

Easter Thoughts from Fr. David

In the John's gospel for Easter we hear, "Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning...and saw the stone removed...she ran and went to Simon Peter..."*They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him.*"

Although this Gospel is common for Easter Sunday, last year it was unusual as the Church was like an empty tomb due to Covid-19. It was eerie celebrating the **salvation of humanity** and no one was able to attend. In the last year there have been too many tombs, not empty but filled by the 500K who have died of Covid. Loved ones have been left empty and confused, not being able to attend most funerals. It has been cruel but necessary for safety during the pandemic.

We are not back to normal, but Easter Sunday is a special time of returning to some sense of normalcy and faith enrichment. It is a wonderful day to "**come home to the Lord**" as we celebrate, "God so loved the world that he gave his Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." Jn. 3:16. *Easter Sunday the tomb will be empty but let's try to fill the church.* Let's fill it with joy, peace, hope, great expectations and a new sense of purpose. God hasn't abandoned us. He is calling us home to be a Holy Family on a very special day of being His Redeemed Family.

Services for Easter will be a vigil on Saturday and 2 masses on Sunday, which is a great time to bring the whole family. Put on your Sunday best; ladies wear your bonnets and guys put on daddy smiles. Let us make this Easter a time of an empty tomb but a church filled with energy and love. Jesus is risen and our sins are forgiven. Alleluia! Sunday morning masses are 8 AM & 10:30 AM.

"Come Holy Spirit and fill the hearts of your faithful." Happy Easter!