

THE BETHLEHEM

Hebrew for "House of Bread"

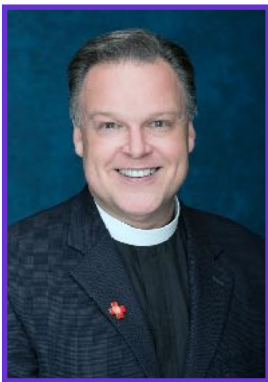
The Eastertide Edition 2023

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WHAT IS RESURRECTION REALLY ALL ABOUT FOR US?



Eastertide marks the holiest time for Christians throughout the world. It is a festive shout of Good News that in Christ, God has overcome the powers of sin, disease, and death, freeing us to live with assurance of eternal life and abundant life in the here and now. Resurrection is all around us, yet in other circumstances at times, our eyes could have blinders on because of fear, doubt, or uncertainty. We are not always looking within the spiritual lens to realize what is right in front of us constantly if we just recognize it.

From our Gospel lessons on this glorious Eastertide, we meet the disciples with certain mixed thoughts and emotions for the first Christians that included confidence yet confusion, exhilaration yet fear, well-being yet insecurity, darkness yet light. We are engulfed in the most sacred instant that changes all of us and yet some may wonder where is the change for the better now?

As our Diocesan Bishop John Taylor stated recently—that prior to this most incredible moment of resurrection, "Jesus' execution plunged first his friends into profound despair. But Mary Magdalene's good news from the empty tomb ignited a movement that transformed the world. In the first century, followers of The Way faced entrenched enemies and overwhelming odds. Yet, for the first Christians, they experienced Jesus Christ's rising from the dead, and received power to overcome every challenge."

Today, we all know about challenges, don't we? We do not need to look too far for enormous circumstances that are in our lives; we look in our own backyard and see our own family members and many people sitting in our pews that have mixed emotions through continued pain and suffering and yet desire through faith the resurrective power of Christ to heal and transform.

As your Rector for the last four years, I know firsthand of the many issues of life that plaque our community of believers and I pray daily for our siblings in Christ to also receive such transformation. I also know the many testimonies that claim it. It is because of Christ's death and resurrection that we are all today God's resurrected people that continually are being transformed, that are being healed in mind,

body, and soul; that we are a resurrected people that are being redeemed to serve and know that God's love is real, alive, and well.

A type of metamorphosis happens continuously by faith, by the light within the empty tomb, by the evidence and witness of our Lord rising from the dead and altering the lives of those who believe. We proclaim the promise in our Baptism and receive the courage to empty ourselves out by trying to make our world better with the Holy Spirit within, so that God's covenant with us is made known. Yes, there are times that things can get worse before they get better, yet the Good News is that our Eastertide focus helps us face any discouragement and share the hope with others by word and demonstrations of our faith in Christ being alive in us.

Our resurrective ministries within Blessed Sacrament is witnessed daily that includes prayers and actions for justice, reconciliation and healing and do all we can to encourage the other because we know what the risen Christ has done for us. There are also many in our parish that have had recent miraculous examples of such powerful faith in our Lords' resurrection that brings about the manifestation of continual healing and restoration. The answer to prayer is continuous in God's perfect will, we need to just have a paradigm shift through the Spirit; our God truly reigns, if we just recognize and believe it.

During this Eastertide, let us be instruments of Christ and as resurrected people, truly know the restoration of our interconnection with God. Jesus the Christ enabled us to follow His example of "living by giving" through a resilient, compassionate, and resurrected Spirit and to share it with others. May we as an Easter people take our faith to new heights that requires us to take risks to pray for the other, to seek justice, mercy, equity, and peace for others, and to be a revitalized pastoral presence of Christ for the Other. For Christ's Resurrection is OUR Resurrection!! AMEN.

