

FROM THE RECTOR...

JESUS LIVES...



Imagine this is the First Easter...and all the Bay Area newspaper headlines read...**Jesus Lives!** Imagine our favorite TV news anchors and crews out at the gravesite. Imagine Mary Magdalene and the others standing at the empty tomb. Imagine we are there too. Imagine the TV cameras and microphones thrust in our faces. Imagine the questions coming our way in rapid-fire succession. Who is this Jesus, anyway? We saw him crucified. Surely he isn't alive! Someone must have stolen his body? This is all in your imagination!

If this is the First Easter...then we have to begin the journey with the First Christmas...and the First Good Friday. We will see it is the same baby Jesus born in a barn...whom Angels would sing about and shepherds and the Magi would come to worship...who became a human baby boy to walk among us...so we might one day walk with him in heaven.

We will see it is the same Jesus who was baptized, fasted and was tempted...and never gave in to the tempter's tricks and lies. We will see it is the same Jesus who walked and talked and healed...he never refused anyone who asked for his help. We will have a meal with him...and he will give us his Body and Blood...the First Mass. We will see it is the same Jesus who was betrayed by a friend, arrested, beaten, executed like a common criminal...and hastily put in a grave. And he did all of this...for us...out of love!

If this is the First Easter...then there are more firsts to follow. There is the first time we get to see Jesus after his Resurrection. He said we would see him for a while and then he would be going away...back to his Father in Heaven. We will ask him to stay...he can't. We will see him complete his mission at the Ascension...and wait for the First Pentecost to open our eyes and make everything clear. We will remember his baptism and Transfiguration, and God called Jesus his dear Son.

Yes, let's imagine this is the first Easter. What will we say to the TV crews who will report the Evening News? What will we say to each other? What will we say those who doubt? We know the truth about Jesus. It is the First Easter...there is only one thing we can say...and it's not in our imagination...**Jesus Lives!**

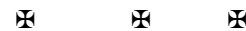
Father Craig Looney+

EASTER 2021



EASTER EVEN - APRIL 3
5:00 PM – BLESSING & LIGHTING
OF PASCHAL CANDLE & ANTE-COMMUNION

EASTER DAY – APRIL 4
9:00 AM – LOW MASS WITH HYMNS & SERMON



WHAT IS "LOW SUNDAY" ...?



The origin of the popular designation for the First Sunday after Easter as "Low Sunday" is obscure. According to Father Massey Shepherd, author of the *Oxford American Prayer Book Commentary*, it may have something to do with the celebration of the Octave Day with a lesser degree of solemnity than that of the great Feast of Easter itself.

The Reformers shortened the Gospel for the Day in order to avoid any duplication with the Gospel for St. Thomas' Day, December 21. (*Book of Common Prayer, Pages 228-229*) The figure of Thomas is noticeably absent from the icon above and he is not mentioned in the Gospel.

This is also one of the Gospels assigned to the Rite of Consecration of Bishops. (*Book of Common Prayer, Page 551*)



CALL Primrose is still not accepting non-perishable food or other items. However, they are accepting cash contributions, which enable them to purchase food and other items for their growing list of clients.

For example, from October to December 2019, CALL helped 300 new households with food and other essentials. During the same period in 2020, the number of new households was 1567...a five-fold increase!

Last Thanksgiving, through the kindness and generosity of our parishioners, we sent a check to CALL for \$1,000. It has been suggested we do something similar now.

If you would like to make a cash contribution to CALL Primrose through Saint Joseph Parish, please note in the Memo block on your check the donation is for CALL.

Vestry

A Vestry Meeting was held on Sunday, March 7, following the 9:00 AM Parish Mass. A short coffee fellowship was held in the parking lot prior to the meeting.

Under Old Business:

Clerk-of-the-Vestry, Marcia Rayher, confirmed a quorum of Vestry member was present.

