THIS SUNDAY'S COUNSEL

Easter Sunday in Lent

THEME

We live a transformed life when we preach and testify to Christ's resurrection.

PROMISE:

"When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory." (Col 3:4)

WORD:

Acts 10:34, 37-43/ Ps 118:1, 2, 16, 17, 22, 23/ Col 3:1-4/ Jn 20:1-9

ORDER:

- 1. "You who fear the Lord, praise Him, glorify Him, and revere Him" (Ps 22:24)
- 2. "Empty and humble yourself" (Ph 2:7)

DIRECTIONS:

- 1. Take up your cross and follow God's will.
- 2. Actively participate in all Holy Sacraments, church, and community activities.
- Learn how to forgive, to sacrifice and to die to yourself.

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Community News



"And now these three remain: Faith, Hope and Love, but the greatest of these is LOVE" 1 Corinthians 13:13



HALLELUJAH! THE LORD IS RISEN

The First Reading, Acts of the Apostles, is crucial to our reflection on Easter Sunday. It is an account of events after Jesus' ascension to heaven and the Holy Spirit's descent upon the apostles. Peter relates how he and the other apostles were witnesses to the many miraculous events and how they were commissioned to preach to the people and testify that Jesus is the one appointed by God.

As disciples, that commissioning has been extended to us. We too are to testify to Christ's work, death, and resurrection. We too need to help reconcile the world to God. Pope Francis reminds us that the Church's mission is to the poor, not only by ministering temporally to them through

PSALM: This is the day the Lord has made: let us rejoice and be glader

corporal works of mercy but by evangelizing the poor in spirit as well. This means we need to be witnesses. But what does it mean to be a witness? A witness is one who was present when the event in question happened and who heard what was said. How can we witness an event today in which we were not physically present? To be authentic witnesses to Christ today, we must have personally undergone our own resurrection experience — our own "passion, death, and resurrection" and testify how our lives have been renewed in our transformation.

Our resurrection may not be a one-time, big conversion event. Most of us experience ups and downs, peaks, and valleys of conversion. Our conversion may be a process rather than a single event.

How do we know if Christ is winning the battle in us? If we no longer hate as much, or envy as much; if we get into fewer disagreements as we did the day before; if we dismiss lustful or unfaithful thoughts faster than we did yesterday; if we are more patient, kinder, humbler, more forgiving, more trusting; if we can honestly say that we have made continuous improvement in our behavior; if we can say that we are making progress in our spiritual life, praying more, listening more, obeying more, and studying God's word more ardently... then we are becoming more fruitful. Our resurrection experience is in progress and we are empowered to do better.

Yet, there may be things that might hinder us from experiencing our resurrection from old life to a renewed and fruitful life, especially as members of the community. For example, as long-time members, do we tend to be a know-it-all person? If we are shepherds in the LSS, do we fail to bring our bibles and shepherds using God's word, or talk about our transformation experiences? When we teach, do we teach using the Holy Scripture as the basis? When we testify or share, do we glorify ourselves and not God's victory in us? When we hold positions of authority, do we ascribe that authority to God or has power gone to our heads? Do we give more importance to being right and legalistic than being kind? Let us remember that by Christ's resurrection, Jesus has shown us that life is not just about struggles and confusion and that we can find answers to troubling questions and act accordingly because Jesus has conquered sin and death. Human suffering offered in faith and love becomes how we receive a new and glorified life. For this reason, we can stand firm on this week's promise:

"When Christ your life appears, then yo<mark>u</mark> too wi<mark>ll appear</mark> with him in glory," (Col 3:4).

Prayer:

Almighty Father, without the resurrection of your Son, our faith would be empty and hopeless. But Jesus is alive and we rejoice in knowing that in Him anything that separates, injures, and destroys has been overcome by that which unites and heals. We rejoice in you, our Risen Christ. Amen.



The Lord's Provision April 11, 2025

TITHES: \$780 LOVE OFFERING: \$278



Thank you for your generosity

Online Giving

You can now send your Tithes and Love Offerings via Paypal. Donate link can be found at www.bldrenton.com

Or mail check to: BLD Trenton Foundation, Inc. P.O. Box 1367 Toms River, NJ 08754

Who Are You Gonna Call (or Text)? For Mama Mary's Visit Beth Felibrico 732-995-7407 For Prayer Service Mary Anne Arias 732-688-3962

Send Prayer Request To:

www.bldtrenton.com/intercessory



Did you know? "We need to "go out", then, in order to experience our own anointing, its power and its redemptive efficacy: to the "outskirts" where there is suffering, bloodshed, blindness that longs for sight, and prisoners in thrall to many evil masters.

