



Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

April 12, 2020

When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.

— Colossians 3:4

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 *kerygmata*, 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 *kerygmata* 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. —J. S. Paluch Co.

THE EASTER OCTAVE

Sunday, April 5 - Sunday, April 12, 2020

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 home an Easter garden! Adorn the dining table with a pillar candle (your “paschal candle”), a bowl full of water (ideally, from the parish's baptismal font), a vase of flowers or bowl of sprouting grain with Easter eggs. Even non-singers can handle the three-fold Gospel Alleluia! Let that be your grace before meals, perhaps with a prayer recalling Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35): “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.”

--Peter Scagnelli, © J. S. Paluch Co.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

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

Finance Corner:

Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated!



For the month of April offerings:

PLEASE mail to our St. Philip/St. Teresa Parish at

P. O. Box 339, Occidental CA 95465 or donate at our website

www.stphilipstteresa.org via Paypal or card.

4/12: Easter Sunday.

Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:

Parish Council [PC]: TBA

Finance Council [FC]: TBA

Liturgy Committee: TBA

St. Teresa Ladies Guild: Contact Diane, 823-6044

St. Philip Ladies Guild: Contact Penny, 559-367-7403

Every Friday, Centering Prayer: cancelled for now

Coffee & Goodies: cancelled for now



Mondays & Wednesdays-Seniors Lunch at 12noon: cancelled for now

✠ ♥ ✠ Mass Intentions ✠ ♥ ✠ Schedule

Any Mass Intentions originally set for 4/12-4/19 will be rescheduled for a later date when our churches reopen.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Easter Sunday: Resurrection of the Lord;
 Monday: Monday within the Octave of Easter
 Tuesday: Tuesday within the Octave of Easter
 Wednesday: Wednesday within the Octave of Easter;
 Income Tax Day
 Thursday: Thursday within the Octave of Easter
 Friday: Friday within the Octave of Easter
 Saturday: Saturday within the Octave of Easter

Prayer Requests: Leave message at 707-408-2650.

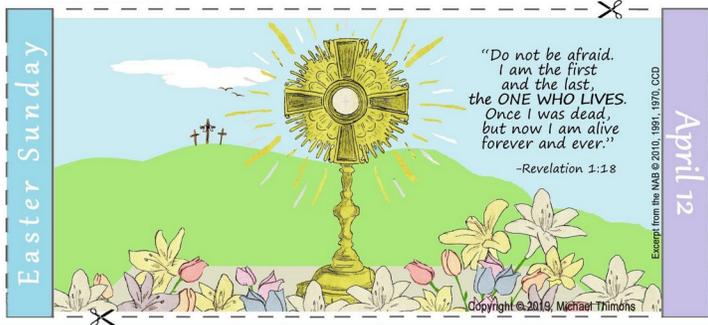


Teresa K., Pat K., Thomas T., Susan B., Lorri McC., Sarah, Clifford J., Terri A., Fred P., Theresa S., Sara, Mary Anne P., Barbara, Dave C., Jim P., William, Parson P., Dave, Mary O., Bill Z., Daniel, Sally T., Mary K., Michael D., Richard M., Kathleen., Peter, Rosa S., Susan B., Joyce D., Anita C., George H., Mimi H, Steve, Barry, Lorrin K., Hugh P., Robert S., Britney N., Jacque W., Rebecca A., April K., Jacinta G., Leo [Ed] Arnold, Castellini family, Kathy R., Donna W., Jim K., Sherry Smith, Shirley Skeen, Gail Fitzgerald, and for all the world undergoing this time of suffering, we pray

April 19, 2020: Divine Mercy Sunday

Divine Mercy is the Easter gift that the Church receives from the Risen Christ and offers to humanity. The devotion to Divine Mercy Sunday grew rapidly after its designation by Pope John Paul II and is now widely celebrated by Catholics.

As individuals and families, you are all encouraged to WATCH and PRAY the Divine Mercy Sunday Mass and RECITE devoutly the DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET through the social media. [per Fr. Bala]



Message From Fr. Bala and the Finance Council

Dear Parishioners,

With the unprecedented changes that have occurred in our lives the past few weeks, our spiritual needs have become more difficult to meet. Masses and other public services as you know are cancelled. Except for some donations through our online account and mail, our parish is deprived of regular offertory collections.

But, the utility and other expenses continue nonetheless. We have taken action to reduce costs. We are aware too that all of us are hurting right now as a result of the Coronavirus. Yet, we would like to appeal for your generous financial support. You may send your donations through our [online account](#) or by way of checks to the parish office: St. Philip's Church, P.O.Box 339, Occidental, CA 95465.

Thanking you in advance,
 Father Bala & Finance Council

RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for MARCH 2020
 Our client and volunteer health and safety is very important to our ongoing efforts of providing nutritional support. On March 10 we welcomed 102 families: 122 adults, 49 children and 40 seniors for a total of 211 people. Due to the current corona virus outbreak we changed our distribution process. Each volunteer and client was required to use hand sanitizer before entering the distribution area. Each volunteer was also required to wear gloves during the distribution and we all practiced "social distancing" throughout. We will continue this practice for the next few months. This program is funded through the Rural Food Collection on the last Sunday of each month as well as through private donations and the generous support of our volunteers. Your used, clean, egg cartons and handled grocery bags are needed until we reach our goal of having only reusable cloth bags by the end of 2020. Thanks for dropping them off in the hall.

RURAL FOOD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Saturday, April 11, from 9-10:00am repackaging -- Parish Hall
Monday, April 13, from 10:00 – 12:00pm to set up the Parish Hall
Tuesday, April 14, from 8:30 – 11:00am to distribute the food and to assist clients.