Marcia presented the Minutes of the January 17, 2021 and January 31, 2021 Vestry meetings. The Minutes were approved as presented.

Parish Treasurer, Candyce Francis, presented the Financial Report for the period January 1-March 6. Year-to-Date Pledge Income is significantly higher than budgeted amount due to Prepaid Pledges received in December 2020. Plate Income is also much higher than budgeted amount. Gifts and Memorials are also much higher than budgeted amount. Year-to-Date Expenses are lower than budgeted amount. Net Income is \$17,385. The Financial Report was approved as presented.

Under New Business:

Father Looney said he was gratified to see the positive responses to *The Parish Times* Newsletter and the Facebook Masses. Both the Newsletter and the Facebook Services reach outside the four walls of the building and the Parish. We will continue to post the in-person Sunday Parish Mass and Wednesday Lenten Morning Prayer on Facebook for the benefit of those unable to attend in person.

Father Looney said the Holy Week and Easter Schedules this year are different from previous years due to Covid-19. The Palm Sunday Liturgy will include Blessing of Palms and the Procession. The Maundy Thursday Liturgy will include the Procession to the Altar of Repose...however there will be no Watch. The Good Friday Liturgy will commence at 12:00 Noon and last about one hour.

The Easter Liturgies will return to the practice from the earliest years of the Parish. The Blessing and Lighting of the Paschal Candle will take place at 5:00 PM on Easter Even, followed by Ante-Communion. There will be one Mass on Easter Day at 9:00 AM.

Father Looney said he is exploring the idea of incorporating some hymns into the Holy Week and Easter Liturgies. The Vestry agreed singing of hymns is appropriate and could be done safely, given current attendance at Sunday Mass, with masks in place and singing "quietly".

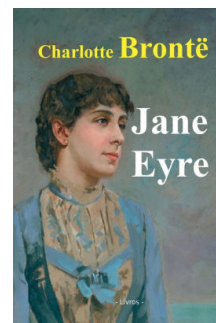
There was a discussion about Building Maintenance. We have relied on volunteers within the Parish to handle many building-related issues. We are at the point now we need to hire professionals to accomplish these tasks.

We are in the process of developing an Action Item Plan that will prioritize the work that needs to be done and a timeline for completion.

The next Vestry Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 16, following the 9:00 AM Parish Mass.

BOOK REVIEW

BY REBEKAH SHAPIRO...



I said at the Annual Parish Corporate Meeting that there was a gap in my book reviews of Anglican fiction. That gap was the Bronte sisters, Charlotte, Emily and Anne Bronte, each the daughter of an Anglican Priest and a novelist. I had read perhaps the most famous of their books, *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte, in junior high, and didn't like it. So I was reluctant to read the Brontes again to review them, but when my university's book group announced a meeting on *Jane Eyre*, I knew it was time to give it another try.

And I couldn't put it down.

Jane Eyre is somewhat autobiographical. It tells the story of the early life of an orphaned Priest's daughter. There are ghosts and attempted felonies and secrets in the attic. Like in real 19th century England, there's a lot of hunger and sickness and pain, but there's also a happy ending.

If you read *Jane Eyre*, contrast the aspirations of its protagonist with Jane Austen's protagonists. There's at least one love story in *Jane Eyre*, but it is not the only story. I recommend reading it on an e-reader to make it easier to look up the complex Victorian vocabulary. An acquaintance recommended listening to it on audiobook. The spoken expression fleshed out the richness of the text.

The Parish Library has acquired one copy of the haunting and moving *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte. The public libraries have multiple print, electronic and audiobook copies. It is also available in bookstores.



Our thanks to Rebekah Shapiro, who has been organizing the books in the Parish Library. Over the next few months, the old filing cabinets and rugs will be removed and discarded. In August, the floor will be stripped, waxed and polished, and new lighting will be installed.

Once we are able to gather safely in the Undercroft and not have to worry about facemasks and physical distancing, we will dedicate the Library in memory of Father John Altberg.