SAVE THE DATE - GET READY FOR 24th CLC Auction/Dinner

The date is fast approaching! The 24th annual silent/live auction fundraiser, sponsored by our Children's Learning Center, will be **Saturday, May 13th**, starting at 5:30pm. Please join us and enjoy some delicious food, fellowship, and bid on a wide variety of items in our silent and live auction. We are now in the process of gathering gift items, services and entertainment opportunities that we will be auctioning off all during the evening festivities. This year's Grand Prize raffle will again be a 2-night 3 day stay in Big Bear so be sure to purchase a couple tickets, so you have a chance to get away. Do you have, or have access to anything that might add to our auction items ex. homemade items, do you love to bake, have access to any vacation rentals/timeshares (Please be sure all items are in new condition)? Would you be willing to be a sponsor for our event to help offset our expenses? Included in this newsletter is an auction letter and form.

This annual fundraiser has been so successful because of the participation of so many of our church and school families. Donations of funds and auction items are still needed. Anybody wishing to help with the preparations or actual event may contact the C.L.C. at 528-3070. Most of all invite your friends and get ready for a fantastic evening!

Tracie Donaldson
Director

Outreach April 2023

Easter Baskets Delivered

On Monday, April 3 Outreach Committee Members delivered 13 Easter Baskets, generously packed full of goodies, to Placentia Community Services. Each basket was unique and will make a child grin from ear to ear. Thank you for taking the time to touch 13 children's lives.



The Easter Bunny Visits the Children's Learning Center

On Thursday, April 6, The Blessed Sacrament Children's Learning Center received a visit from the Easter Bunny. As you can see from the pictures, not only did our children enjoy a visit but BSCLC staff and parishioners had their pictures taken with the Bunny. Our favorite CORE employees, Jaime and Pat, were not camera shy when the cute Easter Bunny hopped into the trailer. What a fun day for all!!!!



Laundry Love

On February 16, 2023, Blessed Sacrament Laundry Love helped 56 clients do 546 loads spending \$909 (\$1.66/load, \$16.23/person, 9.75 loads/person). Thirty-nine 8 oz. bottles of hand sanitizer (from Sheila Jordan, CLC Assistant Director) and many face masks were given out. CLC contributed \$20. Also, the coin machine repairman at Busy Bee contributed \$20.

EarthBreeze.com provided free detergent. Busy Bee Laundry attendant Maria led Blessed Sacrament volunteers Marion Lee and Doug Lee. Thanks very much to all supporters and our very special Laundry Love Facilitator, Doug Lee.

Temporary "New Home" for the Blessed Sacrament Little Free Library



When CORE broke ground for Santa Angelina Senior Housing, the Blessed Sacrament Little Free Library lost its place in front of the church. Don't worry, the newly renovated library is in good hands in downtown Fullerton in the Mangino's front yard. In fact, when Santa Angelina opens, it will be moved back to the church property. The rehab consisted of a new plexiglass door, new paint and most important a new roof. If you worried about the asphalt shingles, which blew off our sanctuary during a recent wind storm, they were repurposed and look smashing on the library. The Mangino girls enjoyed filling their new addition with books! The craftsman in the picture, our own Gary Niebuhr, is pretty cute too.

Guess Who????

Thanks to all who voted for last month's "Guess Who". The correct answer is Beverly Cardwell. The lucky winner of the \$10 Starbucks gift certificate is Doug Lee. Doug is a repeat winner—good eye Doug. Others incorrectly thought the picture was Maureen Burton.



Our "Guess Who" for this month is a beautiful lady (on the inside and outside) and a beloved member of our parish. **She is pictured with her arm about her dog and her sister.** Please Email or call Patty Bell at pbell@bscplacentia.org or 714-528-2995 with your guess. The lucky winner will receive a \$10 Starbucks gift card and be announced in the next Bethlehem. Good Luck???

Blessed Sacrament Commemorates the Holiest of Holy Weeks

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday recalls an event in the New Testament of Jesus entering into Jerusalem on a donkey where He is warmly greeted by people waving palm branches. For Christians, it is a reminder of the welcoming of Jesus into our hearts and of our willingness to follow him. On Palm Sunday, Blessed Sacrament parishioners received Palm Crosses and palm fronds as they walked down the side walk to



the Sanctuary. Parishioners, who were led by the Govorchins, had made the Palm Crosses during the previous weekend. Black stones, to be brought back on Good Friday, were also given out. Parishioners could carry the stones throughout the Holy Week as a reminder of the sacredness of the week. Fr. Barrett blessed the palms fronds and crosses, and the stones before going into the church. A very holy and sanctified service followed, including the reading of the Passion with beautiful choral music throughout.



