

E A S T E R S U N D A Y
H E I S R I S E N

*Let Us Pray for Our
Brothers and
Sisters:*



Marlene Koon, Ruth Word, Diane Millsaps, Joan Culp, Allen Junk, Juana Calzada, Anita Andres, Daniel Guldner, Mike Niehues, Casey Moore, Concepcion Ramirez, Olivia Ramirez, Janna Alves, and for those with health complications, the homeless, for all those who serve and their family. For all the intentions of the families not listed.

We Pray to the Lord.

**St. Monica Parish
News & Announcements:**

**Holy Week Mass Schedule
via Facebook Live:**

Holy Saturday, April 11th:
8:15pm Bilingual Saturday
Vigil

Easter Sunday, April 12th:
9:00am English
12:00pm Spanish

Confessions will be held every
Sunday at the Church from
10:15-11:45am and from
4:00-5:00pm. Reminder to
Parishioners please maintain
social distancing—minimum 6
feet from each other.

We will continue to update
Parishioners on any news by
using our Facebook page, My
ParishApp and our website
stmonicawillows.com.



HOMILY FOR EASTER SUNDAY, BY FR. CIRILO CERVANTES.

THE LORD IS TRULY RISEN, ALLELUIA!

Easter is the greatest and the most important feast in the Church. It marks the birthday of our eternal hope. We ought to celebrate it with pride and jubilation, because the Resurrection of Christ is the basis of our Christian Faith and it proves that Jesus is God. St. Paul was convinced of this when he wrote to the Corinthians: "If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain; and your Faith is in vain... And if Christ has not been raised, then your Faith is a delusion and you are still lost in your sins... But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep" (I Cor 15:14, 17, 20)

In the words of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: "The Resurrection of Jesus is the crowning truth of our Faith in Christ, a Faith believed and lived as the central truth by the first Christian community; handed on as fundamental by Tradition; established by the documents of the New Testament; and preached as an essential part of the Paschal mystery along with the cross..." (CCC # 638). If Jesus Christ did not rise from the dead, then the Church is a fraud and Faith is a sham. But if Jesus really did rise from the dead, his message is true! Without the Resurrection, Jesus would have remained forever a good person who had met a tragic end. People would remember some of his teachings, and a handful of people might try to live according to them. All the basic doctrines of Christianity are founded on the truth of the Resurrection. "Jesus is Lord; He is risen!" (Rom 10:9) was the central theme of the kerygma (or "preaching"), of the apostles. There is a story of two women who stood before Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. One asked, "Why can't we build structures like this anymore?" Her friend answered, "The people who built this had Faith. Today we have only opinions. And you can't build a cathedral with opinions."

The Resurrection of Christ is also our own guarantee of our resurrection. When Jesus was talking to Martha, he said: "I am the Resurrection and the Life; whoever believes in Me will live even though he dies" (Jn 11:25-26). Again quoting the Catechism of the Catholic Church:

"Christ will raise us up "on the last day"; but it is also true that, in a certain way, we have already risen with Christ. For, by virtue of the Holy Spirit, Christian life is already now on earth a participation in the death and Resurrection of Christ: And you were buried with him in Baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. (Col. 2:12)" **CCC 1002**

"United with Christ by Baptism, believers already truly participate in the heavenly life of the risen Christ, but this life remains "hidden with Christ in God." (Col. 3:3) The Father has already "raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus." (Eph. 2:6) Nourished with his body in the Eucharist, we already belong to the Body of Christ. When we rise on the last day we "also will appear with him in glory." (Col. 3:4) **CCC 1003**

Easter is also a Feast which gives us hope and encouragement in this world of pain, and tears. It reminds us that life is worth living. It is our belief in the Real Presence of the Risen Jesus in our souls, in His Church, in the Blessed Sacrament, and in Heaven that gives meaning to our personal, as well as to our common, prayers. Our trust in the all-pervading presence of the Risen Lord gives us strength to fight against temptations and freedom from unnecessary worries and fears. The Breastplate prayer of St. Patrick, the Apostle of Ireland, reads: "Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ within me, never to part."

The feast of the Resurrection, gives us the joyful message that we are "Resurrection people." This means that we are not supposed to lie buried in the tomb of our sins, evil habits, and dangerous addictions. It gives us the Good News that no tomb can hold us down anymore - not the tomb of despair, discouragement, doubt or death itself. Instead, we are expected to live a joyful and peaceful life, constantly experiencing the real presence of the Risen Lord in all the events of our lives. "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad" (Psalm 118:24). For the true Christian, every day must be an Easter Day lived joyfully in the close company of the Risen Lord.

In the Easter Vigil, we renew our Baptismal promises, as to comite once more to our choice of belonging to Christ; and in this way continue to be his witnesses in the world. We are the instruments God wants to use in order to bring joy, love and hope to this world. Let us not allow anything to separate us from his love, let us not allow anything to discourage us as to forget the joy of the Risen Lord. The disciples of Jesus were almost immediately transformed from men who were hopeless and fearful after the crucifixion (Luke 24:21, John 20:19) into men who were confident and bold witnesses of the Resurrection.

We too, can be transformed by the power of Jesus who is risen and lives in our hearts. Be his light of love and enlighten the darkness of this present times or pandemic, we are living because he has conquered sin and death, because **He is truly risen, Alleluia! Alleluia!**

God bless you all and Happy and blessed Easter!

Follow us on Facebook at St. Monica Catholic Church to watch Masses via live stream. If for any reason we are not able to go live at the exact times listed we will inform you via media.



-Fr. Cirilo and Staff

*Thank you for your
generosity and your
contribution to
Saint Monica Parish!*

Responsorial Psalm:
Psalm 118: 1-2, 16-17, 22-23

"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad."

-First Reading
Acts 10: 34, 37-43

The Apostle Peter was originally skeptical about preaching the Gospel to non-Jews. But one day, the Holy Spirit summoned him to preach to a Gentile — the pagan army officer Cornelius and his household. Today's passage is a portion of Peter's sermon, which summarizes the life and ministry of Jesus.

-Second Reading
Colossians 3: 1-4

The letter to the Colossians depicts Christ as the only mediator between God and the world. A previous passage of the letter presented baptism as the way we are united with Christ. The author will today remind us of the heights to which Christ has raised us, and then call upon us to live up to this.

*Easter is the Church's holiest day of the year. After twenty centuries, we still boldly announce to the world:
Christ Lives!*

Mass Schedule & Intentions:

Date	Time	Int	Name
Sat. 4/11	8:15pm (Facebook Live)		
Sun. 4/12	9:00am 12:00pm (Facebook Live)	+	Esmelda Robles+
Mon. 4/13	10:00am (Facebook Live)		Mata Family
Tues. 4/14	10:00am (Facebook Live)		
Wed. 4/15	10:00am (Facebook Live)		
Thurs 4/16	10:00am (Facebook Live)		
Fri. 4/17	10:00am (Facebook Live)		Conversion of sinners

Do you have a Mass intention?

Call the parish office when you need a Mass celebrated (530)934-3314. During this time, we would like to inform parishioners that we will continue offering Mass Intentions listed via Facebook live Mass.