

ISSUE No. 32

EASTER SUNDAY

1 APRIL 2018

Cathedral WEEKLY

EASTER SUNDAY THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

A BARE CROSS, AN EMPTY TOMB | FR. CHRISTOPHER HOUSE
THE DISTURBING FACT OF THE RESURRECTION | BISHOP ROBERT BARRON
EASTER STEWARDS | KATIE PRICE

Cathedral WEEKLY

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Mass Intentions

Making a Mass Intention for a loved one, living or deceased, is a way to share with them the power of prayer. We will list the Mass Intention in the Weekly, online and it will be offered at Mass of your choice. Please call the Parish Offices for more information or to select your date with a \$10 stipend. Thank you!

Support the Cathedral

Interested in helping the Mission at the Cathedral? Please consider making a donation. If you would like to receive envelopes, please contact Katie Price at kprice@cathedral.dio.org or to donate online: <https://spicathedral.org/give-online/>

M A S S I N T E N T I O N S F O R T H E U P C O M I N G W E E K

Monday 2 April

7AM - Betty Sowarsh (Catherine Snopko) 5:15 PM - No Mass

Tuesday 3 April

7AM - Betty Sowarsh (James Mees) 5:15 PM - SMS John W. Jefferson, Sr.

Wednesday 4 April

7AM - Priest Intention 5:15 PM - Special Intention for Lou & Mike Smith (Bernie Ely)

Thursday 5 April

7AM - Priest Intention 5:15 PM - Lawrence Bussard (Anonymous)

Friday 6 April

7AM - Priest Intention 5:15 PM - Betty Sowarsh (Catherine Snopko)

Saturday 7 April

8AM - Mr. & Mrs. Gene Barish, Sr. (Family) 4 PM - Catherine Staab (Francie LaCamera)

Sunday 8 April

7AM - Doris Reeve (friends) 10 AM - For the People 5 pm - Betty Sowarsh (James Mees)

EASTER RENEWAL



A Bare Cross, An Empty Tomb

What a couple of days it must have been. It all started with a quick betrayal and a speedy trial. The crowds that yelled "Hosanna" were replaced by a mob screaming "crucify him!" His friends were gone. His disciples were scattered. Apart from a few who loved him and followed at a

distance, he was alone and void of comfort and consolation. He was given a reed for a scepter and thorns for a crown. Draped in what would likely have been a rough purple cloak on his raw skin torn by scourging, he was commanded to ascend the throne of the cross and condemned to die the death of a sinner, all sinners, though he himself did not know sin, all this to fulfill the words of the Prophet Isaiah: he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins; upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, each following his own way; but the LORD laid upon him the guilt of us all.

I wonder what that small group who remained was thinking as they looked upon that bare cross, his lifeless body now cradled in his mother's arms:

"I don't understand. How could this happen?
Everything is lost."

How distant the past must have felt for Mary and the others in that moment: the angel, the shepherds and the Magi, finding him in the Temple, the voice of the Father at the Jordan, feeding the multitudes, healing the sick, the blind & the lame, raising the dead, the teachings, the love and the mercy. In the midst of their grief and the rush to bury his body before the setting of the sun, I believe that his mother, possibly the only one, remained resolute in faith, that God's will be done.... that God's will was not done, yet. I wonder if anyone came that Passover day, that Saturday, to sit in silence; to wonder, to mourn, or to wait.

I wonder what those holy women were feeling early in the morning, on the first day of the week, as the Scriptures teach us, when Mary Magdalene and the others came to the tomb only to find it void of the one whom they sought, when in their amazement they were told: Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Those holy women were the first to receive the good news that

has forever changed the course of human history and the meaning of our shared human experience.

On this Easter day, the mystery of the cross and the empty tomb looms large. The two truly form one mystery because their meanings are not fully realized alone. Without the empty tomb, the cross stands only as a monument to brutality; without the cross, the joy of the empty tomb is lacking. It is the same for us in our lives.

We carry the burden of the crosses of our lives,
but faith teaches us that these crosses are not
ends in themselves when we unite them with the
Cross of the Lord Jesus; no cross comes without
the promise of
resurrection.



The resurrection moments of our lives are made all the sweeter because of the sacrifices and hardships that have preceded them. In the end, having borne the trials of this life and having persevered in faith, the joy of everlasting life will be unlike anything that we can imagine now. Until then, the empty tomb stands as the Lord's promise to us and all who live and die in his friendship.

