

Church of the Ascension

ascensionsaratoga.org | 408-725-3939

Masses: (Sat) 5p; (Sun) 7a, 9a, 11a, 5p
(Mon-Fri) 8a; (Sat) 9a

Confessions: (Sat) 4p - 4:45p



April 20, 2025

The Resurrection of the Lord

Acts 10:34a, 37-43 | Col 3:1-4 | Jn 20:1-9

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

After years (and, for many of us, decades) of celebrating Easter, we may not be sensitive to the sheer peculiarity of the Resurrection accounts. But a close reading of today's Gospel prompts us to ask: If most of us were dreaming up the greatest event in history, wouldn't we have made it more exciting? A little fanfare would have gotten the message out to the world and nipped future skepticism in the bud. Yet this is not what God did. The account of Jesus' resurrection has no fanfare; in fact, it is not an account of a resurrection at all. It is a story of an empty tomb discovered by a woman from whom Jesus had cast out seven demons (cf. Lk 8:2), and two fishermen. Awestruck by the simplicity of these circumstances, we are inspired to adore the profound humility of God who invites – but never forces – us to respond to him in faith.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Although we cannot know exactly why God chose to arrange the events this way, today's second reading offers a hint: "For you have died," writes St. Paul, "and your life is hidden with Christ in God." This world which we consider home, and everything that comes to mind when we say "my life" – these are only shadows of the life that is found in Christ alone. Like the disciples in the Gospel, we are meant to gaze past the outward appearances of our mundane and sometimes pain-filled lives and, with the eyes of faith, place our hope in the true *life* that comes from God. But how often we forget! How often we live as if this world were all there was, without hope for eternal life! We are not alone in forgetting God's promises; Mary Magdalene and the disciples do not seem to expect Jesus' resurrection – even though he had repeatedly predicted it. At the tomb, they sought a dead body; but Jesus wished to offer them *his life*. We, likewise, must desire and seek his life by laying aside everything that does not lead us to him.

REJOICE

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Although we don't place our hope in this life, marking the Church's feasts in our homes and families can inspire us to seek "what is above" by giving us a foretaste of the joys of heaven. Today through next Sunday, as we celebrate the "Easter Octave," every day is Easter Day! Use simple reminders – decorations, an extra treat, an additional time of prayer – to rejoice each day of the Octave.

Every Sunday is Easter

"On this day, the first of days" is the opening line of a hymn to be sung on Sunday, the first day of the week. It's called the first day by Christians because, as the Catechism of the Catholic Church says, the Resurrection recalls the first creation. Even better than Sunday, we think of it as "The Lord's Day." Each Sunday is a "little Easter" when Christians worldwide celebrate the Paschal Mystery. And just as Christ's Resurrection makes him the first of many brothers and sisters, so also Resurrection Day was the first of countless Easters. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed and among us! And we will alleluia all the way home!

-Takefiveforfaith.com

Bishop Cantú's Easter Message

"[T]his Easter Season, let us hold fast to hope in a God who is good, a God of

promises, and a God who keeps his promises. For hope does not disappoint. May the peace of the Risen Christ fill your hearts this Easter Season"

- Excerpts from Bishop Cantú's Easter Message. For his complete message, scan the QR code.



R.I.P.

Sister Marie-Eloise Rosenblatt, RSM, a member of our Church of the Ascension for decades, died suddenly at home at the age of 81 on April 14. She was born in Boise, ID in 1944 and grew up in Whittier, CA, the eldest daughter of six children. After graduation

from Santa Clara University and an MA in literature from USC, she entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1967 and professed her vows in 1970. She had a doctorate in Christian spirituality, became a biblical scholar, and a family law attorney. She gave a reflection at our parish Advent Gathering with Mary in 2024. Her funeral will be on Thursday April 24 at 10:30 a.m. in the main Mercy Convent Chapel, 2300 Adeline Drive, Burlingame. May she rest in peace.

WEEKLY OFFERING - APRIL 13

-Total **\$9,070** (\$7,947, including a **\$4,000** annual donation + online: \$1,123). Goal: \$6,500.

-YTD: \$264,661. Budget: \$266,500.

Thank you for your generosity.

MASS INTENTIONS

Apr 21	Mon	08 am	Armila Casaclang (L)
Apr 22	Tue	08 am	Terence Dlima +
Apr 23	Wed	08 am	Joseph A. Fiorentino (L)
Apr 24	Thu	08 am	Roy & Theresa Guilezar +
Apr 26	Sat	09 am	Alecia Mandal (L)

He is risen!

Truly he is risen!

May the Risen Lord enlighten you and empower you with his Spirit and Peace. Happy Easter!

Fr. Hao & the Parish Staff

Parish Office Closed - April 21

Our Parish Office will be closed on Easter Sunday.

Journey through Easter Season

Formed.org presents curated content to help you in your journey through the Easter season. You can find resources on prayer, the lives of the saints, and great spiritual content to help guide you through the season. Visit watch.formed.org/easter.

The Widow of Nain

The Faces of the Gospels is an 18-episode series, originally at Easter in 2022. It features Pope Francis narrating and reflecting on key encounters in Jesus' life. "At a time when the Pope is recovering and we hear his voice less often," says Andrea Torielli, Editorial Director of Vatican Media, "this offers an opportunity to hear his voice again and reflect on some of the most profound moments of his teaching in which he speaks about Jesus."



Easter Egg Hunt with Coffee & Donuts

Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025

at 10 am (after the 9am Mass)

on the lawn in front of the church.

Sponsored by the Fil-Am organization.

The egg has long been a symbol of renewal and rebirth during pre-Christian spring celebrations. When it comes to the Easter egg, early Christians redefined its meaning, associating it with the Resurrection of Jesus. They saw the egg as a representation of the tomb from which Christ emerged, marking a powerful symbol of new life.

