

Христос Воскрес! Воістину Воскрес! Christ Is Risen! Indeed He Is Risen!

We extend a warm “Happy and Blessed Easter” to all our parishioners and their families!



April 12, 2020 ~ The Glorious and Holy Sunday of the Resurrection of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ

Today's Readings: Epistle: Acts 1: 1-8

Gospel: John 1: 1-17

“This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!”



Unlike Christmas, Theophany and other major feasts, the prescribed Gospel reading on Easter morning does not focus on the actual event of the Resurrection. Here, the Apostle John is reflecting on the implications of Jesus coming into the world and being the True light. He is reflecting on Jesus bringing us salvation and life. In John's mind we have become children of God. We have Him as our Heavenly Father. We are heirs of all of Creation that God has made for us. We are adopted into His family. In verses 10-13, it states that the children of God recognize Him, receive and believe Him, and have certain rights as His children. Jesus Christ died and shed His blood for you so that you could have these rights and live this life as a child of God. Jesus paid the ultimate price so that we could be children of God. Without Jesus, we are spiritual orphans. Without Jesus, we have no spiritual connection with God. Jesus died that we might belong to God and be adopted into His family and saved. And as Christians, we have come to know Him and recognize His voice in the Scriptures and obey His teachings. He is our Saviour. He is our True Light. We know Jesus promised to be with us in this life and take care of us after this life... but how that all works out... we aren't so sure. It is not clear, and we only see in part. It takes faith — *real strong faith*. We do know matter-of-factly that if we keep our eyes on Jesus, we will one day see fully what our faith only shows us in part. It will be better than we have ever imagined. **Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen! Alleluia!**

~ condensed and edited from a sermon by Troy Borst

HOLY CROSS PARISH NEWS AND ACTIVITIES



Despite the fact that there have not been any public services since mid-March due to the outbreak of COVID-19, we would like to take the opportunity to say a few customary ‘thank-yous’...To the ladies who changed the altar linens for the Lenten season and again for Easter; to the faithful who attended the Lenten services and prayed for their beloved departed; to those of our Music Ministry for their faithful leadership in the various services and liturgies and the many singers under their direction; to those who do daily site inspections to make sure our building is kept in perfect working order; to all who are staying in touch helping our parishioners with personal phone calls, emails, and the bulletin; to those who send in their monetary support, and to our parish treasurer and bookkeeper who handle the financial matters; and finally, to everyone who spends the time, and continues to take care of their loved ones and those of our ‘parish family’ — your effort is sincerely appreciated during these difficult times. We pray that all may be spiritually uplifted during this holy and glorious Easter season!

FYI: Weekly donations are accepted online through the parish website: www.holycrosstbay.com/donate. Parishioners, family and friends can regularly donate by setting up automatic donations or by one-time donation. All donations are eligible for tax receipts. If you have any questions about this service, call the Parish Office and leave a message for our bookkeeper Michele. *Thank you for your generous support of our parish community!*

Your Return Gift to God

Please note: During the shutdown, our parish may experience some shortfalls in cash flow. Therefore, we are sincerely requesting that you mail in your weekly contributions (Sunday envelope and mission donation) to the Parish Office or kindly drop it into the mail slot in the right front door of the Rectory (422 W. Victoria Ave.).

APRIL 5

Envelopes: \$690.⁰⁰

Mission: \$20.⁰⁰

Flowers for the Tomb: \$20.⁰⁰

FYI: Since donations are being received throughout the week, totals will be approximated.

The Mission Collection from **January to June** is for the TBRHSC “**Our Hearts at Home**” campaign. The running total will be published at the end of every 2nd month. You may make a larger donation to this cause and get a receipt from the parish.

Liturgical Services Schedule

All public services remain **suspended** until further notice. During the shutdown, you can access a number of live streaming liturgical services on the Internet. The full list can be accessed on our Facebook page (Facebook/holycrosstbay) or you can click on the following link to view them as well:

www.royaldoors.net/2020/03/2020-streaming-liturgical-services.

Until we meet together again, please continue to pray daily!

Дякуємо за вашу щедрість! Thank you for your generosity!

Attention all members! All activities (including evening buses to Grant Portage) are now cancelled until further notice. We encourage you to practice social distancing/self-isolation especially if you have a pre-existing condition that might further aggravate the situation. Limit family member gatherings and visits as well. Unless you are in need of supplies or medical assistance, please remain at home. Spend this time sorting through pictures, recording and sharing memories that you have yet to do, and practicing excellent hygiene.

