

FATHER STEVE'S

EASTER HOMILY

**Resurrection Changes Everything.
The Only Question Is Will You?**



There is something almost funny about Easter. We come in with lilies, music, full churches, maybe a little extra perfume or aftershave. Then the Gospel takes us straight to a grave. And not even a proper grave. An empty one. Even Abraham Lincoln did not get that treatment. His coffin was opened twice because people did not believe he was really there. Both times, there he was. Case closed.

Jesus. They went to the tomb. Opened it. Looked inside. And He was not there. That is the difference. That is everything. The angel asks a question that still stings a little. Why are you looking for the living among the dead? And if we are honest, we do it all the time. We look for life in things that drain us. Old grudges. Old habits. Old sins we keep polishing like family heirlooms. Catholic guilt says we at least keep them well organized. But they are still dead ends.

Easter does not let us stay comfortable. It puts a choice in front of us. You can shrug it off. Nice story. Back to normal by Monday morning. You can deny it. Keep Jesus safely in the tomb where He does not interfere with your plans. Or you can accept it. And if you accept it, everything shifts. Not someday. Now. The way you forgive. The way you speak. The way you live when nobody is watching. The tomb is empty. Christ is alive. And that means the old excuses do not hold much weight anymore.

Some of us still carry Friday into Sunday and wonder why joy feels out of reach. Some of us keep returning to the same sins and then act surprised when nothing changes. Some of us want resurrection without conversion and mercy without repentance. The risen Christ does not visit you to admire your comfort. He comes to call you out of it. He calls you by name just as He did in the garden. He meets you in the places you thought were finished. He stands in the middle of your fear and speaks peace whether you feel ready or not. He offers forgiveness before you manage to deserve it. He opens a future that your past tried to close. So here is the simple truth for today. Stop visiting graves. Start living like someone who has been given life again. Happy Easter.

FATHER STEVE'S EASTER MORNING REFLECTION

Christ is risen! The tomb is empty!
Hope has a name!



Dear parishioners and friends,

These past weeks of Lent, I have been thinking about you in a very real way. Faces, names, conversations after Mass, and those quiet moments when someone shares what they are carrying. I see more than you think, and I carry more than you know. I have watched you come forward for Communion with full hearts, seen you kneel in prayer when no one else is watching, and witnessed the sacrifices you make for your families, for this parish, and for one another. That kind of faith holds everything together.

I want to say this clearly. I love you. I am grateful for you. You are my people, and it is one of the greatest gifts of my life to be your pastor. I also know this road is not always easy. Some of you are carrying heavy burdens. Some of you are tired. Some are searching for peace. I see that, and I stand with you in it, keeping you close in my prayers, especially at the altar.

Now we arrive at Easter. Christ is alive. He is present. He is walking with you right now, even in the places that feel uncertain. That is where our hope stands. As we move forward, we do it together. We stay close to the Lord and close to one another. We keep showing up. We keep praying. We keep trusting. We are building something here together, a parish that feels like a home, a place where people are known and loved.

Thank you for letting me walk this journey with you. Thank you for trusting me as your pastor. Thank you for the quiet and faithful ways you live your love for God each day. From my heart to yours, I wish each and every one of you a blessed and joyful Easter. We are moving forward together.