



## Easter Sunday

April 4, 2021

I shall not die, but live,  
and declare the works  
of the LORD.

— Psalm 118:17

### REJOICE AND BE GLAD

During the first three or four centuries of Christianity, if you asked a Christian to name the feast days of the church, your answer would have been a puzzled stare, for there was only one feast: the Resurrection of the Lord. Every Sunday was a feast celebrating the one great feast. Even though our calendar now has many beautiful and holy feasts, we must continually be called back to the fact that all these other feasts exist because of the feast of Christ's passover from death to life. The psalm today proclaims this message well: "This is the day." It is not one of many days, but it is the day of all days, the one that gives all the others their origin, purpose, meaning, and destiny. Listen carefully to Peter's speech in Acts with its recollection of the Passion, to the words of the apostle Paul, and to the account of Mary Magdalene, John, and Peter finding the empty tomb, and you will hear the many wonderful works that God has done for us through Christ. Rejoice and be glad!

—J. S. Paluch Co.

### FEAST OF FAITH

#### The Eucharist: Food for Resurrection

How do we celebrate Easter, the greatest of our Christian feasts? By doing what we do every Sunday and every day: celebrating the Mass. On the first Easter, as the heartbroken disciples walked the road to Emmaus, the Lord was with them but they did not realize it. They only recognized him "in the breaking of the bread" (Luke 22:35).

It is the same for us. In the Mass—the breaking of the bread—we meet the risen Lord together. We meet him in each other—for by our baptism into his death and resurrection, we have become members of one body, the Body of Christ. We meet him in his word—in the liturgy the scriptures are proclaimed to us, that they might take root and grow in us. And we meet him in a special way in the Eucharist, the sacrament of his Body and Blood, which is food for resurrection: "whoever eats this bread will live forever" (John 6:51). The Lord is risen indeed, and it is the Risen One who truly presides at this and every Eucharist.

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © 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, 14-15ab, 16-21; Mk 16:9-15  
 Sunday: Acts 4:32-35; Ps 118:2-4, 13-24; 1 Jn 5:1-6; Jn 20:19-31

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday: Monday within the Octave of Easter  
 Tuesday: Tuesday within the Octave of Easter  
 Wednesday: Wednesday within the Octave of Easter  
 Thursday: Thursday within the Octave of Easter  
 Friday: Friday in the Octave of Easter  
 Saturday: Saturday within the Octave of Easter

WEEKLY



**Finance Corner:** Your generosity is greatly needed and appreciated! For the month of **April** offerings: PLEASE mail to St. Philip/St. Teresa Parish, P. O. Box 339, Occidental CA 95465. Or donate at our website [www.stphilipstteresa.org](http://www.stphilipstteresa.org) via Paypal or card. Include your offering envelope # with your donation.

4/4: Operating Expenses & Easter Sunday. 4/11: Capital Expenditures.

### Mark your Calendar for Future Events & Meetings:

**Parish Council [PC]:** TBA Zoom

**Finance Council [FC]:** TBA Zoom

**Liturgy Committee:** TBA Zoom

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

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

**Centering Prayer ZOOM:** Tues. noon/Fri. 930am - info [www.stphilipstteresa.org](http://www.stphilipstteresa.org)

### ✠ ♥ ✠ Mass Intentions ✠ ♥ ✠ Schedule

Email or voicemail the office to request a future Wed/Thurs/Sun Mass Intention. (\$10 offering is mailed to PO Box 339, Occidental CA 95465.)

4/04 Sun. 8am Mass ✠ Lynn Auten

4/04 Sun. 9:30am Mass ✠ Brendan Smith

4/11 Sun. 8am Mass for Papke Family special intention

4/11 Sun. 9:30am Mass ✠ Linda Anne Smith

### Prayer Requests: Leave a 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., Michael D., Richard M., Kathleen, Peter, Rosa S., Susan B., Joyce D., Anita C., George H., Mimi H, Steve, Barry, Lorri K., Hugh P., Robert S., Britney N., Jacque W., Rebecca A., April K., Jacinta G., Leo A., Ed C. family, Kathy R., Donna W., Jim K., Sherry S., Papke family., Gail F., Lynn, Marie N., Christine, James, Gary S., Peter R., Gerry N., Diane K., Robin A.