*“Do not regret growing older.
It’s a privilege denied to many.”*

Universal Words of Unconditional Love



“A man who was completely innocent, offered Himself as a sacrifice for the good of others, including His enemies, and became the ransom of the world. It was a perfect act.”

~ Mahatma Gandhi

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Due to government restrictions, most community events and gatherings have been cancelled/postponed at this time. Please check our local newspaper or online version for updates. Let us all strive our best to ‘plank’ the curve, and to end this pandemic soon.

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Jeff & Bil Keane



“How do Easter lilies know what date to open up their flowers?”



As reported in last weekend’s bulletin in Parish News, we mourn the loss of another long-time member †**Harry Chicorli** who passed away on April 1. Our prayers and condolences are extended to his wife Ann and family. May the Lord accept the soul of His ever-to-be-remembered servant †Harry into His heavenly kingdom, grant him rest among the saints, and may his memory be everlasting ~ вічна йому пам’ять.

We hope all members are fairing well during this difficult time. Your Executive is always ready to help fellow members if and when the need arises — please do not hesitate to make contact.

Superior Shores Gaming Centre remains closed to ensure that volunteers, players, and staff remain healthy and safe. The OGCA will inform each association when re-opening of the halls can happen. In the interim, the new bingo schedule has been released; our next session is a matinée on **Tuesday, April 21**. That date is tentative at this time. The dates for May and June as well as upcoming training sessions will be published in future bulletins. SSGA administration will be closely monitoring the situation and will provide updates as changes happen.



Due to the latest news, a decision has been made to cancel the annual Mother’s Day Brunch scheduled for Sunday, May 10.

Plans for our 60th anniversary celebrations are also on hold until such time as the local venues are allowed to re-open their doors. The tentative date was set for Saturday, June 20.

O victorious great-martyr George, as a liberator of captives and helper of the poor, physician of the sick and champion of kings, entreat Christ God to save our souls.

Love and Service to God for 60 years!

Going For A Walk Outside during the Coronavirus Outbreak

Cooped up in homes and apartments is undoubtedly taking a toll on Canadians across the country as we cope with the coronavirus pandemic. “Stepping out for some fresh air can make a huge difference by improving your mental and physical health during this period,” said Craig Janes, director of the school of public health at the University of Waterloo. “As long as you’re not in close contact with other people, [walking] is great. You’re going to exercise; you’re going to feel better. Take the normal caution that you would take with any interpersonal interaction if you were at a grocery store — that means keep at least two metres away from another person, and be sure to wash your hands when you come home.”

As Catholics, we can do a ‘prayer walk’ which can be as simple as you taking a walk along your street and praying briefly at each house as you pass. Taking your walk further afield gives you the opportunity to pray for your wider community, including those who work at places providing essential services such as the hospital, emergency services, and neighbourhood stores.

Readings for the Sunday of St. Thomas

(to help prepare for the nourishment of the Word of God at Liturgy)

Epistle: Acts 5: 12-20

Miracles and Wonders, and Persecution

Gospel: John 20: 19-31

Jesus Appears to His Disciples



DIVINE LITURGY PROPER FOR EASTER SUNDAY

The Holy and Glorious Resurrection of Our Lord

After the priest has exclaimed, Blessed be the Kingdom... and the people have responded, Amen, the clergy sing the Paschal Troparion once and the people repeat it. Then, the clergy sing the first half, and the people conclude it.

Paschal Troparion

Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life.

First Antiphon

Shout to the Lord, all the earth,* sing now to His name, give glory to His praise.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Saviour, save us.*

Say unto God, "How awesome are Your works!* Because of the greatness of Your strength Your enemies will flatter You."

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Saviour, save us.*

Let all the earth worship You and sing to You,* let it sing to Your name, O Most High!

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Saviour, save us.*

Glory... Now... Only-begotten Son...

Third Antiphon

Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered; let those who hate Him flee from before His face.

Troparion: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life.*

As smoke vanishes, let them vanish, as wax melts before the fire.

Troparion: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life.*

So let sinners perish before the face of God, but let the righteous be glad.

Troparion: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life.*

Entrance

In the churches bless God, the Lord from the fountains of Israel.

