

Fr. Simon Sez



Happy Easter! Easter greetings in our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to each one of you!

I received wonderful artwork from fifth grade YFF in St. Pius X Parish as a condolence after my sister Lynette and her son died. It is a painting of the resurrection! It had a big white cross in the middle of it so I hung it behind the crucifix in the sacristy of St. Pius

X Church. How beautiful is that for an Easter condolence!

Isn't it time to celebrate spring and new life in Christ! After a long winter with record snowfall and tough calving weather lately, we come to an ever greater appreciation for spring. We needed the moisture. Now, we need to pray for a slow melt.

This gives us reason to have hope, but most of all, our risen Lord Jesus is our hope! He is the Victor who triumphed over sin and death. He invites us to share in that victory with him. Therefore, he is the reason for our hope!

He who is our hope is in our midst. Come share in his glory! Have a holy and hope-filled blessed Easter and Easter season!

Vacation: I will be gone on vacation this Easter Sunday afternoon through Thursday night. In case of funerals or other serious concerns, contact the secretaries of our parishes who can contact me. I will generally be in the area.



Divine Mercy Sunday Promise: Divine Mercy Sunday is next Sunday, the Second Sunday of Easter, every year. Be sure to take advantage of this ONLY weekend of the year when you can receive the same effects as “a second baptism” by going to confession and receiving Holy Communion, ONLY this weekend throughout the year! That means, Jesus,

the Divine Mercy promised that faithful people who go to confession and receive Holy Communion on Divine Mercy Sunday will have all of their sins wiped away and all punishment due to sin (no punishment in purgatory will be required for all past sins forgiven in the Sacrament of Penance, a.k.a. confession). If you are not able to go to confession before Mass and receive communion, you can request to do this immediately following the Divine Mercy Holy Hours scheduled for next Sunday afternoon at SHC in Gettysburg 3:00 p.m. and SPX Church in Onida at 5:30 p.m. I am providing one two-sided page bulletin insert explaining the extraordinary grace of Divine Mercy Sunday and how to pray it. I have prayer cards available in the gathering spaces.

They Saw and Believed: Scott Hahn Reflects on Easter Sunday



Acts 10:34, 37–43

Psalms 118:1–2, 16–17, 22–23

Colossians 3:1–4, John 20:1–9

Jesus is nowhere visible. Yet, today's Gospel tells us that Peter and John “saw and believed.”

What did they see? Burial shrouds lying on the floor of an empty tomb. Maybe that convinced them that He hadn't been carted off by grave robbers, who usually stole the expensive burial linens and left the corpses behind.

But notice the repetition of the word “tomb”—seven times in nine verses. They saw the empty tomb and they believed what He had promised: that God would raise Him on the third day.

Chosen to be His “witnesses,” today's First Reading tells us, the Apostles were “commissioned . . . to preach . . . and testify” to all that they had seen—from His anointing with the Holy Spirit at the Jordan to the empty tomb.

More than their own experience, they were instructed in the mysteries of the divine economy, God's saving plan: to know how “all the prophets bear witness” to Him (see Luke 24:27, 44).

Now they could “understand the Scripture” and teach us what He had told them: that He was “the Stone which the builders rejected,” the one whom today's Psalm prophesies will be resurrected and exalted (see Luke 20:17; Matthew 21:42; Acts 4:11).

We are the children of the apostolic witnesses. That is why we still gather early in the morning on the first day of every week to celebrate this feast of the empty tomb, to give thanks for “Christ our life,” as today's Epistle calls Him.

Baptized into His death and Resurrection, we live the heavenly life of the risen Christ, our lives “hidden with Christ in God.” We are now His witnesses, too. But we testify to things we cannot see but only believe; we seek in earthly things what is above.

We live in memory of the Apostles' witness, like them eating and drinking with the risen Lord at the altar. And we wait in hope for what the Apostles told us would come—the day when we too “will appear with Him in glory.” St. Paul Center for biblical Theology (wwwstpaulcenter.com)