

Saint Athanasius Church

160 N. Rengstorff Ave. Mountain View, California 94043
Office: (650) 961-8600 Hours: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Tue-Friday
(Office is closed on Monday/ La oficina está cerrada los lunes)

 athanasius@comcast.net
 www.stathanasiusparish.com
 www.youtube.com/saintathanasiuscatholicchurch
 www.facebook.com/SaintAthanasiusChurch/



Weekend Mass Reservations
English Masses:

www.attendmass.eventbrite.com



Reservaciones para las Misas del fin de semana
Misas en español:

www.sanatanasio.eventbrite.com

To reach a priest after office hours in an EMERGENCY situation, such as a death or the need for the Last Rites, call: **(408) 444-0257**

PARISH STAFF / PERSONAL

Our Clergy

Rev. Walter Suarez (Pastor/Párroco)

E-mail: Walter.Suarezlopez@dsj.org
650.961.8600 Ext. 101

Rev. Rolando Santoianni (Parochial Vicar)

E-mail: Rolando.Santoianni@dsj.org
650.961.8600 Ext. 102

Our Staff

Betty Dominguez (Business Manager/Secretary)

E-mail: Bertina.Dominguezcruz@dsj.org
650.961.8600 Ext. 100

Michelle Agreda (Pastoral Associate)

E-mail: Michelle.Agreda@dsj.org
650.961.8600 Ext. 104

Jesús Gonzalez (Maintenance)

For Maintenance Issues Please Contact Our Parish Office

MASS SCHEDULE/Horario de Misas

(All Masses are indoors for up to 250 people)

Vigil

Saturday (sábado): 4:00 PM (English)

6:00 PM (Español)

Sunday (domingo): 8:00 AM (English)

9:30 AM (Español)

11:00 AM (English-Livestream)

1:00 PM (Español-Transmisión en vivo)

Daily Masses/Misas Diarias: (Bilingüe)

Monday - Friday: **9:00 AM** (Bilingual)

-Indoors

RECONCILIATION/CONFESIONES (indoors)

Saturdays/sábados: **5:00 PM** (Bilingual)

or by appointment with the Priest/*Por cita.*

THIRD SUNDAY OF Easter

APRIL 18, 2021



When the two disciples returned from Emmaus, they recounted what had taken place on the way.

Luke 24:35

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19

Psalms 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9

1 Jn 2:1-5a

Lk 24:35-48

SAINT ATHANASIUS

Third Sunday of Easter

Peter saw Jesus after the Resurrection. He listened as Jesus told the disciples all that had been written about him in the scriptures, all that he had said and done when he was ministering among them. Peter heard how Jesus had fulfilled all in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms. Jesus, the Messiah, had come to be among them to bring them peace, to offer forgiveness of their sins. Peter shared this Good News with the crowds who gathered to hear him tell the sacred story, the story of God's love, poured out in Jesus the Christ and offered to the whole world. All who hear and believe are offered new life, life in which God's love is perfected in them. Are you listening? Are you ready to share in this abundant new life?

NOT WHAT WAS EXPECTED

Have you ever waited for something for so long you began to think it might never happen? Your graduation day, or the day of your marriage, or the birth of a child, perhaps. The Israelites had waited for centuries for the coming of the Messiah. Yet when Jesus, the long-awaited Anointed One came, many failed to believe in him. He wasn't what they expected. The Messiah was supposed to be a strong, powerful commander of armies, not humble, compassionate, and suffering. After his resurrection, Jesus appeared to the disciples and explained all that he had said in his time with them, opening their minds to what had been written in the scriptures so that they could accept his suffering and death and rejoice in his resurrection.