May the Lord bless you and yours this Easter with the fullness of his grace and the joy that comes from him alone. In every cross may you know that it is not an end. In moments of sacrifice and desolation may you know that you are not alone or forsaken. May you always be mindful that Easter teaches us that God always gets the last word: life; and not just any life, a share in his own divine life.

All honor, praise, and glory to the risen Christ,
who, by his death and resurrection, has gained
for us the rewards of everlasting life! Happy
Easter!

Father Christopher House is the Rector-Pastor of the Cathedral and serves in various leadership roles within the diocesan curia, specifically Chancellor and Vicar Judicial.



The Disturbing Fact of the Resurrection

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is the be-all and the end-all of the Christian faith. If Jesus didn't rise from the dead, all bishops, priests, and Christian ministers should go home and get honest jobs, and all the Christian faithful should leave their churches

immediately. As Paul himself put it: "If Jesus is not raised from the dead, our preaching is in vain and we are the most pitiable of men." It's no good, of course, trying to explain the resurrection away or rationalize it as a myth, a symbol, or an inner subjective experience. None of that does justice to the novelty and sheer strangeness of the Biblical message. It comes down finally to this: if Jesus was not raised from death, Christianity is a fraud and a joke; if he did rise from death, then Christianity is the fullness of God's revelation, and Jesus must be the absolute center of our lives. There is no third option.

I want to explore, very briefly, a handful of lessons that follow from the disquieting fact of the Resurrection. First, this world is not it. What I mean is that this world is not all that there is. We live our lives with the reasonable assumption that the natural world as we've come to know it through the sciences and discern it through common sense is the final framework of our lives and activities. Everything (quite literally, everything) takes place within the theater of our ordinary experience. And one of the most powerful and frightening features of the common-sense world is death. Every living thing dies and stays dead. Indeed, everything in the universe, scientists tell us, comes into being and then fades away permanently.

But what if this is not in fact the case? What if the laws of nature are not as iron-clad as we thought? What if death and dissolution did not have the final say?

What if, through God's power and according to his providence, a "new heavens and a new earth" were being born?

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead shows as definitively as possible that God is up to something greater than we had imagined or thought possible. And therefore we don't have to live as though death were our master and as though nihilism were the only coherent point of view. After he had encountered the risen Christ, Paul could even taunt death: "Where is your sting?" In light of the resurrection, we can, in fact, begin to see this world as a place of gestation, growth and maturation toward something higher, more permanent, more splendid.

Here's a second lesson derived from the resurrection: the tyrants know that their time is up. Remember that the cross was Rome's way of asserting its authority. Roman authorities declared that if you run afoul of our system, we will torture you to death in the

most excruciating (ex cruce, from the cross) way possible and then we will leave your body to waste away be devoured by the beasts of the field. The threat of violence is how tyrants up and down the centuries have always asserted their authority. Might makes right. The crucified Jesus appeared to anyone who was witnessing the awful events on Calvary to be one more affirmation of this principle: Caesar always wins in the end. But when Jesus was raised from the dead through the power of the Holy Spirit, the first Christians knew that Caesar's days were numbered. Jesus had taken the worst that the world could throw at him and he returned, alive and triumphant. They knew that the Lord of the world was no longer Caesar, but rather someone whom Caesar had killed but whom God had raised from death. This is why the risen Christ has been the inspiration for resistance movements up and down the centuries. In our own time we saw how deftly John Paul II wielded the power of the cross in Communist Poland. Though he had no nuclear weapons or tanks or mighty armies, John Paul had the power of the resurrection, and that proved strong enough to bring down one of the most imposing empires in the history of the world. Once again, the faculty lounge interpretation of resurrection as a subjective event or a mere symbol is exactly what the tyrants of the world want, for it poses no real threat to them.

The third great lesson of the resurrection is that the path of salvation has been opened to everyone. Paul told us that "though he was in the form of God, Jesus did not deem equality with God something to be grasped. Rather he emptied himself and took the form of slave...accepting even death, death on a cross." In a word, Jesus went all the way down, journeying into pain, despair, alienation, even godforsakenness. He went as far as you can go away from the Father. Why? In order to reach all of those who had wandered from God. Then, in light of the resurrection, the first Christians came to know that, even as we run as fast as we can away from the Father, all the way to godforsakenness, we are running into the arms of the Son. The opening up of the divine life allows everyone free access to the divine mercy. And this is why the Lord himself could say, "When the Son of Man is lifted up, he will draw all people to himself," and why Paul could assert in 1 Corinthians, "When everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all." The resurrection shows that Christ can gather back to the Father everyone whom he has embraced through his suffering love.

