

March 28, 2021

DO YOU BELIEVE THAT I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE?

Jesus told Martha: *"I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. DO YOU BELIEVE THIS?"* (John 11: 25-26). This is the question that Jesus is asking each one of us as we complete our Lenten journey, our climbing the mountain of Easter, the mountain of the Resurrection. We have walked together for 40 days, anticipating the Joy of the Risen Lord. Can we answer Jesus' question with the awesome words of Martha: *"YES! LORD. I HAVE COME TO BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE THE MESSIAH, THE SON OF GOD, THE ONE WHO IS COMING INTO THE WORLD."* (John 11: 27)

The last three Sundays, we have reflected on the key question: *"WHO IS JESUS FOR ME?"* As we walked with our catechumens to be baptized at EASTER'S VIGIL, we reflected **first** on JESUS BEING THE LIVING WATER in his encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well (John chapter 4), **second** we reflected on JESUS BEING THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD as he heals the man born blind (John chapter 9) and now **third** on JESUS BEING THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE. Through these three marvelous chapters, St John helps us to understand the deep meaning of BAPTISM. Through Baptism, we are totally TRANSFORMED. Through baptism, we become a NEW PERSON: through the waters of baptism, WE DIE WITH CHRIST, and emerging out of the waters of baptism, WE RISE WITH CHRIST. For us baptized, Jesus is the one who truly changes our lives. HE IS OUR SAVIOR!

As we enter THE HOLY WEEK and the TRIDUUM, the summit of our entire Liturgical Year, we can reflect on our baptism, on where we are today on our Christian journey on earth, and where we are going. The last 12 months have been the most challenging. The good news is that we have been able to endure the restrictions and hardships brought about by the pandemic. Last year, our church was closed for the entire Holy Week. Since our re-opening end of May, about half of our regular parishioners have returned to attend Mass. As vaccination is increasingly more available, we have seen additional participation in the last few weeks. Last weekend, we had to use the Narthex for overflow. One 80+ gentleman was proud to tell me: *"I am glad to be back in church. As both my wife and I have received the two doses of vaccination, we feel much more at ease."*

All readings of last weekend talk about DEATH and LIFE. John's Gospel chapter 11 is all about the Death and Resurrection of Lazarus: the sadness of a young friend to die as opposed to the joyful miracle of his resurrection. This is an anticipation of the Passion and Death of Our Lord Jesus Christ on Good Friday, but also of His Resurrection three days later on EASTER SUNDAY. His death on the Cross transforms the whole world by redeeming our sins, and His Resurrection gives all of us the HOPE that one day after our bodies die, we may be able to see God face to face in HEAVEN. We need both His Death and Resurrection for our eternal SALVATION, for our entering into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Death and Resurrection are closely associated with the powerful Sacrament of BAPTISM. We talk about SPIRITUAL DEATH AND SPIRITUAL RESURRECTION. The baptized dies with Christ as he is plunged into the water and he rises to a new life in Christ as he comes out of the waters of baptism. The HOLY SPIRIT is at work! The sins of the baptized are all forgiven as the baptized becomes a child of God and has access to all the other sacraments. Most importantly, confirmation gives more of the effects of baptism (especially more of the gifts of the Holy Spirit) and the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) helps us to be back on track in a state of grace and be able to receive the Eucharist, whenever we fall away from Christ through our sinfulness. We need to be sorry for our sins and to REPENT, i.e., amend our lives with the help of God: daily CONVERSION!

If we truly desire to be saved and spend eternal time with God in perpetual Joy and Peace, we need to rearrange our priorities. We need to put top priority on God. Our worldly desires will never be satisfied. We will want more and more: whether more money, or more power, or more prestige, or more recognition, or more admiration, or more pleasure (including immoral actions: sex outside sacramental marriage, drugs, alcohol, pornography, gambling). When we die, we will not be able to take with us any worldly possessions or attachments. However, our souls will remain alive. We believe that our souls will never die. We pray that The Holy Spirit will keep guiding our souls.