GOD'S LOVE IN FLESH AND BONE

While the disciples had come to believe that Jesus was the Messiah, his crucifixion and death had left them fearful and confounded. The news of the empty tomb and his appearance to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus added to their confusion. It seems that at first, Jesus' presence with them did not alleviate their uncertainty. In fact, they were "startled and terrified and thought they were seeing a ghost" (Luke 24:37). Jesus saw that they needed physical proof that it was he who stood among them. They needed to see the nail marks in his hands and feet, to see God's love in flesh and bone, in one who ate among them. Only when their fear and confusion had been quelled could they hear the story, the sacred story of how the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead. Only when they were filled with the peace of Christ would they be ready to witness, to share the sacred story with others. We, too, are invited to hear the sacred story and to perceive God's love for us in Jesus Christ.

Today's Readings: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; Ps 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9; 1 Jn 2:1-5a; Lk 24:35-48

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Mass Intentions For The Week

- Sat (17) 4:00** Charlotte & Joseph Papa -- Deceased (†)
Donald R. Maxwell -- Deceased (†)
Devin Polehla -- Spec. Int. (S.I.)
6:00 Juan Cordero Gonzalez -- Spec. Int. (S.I.)
Clara Navarro Reyes -- Deceased (†)
Herminia Silva-- Deceased (†)
- Sun (18) 8:00** Devin Polehla -- Spec. Int. (S.I.)
9:30 Clara Navarro Reyes -- Deceased (†)
Herminia Silva-- Deceased (†)
11:00 Ana Liza Roquero -- Birthday (B)
Domingo Roquero & Rafael Sabando, Jr. -- (†)
Rolando & Edgar Sabando -- Deceased (†)
1:00 Juan Cordero Gonzalez -- Spec. Int. (S.I.)
- Mon (19) 9:00** Magdalena Lim -- Birthday (B)
Juan Cordero Gonzalez -- Spec. Int. (S.I.)
Devin Polehla -- Spec. Int. (S.I.)
Clara Navarro Reyes -- Deceased (†)
Herminia Silva-- Deceased (†)
- Tue (20) 9:00** Juan Cordero Gonzalez -- Spec. Int. (S.I.)
Devin Polehla -- Spec. Int. (S.I.)
Clara Navarro Reyes -- Deceased (†)
Herminia Silva-- Deceased (†)
- Wed (21) 9:00** Chan Lai King -- Deceased (†)
Juan Cordero Gonzalez -- Spec. Int. (S.I.)
Devin Polehla -- Spec. Int. (S.I.)
Clara Navarro Reyes -- Deceased (†)
Herminia Silva-- Deceased (†)
- Thurs (22) 9:00** Miyabelle Elizabeth Villareal -- Birthday (B)
Juan Cordero Gonzalez -- Spec. Int. (S.I.)
Devin Polehla -- Spec. Int. (S.I.)
Clara Navarro Reyes -- Deceased (†)
Herminia Silva-- Deceased (†)
- Friday(23) 9:00** Devin Polehla -- Spec. Int. (S.I.)
Clara Navarro Reyes -- Deceased (†)
Herminia Silva-- Deceased (†)
Juan Cordero Gonzalez -- Spec. Int. (S.I.)
- †—Deceased; T—Thanksgiving;
S.I.—Special Intentions; B—Birthday; S—Sick

Death Anniversary Remembrance Week of April 18

Elmer Brown	Enos Cortinas	Frank Fabyancic
Nora Drake	Frances Schultz	Hung Han
Lillian T McCabe	Maria Tranchina	Edward Savitsky
Simplicio Salazar	Angelica Agarpao	William Thompson
Walter Eich	Louis Cabello	Africa Yumul
Joseph Ferreira	Margaret Herzing	Anna Kuehl
Florentina Cordeiro	Mary Anne Marquis	Esteban Martinez
Robert Giron	Frank Sanchez, Jr.	Napoleon Oribello
Aileen Arnaudo	Petra Alvarado	Alma Torcellini

REST IN PEACE



Please Pray for the Sick

Theresa and Clyde Thirbenny, Kevin O'Leary, Julie Hidalgo, Gloria Ramirez, Ellen Poso, Soledad Jara, Danilo Fidel, JoAnne Arnold, Isaura Aguilar, Romulo Prieto, Bernie Barron, Josephine Sierras, Vi Brietich, Michael Fernandez, Stacy Goodman and Joel Villareal

3rd Sunday of Easter

April 18, 2021



Next Weekend's 2nd Collection is for the **Diocesan Priests' Retirement Fund**. Thank you for your generosity.