### The Pastor Speaks...

\*Once again, I wish all our parishioners a Happy Easter rich with the blessings of the Risen Lord! Easter is the greatest feast in our Liturgical life and in our own lives. **As I appealed to you in my Easter Letter this year, I want you to be more generous with your donations to maintain our churches and other needs of our two communities in this prolonged time of Corona Virus Crisis.**

\*A year ago we experienced an unthinkable Paschal Triduum in lockdown without the presence of an assembly at the most solemn and beautiful liturgies of the Year. This year we are fortunate to celebrate a Unique Holy Week & Easter having [some of] our liturgies inside St Philip Church, Occidental, but outside St Teresa Church/Catholic Cemetery, Bodega. I hope that 2021's unique celebration of the Paschal Triduum can bear a unique fruit in all of us.

\*April is "Child Abuse Awareness Month". Please read and reflect on the article written by Julie Sparacio in our Diocesan Magazine, called 'North Coast Catholic' of March/April 2021. This is a time that we can offer a Novena to the Risen Lord for an end to the children abuse and for their safety and dignity.

\*We recently (before March 19) offered a Novena to St Joseph marking this Year specially dedicated to St. Joseph. The Universal Church and our local bishop still exhort us to continue this devotion in the remaining part of the Year.

\*The Sunday after Easter we will be celebrating the Feast of Divine Mercy. A Novena to invoke the Power of the Divine Mercy with a recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet is great devotion. "By this Novena (of Chaplets), I will grant every possible grace to souls" (St. Faustina Diary 796).  
**-Father Bala**



Photo credit: [Jeffrey Bruno on Flickr](#), cropped and used under the terms of license

## **"Sister words" all Catholics should know**

by [Marie Anne Torres](#)

There is so much to learn about the beautiful and faith-filled life of sisters!

From life in their congregations and the work that they undertake to their personal walks with the Lord, there is no end to the wealth that can be discovered about them and also from them.

However, unless we've had the privilege of meeting a sister/congregation or taken the personal time to educate ourselves, many of us may have trouble defining even some basic words and terms that form a part of their daily lives! Ever heard of a novice or a postulant? Can you name the vows they take?

If you find yourself at a loss at this point, no trouble, this article has got you covered!

In honour of [Catholic Sisters Week](#) (March 8-14), here are some sister words that would be great for all Catholics to learn!

### **Sister vs. Nun**

These words are often used interchangeably; however, there's actually a difference between "Sister" and "Nun"!

A sister is a woman religious who lives in a convent but works/serves in a ministry outside the walls of her particular congregation (for example, in a school, women's shelter, or hospital). A sister devotes her life to serving those in need where they are "in the world". A sister's vocation is embodied by prayer *as well as* active service.

A nun is a woman religious who lives and works inside of a monastery (or an enclosed space), alongside her other companions in the particular order. The life of a nun is contemplative, cloistered, and primarily devoted to prayer for the Church and the world.

### **Habit**

This is the distinctive dress of a woman (or man) religious. A habit is the outward sign of a sister's consecration to God and signals that she belongs to a particular order. Though, it should be noted that not every order requires their sisters to wear a habit!

### **Vows**

Sisters take three vows (defined as sacred promises or commitments to God): poverty, chastity, and obedience. Sometimes, an additional, fourth vow may be added, such as that of hospitality or charity.

For more information on the vows they take, [click here](#).

### **Aspirant**

This is the very first stage in the process of becoming a sister. It's also known as "pre-postulancy" or "candidacy". As the name sounds, it means that you "aspire" to join a particular order. An aspirant lives with the sisters to discern if she feels attracted to the life offered by the order. At this time, the community (as well as her vocation director) will also be mutually discerning if they feel this is where she belongs.

### **Postulant**

"Postulant" refers to someone who has taken the next step towards becoming a full sister — formally moving into the congregation and thereby officially entering the order. A postulant lives and prays with the other sisters, takes theology classes, and may participate in the missionary work of the order. In doing so, she also takes on more serious discernment.

### **Novice**

A novice is a woman in the "last stage" before taking temporary vows (see Temporary Vows below). A novice engages in an even deeper time of prayer, learning (both of theology and of the charism of the order), community life, and discernment. This highly immersive period lasts for two years. A novice might wear a white veil and take a name-in-religion, though this is not always the case!