So on Easter Sunday, let us not domesticate the still stunning and disturbing message of resurrection. Rather, let us allow it to unnerve us, change us, set us on fire.

Bishop Robert Barron Bishop Robert Barron is the founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries and Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. He is also the host of CATHOLICISM, a groundbreaking, award-winning documentary about the Catholic Faith, which aired on PBS. He is a religion correspondent for NBC and has also appeared on FOX News, CNN, and EWTN.



4 Daily Habits to Keep Your Faith Alive and Your Prayer-life Strong

G. K. Chesterton wrote, "It might be reasonably maintained that the true object of all human life is play. Earth is a task garden; heaven is a playground."

That feels true; life is hard, and it's hard for everyone, one way or another, and its difficulties can tempt us away from faith. What can we do to keep our faith alive, through the task field, until we reach the playground of heaven?

Attending Sunday Mass is certainly a good start, but should it stop there? St. Thomas Aquinas would say no.

"To enter heaven, continual prayer is necessary after baptism; for although all sins are remitted by that sacrament, there still remain concupiscence to assail us from within, and the world and the devil to attack us from without."

But what does "continual prayer" look like? Does it consist of staying in church all day long?

Our daily habits are the keys to unlocking the secret of "continual prayer", and encouraging these four can help deepen our relationship with God, conversing with him intimately, so that when we reach the "pearly gates," it will be a reunion of long-time friends than of acquaintances.

What are the keys that unlock our access to continual prayer?

1. Morning Offering

Fr. John McCloskey describes the morning offering as, "when you kneel down and using your own words, or a formula, you briefly offer up all the day ahead for God's glory." You can choose whichever offering prayer you want. I personally use the "Serviam!" prayer right when I wake up. It is simple yet very powerful.

By praying a morning offering, you dedicate the rest of the day to God, which then prepares you to tackle anything that comes at you during the day.

2. Fifteen Minutes of Spiritual Reading

This can be described as "a few minutes of systematic reading of the New Testament to identify ourselves with the words and actions of our Savior, and the rest of the time spent on a classic book of Catholic spirituality recommended by your spiritual

advisor. As [St.] Josemaria Escriva puts it, 'Don't neglect your spiritual reading. Reading has made many saints' (The Way, 116).

One way to accomplish this is to read the Gospel reading for today and then find a spiritual book that will help you grow in your relationship with God.

3. Fifteen Minutes of Mental Prayer

Mental prayer is very simple, though not without its many distractions. It consists of a "heart-to-heart" with God and leaving time for talking and listening. God is extremely interested in what troubles you and what is going on in your life, similar to how a parent is interested in the day of his or her child after school. God wants to know (even though he already knows) everything about your life.

The reason he wants to know your deepest desires is because it helps you draw closer to him. Just like any relationship, when you reveal to another person your feelings, you start to share an invisible bond that can last a lifetime.



4. Nightly Examination of Conscience

Fr. McCloskey explains how to do an examination of conscience before going to bed:

"You sit down, call on the Holy Spirit for light and for several minutes go over your day in God's presence asking if you behaved as a child of God at home, at work, with your friends. You also look at that one particular area which you have identified with the help of spiritual direction in which you know you need to improve in order to become a saint....

Then you make an act of gratitude for all the good that you have done and an act of contrition for those areas in which you have willfully failed. Then it is off to your well-deserved rest."

This is important and it helps prepare you for your next confession. It is healthy to examine your faults and failings and to ask God's help to overcome them. The Divine Physician will then heal whatever we tell him is wrong with our soul. Sometimes his medicine is not easy to swallow, but he gives us the remedy that speeds us along the path to eternal life.

These four habits are very powerful and can keep your faith alive through the trials and "task fields" of life, because they keep you in conversation with our Lord.

Draw near to God and he will draw near to you.— James 4:8

Philip Kosloski graduated from the University of Saint Thomas in Minnesota with a Bachelor's in Philosophy and Catholic Studies and completed his Master's in Philosophy and Theology with the Augustine Institute. He is a regular contributor to the National Catholic Register and Aleteia. Reprinted with permission.

STEWARDSHIP



We are an Easter people

Gracey lives in a world of fairytales, princesses, and make believe. I am just fine with her living in that altered reality. Frankly as long as she wants to be “a kid,” I am going to support it! She sings and reads to her dolls each night, carefully tucking them into bed when it is time for lights off. She experiences the real world through the lens of this land of make-believe.

Last year, Easter morning, as I approached her room with a puffy, sparkly, glitter-dripping Easter dress behind my back, I could see her start to stretch and do her ‘morning squirm to try and wake herself up. I bolt in the door and say “Happy Easter!” To Gracey’s dismay (she is not a morning person) she grumbled, “What’s Easter?” Searching for a good Catholic mom answer here, I said, well, it is a very important Sunday.

