



*From the Desk of Father Peter*

*Happy Easter to All!*

*Have you heard the Good News? Christ the Lord is risen today! Well, when life seems to be filled with tragedy and bad news, it is wonderful to hear some GOOD NEWS! Such news can lift us from discouragement and restore balance to our lives. Good News of Christ can help invigorate us and refocus our energy in challenging situations of our lives. Such is the Good News of Jesus proclaimed to us today. If the Good News of the Gospel is to take hold of us then it is NOT to be kept to ourselves, but needs to be passed on to others. What is the Good News? **JESUS HAS BEEN RAISED FROM THE DEAD!** Death has no more power—Jesus is **VICTORIOUS** over death! Therefore, the words of Jesus to the women who came to the tomb are the very words that can give us hope... **“DO NOT BE AFRAID.”** With those comforting words comes an additional responsibility to God who says, **“GO AND TELL.”** Who? **US and OTHERS!***



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*Rarely do we keep good news to ourselves in our everyday lives. We want others to share in our joy. It is the same with the Resurrection of the Lord. We want the whole world to know that Jesus is Lord and has been raised up to the Father, and we have new life in **HIM**. We are born again, Alleluia! Our faith in God has*

*been renewed.*

*When we leave Church today, we take with us all that we celebrate and give witness to the living traditions of the Resurrection. We do so without fear, but with hope and love. It is this hope and love which constantly reminds us that the Lord is true to his promises. His Risen Life is our joy! Jesus is revealed as the Son of God. All throughout Lent, we prayed "Reawaken our Hearts with Hope." We asked the Lord to revive us in the faith. One of the hardest things to do is to "LET GO." We sometimes become our own tormentor if we refuse to let go and not allow Christ in our lives to transform us. Harboring resentment, holding grudges, or focusing on blame only hurts us. We all have to move on in faith and trust in the Risen Christ and stop wasting valuable energy on the past. We cannot proclaim that our universe or our world or our nation or our community or our family is changed unless we are open to faith in such a way that we are changed. In the words of Pope Saint John Paul II, we should "open wide the door of our hearts for Christ." The clock is ticking for us all and we need God's blessings and healing love. Easter is about forgiveness, compassion, and understanding. Easter is about renewal. Easter is about us. Easter is not caring about where we have been, or how others perceive us to be. It is about us and our relationship with Jesus. As a result of our presence and belief in Christ we are changed and made anew by His grace. By changing the way we think, we can turn regret and worry into distant memories and grow to build our faith and trust in the Lord. This **EASTER**, it's never too late for us to "LET GO" of whatever in life is holding us back and start over. Let us put our trust in God. I welcome all this Easter in faith to our parish. **FAILURE IS NOT FINAL, UNLESS WE LET IT BE.** The message this Easter is this: Jesus doesn't care about what we've done, or*

what others say we've done, or our permanent record. What matters is the direction of our faith in Jesus right now, where we are headed or where we stand, in Jesus' name. **WE ARE HERE AND WE GIVE THANKS IN HIS NAME!** We shouldn't dwell on the past or beat ourselves up over it if we are a people whose faith is not where it should be. We can't change yesterday, but we can do something good today. We can live differently from this day forward in Christ. "This is the day the Lord has made! Let us be glad and rejoice!" Let us ask for a fresh start in the Lord.



God Bless,

Fr. Peter