

Easter Sunday

April 12, 2020



St. Joseph Catholic Church
15 St. Joseph Street Bonne Terre, MO 63628

573.358.2112

www.saintjosephchurch.org



Established
In 1873

PASTOR: Rev. Stephen F. Bauer
DEACON: Rev. Mr. Don Kintz

Let us not keep our faces bowed to the ground in fear, but raise our eyes to the risen Jesus. His gaze fills us with hope, for it tells us that we are loved unfailingly, and that however much we make a mess of things, his love remains unchanged.

*Pope Francis
Easter homily 2019*



ST. ANNE
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Established
In 1828



VATICAN CITY -

**The Lord Has Risen
Among Us!**

“We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.” (Romans 6:9)

Today our hearts are again filled with the joy of Easter. After the Lenten season, the time of penance and conversion, after the striking celebrations of the Holy Triduum, today we stand before Jesus’ empty tomb and meditate with wonder and gratitude on the resurrection of the Lord. Life has conquered death. Mercy and love have conquered sin! The Lord has risen among us! This truth indelibly marked the lives of the apostles who, after the resurrection, again sensed the need to follow their teacher and, having received the Holy Spirit, set out fearlessly to proclaim to all what they had seen with their own eyes and personally experienced. Christ’s resurrection is not an event of the past. It contains a vital power which has permeated this world. Where all seems to be dead, signs of the resurrection suddenly spring up. It is an irresistible force. In the midst of darkness something new always springs to life and sooner or later produces fruit. We need faith and hope in order to open ourselves to this new and marvelous horizon. And we know that faith and hope are gifts from God, and we need to ask for them: “Lord, grant me faith, grant me hope! I need them so much!” Then with our attitude, with our witness, with our life, we can say: Jesus is risen! *Daily Lenten Reflections by Pope Francis*



Please tell your fellow parishioners who do not have computers or access to the internet that our parish bulletin will be available for outside pickup in a black mail box attached outside by the front door.

Easter Joy

*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you...
John 14:27
May His endless love rise each day within your heart.
HAPPY EASTER.*

Father Steve

Deacon Don Kintz and the Pastoral Staff

Please remember that during these difficult days collections remain essential to even the limited operations of our parishes. We encourage you to mail in your contributions and special collection envelopes to our Parish Office. You may also drop your envelopes in the mail drop slot to the right side of the Rectory door or bring to the front door. Please do not place your contributions in the bulletin mail box. Thank you for your continued support.

Church Restoration

Thank you for your pledges and donations to date for the restoration of our Church. We have formally started the process of painting the Church. We are very appreciative of your support and encouragement.

Sacrament of Reconciliation



Please call the Rectory office if you have a need for an individual private confession. Confessions will continue to be heard Saturday afternoons from 3:15 – 3:45 pm

Bingo

Due to the COVID-19 virus, Bingo has been cancelled until further notice in order to protect our workers and players.

Your Gift to God

April 4 & 5, 2020

	St. Joseph	St. Anne
Envelopes	\$3,128.00	\$1,035.00
Loose	-0-	-0-
Church Restoration	2,525.00	-0-
Easter	195.00	-0-
Retired Priests	190.00	20.00

2019-20 Budgeted Amounts		
Envelopes/Loose		
St. Joseph	\$3,644	St. Anne \$750
for 52 weeks		

Easter Sunday – April 12, 2020

The Experience of Resurrection

We often read or hear homilies that make it seem as if the Gospel stories are historical occurrences from the life of Jesus and his disciples. They well could be, but the goal of the Gospel writers was never straight history. In fact, the genre of historical literature as we know it today didn't exist in the ancient world. The Gospels were written decades after the resurrection, and the authors aimed for a truth way beyond historical facts. Their true goal was theological—to say something definitive about God—rather than historical. These authors utilized great literary license in how they presented their stories about Jesus. We read the Gospels better if we are attuned to their theological and literary characteristics, rather than reading them as straight history.

In the Lectionary this week, we hear varying accounts of the resurrection. In John 20, Mary Magdalene sees the empty tomb and weeps, thinking Jesus' body had been stolen. When he stands before her, she mistakes him for the gardener. The disciples on the road to Emmaus in Luke 24 walk with the resurrected Jesus, "but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him" until the breaking of the bread. In John 21, the disciples did not know that it was Jesus preparing a shore lunch. These stories portray characters who can't see the resurrected Jesus, even when he's right in front of them. They are shocked, dense, or unprepared.

If we ask literary and/or theological questions of these stories of resurrection, we might ask something like: Why would the authors present the Gospels' main characters as unable to recognize or believe in the resurrection? What might the authors' theological or literary agendas be? What are they trying to say? (Note how very different this is than just asking, "What happened?")

One answer to our questions could be that these authors understood the difficulty of the resurrection. The idea of a resurrection of the dead, or even of an afterlife, was something of a controversy in the first century. Most Jewish people likely did not believe in resurrection or afterlife. The afterlife was also not a major driver of piety for most people from a polytheistic background within Greco-Roman religion. So, in a general sense, many people may not have been primed for believing in someone being bodily resurrected from the dead.

Another way of answering our questions is to suggest that the evangelists believed the resurrection is more than just a one-time historical occurrence. Resurrection is a deep pattern of God's activity. Jesus' bodily resurrection is like a down payment (the "first fruits," to use Paul's language in 1 Cor 15:20) of what the experience of resurrection will be for everyone.