The Altberg Memorial Library will become a showcase for Saint Joseph Parish. In addition to being the venue for the Sunday Discussion Group and Vestry meetings, we hope parishioners and visitors will find it a place to read, relax, meditate and have a cup of coffee.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Work has already begun on long-deferred maintenance items discussed at both the January 31 Annual Parish Corporation Meeting and the March 7 Vestry Meeting.

External lighting on the El Camino Real side of the building is being replaced. Lighting outside the Ambulatory door, on the South wall of the building, and in the garden will be replaced.

In addition to the new lighting in the Library, florescent lighting in the Rector's Study and the Parish Office will be replaced with attractive track lighting.

All of the new lighting inside and outside the building will be cost-efficient LED lighting. Some of the lighting will enhance the "feel" of the offices. Other lighting falls under the Safety and Security category.

A portion of the fence separating the parking lot from the apartment building next to the church will be replaced with new raw Redwood.

While some work on the heating system has already been done, more work needs to be done to make the system more "user-friendly".

All old furniture and inoperative electronic devices will be picked up and taken to recycling centers or discarded. This includes the orange fabric chairs that have been a fixture in the Parish Hall for 30 years.

There is a lot of work to be done and we are blessed to have a Vestry committed to seeing the work accomplished in a timely and cost-effective manner.

SAINT MARK, EVANGELIST...



Sunday, April 25, is the Feast of Saint Mark, Evangelist. Fourth century Church Historian Eusebius, is the first to identify Mark as the founder of the Church in Egypt and the first Bishop of Alexandria.

Mark is depicted in art as a winged lion. The icon to the left shows Mark holding the Gospel, with a lion and the Harbor of Alexandria and its famous lighthouse in the background.

The lighthouse was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. It was largely destroyed by a series of powerful earthquakes. In 1994, parts of the lighthouse were discovered submerged in Alexandria Harbor.

The Coptic Orthodox Church, the Greek Orthodox Church of Alexandria and the Coptic Catholic Church, all trace their origins to the original community of Christians founded by Mark. He was martyred in Alexandria in about 68 AD.

SAINTS PHILIP AND JAMES, APOSTLES...

Saturday, May 1, is the Feast of Saints Philip and James, Apostles (*Book of Common Prayer, Pages 238-240*). Very little is know about these two men, other than their names and brief appearances in the Gospel. Philip was from Bethsaida, the same town in which Peter and Andrew lived.



Saint John records Philip was an early follower of Jesus and was possibly a disciple of John the Baptist. John also records Philip bringing his friend Nathanael to meet Jesus. In the List of Apostles in the Synoptic Gospels Philip is always linked to Bartholomew, not James, suggesting Nathanael and Bartholomew are the same person.

The James commemorated on this day is “James the Less”, to distinguish him from “James the Great”, son of Zebedee and John’s brother and later head of the Jerusalem Church. He is called James “the Less” because he was younger, or possibly not as large in stature, than James “the Great”.

Philip and James have shared the same feast day since the dedication of the Basilica of the Apostles in Rome by Pope John III (561-574).

Ember Days

The Wednesday, Friday and Saturday are the Summer Ember Days. The *Book of Common Prayer* (Page li), designates the Ember Days as “other days of fasting, on which the Church requires such a measure of abstinence as is more especially suited to extraordinary acts and exercises of devotion”.

Within the Church, abstinence and fasting must include prayer. The Collect for the Ember Days (*Book of Common Prayer*, Page 260) tells us what we should be praying for:

O Almighty God, who hast committed to men the ministry of reconciliation; We humbly beseech thee, by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, to put into the hearts of many to offer themselves for this ministry; that thereby mankind may be drawn to thy blessed kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

So while we fast, we pray God will inspire men to want to become priests.

