

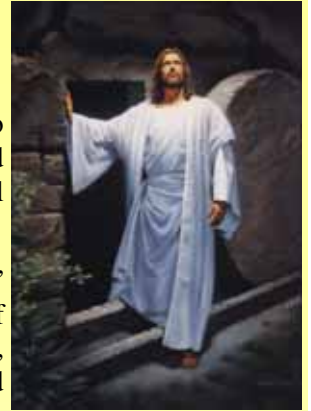
After the Heart of Jesus ...

“He is Risen. He is Risen indeed.”

This is the Good News we rejoice in at Easter as we celebrate Christ rising from the dead.

It was nearly incredible news for the Apostles. After being told by the women that the tomb was empty, they ran to see for themselves. Even though they saw the wrappings on the ground and no body present, the truth of the Resurrection did not sink in right away. It took several appearances of Christ for some of his disciples to finally get it.

The Good News began to spread, “He is Risen,” one believer would say. “He is Risen indeed,” was the response back from those who knew. Easter changed everything for the followers of Christ, and Easter should change us as well. The same disciples who were anxious, worried, angry, sad, and terrified on that first Good Friday, because Jesus had been taken away and crucified, just three days later were filled with joy and hope as they saw Jesus risen from the dead.



How will our lives change this Easter? How will our *Good Friday living*, that is all our anxieties, worries, anger, sadness, and fear, be transformed into *Easter living* filled with joy and hope as we again celebrate Christ rising from the dead?

One of the powerful lines in the Exultet, the proclamation of the Easter Vigil, sings the question, “What good would life have been to us had Christ not come as our Redeemer?” A great question for this Easter day and season is, “What good would your life have been to you had Christ not risen from the dead?” If it is for this life only that God created us, how sad and terrifying life would be. But God loved us so much that Christ did come as our Redeemer, and He rose from the dead to break the bonds of sin and death and open the gates of heaven. Further, Christ assured his followers that the Resurrection was not just for him, but is for all who believe in him.

Easter is not merely a celebration of one day in the life of Jesus, it is the centerpiece of our faith and life in Christ. Easter calls for a serious response from those who believe. For some people today the Resurrection still remains incredible and not-believable news. There are ways in which we can reach out to those who do not yet believe in the power of the Cross and Resurrection. First we can proclaim what we know to be true, that “He is Risen!” More importantly, though, we can show by action that our lives have moved from fear to courage, from worry to conviction, from sadness to joy, from death to life because we believe in Jesus Christ and the power of His Resurrection. May our voices and actions shout “He is Risen. He is Risen indeed.”



This is my first Easter as pastor of St. Walter, and I have so much looked forward to the celebrations these past few days. We pray so powerfully as a parish community on a regular Sunday basis, I believe the enthusiasm and crowds of Easter make our worship all the more meaningful.

It was with particular joy that I anticipated the full initiation into the faith of our Elect and Candidates at the Easter Vigil. Please continue to pray for Jake Rau, Michael Bado, Alex Neighbor, Michael Carreno, Ashlee Errthum, Margaret Walsh, Christopher McClearn, Karen Wong, Kasey Gilliam, and Emmanuel Garcia as they live their new faith lives with us as Catholics.

Our celebrations just don't happen on their own. So many people contribute to the success of our liturgies, including musicians, lectors, ministers of communion, altar servers, cross bearers, greeters, ushers, and those who prepare the environment. A huge THANK YOU to all those who worked so hard to make the Sacred Triduum and Easter so uplifting and joyous.

Finally, I want to extend on behalf of Father Charles, Father Phil, our deacons and their wives, and our entire staff at St. Walter Parish, the best of Easter blessings to you and yours. May you know in your hearts and live in your lives that “He is Risen. He in Risen Indeed!”

Easter Peace and Joy!

Father John