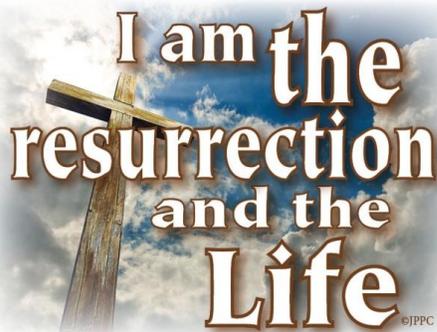


April 12, 2020

Deacon Steve Szmuto's Reflection on the Sunday Readings
April 12, 2020 – Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord



I am the
resurrection
and the
Life

As I write these simple words, I am reflecting upon the current Coronavirus pandemic, which has swept across our country and the globe with a ferocity not seen in our lifetime. We remain sheltered in place (or “safe at home” if you prefer), as most businesses are closed or allowed to operate only under severe restrictions. Churches, in particular, have been shuttered, and masses and traditional services have

been celebrated in private with no one permitted in the sacred space – something that we generally take for granted. Times seem particularly gloomy as both regular churchgoers and more casual worshippers cannot gather together. And while these restrictions are daunting and depressing, leading to a somber mood, there remains great cause for celebration.

When this epidemic passes, the church doors will once again be opened and we will be able to gather as a faith community to worship together, once again experiencing the gift which is the source and summit of our Catholic faith – the Precious Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. Perhaps we will all have gained an even deeper appreciation for the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy, and continue to grow in our faith. We are being tested, just as Christians have been tested throughout the centuries by events of great magnitude; with trust in God we will overcome this crisis as well. Most importantly, as we celebrate the Solemnity of Easter, we can rejoice in God’s great gift, His only begotten Son, who, while eternally divine, took on humanity in its fullness to conquer both death and sin.

“Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said.” (Matthew 28: 5b-6a)

In the early hours of dawn, the two women made their way to the tomb. As they approached, the earth quaked, and the angel of the Lord rolled back the stone and sat upon it; the guards were as if dead. Mary Magdalene and the other woman named Mary approached. The angel spoke, proclaiming the wondrous news of Jesus’ resurrection. As they hurried away to tell the disciples, Jesus met and greeted them. They embraced his feet and did him homage. Telling them to not be afraid, he instructed them to tell his brothers to go to Galilee where they would see him.

Dawn always follows the darkness; so too the light of Christ will always conquer the darkness of sin. As were the women that early morning, we are called to see the empty tomb and spread the good news: Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again.

For two millennia, Christians have celebrated the joy of the resurrection. With the chorus of voices throughout the centuries on earth, and with those voices, which resound in the kingdom of heaven, let us add our shouts of exultation:

“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.” (Responsorial Psalm)

To participate in Sunday and Daily Mass, visit the Our Lady of Good Counsel page on Facebook ([@OlgcWestTrenton](#)). In addition visit the parish website at www.olgcc.net and click on the “Bulletin” link to read the virtual bulletin posted each week.

Deacon Steve Szmuto

EASTER *Sunday*