### **Temporary Vows**

Temporary vows are also known as "first vows" or "simple vows". These vows are not lifelong and only last for three to five years. This is the very last stage of the discernment process. This is also a woman's first profession of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

### **Final Vows**

A woman takes final or "perpetual" vows to commit herself to a particular community for life. After taking final vows a woman is a fully professed sister. In the case of sisters (as opposed to nuns – see Sister vs. Nun above), final vows may be taken publicly or privately.

### **Mother Superior**

A mother superior is a sister in charge of and accountable for a particular order! She takes care of administrative things as well as the spiritual lives/needs of the sisters in her congregation. Want to learn more about the dynamic and ever-demanding life of a Mother Superior? [Click here](#).

I hope this article has helped you learn just a little bit more about sisters and their religious lives, whether you already knew these words or not! As we celebrate this week, let's remember to keep all women religious in our prayers!

## RURAL FOOD PROGRAM UPDATE for Mar 2021

On Tuesday, March 9, fifty families received nutritional support during our drive through distribution at the St Philip's Parking lot. Rural Food volunteers braved cold, rainy weather to participate in setting up for and distributing a wide variety of food to support those who attended. This month marks one year since we dramatically changed our operations to become a drive-through distribution due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

This program is funded through the Rural Food Collection each month, private donations and the dedicated, awesome volunteers. **Thank you for your generous donations as we strive to meet the nutritional needs of all attendees at our food distributions.**

**RURAL FOOD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES in the Parish Hall and parking area Saturday, April 10**, 9-10:00 am repackaging; **Monday, April 12, 9:00 - 11:00am** set up and **Tuesday, April 13, 7:30 - 11:00** to distribute food to clients.

## Time will tell . . .

Back in 1958 when I was travelling with other biblical students through the Middle East - I had a chance to climb the great Pyramid near Cairo in Egypt. By climbing I mean lifting my knee and drawing myself up over each of the waist high blocks of stone that run diagonally up its length from bottom to top – close to 500 feet high. At one point I noticed a graffiti left by some soldier of Napoleon back around 1798? – who scratched next to his name the words AN 5. That meant Year 5 of the French Revolution's new calendar, inaugurated in 1793 to replace the centuries old calendar of the *ancient regime*.

As Christians our ancestors did the same thing when they initiated a new calendar dating from the birth of Christ – 2021 years ago. In fact different cultures operate by different calendars dating from some significant event in their past – either historically or mythologically. The Hebrew calendar dates from the *Bible's* reckoning of the creation of the world – so: it's now 5781 (I think). Islam's calendar dates from Mohammed's migration to Medina in 622 AD – so that this year is 1243 (I think). And so it goes from culture to culture. To get business done the whole world operates by our Western calendar – but the other calendars still tell of a time that's held sacred. So what time is it? The sun rises and sets each day so, if we *count* the days that pass, does time amount to years that we can *count*? And once we start counting years as – say – 1905, 1906, . . . 1930, . . . 2020, 2021 – don't they straighten out like a mile after mile one-way highway - - heading where? It drives many to brooding their time away.

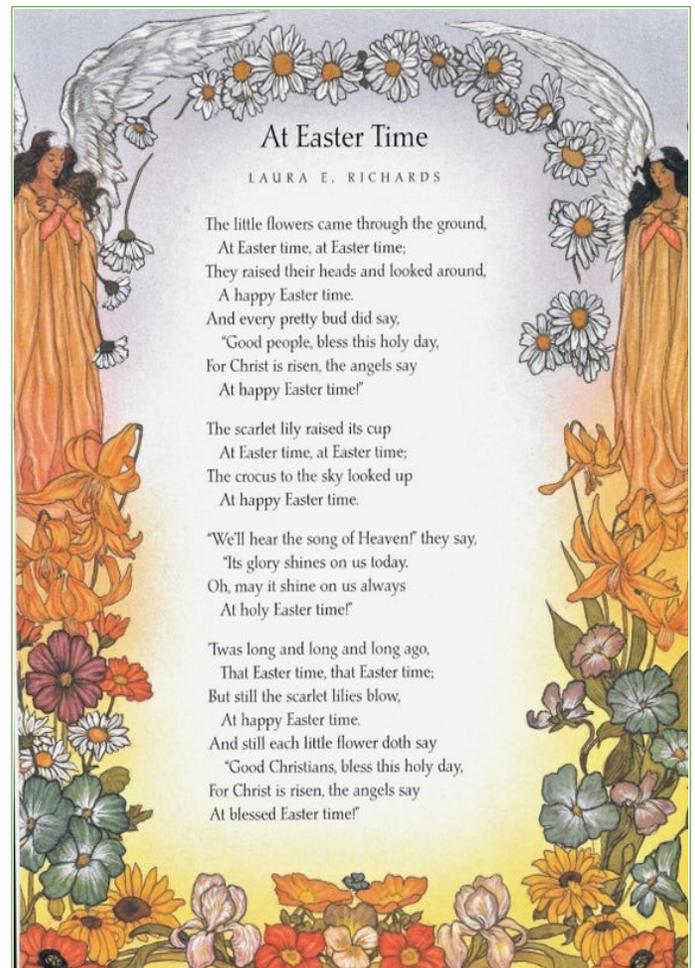
And yet even ordinary people like Perry Como can sing of time as "Magic Moments". Or look at our Church's calendar. Every day is a saint's day or commemorates (makes current again) some profoundly spiritual event like the call of Abraham or of a Moses or a prophet to step into a tomorrow as into a momentarily new dimension. As with our Advent

