

March 19, 2014

*being the feast of St. Joseph, Guardian of the Holy Family*



The Light of Christ! Thanks be to God! This is cry of the Christian community. At the Easter Vigil, the Church begins the queen of celebrations in total darkness. Only when the Paschal Candle is lit from the new fire do we see the first light of Christ over coming the darkness of sin and death.

Darkness: At first, it might appear strange that the Church would start out its most important liturgy in darkness. However, if one were to think about it, some of the great moments of God's Word to us came in the darkness. Beginning in the first Chapter of Genesis we hear how God created light out of darkness. In the Book of Exodus, it was at night when the Passover took place and it was night when Pharaoh released Moses and the Israelites to go into the wilderness. In Luke's Gospel, it was night when Christ, the Light of the World, was born. On that first Easter morning, John tells us, "... on the first day of the week...while it was still dark. Several of Paul's epistles were written while in a dark prison cell. John begins his Gospel with, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

Two thousand years later, God still turns our darkness into light. So we are called to look to Christ who turns darkness into light. But, always remember that Jesus reminds us that we too are, "The light of the world." As Christ turns our darkness into light, so too, like John the Baptist, are we called to bear witness to the light.

Many of these dark places can be familiar to us. A dark place may be the death of a loved one, or coming to grips with declining health. Perhaps a person is faced with the loss of a job or even the sense of loss of direction in life. For many others, the "dark places" might be having to take care of an aging parent, fighting an addiction, quarreling with a neighbor, or conflict and stress in the workplace.

The important question is not, "Do I believe that God raised Jesus from the dead?" The central question of belief is, "Do I believe that God can raise up someone like *you and me*?" It is not so much whether God empowered Jesus to come forth from the dark place of death, but whether you and I can believe that God can empower us to come forth from our dark place of pain, sin and suffering.

Easter constantly reminds us that we cannot overcome our difficulties and get out of our “tombs” on our own. Even Jesus did not overcome His great obstacles alone. Jesus did not rise up from the tomb by His own effort. The Acts of the Apostles tells us, *“This Jesus God raised up”* to new life. In order for us to stop seeking to control lives on our own terms, the Easter story assures us that we are totally dependent upon God’s mercy. Let us place our hand in God’s hand and trust that God can raise us from our dead places just as Jesus was raised to new life.

The Easter Vigil will be celebrated on ***Saturday, April 19*** at ***5:00pm*** in a darkened Church. A wine and hors d’oeuvre reception will follow the Vigil.

On behalf of Cynthia, Elizabeth, Jamie, Lindsay and Audrey, we wish all of you a blessed and joyful Easter Glory!

Yours in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ,

Fr. Russell A. Griffin, SSC  
Rector

**Palm Sunday**

April 13, 2014

8:00am **Mass** with the Procession of Palms

\*10:00am Solemn High **Mass** with the Procession of Palms

**Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday in Holy Week**

April 14-16, 2014

9:30am **Mass**

7:00pm **Mass**

**Maundy Thursday**

April 17, 2014

9:30am **Mass**

**Start of the Easter Triduum**

7:00pm Solemn High **Mass**

Foot-washing, Stripping of the Altar

Altar of Repose before the Blessed Sacrament

**Good Friday**

April 18, 2014

12:00 Noon Stations of the Cross

7:00pm Veneration of the Cross with

**Mass** of the Pre-Sanctified

**THE GREAT EASTER VIGIL**

April 19, 2014

**5:00pm** Saturday

The First **Mass** of Easter

Wine and Cheese Party to Follow the Mass

**Easter Day**

April 20, 2014

9:30am Second **Mass of Easter**

**No** 8:00am **Mass**

Confessions are available by contacting Fr. Griffin, SSC

\*There will be music at the 8:00am Mass on Palm Sunday. The normally scheduled 9:30am Mass will, on *Palm Sunday*, begin at 10am.

Notice that on Easter Day there will be only ONE Mass, which will be celebrated at 9:30am Easter Sunday.

The parish community is very grateful for all the financial donations toward Easter flowers. It would be most helpful if the Easter flower donations could be received in the parish office by Thursday, April 10, 2014.