Maundy Thursday

The service this year took place in the Sanctuary at 7 p.m. During the service, participants could either choose to have their feet washed or their hands washed and anointed, as two stations were set-up. Father Barrett and Dcn Dominique had their feet washed and anointed by 2 Choir members as their offering.

Communion was given afterwards and at the end of the service, the Altar was stripped and washed down by Father, with the participation of the congregants. The lights were dimmed (until there was almost complete darkness) signifying that we were now prepared for Good Friday. There was no Mediterranean dinner this year, because it was felt that the temporary Parish Hall



was too small to accommodate the dinner. Hopefully the dinner will return next year in our new Parish Hall.



We leave in darkness and silence...

Good Friday

Good Friday is the saddest day of the Church Year. On Good Friday, our dear Lord gave his life for us so that we may have eternal life. On Good Friday, the Blessed Sacrament liturgy was at noon. This most somber service of the Church year commemorates the hanging of Jesus on the cross until his death.



A supplemental altar was set up for communion. There was no singing but there were chanting and readings. Black vestments were worn. The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 18:1-42 was read with Fr. Barrett as Jesus and other parishioners read the various parts. Fr Barrett then gave a moving sermon about the suffering of Jesus. There was veneration of the Cross by the congregation and the laying of a stone in the box at the base of the Cross.



Last two to venerate the Cross before Confession and Communion using Reserved Sacrament. After the final Communion Prayer, we depart again in silence.

Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross were at 7 p.m. The Stations of the Cross are a series of 14 carvings throughout the Sanctuary that portray the events of the Passion of Christ. As all throughout Lent, Anita Cruz led the devotional exercise of visiting and praying at each station. In addition, there was an opportunity for attendees to receive reserve sacrament that had been consecrated at the Lord's Table on Maundy Thursday.



“..It is finished..”
We leave again in
silence...

The Great Vigil of Easter

The Easter Vigil Mass is the first official celebration of Jesus Christ's Resurrection from the dead.

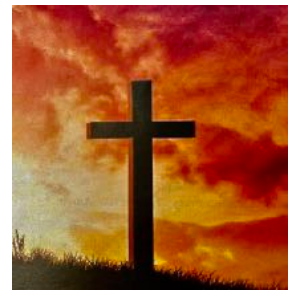
The Great Easter Vigil was celebrated at Blessed Sacrament at 8 p.m. on Easter Eve. The Pascal Candle was displayed and participants carried candles that lit the church. The candles were the only light in the Church as members renewed their Baptismal vows and celebrated the Holy Eucharist.



A new light is produced to light the Paschal Candle with new fire which will be used to bring the light of God into the world. A procession will enter the church with initially only the Paschal Candle for light. As other candles are



lit, more light floods the church. There is some blurring of the pictures due to longer exposure times. Incense is lit and Deacon Dominique blesses the church. Scripture readings cover the Creation to the Valley of Dry Bones and the renewal of our baptismal vows in preparation of the



GOOD NEWS

Easter Morning

“He is not here: He has Risen”

Easter Sunday had a single service at 9 a.m. Parishioners from both the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. were so excited to be together on this holiest day of the Christian faith.



“Jesus is the true message of Easter, and Because of Him mankind can have a relationship with their Creator, and be with Him for eternity.



"Easter brings hope, new beginnings, and Eternal Life, made possible by the One who loved us enough to die in our place, Jesus Christ."

Anthem: Come Ye Faithful by R.S. Thatcher (1888-1957) performed by Bethlehem Choir; Hannah Kim soloist; Ashley Mangino directing; Brigitte Bellavione (inset) Piano.



There was an abundance of Peace on this glorious Easter!!



Wine and Host and Offering are brought up to Fr. Barrett who receives them and then passes to Dcn. Dominique who takes them to the Altar while Fr. Barrett blesses the bearers of these offerings.



Communion is presented and given whilst The Anthem is sung by Hannah Kim. Then as procession leaves, and the final hymn is finished, there is a Postlude, "The Hallelujah Chorus" by George Fredric Handel performed by Miles Rojo, Trumpet; Brigitte Bellavione, Piano: and Hannah Kim singing.



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