He has been raised from the dead, and he is going before you to Galilee.

MATTHEW 28:7
St. Paul’s Parish will stream Mass for
The Second Sunday of Easter - Divine Mercy Sunday
available to view anytime on
Sunday, April 19, 2020
Please join us online
simply follow the link at www.stpaulsf.org

A message from our Pastor:
I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your support & generosity to St. Paul’s Parish through the years. To be sure, your gifts of time, talent, and treasure benefit our parish community, benefit our ministry as a Catholic community, and enhance our ability to respond to the call of Jesus to carry on His work. I look forward to our return as a parish community, and in this difficult time may we keep one another in our collective and personal prayers. May God bless you, keep you safe and healthy.

Happy Easter Father Mario

All Mass Intentions, from March 18, 2020 forward, will be rescheduled once our public schedule resumes.

Please pray for those in our book of the sick and especially for: Jan Spillane, Hannah Nakagome, Joyce Catania, Gene Crowell, Conrado Benitez, Sally Dollard, David Oman, Travis Griffin, Vickie Mahoric, Carl Helms, Jack Olson, Albert Fernandez, Lloyd Pool, St. Jeanenne Weis, Judith Heimer, Annette Schubert, Joan Strachan, Rev. Brian Costello

And especially for all those who have died.

Let us pray, for a swift end to the coronavirus pandemic that afflicts our world, that our God and Father will heal the sick, strengthen those who care for them, and help us all to persevere in faith.

St. Paul’s Thanksgiving Response to God:
Weekly Collection March 15, 2020 $ 4,113.50
On-line giving February 2020 $ 7,365.00

With so much uncertainty regarding the COVID-19 virus, we wanted to take a moment to thank you for your continued support, and to remind you that St. Paul’s Parish does offer an Online Giving option. Making use of current technology and security standards, Online Giving allows you to easily setup recurring contributions.

Online Giving Benefits
• Secure and confidential. No need to share payment information with the church office.
• Efficient. Set up direct withdrawals from your checking, savings account or a credit card.
• Simple. Start, stop and change your contributions at any time.
• Convenient. No need to write a check or have cash available.
• Remote flexibility. You can give from virtually anywhere anytime.

Start giving online today!
1. Visit www.stpaulsf.org and click on the online giving link.
2. Create an account.
3. Schedule your recurring gifts.

Whichever method you choose, Online Giving or Weekly Offering Envelopes, we are grateful for your continued support and contributions to St. Paul’s Parish.
CHRIST HAS RISEN
Where is your sting, O death? Where is your victory, O hell?
Christ has risen, and you are overthrown.
Christ has risen, and the demons have fallen.
Christ has risen, and the angels rejoice.
Christ has risen, and life reigns.
Christ has risen, and not one dead rests in the grave.
For Christ having risen from the dead became the first-fruits of them that slept.
To him be glory and majesty to ages of ages.
Amen.
Byzantine Pentakosion

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

If Christmas is the “most wonderful time of the year,” then Easter is the most joyous, glorious, awesome time of the year! Really? Today’s readings don’t exactly brim over with the kind of holiday cheer we find at Christmas—except for the responsorial psalm, which admittedly rings with gleeful joy. But otherwise, not so much. In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Peter gives a dry, condensed rendering of the story of Jesus to a group of Gentiles in Caesarea. The Colossians reading actually does have us looking forward to glory. Most underwhelming, though, is the Gospel proclamation of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. When we want to hear about angels and earthquakes and trumpets and glory, we hear about a dark, silent, empty tomb. This Easter Sunday story from John’s Gospel is startling in its emptiness. Like Peter in the story, we must enter into this mystery.

The Mystery of Emptiness Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! This Paschal greeting is customary in Eastern Catholic and Orthodox churches on Easter Sunday. Then there is Saint Augustine’s acclamation of joy: We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song! However you express it, Easter is the time for rejoicing because Jesus Christ, our friend and brother, is risen from the dead. And yet today’s scriptures are less joyful than one would expect for the most important feast in the Christian calendar. Perhaps we are being asked to look deeper into the mystery of the Resurrection, just as Peter went into the tomb to look deeper into the mystery of its emptiness.

Mary Magdalene, who loved the Lord so much that she risked everything, possibly even her life, to go to the tomb before daybreak, finds the stone rolled away and assumes that someone has taken Jesus’ body. Frightened and sad, she runs to tell Peter and John. They all run back to the tomb, but what do they expect to see? Peter enters the tomb and sees. John enters, sees, and believes. But what does he believe? Scripture states, “For they did not yet understand the scripture that he had to rise from the dead” (John 20:9). They went home, not really knowing what had happened. But John “believed” something.