Do you want Jesus to change your life? Do you want Him to give you a new life away from the darkness of sinfulness? Visualize the image of the tomb in which the Body of Lazarus has been kept for four days. See the big rock which is the door to the tomb. This rock prevents anyone to enter. It also serves to protect the dead body and limit the stench to reach out visitors of the tomb. We can imagine that when we commit a grave sin, we enter into the darkness of a spiritual tomb. The rock at the entrance keeps us in total spiritual obscurity, in a state of mortal sin. We can hear the voice of Jesus asking His angels to help us: *"TAKE AWAY THE ROCK!"* Even when the rock is removed, and our body begins to be again in the light, we still need help from our Guardian Angel to untie our body so that we can walk out of the tomb and go back to the FULL LIGHT. We need to be untied. We need to CONVERT.

We need to break the chains of addiction to sins. Those chains paralyze us. Jesus invites us to walk with Him in the Light. WE NEED TO GO TO CONFESSION NOW, NOT TOMORROW! NOW IS THE TIME, just a few days away from the HOLY WEEK. One of our volunteers has just built a beautiful traditional kneeler with screen, which has now been installed in our Confessional in the Narthex. Jesus is inviting you to come and meet HIM in our refurbished confessional. When you enter the glass door, remember you have left your spiritual tomb carrying all your sins as a burden. As you are sorry for your sins and promise God with His help to avoid sin in future, you are leaving the Confessional without the burden of any sins and with a CONVERTED HEART: based on your promise to GOD (through the priest who represents the person of Christ in every Sacrament), God will help you to keep away from the chains of your earlier attachments to sin.

Let us kneel down in front a Crucifix, and pray together the powerful Preparatory Prayer of St Alphonse Liguori at the beginning of the Stations of the Cross:

"My Lord, Jesus Christ, You have made this journey to die for me with unspeakable love; and I have so many times ungratefully abandoned You. But now I love You with all my heart; and because I love you, I am sincerely sorry for having offended You. Pardon me, my God, and permit me to accompany You on this journey. You go to die for love of me. I want, my beloved Redeemer, to die for love of You. My Jesus, I will live and die always united to You. AMEN!"

One in Christ,
Fr. Alain

Palm Sunday

RCIA

Interested in joining and learning about the Catholic Church for the first time? Want to complete a Sacrament (Baptism, Eucharist, and/or Confirmation)? Classes meet on Wednesday, from 7 pm –9 pm. You may chose to come to the Father Martin Hall or virtually via Zoom. For more information, please contact Deacon Rich at deacon@olhoc.org or Diane and Mike Spurgeon at RCIA.olhoc@gmail.com

How do we **know** we can trust the Gospels? Who **really** wrote them and when?

Could they be fabricated fables or are they authentic truth? Who does Jesus profess to be?

To find out, come join The Catholic Faith Explorers in our next study - **The Case for Jesus**. Dr. Brant Petri draws evidence from early Christian and non-Christian writings attesting to the authenticity, authorship, and dating of the Gospels, and gives an in-depth look at the Gospel accounts of Jesus's Crucifixion, Resurrection, and the proclamation of His divinity.

Class Dates/Time: 11 Apr - 6 Jun, Sundays at 8:00 am

Via Zoom Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://zoom.us/j/94165603422?](https://zoom.us/j/94165603422?pwd=dlq2TjV0QldwOXhKRFJrQj9kQWc5QT09)

[pwd=dlq2TjV0QldwOXhKRFJrQj9kQWc5QT09](https://zoom.us/j/94165603422?pwd=dlq2TjV0QldwOXhKRFJrQj9kQWc5QT09)

HELP KEEP OUR CHURCH CLEAN

Since last year, OLHOC cut back on many of the services we use to pay for. Due to financial restraints, the lawn maintenance is all done by volunteers, we no longer have a staff person to help out with the facilities, and we cut back on our cleaning services to once a week.

Please do your part in helping to keep our church clean.

~Pre-school News~

OLLC gives preschoolers a beginning in their Catholic education. Many families need financial assistance to attend our pre-school.

If you are in a position to donate, please make your check payable to Our Lady's Little Christians Preschool, or for online instructions, send an email to preschool@olhoc.org

Community Outreach

"Sharing Sunday" continues for the collection of non-perishable foods for the Food Bank and Family Shelter. The need is as great as ever for families in Waldorf! Your donations can be left in the Fr. Martin Hall all week long.

