Feast of the Ascension. Please know that you are welcome to join us for all of the Sundays of the Easter Season...and always! May your presence here with us today also be a special blessing to you and that what you receive remain with you for a long time to come. On behalf of the leadership of our parish: Fr. George Griener, S.J., Father “Moses” Mangini, the Pastoral Council, the

Finance Council, and myself, we wish you a truly blessed Easter Day and Season.

***Reflecting On The Gospel***

The Fourth Gospel gives us many takes on the stories about the life and ministry of Jesus. Now with the story of the discovery of the empty tomb we have another story. Though Luke tells us that Mary Magdalene (in the Gospel of John: Mary of Magdala) and the other women were the first to encounter the empty tomb, that story also had two men “in dazzling garments” speaking to the women. In John’s account Mary seems to be alone, and upon finding the stone turned away, she runs to Simon Peter and the disciple whom Jesus loved. We need to read further in the gospel than what we hear in today’s liturgy to find out more about Mary’s role on that morning. The gospel reading for today is content to have Mary fetch Peter and the other disciple. We hear no more about her.

And though Luke tells us in one verse, which happens to be missing from many ancient manuscripts, that Peter found the tomb empty, John tells us that he was accompanied by the disciple whom Jesus loved. And it is he, this latter disciple, who is the first to believe, even though neither he nor Peter at that time understood the Scripture about rising from the dead.

So, this becomes something of a model of faith. We, like the beloved disciple, believe before we understand completely. Upon believing, we spend the rest of our lives contemplating the mystery of faith. And like the Beloved Disciple we are led to faith by another, in this case Mary of Magdala. She is the

one who indicates that the stone was rolled away. She points to something that needs to be explored, investigated. And once the Beloved Disciple has that encounter the response is faith.



### *Living The Paschal Mystery*

How often do we say “yes” before completely understanding the ramifications of our assent? How often does something simply feel right and we dive in before we have a complete picture of what’s at stake? That might happen upon falling in love, having a child, or making another sort of life commitment. Once made, these decisions and commitments alter the course of our lives.

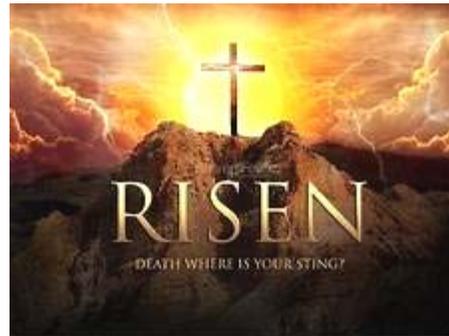
In the case of the Beloved Disciple, once he encountered the empty tomb he believed even before he understood it’s quite likely that he spent the events of Jesus’ life, death, and ultimate resurrection, drawing connections between the Scriptures and what he had witnessed. The entirety of Jesus is something we can never fully comprehend or understand, much like we can never fully comprehend or understand any human being. At the center of each is mystery.

On this Easter Day, let us sit with Simon Peter and the Beloved Disciple in the empty tomb, having been drawn there by

Mary. Let us ponder the meaning of this extraordinary event and believe. We have the rest of our lives to unpack and better understand what that entails.

Some questions for your personal and private reflection:

- At the empty tomb the Beloved Disciple believes but does not yet understand. What mysteries of faith do you lack understanding of? How might God be calling you to strengthen your belief?
- How are you being called to live deeper into this mystery of life coming from death?



### *Thank You*

There is no time in the Liturgical Year when more effort is put forth than from Palm Sunday through Easter. Our parish is blessed by so many who give so much to make these days extraordinary: the members of our **Art & Environment Committee, the Liturgy Committee, our Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, Adult Acolytes, Greeters, Ushers, The Choir and Cantors**, our Director Music/Organist/Artist-In-Residence, **Don Pearson, the Office Staff, and our Knights of Columbus** doing Security. In today’s Insert I would like to thank those who prepared the Palm Sunday Environment: **Dorothy O’Connor, Pablo & Norma Villegas, Tony &**

**Claudia Gumina, Rich Confetti, Don Benson;** those who prepared the more than 2,000 palm fronds for the Palm Sunday Liturgies: **Carlynn Costello, Hanny Reingold, Kelly and Patrick Ouimet, Teresa Glenn, Shelli Daviess, Carol Dollete, Debbie Epelheimer, Kathleen Maasberg, Carolyn VanGilder, Lee Oliver, and Pablo & Norma Villegas.**

