



March 31, 2024

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

# Easter Sunday

## The Resurrection of the Lord

Acts 10:34a, 37-43 | Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8 | Jn 20:1-9

### **GROW AS A DISCIPLE** | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Wishing you a blessed Easter! One of our commitments in growing as disciples of Jesus, especially at the beginning of this most important season of Easter, is to *study* Scripture. John's Gospel today depicts the story of the empty tomb – the reactions of Mary of Magdala and the two disciples trying to make sense of what they had seen. What we may have missed, however, are the words of St. Peter in the first reading from Acts speaking of Jesus: “This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, *not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.*” Jesus appeared post-resurrection to those to whom he was closest – the witnesses chosen by God whom he had commissioned to preach the Gospel to all people, so all might believe in him. In this way the chosen few, Christ’s heralds, would bring the Good News of his resurrection to the many. So we too, now, are witnesses, chosen by God in our baptism and come to this table of thanksgiving and sacrifice. By faith we grow as his disciples, ready to go forth to lead others to him.

### **GO EVANGELIZE**

**PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

As we know, these first disciples of Christ went on mission throughout the known world to preach to the Jews as well as the Gentiles. Their task was not easy; all endured opposition and hardship; many were martyred. But gone was the fear they may have felt at the crucifixion; by the power of the Holy Spirit these early missionaries were full of courage and commitment, and were driven to proclaim the risen Jesus to all. What does this have to do with us today? By virtue of our baptism, we also are chosen by God to be his witnesses in the world. We are called to “preach the Gospel” with how we live our lives. When we trust in the promises of Christ and know the peace that only he can bring, it gives us the strength to testify to friends, family and others that God loves us and has redeemed us. Good News indeed.

**GROW & GO** Christ is risen, Alleluia! The Resurrection means that nothing can separate us from God’s love and presence with us. Spend time this week in prayer contemplating these two truths: The purpose of our lives is to continually GROW in intimate relationship with God; and Jesus’ final command to his disciples and us is to “GO and make disciples of all nations.” (Mt 28:19)



The Resurrection by Carl Heinrich Bloch, CCO

## Church of the Ascension

Saratoga, California

[www.ascensionsaratoga.org](http://www.ascensionsaratoga.org)

408-725-3939

Mass Schedule

(Sat) 5p; (Sun) 7a, 9a, 11a, 5p

(Mon-Fri) 8a; (Sat) 9a

## Octave of Easter

Some feasts are so central to our Christian faith that a single day of celebration isn't adequate. The Incarnation of Jesus and his Resurrection are crucial to the story of our salvation. Both declare that, body and spirit together, humanity is significant to God and worthy of redemption in Christ. The Christmas and Easter octaves (8-day celebration) give us time to ponder the greatest mysteries and joys of our faith.

- *Preparethethword.com*

## Quotes

"During the eight days that make up the Octave of Easter, the liturgy never ceases to remind us of the great mystery of the Resurrection of Christ!"  
- *Hozana.org*

"Each day of the Easter octave is treated like a repeat of Easter Sunday, with all the feasting and liturgical trimmings."  
- *Brother Conor McDonough, O.P.*

"The eighth Sunday of Easter, or Pentecost Sunday, concludes what has been called the great octave of eight Easter weeks."  
- *Rev. Richard McBrien*

## Divine Mercy Sunday

To fittingly observe this Sunday:

- Sincerely repent of all our sins;
- Place our complete trust in Jesus;
- Go to Confession (could be *before* or *after* this Sunday)
- Receive Holy Communion on the day of the Feast.

Scan QR code for Schedule



## Parish Office Closed - Easter Monday

Our Parish Office will be closed on Easter Monday.

## Eucharistic Adoration for Vocations

Will you spend an hour with the Eucharistic Jesus?  
It's on April 19-21, 24 at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church  
1385 Michigan Ave, Alviso, CA.  
Opening Mass on Friday, April 19 at 7:00 pm.  
Closing Mass on Sunday, April 21 at 8:30 am.



### ADA Week 7 Report

Number of pledges to date: **107**  
Amount pledged: **\$78,590**  
Percent of goal: **105%**  
We did it! Thank you. Any surplus funds now go back to Ascension.

## WEEKLY OFFERING - MAR 24

-\$5,539 (baskets: \$4,531; online: \$1,008).  
-YTD: \$237,664. Budget: \$253,500.  
Thank you for your generous support.

## MASS INTENTIONS

Mar 30	Sat	05pm	No individual intentions
Mar 31	Sun	Masses	No individual intentions
Apr 03	Wed	8am	Salena & Gaven Fogle (L)
Apr 05	Fri	8am	Jose Yap Peng +
Apr 06	Sat	9am	Walter Whelan (L)

1 Cor 15:1-11 With the permission of [www.agnusday.org](http://www.agnusday.org)



## Bishop Cantú's Easter Message

Alleluia! The Lord is Risen! Alleluia!  
A happy Easter to you and your loved ones!  
In 2016, Pope Francis raised the Memorial of Saint Mary Magdalene in our liturgical calendar to the rank of a Feast. In doing so, he called attention to her importance in the Church's mission to bring the good news of Christ to the world...  
(Scan QR code for the complete message)



## Young Adults Mini-Retreat: An Encounter with Christ, My Friend

Encounter Christ as a true friend amidst the distractions & challenges of the world.  
April 13, 2024  
3:00 PM – 9:30 PM at St. Lucy Parish  
2350 S Winchester Blvd, Campbell.  
Fellowship – Dinner – Speakers – Mass – Adoration | \$10 Donation  
Scan QR code to register.



## Easter Eggs

The Ascension Fil-Am will hold an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, March 31, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass for children up to 12 years old. Bring your own basket to join in the fun.



*"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad" (Psalm 118:24)*  
*May the risen Lord fill your hearts with his Peace this Easter season and beyond.*

-Fr. Hao, Sharlene, Nomer, Mark, Wayne