



“In his great mercy he has given us  
new birth into a living hope through the  
resurrection of Jesus Christ...”

1 Peter 1:3

**2026 Easter Message**

**Rejoice! This Is the Day Which the Lord Has Made!**

Dear Parishioners,  
The Lord is truly risen! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Haec dies quam fecit Dominus*, “This is the day which the Lord has made.” Taken from Psalm 118:24, this verse is a liturgical chant that our Church sings of the unequalled joy of the Resurrection! It is a time of such profound rejoicing that we sing exultantly not only on Easter Sunday but also throughout the Octave of Easter and through the Easter Season!

Yes, Easter Sunday, the Solemnity of all Solemnities, the cornerstone of our Christian faith, fills our hearts with joyful hope as we recall Jesus’ Resurrection ... signifying Jesus’ victory over sin and death and the opening of the gates of Eternal Life for us believers. While Easter is celebrated annually, every Sunday serves as a reminder of the joy and rejoicing of Christ’s glorious Resurrection and victory. Thus, Sundays are never considered days of mourning or fasting, even during Lent! Additionally, from year to year, the “Easters of this earth” lead us closer to the blessed day when Christ will come again in glory and take us with Him into the Kingdom of His Father.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of March, the month dedicated to our Parish Patron Saint Joseph, we joyfully celebrated the First Communion. As we congratulate them, let us all pray that they remain close to Him and continue to be nourished by the Holy Mass. My heartfelt thanks to our Directress Pam Quiroz, teacher Olivia, teacher assistants Veronica and India, to the parents and all who helped in our children’s faith formation.

During our Easter Vigil celebration, our elect, Jason Petek, will receive the Sacraments of Christian Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist) while our candidate, Ana Perry, will be received into the Catholic Church and will receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and the Holy Eucharist. Let us all warmly welcome them as members of our Parish community and rejoice with them as they begin their full communion with the Catholic Church!

In the spirit of the Easter Season, I reiterate my fervent plea for your generosity in support of the Annual Ministry Appeal. This year, our Parish goal is \$12,400. My special thanks to those who have already sent their pledges. To those who have yet to do so and to those who may wish to add to their pledges, please send your pledges to the Parish office or directly to the Chancery. Let us all aspire to meet our goal this year and greatly support the various ministries of our Diocese.

Thanks, too, to all who supported our recent sold-out Bake Sale! Please continue to support our Palm Sunday Picnic Basket fundraiser for our Storage and Multi-Purpose Hall Project, which is intended to provide a safe and bigger space for our catechetical programs, parish gatherings and events and consequently support the growth of our Parish community! Am truly grateful to Laura Rosales for preparing the food baskets and to Hardester’s Market for generously providing the vegetables and meat.

On April 25 at 4:00 p.m., our beloved Bishop, His Excellency Robert Vasa, will be with us to officiate the Sacrament of Confirmation for fifteen of our students here at St. Joseph Parish in Middletown. The celebration will be followed by a potluck dinner and am earnestly requesting our parishioners to bring food and assist in warmly welcoming our Bishop to this joyfully momentous event for our Parish community!

As we celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord, let us ardently pray that the Light of the Risen Lord may shine upon all nations ... and bring healing, reconciliation and the end of war and violence throughout the world, especially in the Middle East. And may the joy of the Risen Lord fill our hearts, our homes and our Parish community!

The Lord is truly risen, indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! A blessed and joyful Easter to you all and to your loved ones!

To God be the Glory!

*Fr. Lawrence Mendoza*

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