...to those who cleaned the church:

**Angela Bueno, Nina Bourdain, Mencey Osborne, Jean Rogers, Alfred Madoshi, and Al Cosce.**

...to those who cleaned the bathrooms as well as those who maintain the bathrooms throughout the week: **Rose Salamanca, Steve Rojek, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, and Father Robert.**

...to **Dilcia Aparicio** 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, Monika Kauer, Cynthia Enrique, 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:

**Frances Rojek, Mel Costanza, Maryann Peddicord, Estrella Rusk, Rowena Cayaban, Alicia Perez, Joe Fanfa, Bev Iacona and Paul Riofski.**

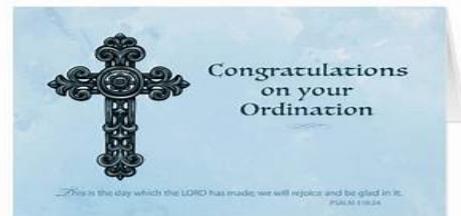
...to our St. Vincent de Paul and Mobile Mall volunteers who transported last week's donations: **Frank Zamora and Barbara Jackson.**

...to our faithful weekly bulletin assembly team: **Dave Costanza (Lead), Beth Enea, Richard Enea, Kathy**

**Augusta, Vince Augusta and Sherry Webb.**

...to our wonderful Parking Lot Security who keeps watch over our vehicles during the weekend Liturgies: **Tony Gumina, Steve Rojek and Dave Simpson.**

In next week's bulletin, I will be able to thank those who prepared the environments for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, The Great Vigil, and Easter Day. We are also deeply grateful to all those who contributed financially to make our Easter Environment possible: the trees, living plants, cut floral arrangements, the panels of cloth that enhance our Icons, and the special Easter Artwork.



Last Sunday afternoon, I was joined by **Ron and Faye Lucas, Myrna Bacchus, and Patricia Kramer** for the joyful Ordination of Pastor Herman Adolphus Sealey. The Ordination was held at Grace Lutheran Church in Pittsburg. The church was filled to overflowing with family members, friends, and the members of both Grace and St. Andrew's Lutheran here in Antioch where Pastor Sealey will serve. The service concluded with him being installed as Pastor of St. Andrew's Lutheran where he will succeed Pastor Roger Kuehn, the Founding Pastor and with whom we have had a wonderful relationship for the

past 15 years. Pastor Kuehn has also been the Founding Command Chaplain for our Antioch Police Department and is retiring after many years of service and health issues. Pastor Sealey preached for the first time after his ordination here with us on Good Friday when he joined us for the Ecumenical Service at 12:00 Noon and preached on one of the Seven Last Words. Congratulations and blessings for many, many years of fulfilling ministry.



Today we also join in congratulating **The Reverend Dr. Mario H. Howell**, beloved Pastor of Antioch Church Family, as he marks 40 years in ministry. A Gala Dinner will be held this coming Friday evening, April 26<sup>th</sup>, at Lone Tree Golf and Event Center to mark this great occasion. Dr. Howell has been a special friend to me and to our parish and we wish to join the community in honoring and thanking him for all he has done as the longest tenured pastor in Antioch, for his work in Social Justice, with Ecumenical efforts and outreach, for his prophetic voice, for his love of our city and community. Dr. Howell, thank you for being a Distinguished Disciple of Jesus and for living out your faith with such energy, enthusiasm, and love, for

making a difference in the lives of countless people over the past 40 years. May God grant you a sense of contentment, fulfillment, and satisfaction in all you have done, but even more, for who you are. And congratulations to your wonderful wife, Joyce, who has stood by your side through it all and has been more than a helpmate – one who has shared in every aspect of your ministry and extraordinary leadership. May God richly bless you both.

*In Loving  
Memory*

You are invited to join us this coming Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 a.m. for the Memorial Funeral Liturgy for **Ron Blakemore, beloved husband of Judy**. If you are unable to attend, please keep them and the Blakemore-Costanza Family in your thoughts and prayers during this time of grief, loss, and bereavement. May the Risen Lord grant them comfort and consolation.