Ember Day fasting tips:

- 💧 Drink lots of water
- ☕ Coffee is your friend
- 🥜 Eat nuts and whole grain for the snacks
- 🙏 Say a prayer when it gets hard
- ☀️ Remember Our Lord’s 40-day fast in the desert
- 😊 Be joyful
- 💪 You’re doing Lord’s work.
- 💖 He’s with you every moment.

PENTECOST 2021...



This year Pentecost takes place on May 23 and marks the commencement of the second half of the Church Year. Historically, Ascension and Pentecost were considered parts of the Great Feast of Easter.

The *Book of Common Prayer* (Page 180) designates the Feast of Pentecost and the following week Whitsuntide. Anglicans commonly call the feast day “Whitsunday”...“White Sunday”...from the white robes worn by Catechumens who were to be baptized on this day. It is still a common custom for parents to dress their children in white for their baptisms.

The term *Pentecost* comes from the Greek *Pentēkostē*, meaning “fiftieth”. It refers to the Jewish harvest festival called “Feast of Weeks” that took place 50 days after Passover. By Jesus’ time Pentecost was also a celebration of the giving of the Law to Moses on Mount Sinai.

Acts 2 records after the Ascension, the Apostles chose Matthias to be the Apostle to replace Judas Iscariot. It was important they restore the number of Apostles to twelve...the number for wholeness and completion. Then with Mary and other women and many other believers, they went back to the Upper Room...probably the same room where the Last Supper was held.

The icon above depicts the Twelve Apostles with Mary in the center receiving the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. It should not surprise us Mary was present at Pentecost. She is the *Theotokos...the God-bearer...who said yes to God’s plan to give birth to Jesus...God made Flesh...by the Power of the Holy Spirit*. It should also not surprise us she had much to say to those who doubted the legitimacy of Peter’s “Pentecostal” sermon that resulted in the conversion of thousands, who took the Good News about Jesus out into the World.

Pentecost is considered the Church’s Birthday. During the first half of the Church Year...we focused on specific events in the life of Christ. During the second half of the Church Year...commencing with Trinity Sunday (the Octave Day of Pentecost)...we commit ourselves to Spiritual Growth.

During the long “green” Trinity Season...we have the opportunity to be ‘Missional Evangelists’. Peter isn’t the only one who experienced a “Pentecostal” conversion...so do we. “Mission” and “Evangelism” are the outward expressions of the Gospel...and the Gospel cannot be bottled up...it must be shared!

Prayer and Intercessions

We continue to pray for our men and women serving in the Armed Forces, that they may be brought home safely to their families and loved ones; for police departments throughout the country; for First Responders; in thanksgiving for the vaccines for COVID-19; and for peace in the World, our Country, our State, our City and our hearts. If you have someone you would like prayed for during the Intercessions at Sunday Mass...please e-mail the name(s) to the Rector.



We're in the process of final editing the 2021 Parish Directory. The goal is to have the Directory available for distribution by the second week of May. Your patience is appreciated. Please e-mail any changes to your contact information shown in the 2020 Parish Directory. It's important we have accurate information.

THE NEXT ISSUE...

The next issue of *The Parish Times* will be the Early Trinity Edition. The target date for publication and distribution is May 31. If you have an article or announcement you wish published, please submit it via e-mail by May 24. All submissions are subject to space limitations and editing by the Rector. All submissions must be free of partisan politics...whether Church or secular.



Find us on Facebook at: **Saint Joseph Parish – San Mateo CA**

SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS – 9:00 AM PARISH MASS & SERMON
(POSTED ON FACEBOOK ABOUT 11:00 AM)

WEEKDAYS/HOLY DAYS AS ANNOUNCED

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE BY APPOINTMENT

THE REVEREND FATHER CRAIG LOONEY, RECTOR

THE CONTINUATION OF ANGLICANISM: We affirm that the Church of our fathers, sustained by the most Holy Trinity, lives yet...are determined to continue in the Catholic Faith, Apostolic Order, Orthodox Worship and Evangelical Witness of the traditional Anglican Church.

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