Thank you OLHOC for all your support!

The next Outreach meeting is April 7, 2021 At 7 p. m. on Zoom. The next Shepherd's table is April 15, 2021

CCD Zoom Classes Schedule

Please ensure your child joins us for the following date/time:

3rd Grade– March 28th at 1 PM

4th Grade– March 29 at 7 PM

5th Grade– March 28 at 11:30 AM

6th Grade– April 25th at 2:30 PM

7th Grade– April 11 at 11 AM

*** REMINDER ***

-Sanitize your hands before coming into church

-Masks are mandatory

-Maintain at least a 6 ft distance

-If you feel ill, stay home and watch Mass on www.olhoc.com -10 am on Sundays



Easter Flowers

It is not too late! Please use the envelope that was mailed to you, or pick one up by the offertory. Remember to include your loved ones names, living or deceased on the envelope. Suggested offering \$15.

We are asked to pray for:

Julissa Barientos
 Brandon Mack
 Ana Maria Delmira Sibrian Escobar
 Nestor Ermelindo Molina
 James Thompson
 Rebecca (Tess) Franch
 Joseph Albrittain
 Sid and Suzanna Marcus
 Aleli Puzon
 Patricia Delgado
 Ann Marie Hobart
 Larry McGraw
 Ilene Custer
 Derrick Webster
 Julie Davis
 David DeMarr
 Dinnie Proctor
 Amelia Vinceguerra
 Lorraine Celijewski
 Cren Wolden

Tabitha Barton
 Maria Townsend
 Chrystal Beauregard
 Sheryl Carter
 Alex Leon
 Sharketer Butler
 Steven Bowling
 Edna Yarngo
 Kathy Grimes
 Sheny Padilla
 David Mesler
 Victor Cordero
 Georgiana Norgren
 Marie Bottorf
 Dorian Webster
 Dionne Gause
 Billy Dexter
 Trenia Price
 Erick M. Knapp
 Norm Green

Sarah Dixon
 Grace Albrittain
 Elaine Moses
 Yvonne Buford
 Karen Zimmerman
 Steve Wyloge
 Terri Elizabeth McAllister Burnette
 Joanne Johnson
 John Hoza
 Mike Spurgeon
 Mary A. Dyson
 Kevin Viel Sr.
 Ligia Lam
 David Stanley
 Jim McMahan
 Drew Shuda
 and all our military and civilians serving in
 harm's way.

Please pray for the soul of Jeanette Thomas



Mass Intentions this Week

Saturday, March 27, 9:00AM: Rosalie B. Brann (+)
Saturday, March 27, 5:00 PM: Francois Ouedraogo (+)
Sunday, March 28, 8:30 AM: Michael Caesar
Sunday, March 28, 10:00 AM: Marisa Costas Pena (+)
Sunday, March 28, 11:30 AM: OLHOC Parishioners
Sunday, March 28, 7:00 PM: Gina Hall
Monday, March 29, 9:00 AM: Jonathan Coles
Tuesday, March 30, 9:00 AM: Dominic Andrews
Wednesday, March 31 9:00 AM: Richard White (+)
Wednesday, March 31, 7 PM: Dom Zaccarelli (+)

Pregnant? Help is Available

Call 1-800-712-4357, text HELPLINE to 313131, or visit optionline.org to find the nearest pregnancy resources near you.

Amid the daily concerns of political life, “the smallest, the weakest, the poorest should touch our hearts: indeed, they have a ‘right’ to appeal to our heart and soul. They are our brothers and sisters, and as such we must love and care for them.”

- Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, 194

Tuesday Scripture Study- Join us on Tuesday mornings after the 9 am Mass to study the readings for the next Sunday.

Friday Scripture Study- The Friday night scripture study is now online. Please call the office for information on how to join us.

First Friday- The first Friday of each month the evening Mass is dedicated to promoting the Priesthood. Following evening Mass, devotion to the Alliance of the two Hearts.

First Saturday-Join members of the Marian Group on the first Saturday of the month after the 9 am Mass. Learn more about consecrating your life to Jesus through Mary.