Something Happened What do we believe? Somewhere between that Easter morning and Peter’s confident teaching about Jesus in the reading from the Acts of the Apostles, something (the Risen Christ) happened. Peter has evolved from his bewilderment into a witness to the Resurrection. What are we to find in the empty tomb? Maybe the Colossians reading has an answer. By entering the empty tomb of our lives to seek the Lord, we see, we believe, we die, to be raised with Christ. “For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God” (Colossians 3:3). And we will rise in glory with him.

Seeds of Faith There is a brevity, a certain terseness, in the scripture readings for Easter Sunday. Peter’s speech in Acts is built of direct, pointed sentences. Paul’s letters are based on straightforward creed-like statements. Even the Gospel story only briefly recounts what will turn out to be one of the most remarkable events in human history—the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Advertising agents call these encapsulated points of information “bullet points.” Scripture scholars call them kerygma, or “kernels” of our faith. Actually, “kernels” or “seeds” are good terms for these statements, since throughout the Easter season, we will hear in the Acts of the Apostles, the Letters of Paul, and the Gospel accounts of the days following the Resurrection exactly how these kerygma began to flower, how they continued to grow through the life of the early church. May these Easter “seeds” of faith serve a similar purpose for us, too, so that the life of the Risen Christ will flourish in us and through our witness in the coming days.
BELIEVING IS SEEING

You’ve heard the saying “Seeing is believing.” Today’s first reading seems to say just the opposite. You might think that when Jesus rose from the dead, everyone would see him. Then his friends would rejoice and those who had put him to death would repent (or run as fast as they could). Yet Peter says that he was only visible to some of the disciples. Jesus did not appear to Herod or Pilate or Caiaphas. The Pharisees and scribes did not see him, either. Even the disciples did not immediately see him. The first thing they saw was the empty tomb, with burial cloths lying on the ground. They may have thought that if his enemies had stolen Jesus’ body, they would not have removed the burial cloths; touching a corpse would have made them unclean.

So it seems the empty tomb helped them to believe, and believing enabled them to see the Lord. The exception to this may be Thomas, who said he would not believe until he saw and touched Jesus’ risen body. Yet when he does see the Lord, Jesus himself declares that believing is primary when he blesses those who have not seen but still believe (John 20:29). I used to think that Jesus was invisible to non-believers, but Mary of Magdala saw him, thinking he was the gardener. Then she believed and recognized him.

What does this mean for us? Jesus seems to be hidden again. Yet we say that he is present in the sacraments; baptism, Eucharist, and confirmation show that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit live in us. So perhaps we just need to believe in order to see him. Mother Teresa could do it. She said she was amazed at the love she felt when she saw Jesus in the poor and the dying people of Calcutta. St. Francis saw him not only in the poor but in all creation. Maybe we need to grow in faith so that we can see Jesus in the poor, the dying, the people who annoy us, even our enemies. That is why it is so important to spread the faith; if we don’t see Jesus in everyone, we may never have true peace.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Acts 2:14, 22-33; Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11; Mt 28:8-15</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Acts 2:36-41; Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22; Jn 20:11-18</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Acts 3:1-10; Ps 105:1-4, 6-9; Lk 24:13-35</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Acts 3:11-26; Ps 8:2ab, 5-9; Lk 24:35-48</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>Acts 4:1-12; Ps 118:1-2, 4, 22-27a; Jn 21:1-14</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Acts 4:13-21; Ps 118:1, 14-21; Mk 16:9-15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Acts 2:42-47; Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24; 1 Pt 1:3-9; Jn 20:19-31</td>
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SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

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<th>Day</th>
<th>Special Observance</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Easter Sunday: Resurrection of the Lord; Julian Calendar Palm Sunday</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
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THE EASTER OCTAVE SUNDAY

Easter time lasts fifty days: seven weeks of seven days (seven equals Biblical perfection) plus one day: perfection plus! Like an eight-day Jewish wedding, or a child who can’t bear to let go of Christmas, birthdays, and school vacation, the Church celebrates the Easter Octave: “the marriage of heaven and earth,” as the Vigil calls Jesus’ resurrection; our new members’ baptismal rebirth; our renewal of baptismal vows; our hearts’ “divine vacation” (Latin vacare, “to be empty”), newfound time and space for love of God and neighbor.

Make your home an Easter garden! Adorn the dining table with a pillar candle (your “paschal candle”), a bowl full of water, a vase of flowers or bowl of sprouting grain with Easter eggs. Even nonsingers can handle the three-fold Gospel Alleluia! Let that be your grace before meals, perhaps with a prayer recalling Emmaus: “Be known to us, Risen Lord Jesus, as you were to the first disciples, in your word, in the breaking of bread, and in everyone we meet.”

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