

**Alleluia!**

**Peace is...New Life in the Risen Lord**

**Happy  
Easter!**

*Acts 10: 42* “**He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.**”

*Colossians 3: 2* “**Think of what is above, not of what is on earth.**”

*John 20: 8* “**...and he saw and believed.**”

**Reflection:**

***Awe and Wonder***

Imagine how devastated the apostles must have been when Jesus was crucified, “For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.” (from today’s gospel) There are many times in our lives when things look grim, when our expectations are dashed, when hope seems lost. Yet, over time, we see how God brings good out of any situation, no matter how it may seem at the time. How wonderfully He takes care of us! We see His light shining through the darkness.

Imagine the awe and wonder of Mary Magdalene and the apostles when they encountered the Risen Christ! Take a moment to stop and think: *when have I experienced Him? How and where have I encountered Him?*

How do we recapture the wonder and awe of our amazing Lord who has come to save us and set us free, who forgives us so readily when we come to Him in sorrow for our sins? We begin with gratitude for all He has done for us, for our faith, and for our journey which has led us here. We allow ourselves to be filled with the joy of our life in Christ. As St. Paul tells us in the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading this morning, we must “*Think of what is above, not of what is on earth.*”

***Expectant Hope***

What is next? What does the Lord have planned for me? “*We have been buried with Christ in baptism, so that we may rise with him to a new life.*”<sup>1</sup> Whether we are newly baptized or “cradle Catholics,” our baptism is a CALL TO ACTION! We are commissioned to witness to the truth, to bring the light of the Risen Christ to this world which experiences so much darkness. We go forth with the conviction, “*I can do all things in Him who strengthens me.*”<sup>2</sup>

How can I be the instrument through which others encounter Christ?

**“This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad.”**

**Action:**

- Feast, celebrate, rejoice! Discuss today’s Scriptures with family as you gather to celebrate Easter.*
- Participate in the Divine Mercy Sunday prayer service on April 11 at 3:00 p.m. at St. John.*
- As you change to your spring wardrobe, share some of your gently used clothing with the needy.*
- Bring groceries for our monthly food collection for the W/R Food Pantry.*

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<http://www.sibcatholicparish.org/peace-justice.php>