



ST. PETER'S CHURCH

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Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord



LIVING OUR FAITH:

Jesus is Risen! Alleluia, Alleluia!! - doesn't have the same ring to it this year, does it? Alleluias won't ring out in our churches; Alleluias won't be shared person to person in loving embraces in our towns. Can they even be heard through our masks? No parades this year.

What if Mary Magdalene hadn't gone to the tomb that day? What if Mary had not returned to the burial site because of discouragement, fear, news fatigue and just the feeling of being overwhelmed by the events of those days? Despite it all, Mary made her way to the tomb, and her proclamation of faith galvanized the other disciples and Easter came into being. There are a lot of things that will conspire to keep us away from entering the deep mystery of our faith this year. This pandemic of our own personal passion might keep us from going to the tomb and receiving God's gift of Easter. We need to get through all the obstacles that would keep us from remembering and celebrating there is no grave deep enough, no stone heavy enough, no evil strong enough to keep Christ in the grave. Easter gives us the hope to proclaim no matter how things turn out, all things have meaning in Christ's victory.

The Gospel of St. Matthew speaks of earthquakes both at the death and resurrection of Christ, signs of the Seismic event that changed the face of the earth. What we are facing is seismic isn't it? This pandemic is changing life on earth. Just as life after Easter transformed the disciples, this too is one of those moments. What happens when this is over? Will we go back to where we were, go back to what we were, to go back to what we were doing. When the rock was rolled away from his tomb, Jesus leaped into new life. When the rock was rolled away from the disciples' tombs, they leaped for joy in the Pentecost Spirit and changed the course of history.

But what happens when the rock is rolled away from our tomb. Do we blink a couple of times at the bright light then slink back into the dark? Are we afraid of all that brightness and freedom new life offers? After all it's dangerous out there, a person could get killed. Better then to stay in the dark. It's not exciting, but at least it's safe. And no one would see and judge all the mistakes we would make just trying to live a better life. No matter the denomination, all Christians believe in the resurrection of Jesus. It is the cornerstone of the Christian faith. You can believe anything that happened 2,000 years ago. - especially if it does not have anything to do with you today. The problem then is not belief in the resurrection of Jesus. The problem is not believing, nor desiring our own resurrection. Who wants to be born again - once around this crazy world is more than enough for most of us. Who wants a new life - when we haven't even figured out how to live the old one. This means we have not fully understood Easter.

New life is precisely unlike the old one. In resurrection all those things that held us back, all those things that cramped our style, all those things that made us unhappy are gone. In resurrection life, everyone loves everyone. In resurrection life, you can reach out your hand to anyone and not get it cut off. You can be open and honest with everyone and not get demonized. In resurrection life there are no good and bad people, no male and female people, no friend and enemy people. There are just people.

It's a wonderful life, and we don't have to die before we enjoy it. Life, love and Easter are all around us. At least they better be, because the only living proof of the resurrection of Jesus is *us*.

We do not believe in a future life; we believe in everlasting life, a life that is already going on. Heaven does not await us somewhere in the future. Resurrection does not happen to us someday. We rise the minute we begin to climb out of

whatever tomb we are in, the minute we get over whatever is holding us back, the minute we rise above whatever is holding us down.

Everlasting life is that certain quality of life we live, that atmosphere of hope and trust we breathe, the sense of tenderness we exude. Everlasting life is Christ.

Resurrection is that community of love we build among ourselves - anytime we are ready. Perhaps this pandemic will make us so. Happy Easter everyone.

EASTER SUNDAY MASS

We will celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord together as a Parish family on Easter Sunday morning at 10 AM. Please join us for Mass on Facebook Live.

JOIN DEACON DON FOR OUR CAMPFIRE PRAYERS

We are excited to invite everyone to join Deacon Don each Wednesday evening at 7 PM during the Easter season for prayers on Facebook Live. You may send your prayer requests and spiritual/religious questions to our parish email (srectory1@hvc.rr.com). Deacon Don will select one or two questions each week.

Next Weekend's Readings:

Acts 2:42-47

1 PT 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