> "The Cross is the word through which God responded to evil in the world. Sometimes it may seem as though God does not react to evil, as if he is silent. And yet, God has spoken, he has replied, and his answer is the Cross of Christ: a word which is love, mercy, forgiveness."

Pope Francis

LAST WEEK'S

PROPHECIES

HIS WORD. YOUR JOURNEY. TOGETHER.

"The Lord remembers His covenant forever". We repeated this in the Responsorial Psalm (see Psalm 105:8). The Lord does not forget. He never forgets. Yes, there is only one case in which He forgets: when He forgives sins. After forgiving He loses His memory, He does not remember the sins. In other cases God does not forget. His fidelity is memory."

LENT SCHEDULE

Please be guided by the following change in venue for the first six Fridays of Lent. On April 25th, we will be back in St Veronica.

- April 18, 2025, Good Friday NO BLD We encourage everyone to participate in the services of your
- April 25, 2025, Friday after Easter Back in St Veronica Church

1. My children, have faith, I am with you . I see you, I hear you, I feel you. I am with you always . Take every pain and struggle as a stepping stone towards my kingdom.

- 2. My children I love you . I set myself to die for you . I have given my life for you. Can you give me yours? I love
- 3. I have sacrificed myself on the cross to forgive your sins; claim it and resolve not to sin no more.
- 4. Beloved brethren, you have witnessed the fading of darkness. Walk in the light. Do not be afraid for I have
- 5. I thirst for you. I thirst for your love. I thirst for your compassion. I thirst for your forgiveness.

y was ever produced by the will of man, but men spol from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:21



In Christ Jesus, we welcome you all to join us every Friday

Healing Mass 1st Friday of the month at 8:15 p.m.

Fraise and Worship

2nd, 3rd, 4th (& 5th) Friday of the month at 8:15 p.m.

Tony Manuel

Jojo Legaspi

Ren Raymundo

Apr 23

Apr 23

Apr 23

In the Philippines, many of us are familiar with the beautiful custom that takes place in the wee hours of Easter Sunday morning. Filipinos call it "Salubong" or, in English, "meeting," which recalls the moment when Jesus meets his sorrowful and yet faithful mother immediately following his resurrection. The Salubong or Meeting takes place outdoors in the dark. The ritual starts with two separate processions that begin simultaneously from two different locations within the parish territory. A group of male parishioners follow an image of the Risen Christ. A group of female parishioners follow an image of the Sorrowful Mother whose face is covered with a grieving veil. The two groups process through the streets and, at the end of the procession, converge just outside the church's front doors. A young girl dressed up as an angel of God comes up to the image of the Sorrowful Mother and lifts her grieving veil to reveal her face. The Sorrowful Mother and the Risen Christ finally see and meet each other again, face-to-face, for the first time, after his death on the cross. It is the reunion of Mother and Son, Son and Mother...The Reunion of all reunions. Following this beautiful and powerful ritual, the parishioners are greeted by the light of the dawn as they make their way into the church for the Easter Sunday morning Mass.

The Risen Lord is alive and is here with us throughout the entire season of Easter. Let us encounter the Risen Lord in everything and in every person that gives us life, joy, and hope during this season. Let us encounter him in the places where he is most truly present: at Mass and at Adoration, as we hear his beautiful and inspiring words and as we contemplate and receive his life-giving self in the Eucharist.

Let us allow the Risen Lord to remind us that he has defeated death. For those who believe in the Resurrection of the Body and Life Everlasting, there is no such thing as a permanent death. Death does not (and will not) have the final word for the followers of Jesus, who died and rose from the dead. Our Christian journey is not supposed to end with death. Rather, after we die, it must continue with great hope in Jesus' promise of the Resurrection of the Body and Life Everlasting.

For the faithful departed who had been dead for over two thousand years, and whose remains are still buried in the ground, their death seems like eternity. But remember that Christ will come back from Heaven at the appointed time to raise them up from the dead. By his power, the Lord will miraculously gather their bodily and cremated cremains, just like what our Almighty God did at the beginning of Creation when he formed man out of dust and breathed life into the dirt. God will fuse together the bodies and souls of the faithful departed. He will give them their physical bodies, similar to (but not exactly the same as) the glorified physical body of the Risen Christ. And then they will live with God in everlasting happiness, peace, and light. Beginning today, let us already live our lives here on earth, looking beyond our present sufferings, and seeing the victory that awaits us at the end.

Happy Easter to us all! Remember that Easter Sunday is just 'Day 1' of the Easter Season in the Church's calendar. We did not spend forty days of Lent just to celebrate in one day. Rather, we are meant to celebrate for fifty days during this Easter season! Thank you, Jesus, for rising from your own grave! Thanks be to God. Christ is risen! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!!!