Jesus came home and God is so happy he is throwing a big celebration- we are all invited! Peering around my back she notices the dress, “Mommy, what’s that dress?” suddenly jolting herself up out of bed. Wide-eyed adoring her new Easter dress she said, “Mommy, Jesus is having a Ball and I’m invited!?”

Yes, you and mommy are invited to Jesus’ Ball.

I can only imagine her idea of what a “Ball” in “God’s Kingdom” would look like. But it was this moment, this heartwarming experience in which I gained an appreciation for how big Easter IS to us. It is not just a day to bring out the cute Easter dresses or hats, not a day to just search for plastic eggs around your house



or take down a chocolate bunny. It is a day to remember a real miracle. An act that was done with so much bravery, courage, strength, but more importantly abundant love. The love I felt for my daughter’s sweet comment is NOTHING in comparison to the love Jesus has for each of us. Isn’t that profound? A love that surpasses all human understanding of love.

I love Easter. I love the spirit, the music, the joy, the families getting together. There is something about a church on Easter morning...the life, the warmth. It is pure joy. Now, here is the interesting thought, wouldn’t it be great to have this same JOY found each and every Sunday? Those same pews filled to capacity, the same joyful music ringing through the pews, the laughter (or tears) of the little ones during Mass, all of it. I want it all, every Sunday, every Mass, all year long.

We are an Easter Church. We are in every way Easter people. We would all agree that an Easter church is filled with energetic disciples. Those willing to say, “YES!” to prayer life, “YES!” to faith formation, “YES!”

to inviting loved ones to Mass, “YES!” to signing up for a ministry or creating a new one, “YES!” to giving freely from our firsts not our lasts. A stewardship way of life is an Easter way of life!

Let us all share in the Joy of this Easter season together. May it rejuvenate us and help us to live as disciples, so we too may go to “Jesus’ Ball” one day!

Katie Price is the Parish Stewardship Coordinator for Cathedral. She has worked in Stewardship ministry for 10 years, from the Parish level to the Archdiocese of Chicago. She can be reached at kprice@cathedral.dio.org.

Stewardship Update



STEWARDSHIP of Time & Talents

Let your Lent practices live on through Easter,
no need to stop them now!

Have you been interested in becoming more
involved at the Cathedral? Reach out to Katie
Price who will help connect you at
kprice@cathedral.dio.org.



STEWARDSHIP of TREASURE WEEKLY COLLECTION MARCH 17th & 18th

**March 24th and 25th numbers will be in the next Weekly.*

Envelopes: \$5,956.53

Loose: \$2,870.51

Maintenance: \$120.00

Total: \$8,947.04

Needed to Operate Weekly (excluding EFT):

\$15,907.89

Difference (+/-)

-\$6,960.85

February EFT \$15,948.00

Sharing the Gospel

It was very early in the morning on Sunday. The tomb stone was rolled away. Jesus was gone. All that was left inside were the strips of linen cloth. When John and Peter saw it, they were amazed. They did not understand all the promises the prophets wrote about Jesus yet. However, they knew he was alive. He had risen from the dead!

Pray Together as a Family

Lord,

God, I thank you for bringing Jesus back to life and bringing Him home to you. Thank you for Jesus, who saved my life. I will try my best to act as Jesus did, by being kind to others and serving those in need.

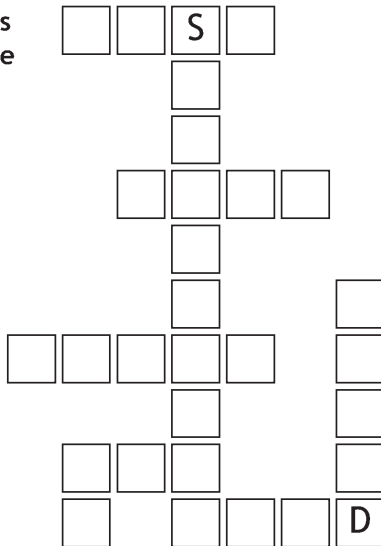
Amen



Puzzle

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

The Scriptures
said Jesus
would rise
to life.



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Mission for the Week

Bake Resurrection Cookies with your family tonight.
You can find the recipe online at
<http://homehearth.virtualave.net/rescookie.html>.



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Growing with the
GOSPEL



John 20:1-9 ■ Easter Sunday

CYCLE B



Read the Gospel and Color



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Name _____