Easter SUNDAY

APRIL 5, 2015

Do not be amazed!
You seek
Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified.
HE HAS BEEN RAISED;
he is not here.

Mark 16:6

To Hear the Gospel and Make a Difference
Dear friends,

Today we celebrate a great feast. It is the celebration of all celebrations, the feast of all feasts, the centerpiece of the Church year. There is much to feel good and joyful about this day. Our Lenten observance has come to an end and we can finally proclaim, “Alleluia, Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!” St Augustine proclaimed long ago, we are Easter people and “Alleluia ” is our song! In the light of this proclamation, I extend to all of you, greetings, and in particular to those who are visiting us today. We, as a parish, are blessed by the presence of guests and visitors, and we are delighted that you are with us this morning. Welcome!

How did 12 peasant fishermen, tax collectors, farmers – how in the world did they multiply – 12 followers of Jesus to one out of every three people on the planet [identifying as Christian]? The answer is the Resurrection. The resurrection of Jesus changed everything. It split our calendar to the A.D. and the B.C. No other event has impacted the world so much as the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Rick Warren in his sermon on Easter stated that it is amazing to think about the fact that Jesus never wrote a book, "in fact he never wrote anything down," and yet there are more books written about Jesus than any other subject in the world. He added, "Jesus never composed a song, but there is more music written about Jesus Christ than any other subject, bar none, in history. Jesus never drew any pictures or did any sculpture, [but] more art has been made about Jesus Christ than any other subject in history."

The resurrection of Jesus is synonymous with change, with the old being transformed into the new, with things being cast down only to be raised up again. Paul Tillich, a theologian of the 20th century made an observation that God is the God of the new. He reminds us of the words of Isaiah “Behold, I am doing a new thing, Even now it is springing to light. Do you not perceive it?” The resurrection of Jesus will forever be a reminder to us that God is in the midst of all change bringing about the new. Old forms, old ideas, old ways of doing things will die and pass away, but God will always be there raising new things up in their place. It means that you and I can face the future with boldness and courage knowing that whatever happens, God is there. God is doing a new thing in the world around us. He is doing a new thing in our communities. He is doing a new thing in us. And as we live in to the change that is all around us, the newness that surrounds us, we too, like Mary Magdalene, can say to the world around us, “I have seen the Lord.”

I would like to thank our priests, staff and the many volunteers who worked hard to make the season of Lent meaningful for all of us. And now, let us walk with the Risen Lord in our journey of faith.

Fr. Paulson
**Looking for a Church to Call “Home”?**

An Open Door for Returning Catholics and Non-Catholics:

If you find yourself being drawn to the Catholic church, we welcome you! Are you a non-Catholic? Non-practicing Catholic? Have you drifted away from the Catholic Church and would like to find your way back? Do you feel there is something missing in your life; but have been hesitant to take that first step? Did you have a sporadic upbringing in a church? Were you never baptized or confirmed? Have never received Holy Communion? Are you received or confirmed? Have never really been a practicing Catholic? Have you drifted back? Do you feel there is something missing in your life; but have been hesitant to take that first step? Did you have a sporadic upbringing in a church? Were you never baptized or confirmed? Have never received Holy Communion? Are you married outside the Church?

**Whether you are a non-Catholic or a returning Catholic ~ we WELCOME you!** Please contact Sr. Dominc Marie at sisterdominic.marie@gmail.com or Al Garrotto at algarrotto@comcast.net or 925-682-2486.

**CTK Festival News!**

CTK Marketplace was a new component of the festival last year which is returning and expanding this year! Marketplace provides guests with the opportunity to purchase products from local craftspeople and businesses. We are seeking vendors who wish to exhibit and sell their handmade and locally made products at the festival, May 15th-17th. Space is limited. We would love to showcase some of our talented parishioners! Please contact Pam Johansen at 925-349-4145 or johansenfamily2000@msn.com for more information.

**Winter Nights:** For the next two weeks, CTK is hosting an on site homeless shelter known as Winter Nights. This traveling shelter provides emergency support to homeless families, is a blessing to our community and we are proud to host it. We will be welcoming 9 families. If you missed the chance to sign up, but still want to help, here is a winter night wish list: sleeping bags, gas cards, Wal-mart/Target/Safeway gift cards, socks, bus and Bart cards, packing and duct tape, flash lights and wardrobe boxes (24X 21X48) Please contact Kate Doherty at katedoherty.ctk@gmail.com to volunteer or for more information.

**Save the Date!**

Tom Peterson, President and founder of Catholics Come Home, will be giving a special presentation here at Christ the King on **Tuesday, April 14th at 7:00 pm.** Tom will share with us his walk in faith, the development of his ministry, and how it has expanded over the years. Tom has appeared at hundreds of venues, including the Vatican! Come hear humorous stories and proven ways to help loved ones home!

Are you in your **20’s and 30’s** and looking for a way to connect to the CTK community? Consider attending a **Thirsty Thursday!** Every first Thursday in the parish hall at 7pm. Get inspired, meet new friends, and learn how you can hear the gospel and make a difference at Christ the King. We provide beverages, you bring a snack to share. Email Kate Doherty at katedoherty.ctk@gmail.com

**10:45 am Ushers needed!** Men and women of the parish! Can you help us in this ministry? We offer hospitality to those arriving for Mass, seat people before mass, assist those in the communion procession line and help with other needs that may arise. Contact Jack Murphy at (925)933-8072 or drop me an email if you’re interested at jmurph818@aol.com.

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**A note from Fr. Brian Joyce:**

What are you going to do for Easter gifts this year? Whether a hostess gift, an Easter present or a gift for yourself, I think I have just the solution. Although for me it is deeply personal. One of the high points for me last year was September 14th, my farewell and retirement mass at Christ the King. Now there is something to remember! This Sunday and next, after all the masses, just outside the church we will have available a DVD of that occasion, which begins with a five minute summary of the mass, put together and edited with the magic of Tim Manning, followed by my sister’s comments about me (for better or for worse) and then brief homilies given by Bishop Barber and Bishop Cummins and a brief introduction by myself of the pictures through the years and the closing song sung by the whole congregation.

All this for a very inexpensive ten dollars with all proceeds going to our youth group and its planned trip this year to New Orleans.

God Bless,

Fr. Brian Joyce

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**An Easter Prayer**

Lord, the resurrection of Your Son has given us new life and renewed hope. Help us to live as new people in pursuit of the Christian ideal. Grant us wisdom to know what we must do, the will to want to do it, the courage to undertake it, the perseverance to continue to do it, and the strength to complete it.

**source: New Saint Joseph People's Prayer Book**
Happenings around CTK!

R.E. 5th graders making Lenten crosses!

Christ the King School Speech Contest Winners!

Christ the King at sunset, photo by Karen McMillan.