All these Gospel characters have an encounter with the risen Jesus. It is never what they expected, and it's not on their own terms. The authors are suggesting that we ought not look at the resurrection as just a one-time occurrence in the past but as an ongoing reality mediated through sacrament and encounter. We can cultivate our belief in the resurrection and its implications by participating in the sacraments and by seeking out encounter with others. The resurrection is not just a historical event, but a theological truth—it tells us something about God. The resurrection is all around us, and this week's Gospels can help open our eyes to its reality.—Micah Kiel

Micah D. Kiel is professor and chair of theology at St. Ambrose University, Davenport, Iowa. He is the author of Apocalyptic Ecology, published by Liturgical Press

The Pastors Workshop



This is an Easter unlike anything we have ever experienced; I want to remind our members that they are very much represented at the altar.... You are in my thoughts, prayers, and intentions. No one could have scripted this sort of Easter a year ago. I am sure for the early disciples the first Easter

Sunday had its own particular challenges. And yet there was still a whole new life to come. A church to be born. Glory to be revealed.

I recently heard a Rabbi on the Today Show speak about the level of challenge that we presently experience. He noted that many of us 'catastrophize' this whole ordeal. Maybe we cannot distinguish the difference between inconveniences and problems. I am certain that those out of work, those on ventilators, those pushed to their limits in hospitals are meeting **real** problems. We pray for them, and we try to assist by staying healthy ourselves and follow the social disciplines enacted. However, for a good percentage of us, much of this is still an '**inconvenience**' that we must undergo. It is no small sacrifice.....but if we are honest, we have been through worse challenges in our life. We might recall some of those things in our past, and how we got past them. We will get past this as well.

The Passion of Jesus was no small inconvenience. It entailed sweating blood and hours of suffering on Calvary. And we know how it came out.....through one man's passion, the rest were saved.

A blessed Easter to all in St Joseph and St Anne.

Fr Steve Bauer

Collection for Retired Priests

Through spiritual milestones and decades of service, our priests have been there when you, your family and your fellow parishioners have counted on them. And while they continue to serve in the name of God, in retirement it is they who count on you for prayers and support. Your individual contributions help meet the needs of our aging priests including physician services, hospitalization, nursing home care, vision care and disability.

Reminder

If you have a change of address, a new landline telephone number or a new cell phone number, please notify the Parish Office in order that we might update our records, and reach out to you during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic.



What to do if you cannot go to Confession or Holy Communion due to the COVID-19 coronavirus.

If you have to self-isolate or are quarantined due to the COVID-19 coronavirus, it is unlikely that you will be able to receive the sacraments as normal. In these circumstances, there are devotions through which you can receive absolution for your sins, (under certain conditions), and the consolation of Eucharistic grace. These devotions are officially encouraged by the Church and have been practiced by saints.

How to make an Act of Perfect Contrition

Throughout an act of Perfect Contrition, you receive pardon for your sins outside of confession, even mortal sins, on condition that you determine to amend your life and make a firm resolution to go to sacramental confession as soon as this becomes possible for you.

Perfect Contrition is a grace from God, so sincerely ask for this gift throughout the day prior to making your act of contrition: *"My God, grant me perfect contrition for all my sins"*.

1. In reality or imagination kneel at the foot of a crucifix and say to yourself: *"Jesus, my God and my Saviour, in the midst of your agony, you remembered me, you suffered for me, you wished to wipe away my sins"*.
2. Contrition is 'perfect' if you repent of your sins because you love God and are sorry for offending Him and causing the sufferings of Christ on the cross. Before the Crucified Christ remember your sins, repent of them because they have brought our Lord to His sufferings on the Cross. Promise him, that with His help, you will not sin again.
3. Recite, slowly and sincerely, an act of contrition focused on the goodness of God and your love of Jesus: *"O my God, because you are so good, I am very sorry that I have sinned against you and by the help of your grace I will not sin again, Amen"*.
4. Make a firm resolution to go to sacramental confession as soon as practically possible.

How to make a Spiritual Communion

The key to Spiritual Communion is to grow in your heart a constant desire for the Blessed Sacrament.

1. If you are aware of serious or mortal sin, make an Act of Perfect Contrition.
2. Imagine the sacred words and actions of the Mass or watch online or on TV.
3. Make all those acts of faith, humility, sorrow, adoration, love and desire that you usually express before Holy Communion.
4. Desire, with earnest longing, to receive our Lord present — Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity — in the Blessed Sacrament.
5. Say this prayer of St. Alphonsus de' Liguori: *"My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You are already there, I embrace You and unite myself wholly to You; do not let me ever be separated from You. Amen."*
6. After moments of silent adoration make all those acts of faith, humility, love, thanksgiving and offering that you usually express through prayers after Holy Communion.



Holy Virgin of Guadalupe,

Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas,
We fly to you today as your beloved children.
We ask you to intercede for us with your Son,
as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother,
and gain for our nation and world,
and for all our families and loved ones,
the protection of your holy angels,
that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted,
we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance. Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful, wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing,
teach all of us in the Church to love one another
and to be patient and kind.
help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and
to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence,
knowing that you truly are our compassionate
mother, health of the sick and cause of our joy.

Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,
keep us in the embrace of your arms,
help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus.
Amen.

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace
You as if you were already there and unite
myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen



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