"Give to the Most High as he has given to you, generously, according to your means. For the Lord is one who always repays, and he will give back to you sevenfold" (Sirach)

Daily Masses April 5-9	
9:00 AM	\$285.00
Saturday/sábado April 10	
4:00 PM	\$697.00
6:00 PM	\$217.50
Sunday/domingo April 11	
8:00 AM	\$149.00
9:30 AM	\$557.00
11:00 AM	\$188.00
1:00 PM	\$1,022.00
Mail In/Por Correo	\$1,691.00
Online Giving	\$280.00
Total	\$4,212.48
Goal/Meta	\$6,000
Variance/Diferencia	<\$1,787.52>



Thank you for your continued support during this tough period. If you are not able to join us in-person, please make your Sunday offering online, scan the QR code with your smart phone or visit: <https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/athanasius>



Our Mother of Perpetual Help Mass

We are happy to announce that the weekly in-person Mass devoted to Our Mother of Perpetual Help has resumed. Please join us every **Wednesday at 6:30 PM inside the church.**

Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Pray for us!



DRIVE-THRU FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Saint Athanasius Church
from 10 AM to 12 PM
Saturday, April 24th

No Registration Needed Beforehand. Registration will be done on-site. Would you like to volunteer and be part of this wonderful event? Please contact the Parish Office at (650) 961- 8600.



Do you have a call to the ministry of leadership within your community?

Do you currently participate in some form of pastoral ministry? Do you want to learn and get the skills to serve better your community? Explore attending the ILM this year. The ILM is accepting nominations for the academic year 2021-2022, classes begin September 2021. Please find more about the ILM and how to apply at bit.ly/ilm21-22.

CRS Rice Bowl Thanks You! On behalf of the Diocesan CRS Rice Bowl Team we thank you for including CRS Rice Bowl as a part of your Lenten journey. Your sacrifices and contributions are changing the lives of the marginalized in your community.

Please submit your donations to your parish or school office by **May 2nd**. Checks should be made out to the parish with a memo: *CRS Rice Bowl*.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION FOR VOCATIONS

FOR CATHOLICS OF ALL AGES

40 HOURS FOR THE LORD

www.dsj.org/40hours

4 Journeying Together in Hope

APRIL 23 - 25, 2021

St. John Vianney, San Jose, CA

WILL YOU SPEND AN HOUR WITH JESUS?

Let us Pray to Jesus for blessings to our Diocese and to bring us many more vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. Bring your family and friends, and someone who needs your invitation to discover their vocation.

BEREAVEMENT COMFORT AND SUPPORT GROUP

The St. Athanasius Bereavement, Comfort, and Support Ministry will resume its monthly meetings via Zoom. Below is the information to join this meeting. We hope that you will be able to attend. If you have experienced the death of a loved one, please join us as we share our losses, and develop coping strategies.

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON APRIL 23 AT 7 PM

Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://dsj.zoom.us/j/93448077349>
Meeting ID: 934 4807 7349

PRAY TO END ABORTION

PRAY FOR THE END OF ABORTION

Come pray with us for the end of abortion in our country. A group of volunteers meets every week for peaceful prayer and witness. **WEDNESDAYS, 11 AM-12 PM** at Planned Parenthood located at 2500 California St., Mountain View. Contact Cris (650) 279-5909 or cfgoodman13@gmail.com

BOLETIN HISPANO



Quando los dos discípulos regresaron de Emaús,
les contaron lo que les había pasado por el camino.
Lucas 24:35

