**FOR THE WEEKEND OF APRIL 8-9, 2023**

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord – Mass During the Morning

**Gospel reading**

John 20:1-9

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb

early in the morning, while it was still dark,

and saw the stone removed from the tomb.

So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved,

and told them, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb,

and we don’t know where they put him.”

So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb.

They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter

and arrived at the tomb first;

he bent down and saw the burial cloths there,

but did not go in.

When Simon Peter arrived after him,

he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there,

and the cloth that had covered his head,

not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place.

Then the other disciple also went in,

the one who had arrived at the tomb first,

and he saw and believed.

For they did not yet understand the scripture

that he had to rise from the dead.

**Intercession**

That our Annual Diocesan Appeal, empowered by the Resurrection, may increase its success this Easter season.

**Copy for bulletin announcement**

We are a people of hope because of today, the day God conquered death. There is no thought more preposterous or delightful than God becoming man, dying, and conquering death for us because we are given hope through his blood.

The only enemy left to fear now is sin. “The last enemy to be destroyed is death,” said Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:26. Any person called “Christian” can shout: “’Where, O death, is your sting?’” (1 Corinthians 15:56).

Help our Annual Diocesan Appeal by taking your rest today. Rest with the victor after His long struggle. The king has taken his crown, and you are one of his faithful subjects. The good shepherd has gathered his sheep to himself, and you are in his fold. “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven” (Matthew 5:12). Today, as our Annual Appeal continues, we remember the goodness of our God. We rejoice in how the trials of Lent in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving have given way to an Easter feast. Let your feasting, too, give way to further self-gift. Help our Appeal soon and together, we can *increase* momentum this Easter season. Christ will be busy multiplying your gifts before he ascends. Spring will mirror our abundance of new life breaking forth. May we be fruitful with his Easter blessing. Peace be with you.

**Copy for pulpit announcement**

Support our Annual Diocesan Appeal. After resting in the tomb, Christ breaks out today. Neither death nor a stone can hold the one who created earth, sky, and stone. He is the one who made all things, and today he makes all things new.

Renew our parish with him this Easter. We need your help to make our Appeal a meaningful success. Jesus wishes to give new life to our local community. Please give generously and watch his Easter joy multiply many times over in your hearts. Imagine those your gifts will bless.

**Social media post/content**

Photo: Rays of light pouring through the opening of the tomb

Header: Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven” (Matthew 5:12)

Sub-header: Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord Photo

Copy: Jesus conquered everything today. He is a wise king that listens to counsels from His Father. Our job as the Church is to proclaim the good news. Continue to rejoice on this Easter day by contributing to our Annual Diocesan Appeal!