Calendars designed so that each numbered day of December is but a *closed* window to be *opened* to reveal an image of events more meaningful than numbers can express. For persons appreciative of such *liturgical* time our days revive our sense of events and people, ourselves and nature as holy.

Deep thinkers actually view time not as linear but as curvaceous – it twists and turns. From my vantage of ninety plus years as I look back, I recall so many experiences – like detours or roundabouts – that "added up" in ways I could never have anticipated. Also from my current overview I can also see where even the slightest events such as the smell of tomato soup from my school lunch room one day or keeping my balance on my first bicycle or my listening to a lecture one day in Rome or my becoming a father . . . changed me, widened horizons – so that in looking back I am always awakening to whom I have been and am becoming which makes even tomorrow more interesting. The same can be true of you if you take in not only the long view but the subtler moments of your life - which you may have forgotten or overlooked. That's where God works most intimately within us – as Emily notes:

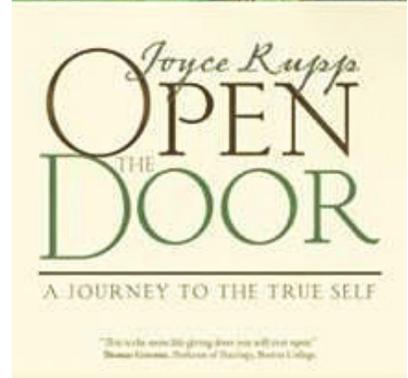
*He fumbles at your spirit / As players at the keys /  
Before they drop full music on / He stuns you by degrees.*

--Geoff Wood, 4/4/21



VIRTUAL BOOK SERIES

Spiritual Guides for Today  
**Open the Door:  
a Journey to the  
True Self**  
By Joyce Rupp  
7-Part Book Series



Originally designed as a six week retreat, we will use the rich image of the door to explore our own awareness and growth into deeper union with God. To what doors is God calling you to open? Each chapter has material for reading, reflection and prayer suggestions for each day, and the content can be adapted to the rhythm of your daily life.

*Joyce Rupp, spiritual guide, and Servite sister, is the author of many books on prayer and spirituality. including The Cup of Life, Praying Our Goobyes, and Boundless Compassion.*

*Please read the Introduction for the first session.*

Facilitators: Sister Ingrid Clemmensen, O.P.  
Mary Ellen Parker

SPONSORED BY:



[www.msjdominicans.org](http://www.msjdominicans.org)  
[facebook.com/dominicansistersofmsj](https://facebook.com/dominicansistersofmsj)

Join Us Online!

Seven Thursdays  
Easter to Pentecost  
April 8, 15, 22, 29,  
May 6, 13, 20  
2021 Zoom

1-2:30pm \$35

The book is available online or wherever books are sold. Please read introduction for the first session

**During these uncertain times, we are offering a sliding scale. When you are registering, please choose the cost that best suits your needs.**

RSVP by April 7, 2021

<https://ces-event.myshopify.com/products/open-the-door-a-journey-to-the-true-self>

Link for the series will be sent the day before the first session.

Call us for more information at (510) 933-6360

Donations gratefully accepted. This will help support the ongoing work of the Center for Education and Spirituality.