Divine Mercy- Join us on the first Saturday of each month as we pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet as a community at 3 PM.

OLHOC Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please call the parish office or send email to office@olhoc.org.

Mass Readings for April 4, 2021
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

***First Reading**

Acts of the Apostles 10:34a, 37-43

***Second Reading**

Colossians 3:1-4

***Gospel**

John 20:1-9

www.usccb.org





April 1 - HOLY THURSDAY: (No morning Mass) 7:00 PM- Solemn Service (Institution of the Priesthood and the Eucharist) followed by Procession & Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament (Bilingual)

April 2 - GOOD FRIDAY: (No morning Mass)

2:00 PM Last Seven Words

2:30 PM Stations of the Cross

3:00 PM Chaplet of Divine Mercy

5:00 PM Solemn Service of the Passion (Spanish)

7:00 PM Solemn Service of the Passion.

April 3 - HOLY SATURDAY:

(No 4:00 PM Confessions; No 9 AM, 5:00 PM Mass)

11:00 AM Blessing of the Food

8:00 PM Easter Vigil Mass.



April 4 - EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD:

7:00 AM; 8:30 AM Mass; 10:00 AM Mass; 11:30 AM Mass; 1:00 PM; 7:00 PM Mass (Spanish)

HOLY WEEK



March 28 - April 3, 2021

Holy Week is the week before Easter Sunday, beginning seven days before with Palm Sunday. It ends with Holy Saturday. Easter is not part of Holy Week, but rather the beginning of the Easter season of the Liturgical year.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday. On this day, we celebrate the triumphant entry of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, into Jerusalem, riding a donkey. On that day, the people laid palms before Him, a gesture reserved for triumphant leaders. We celebrate this at Mass by distributing palms to the faithful who may keep them for a time for use as devotional objects. The palms are blessed at Mass. The faithful sometimes craft portions of palm fronds into crosses. Eventually, these palms are returned to the Church where they are burned. Traditionally, their ashes are saved and distributed at next year's Ash Wednesday services.

Later, when Jesus entered the Temple, he angrily drove out the money changers who had turned the Temple court into a place of business instead of devotion. Once the court was cleared, Jesus began teaching the masses. Meanwhile, His enemies drew plans to kill Him.

The next major event in Holy Week is Holy Thursday. On this day, Jesus celebrated the Passover feast with the disciples. We know this feast as the Last Supper. This is the night He was betrayed by Judas.

The Last Supper is celebrated at every Mass, and especially on Holy Thursday.

After supper, Jesus went to the Mount of Olives and prayed. From this event comes inspiration for our practice of Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration, where we are invited to spend one hour in prayer with Jesus, truly present in the Eucharist; Body, Blood, and Divinity.

Jesus was arrested on the night of Holy Thursday.

The next day is Good Friday, and on this day, we commemorate the trial, punishment, and crucifixion of Our Lord.

On that morning, Jesus was brought before Annas, a powerful Jewish cleric who condemned Jesus for blasphemy. From there, Jesus was presented to Pilate for trial. Although Pilate found no guilt in Jesus, he agreed to have him crucified to appease the crowd of people and prevent a riot.

Christ was stripped, flogged, and crowned with thorns. He was then forced to carry His Cross to the place of His execution. There, He was nailed to the Cross between two thieves who were likewise crucified. Late that afternoon, seeking to ensure Christ's death, a Roman guard stabbed him in his side with a spear. When Jesus died, an earthquake is said to have occurred as well as a great darkness which covered the land. Suddenly, many people knew Jesus was the Son of God.

Jesus was taken and laid quickly in a borrowed tomb, in accord with Jewish law, which required the dead be buried by sundown before the Sabbath.

In our churches, the Tabernacle is left empty, to show that Christ is departed.

On Holy Saturday, there is no Mass. Parishes may hold services, but there is no distribution of Communion.

On Holy Saturday, we remember that Jesus was descended into hell where He preached the Gospel to those who died before and opened the way to heaven for all those who were worthy.

This concludes Holy Week. The following day is Easter Sunday, the day on which it was discovered the Tomb was empty, and our Lord was resurrected, triumphing over death once and for all time. (*Catholic Online, 2021*)