Troparion and Kontakion

Troparion: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life.*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

Kontakion, Tone 8: Though You descended into a tomb, O Immortal One, yet You destroyed the power of Hades;* and You rose as victor, O Christ God,* calling to the myrrh-bearing women: Rejoice!* and giving peace to Your Apostles:* You, who grant resurrection to the fallen.*

Instead of Holy God

All you who have been baptized into Christ, you have put on Christ! Alleluia! (3)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen. You have put on Christ! Alleluia! All you who have been baptized into Christ, you have put on Christ! Alleluia!

Prokeimenon, Tone 8

This is the day which the Lord has made;* let us rejoice and be glad in it.

verse: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever. (Psalm 117:24,1)

Epistle: Acts 1:1-8

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when He was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom He had chosen. After His suffering He presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them for forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, He ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," He said, "is what you have heard from Me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So, when they had come together, they asked Him, "Lord, is this the time when You will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by His own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Alleluia, Tone 4

verse: When you rise, You will have compassion on Sion.

verse: The Lord looked down from heaven to earth to hear the groans of the prisoners, to set free the sons of those put to death. (*Psalm 101:14,20*)

Gospel: John 1:1-17

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and without Him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in Him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through Him; yet the world did not know Him. He came to what was His own, and His own people did not accept Him. But to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. John testified to Him and cried out, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because He was before me.'" From His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Hymn to the Mother of God

The Angel cried out to the One full of Grace: O chaste Virgin, rejoice! And again I say, Rejoice! Your Son has risen from the tomb on the third day, and raised the dead. Let all people rejoice! Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord has risen upon you! Exult now and be glad, O Sion! And you, O chaste Mother of God, take delight in the resurrection of your Son.

Communion Hymn

Receive the Body of Christ;* taste the fountain of immortality.* Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia.

Instead of "Blessed is He Who comes..." we sing: Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life.

Instead of "We have seen the true light..." we sing: Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life.

Instead of "May our mouths be filled..." we sing three times: Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life.

Instead of "Blessed be the name of the Lord..." we chant two times: Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life, *and then we sing it once more.*

At the dismissal, instead of "Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever. Amen." we chant: Christ is risen from the dead,* trampling death by death,* and to those in the tombs* giving life.

After the final Amen, the priest, with cross raised on high, exclaims "Christ is risen" thrice and we respond "Indeed, He is risen" each time. Then, the Troparion "Christ is risen" is sung as at the beginning of the Liturgy, but with the addition: And to us He has granted life eternal; we bow down before His resurrection on the third day.*





The Case of the Empty Tomb: A Mystery

Do you like mystery stories? Years ago, your mom and dad may have read Nancy Drew or The Hardy Boys mystery books. Today, you might prefer some of the Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen mystery books. Today we are going to hear the most exciting mystery story ever told – "The Case of the Empty Tomb."

The story begins very early in the morning on the first day of the week. Jesus had just been crucified and buried. Mary Magdalene, one of Jesus' followers, went to the tomb where Jesus was buried. When she got there, she saw that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran and found Peter and John and said to them, "They have taken the Lord's body from the tomb and I don't know where they have put Him."

Peter and John raced to the tomb. John got there first. He looked in the tomb and saw the linen wrappings lying there. Then Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linens that John had seen lying there. As he investigated further, he saw the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was also folded and lying apart from the other wrappings. After Peter looked around for a few minutes, John joined him inside. When they were sure that the tomb was empty, they left and went home.

Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she looked inside the tomb and saw two angels sitting there. One of them was sitting at the head and the other at the foot where the body of Jesus had been lying. "Why are you crying?" the angels asked. "Because they have taken my Lord and I don't know where they have put Him," she answered. Then Mary turned and was about to leave when she saw someone standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn't recognize Him. "Woman, why are you crying?" Jesus asked her. Mary, thinking that He was a gardener said, "Sir, if you have taken my master away, tell me where He is so that I can go to Him." "Mary!" Jesus said. When Jesus spoke her name, Mary knew who He was. She turned to Him and cried out, "Teacher!" "Don't cling to me," Jesus said, "for I have not yet ascended to My Father. "Go and tell My brothers that you have seen Me and that I am going to return to My Father and your Father, My God and your God." Mary found the disciples and told them, "I have seen the Lord." Then she gave them the message that Jesus had told her to tell them.



And that solves "The Case of the Empty Tomb." The tomb is empty because Jesus is not dead, He is alive! He is risen just as He said!

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