Tercer Domingo de Pascua

NO LO QUE ESPERABA

¿Alguna vez te ha tocado esperar algo durante mucho tiempo que llegaste a pensar que eso nunca podría pasar? Tal vez el día de tu graduación, de tu boda, del nacimiento de un hijo. Los israelitas habían esperado por siglos la llegada del Mesías. Sin embargo, cuando Jesús llegó, el tan esperado Ungido muchos no creyeron en él; pues él no era lo que habían esperado. Se suponía que el Mesías sería fuerte, un poderoso comandante de ejércitos, no alguien humilde, compasivo y sufriente. Después de su resurrección, Jesús se apareció a los discípulos y les explicó todo lo que había dicho durante el tiempo que estuvo con ellos, abriendo sus mentes a lo que estaba escrito en la Escrituras para que pudieran aceptar su sufrimiento y muerte, y regocijarse en su resurrección.

EL AMOR DE DIOS EN CARNE Y HUESO

Aunque los discípulos llegaron a creer que Jesús era el Mesías, su crucifixión y muerte los había dejado temerosos y confundidos. La noticia del sepulcro vacío y su aparición a los dos discípulos en el camino de Emaús aumento su confusión. Parece que, al principio, la presencia de Jesús con ellos no hizo que disminuyera su duda. De hecho, ellos estaban “asustados y aterrorizados pensando que estaban viendo a un fantasma” (Lucas 24:37). Jesús observó que necesitaban una prueba física que les mostrara que era él quien estaba en medio de ellos; quienes tuvieron que ver las marcas de los clavos en sus manos y pies, para ver el amor de Dios en carne y hueso, en uno que comía en medio de ellos. Solo cuando su miedo y confusión se había calmado, pudieron escuchar la historia, la historia sagrada de cómo Cristo sufriría y resucitaría de entre los muertos. Solo cuando estuvieron llenos con la paz de Cristo estarían listos para dar testimonio, para compartir la historia sagrada con otras personas. Nosotros también estamos invitados a escuchar la historia y a percibir el amor de Dios por nosotros en Jesucristo.

Lecturas de hoy: Hch 3:13-15, 17-19; Sal 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9; 1 Jn 2:1-5a; Lc 24:35-48

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CRS Rice Bowl ¡Gracias!

Tus sacrificios de Cuaresma han ayudado a familias alrededor del mundo a combatir el hambre y la desnutrición. Recuerda entregar tu Plato de Arroz de CRS.

Envíe sus donaciones a la oficina de su parroquia u escuela antes del **2 de Mayo**. Los cheques deben hacerse a nombre de la parroquia con la nota: Plato de Arroz de CRS.



¿Siente un llamado al ministerio de liderazgo dentro de su comunidad?

¿Participa actualmente en alguna forma de ministerio pastoral? ¿Quiere aprender y obtener entrenamiento para servir mejor a su comunidad?

Explore asistir al ILM este año. El ILM está aceptando nominaciones para el año académico 2021-2022, las clases comienzan en septiembre de 2021.

Busque más información y cómo solicitar en bit.ly/ilm21-22.



DISTRIBUCION DE COMIDA POR AUTO

En la Iglesia de San Atanasio
Sábado 24 de abril
de las 10 AM a las 12 PM

No se necesita registración previa - Las registraciones se hacen el día de la distribución.

AYUDENOS A PASAR LA VOZ!

Si le gustaría ayudar, favor de contactar a la oficina parroquial a Athanasius@comcast.net o llame al (650) 961-8600.



Bautizos en San Atanasio

Los Bautizos en nuestra parroquia son el **3er sábado del mes**, el próximo Bautizo será el 15 de mayo del 2021.

10 AM en Ingles

11 AM en español

Para obtener más información o para agendar una cita para una entrevista con uno de nuestros sacerdotes para registrarse, favor de llamar a la oficina al (650) 961-8600 Ext. 100 de martes a viernes de las 9 am a la 1 pm.

