

Our Lady of Prompt Succor Nursing Facility
C'est la Vie Apartments
Newsletter ~ April 2021
A Ministry of the Marianites of Holy Cross

Easter Greetings

Easter is filled with inter-twining traditions and symbols of faith and nature emphasizing the intimate connection of all of creation with our faith life. The Catholic Church determines the date of Easter on the first Sunday that follows the first full moon of the Spring Equinox. Therefore, the date changes each year and falls on any day between March 22 and April 25. The word "Easter" actually comes from Old English, meaning simply the "East." The sun which rises in the East, bringing light, warmth, and hope, is a symbol for the Christian of the rising Christ, who is the true Light of the world. We see that emphasis on grace and nature in our faith traditions.

In the Catholic Church, essential symbols of our creation, fire, light and water, are incorporated into the Easter celebration. The Easter candle, lit for the first time from the new fire of the Easter Vigil, is placed in a prominent place in the sanctuary. Between Easter and Pentecost, it is lighted for all liturgical services in this season as a glowing reminder of Christ, our risen light.

New water is blessed during the Easter ritual and all are re-consecrated to our baptismal promises and are sprinkled with this holy water. These rituals are important reminders to us of the importance of these elements in all of creation and that they are essential to our natural life and to our spiritual life.

The celebration of Easter is the feast of new birth, new beginnings, salvation renewed, and humanity restored to the Lord. While it marks the end of Lent and Holy Week, it is much more a beginning. It is the beginning of a new season of grace and hope, a time of joy and thanksgiving. Easter is not one day or one solemnity—it is a fifty-day celebration. The fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday together comprise this great feast of Easter!

As we celebrate Easter and the mystery of Christ's Resurrection, one thing we know from Scripture is that things look, feel, and are different after the Resurrection. In Scripture, we are told:

"His appearance was like lightning and his clothing was white as snow." (Matthew 28:3)

"Jesus drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him." (Luke 24:15-16) On the road to Emmaus, the disciples thought he was a stranger.

"Jesus said to her: Woman why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" She thought he was the gardener." (John 20:15-16)

Experiences and encounters appear different because they are different.

Through our encounters with the risen Savior, we are also called to see and experience life differently. This Easter let us strive to seek Christ in new ways. We have all suffered in some way during this time of COVID-19 and many are still suffering the pain and trauma of loss. Easter offers us the assurance of transformation, new life, and God's presence in all circumstances. While a time of uncertainty still remains in our world, Jesus says to each of us:

“Peace be with you.... Why are you troubled? And why do questions arise in your hearts?” (Luke 24:36, 38)

“Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.” (John 20:29)

“Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20)

These words spoken by Jesus to his disciples after the Resurrection contain the essence of the Easter message – words of reassurance and promise of God’s fidelity. They are spoken to us today. Do we hear them? Do we believe them?

As we celebrate the Season of Easter, we wish each of you an abundance of Easter blessings! As the light of Christ overcame the darkness of crucifixion and death, may you and your families be enlightened with this same divine light!

We ask our Resurrected Lord to gift you with the grace of Easter peace; with the gift of Easter joy, and with the delight of Easter wonder. May the eyes of your heart feast on the wonder of Easter Spring as our world is resurrected with myriad species of birds, flowers of various colors and personalities, and fields alive with new life! May you take an Easter moment to embrace with gratitude the sacrament of springtime which is only a glimpse of what is promised to us in the springtime of eternity. *This is the season the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad!*

☪ Celebrating Birthdays in April ☪

Sr. M.P. Blanchard	4/15
Sr. M. E. Demeo	4/02
T. De Marcay	4/22
Sr. N. Duhe	4/01
A. Fruge	4/17
R. Manuel	4/03
Sr. R. Mier	4/28
J. Molter	4/09
L. Pitre	4/18

† Recently Deceased †

James Ardoin 3/17/2021

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