Fifth Theme of Catholic Social Teaching: SOLIDARITY

We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbor has global dimensions in a shrinking world. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Pope Paul VI taught that "if you want peace, work for justice."¹ The Gospel calls us to be peacemakers. Our love for all our sisters and brothers demands that we promote peace in a world surrounded by violence and conflict.

Tradition:

Developing countries, where the most important reserves of the biosphere are found, continue to fuel the development of richer countries at the cost of their own present and future. The land of the southern poor is rich and mostly unpolluted, yet access to ownership of goods and resources for meeting vital needs is inhibited by a system of commercial relations and ownership which is structurally perverse. . . . As the United States bishops have said, greater attention must be given to "the needs of the poor, the weak and the vulnerable, in a debate often dominated by more powerful interests". We need to strengthen the conviction that we are one single human family. There are no frontiers or barriers, political or social, behind which we can hide, still less is there room for the globalization of indifference. (Pope Francis, *On Care for Our Common Home*, no. 52, quoting United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.)

In the present condition of global society, where injustices abound and growing numbers of people are deprived of basic human rights and considered expendable, the principle of the common good immediately becomes, logically and inevitably, a summons to solidarity and a preferential option for the poorest of our brothers and sisters. This option entails recognizing the implications of the universal destination of the world's goods, but, as I mentioned in the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, it demands before all else an appreciation of the immense dignity of the poor in the light of our deepest convictions as believers. We need only look around us to see that, today, this option is in fact an ethical imperative essential for effectively attaining the common good. (Pope Francis, *On Care for Our Common Home*, no. 158)



To love someone is to desire that person's good and to take effective steps to secure it. Besides the good of the individual, there is the good that is linked to living in society: the common good. It is the good of "all of us", made up of individuals, families and intermediate groups who together constitute society. . . . To desire the common good and strive towards it is a requirement of justice and charity. (Pope Benedict XVI, *Charity in Truth*, no. 7)

Next week: Part Two

“On the first day of the week . . . early in the morning, while it was still dark . . .”

Whose tomb are we talking about as we bend with Peter and John today – looking into an empty tomb? Obviously it’s the tomb in which they placed Jesus, all wrapped in winding sheets, on Good Friday.

But then who is St. Paul talking about in his *Letter to the Romans* where he says: *We were indeed buried with him through baptism . . . so that just as Christ Jesus was raised from the dead . . . we too might live in newness of life.* He’s talking about you and me! We may not be dead yet though often it feels like that and death still has dominion over us, considering, for one example, how much death proliferates (like a virus) throughout our media – the shootout at the O.K. Corral reiterated to an ever magnified and catastrophic degree from channel to channel, screen to screen, ever more ghastly – as entertainment!

It was the dominion of death in our world – not just natural but intentional death, as when we make a snide remark – that Paul had in mind. Far from being only a physical thing, death in so many ways has gripped us ever since Adam listened to a serpent – and we became suspicious of the world we live in and the people we live among. In our tendency to draw ourselves up short at whatever we are ignorant of or sense as hostile, we bury ourselves, enshroud ourselves – often ever so righteously. Society can become, as the prophet Ezekiel envisioned it, like a broad valley covered with dry bones.

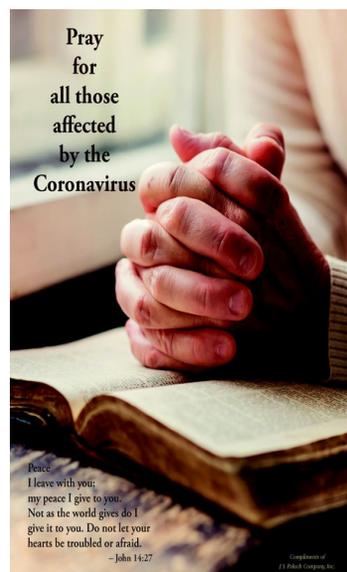
And so we human beings await from generation to generation the arrival of someone whose life was not driven by suspicion, by an adversarial spirit, a wary sense of others and of Otherness as something to avoid or resist – including nature itself as something indifferent to us. *We are nature!* Everything that is and that we fashion out of nature is kin, our family! *Learn from the way the wild flowers grow . . .*, says Jesus. *And: I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you.* So simple a Gospel and yet Jesus was killed for proclaiming it in so many simple yet profound parables, even touching us in ways that can affect our being, our behavior - eucharistically. That healing touch so evident throughout the Gospel.

Since the day Peter and John found Christ’s tomb empty we ourselves now have access day after day to the wider, deeper, astonishing world Christ inhabits. The stone has been rolled away, your burial clothes have

been laid aside since your baptism – wake up to that fact – let today be *the first day of the week* of your life. Start by discovering the world around you. It has been waiting for you – as Paul says again: *We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even now . . .* as we progressively breach the waters of our baptism.

And then get to rediscover your spouse and then perhaps, if you have a gardener on a regular basis – take a little more time to look at *him*. With your eyes now wide awake, he – and everything else - may look quite different! As Mary Magdalene found out after Peter and John left the scene.

--Geoff Wood, 4/12/20



From the Chancery:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2ueqwT5jZngIWxq0ENTP4Q>

The link above will take you to the Santa Rosa Diocese past masses as well as the new scheduled ones.



From the Marian Sisters of Santa Rosa:

A beautiful and heartfelt message can be seen at...

<http://www.mariansisters.com/blog/go-and-be-with-him>