BODAS



Este es un llamado a las parejas de novios o también los que ya están viviendo juntos. Si usted esta considerando casarse por la Iglesia, llame a la oficina al (650) 961-8600 y con mucho gusto le ayudaremos.

Se necesita empezar el tramite con seis meses de anticipación.

¡No olvide de patrocinar a los negocios que se enlistan en la parte posterior de nuestro boletín dominical. Aviseles que vio el anuncio de su negocio en el Boletín

PERMANEZCA CONECTADO!

Email: athanasius@comcast.net



www.stathanasiusparish.com



www.facebook.com/SaintAthanasiusChurch/



www.youtube.com/saintathanasiuscatholicchurch

Mission Statement for St. Athanasius Parish --“St. Athanasius Church’s mission is to build disciples of Jesus Christ and assist them in responding to God’s call to love and to serve”

Misión de la Parroquia de San Atanasio -- "La Misión de la Iglesia de San Atanasio es construir discípulos de Jesucristo y ayudarles a responder el llamado de Dios a amar y servir"

ST. ATHANASIUS BEREAVEMENT, COMFORT AND SUPPORT GROUP

Meets every 4th Friday of the month via Zoom at 7:00 PM.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://dsj.zoom.us/j/93448077349>

Meeting ID: 934 4807 7349

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,93448077349# US (San Jose)

Dial by location

For details, please call (650) 961-8600.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament the First Friday of the month starting after 9:00 AM Mass inside the church. Benediction will be at 11:00 AM.

Exposición del Santísimo Sacramento

El primer Viernes del mes a las 7:30 PM dentro de la Iglesia.

ST. PAUL DISCIPLESHIP GROUP

If you have missed connecting and praying with your fellow parishioners, we invite you to visit the St. Paul Discipleship Group virtual meeting **Tuesday nights from 8:30 PM -10:00 PM**. The meetings consist of prayer, reflection on our faith journeys in general and on evangelization in particular, and the daily readings.

Email the parish office at Athanasius@comcast.net for the Zoom meeting details.

DRIVE-THRU FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Saint Athanasius Church

Saturday, April 24

from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

No Registration Needed Beforehand - Registration will be done on-site. **If you would like to volunteer, please contact the Parish Office at Athanasius@comcast.net**

DISTRIBUCION DE COMIDA POR AUTO

sábado 24 de abril

de las 10:00 AM a las 12:00 PM

No se necesita registraci3n previa, las registraci3n se hacen el d3a de la distribuci3n. **Si le gustar3a ser voluntario para las distribuciones de comida, favor de enviar un correo electr3nica a la oficina a Athanasius@comcast.net**

BULLETIN EMAILS

Did you know that you can receive the weekly bulletin in your email inbox weekly for free? Sign up for the automatic bulletin email at <https://www.jspaluch.com/bulletinsubscribe.aspx>

Courtesy of J.S. Paluch Company, Inc.

Sacrament Preparation for Children & Teens

Preparation for the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist (Grades 2-12) and for Confirmation (Grades 9-12) is a one-year process. For more information please contact the Parish Office at (650) 961-8600 Ext 100.

Faith Formation for Children, Teens and Adults

Our Faith Formation program seeks to empower our most important Catechists—our parents—to guide the faith formation of their children. We deepen our faith in Jesus through Scripture stories, reflection, prayer and seasonal celebrations in large and small groups. For more information, please contact our Parish Office at (650) 961-8600 Ext 100.

Baptism of Children

(English & Spanish)

Parents are invited to contact our parish office at (650) 961 - 8600 to set up an appointment for an initial interview with one of our priests. Parents and Godparents are required to attend an online Baptismal preparation session prior to the Baptism. No Baptism date can be set until the interview with the priest. Children age 7 or above are required to participate in our Children’s Faith Formation program to prepare for this sacrament. All Baptisms are indoors the **3rd Saturday of the month.**

10:00 AM in English

11:00 AM en espa3ol

Favor de llamara al a oficina (650) 961-8600 Ext. 100 para hacer una cita para una entrevista inicial con uno de nuestros sacerdotes. Todos los Bautizos son dentro de la Iglesia el 3er s3bado del mes.

SOCIETY of ST. VINCENT de PAUL

Parish volunteers serve the needy of our Mountain View area through our Emergency Assistance program. The Food Pantry is closed due to Covid-19 because the room is too small for safe distancing. Interested Parishioners are welcome to join us at our virtual board meetings held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM to see how we carry out our mission. Please leave your contact information on our Helpline (650) 562-1000 or the Parish Office (650) 961-8600.

ALTERNATIVES TO ABORTIONS

BIRTH AND BEYOND (331) 444-5433

12 N White Rd #5, San Jose, CA 95127

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

For burial information and pre-planning assistance, please call **(888) 715-2150**. We help you meet eternal life with faith, hope, and love.

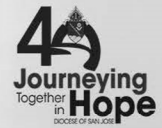


Office for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults / Oficina de Protecci3n de Ni3os y Adultos Vulnerables

Diocese of San Jose– Anthony Gonzalez (408) 983-0113

Emergency Line: (408) 983-0144.

<https://opcva.ethicspoint.com>.



Levántate de la Oscuridad

Mensaje Pascual 2021

“El primer día de la semana va María Magdalena de madrugada al sepulcro cuando todavía estaba oscuro...” (Jn 20, 1). Así empieza la lectura del Evangelio del domingo de Pascua. Siempre me ha fascinado el detalle que "todavía estaba oscuro." Pienso que se refiere a la esperanza que a veces sentimos cuando las cosas no parecen prometedoras. Este año hemos experimentado la oscuridad de muchas maneras: más de medio millón de personas en los Estados Unidos han perdido la vida a causa del COVID-19; millones han perdido sus trabajos; millones de acres destruidos por incendios forestales; niños han perdido oportunidades para aprender, crecer y socializar; innumerables personas, jóvenes y mayores, han visto un deterioro en su salud mental; una división que va en aumento en nuestro país y la violencia racial; una economía devastada; y la lista continúa.

Fue el amor y el aprecio de María Magdalena por Jesús lo que la motivó ir a su tumba de madrugada cuando todavía estaba oscuro. Jesús restauró la dignidad de María cuando perdonó sus pecados y la aceptó como persona. Así fue como María pudo darse cuenta de que era amada por Dios y que era capaz de amar a los demás de una manera verdaderamente alegre y enriquecedora. María había escuchado las palabras de Jesús en sus conversaciones, en sus enseñanzas, y en sus predicaciones públicas. Ella se alimentaba de cada palabra que Él pronunciaba y llenaban su mente y corazón de esperanza y alegría. Las palabras y acciones de Jesús eran como un bálsamo para su alma herida que la perdonaban y sanaban. Esa esperanza la sostuvo a través de la desgarradora experiencia de presenciar a Jesús abandonado por su propio pueblo, incluso por sus propios discípulos. Fue esa esperanza en Jesús, quien le había hablado de una vida más allá de la muerte, y su amor por él lo que la llevó a su tumba "cuando todavía estaba oscuro".

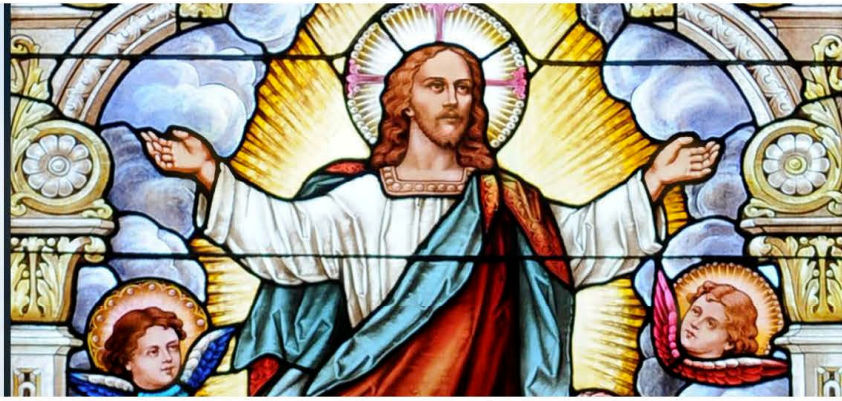
Se sorprendió cuando vio la piedra quitada del sepulcro y que la tumba estaba vacía! Se echó a correr para compartir la noticia con los discípulos. Así comprendieron que Jesús verdaderamente había resucitado de entre los muertos como lo había predicho.

La resurrección de Jesús de entre los muertos es el misterio central de nuestra fe cristiana: ¡Jesús vence las tinieblas de la muerte y trae la luz y esperanza con su resurrección y la vida eterna! Como dice el Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica, “ Hay un doble aspecto en el misterio pascual: por su muerte nos libera del pecado, por su Resurrección nos abre el acceso a una nueva vida” (n. 654).

Mientras vamos saliendo de la pandemia con cautela en los próximos meses, ¡que nos anime el celebrar con gozo la resurrección de Jesucristo de entre los muertos! San Pablo nos recuerda: “Y si hemos muerto con Cristo, creemos que también viviremos con él,” (Rom 6, 8). ¡La resurrección de Jesús también nos da la esperanza de resucitar con él a la vida eterna!

¡Mis oraciones permanecen con ustedes en esta temporada de Pascua! ¡Una feliz y bendita Pascua para ti y para todos tus seres queridos!

Reverendísimo Oscar Cantú
Obispo de San José



Arising from the Darkness

Easter Message 2021

“On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark...” (Jn 20:1). This is the beginning of the Gospel reading for Easter Sunday. I have always been fascinated by the detail that it was “still dark.” I believe this speaks to the presence of hope when things do not seem promising. Over the past year, we have experienced darkness in so many ways: over half a million persons in the United States who have lost their lives to COVID-19; millions who have lost jobs; millions of acres destroyed in wildfires; children who have lost opportunities to learn, grow, and socialize; countless persons – young and old – who have seen a decline in mental health; growing division in our country and racial violence; a devastated economy; and the list goes on.

It was Mary Magdalen’s love and appreciation for Jesus that motivated her to go to his tomb early in the morning when it was still dark. Jesus had been responsible for restoring Mary’s sense of dignity by forgiving her sins and accepting her person. She was thus able to realize that she was loved by God and capable of loving others in a truly joyful and enriching way. Mary had listened to Jesus’ words in conversation, in his public teaching and preaching. She hung on every word he uttered as they brought hope and joy to her mind and heart. Jesus’s words and actions were like an ointment for her wounded soul, bringing her forgiveness, restoration, and healing. That hope sustained her through the heart-wrenching experience of witnessing Jesus forsaken by his own people – even by his own disciples. It was that hope in Jesus, who taught of a life beyond death, and her love for him that brought her to his tomb “while it was still dark.”

To her surprise, she noticed the stone rolled away and the tomb empty! She would run to share this news with the disciples. They would understand that Jesus had indeed risen from the dead as he had foretold.

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is the central mystery of the Christian faith – that Jesus overcomes the darkness and gloom of death and brings light and hope in the resurrection, with life everlasting! As the Catechism of the Catholic Church states, “The Paschal mystery has two aspects: by his death, Christ liberates us from sin; by his Resurrection, he opens for us the way to a new life” (no. 654).

As we cautiously make our way out of the pandemic in the coming months, may we be encouraged as we celebrate with joy the rising of Jesus Christ from the dead! St. Paul reminds us, “If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him” (Rom 6:8). Jesus’ resurrection gives us the hope of rising with him to life everlasting, as well!

My prayers remain with you in this Easter Season! A happy and blessed Easter to you and your loved ones!

Most Reverend Oscar Cantú
Bishop of San José