

EASTER 2024



Dear Parishioners of St. Elizabeth,

Arriving at Easter: Through weeks of the Lenten journey of purification and conversion, accompanied by a special sense of God's presence, having embraced seasonal devotions and holy practices, after re-assessing our fiercely held positions and priorities, we are finally arriving at the most glorious and exquisite mystery of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Christ is Risen indeed, Alleluia!

Meaning of Easter in our present life: For the followers of Jesus, Easter is the preeminent religious truth. It means that Jesus is alive and real in our lives; that he is with us always and guides our history and destiny. Without Jesus' resurrection, we cannot meaningfully interpret our joys and sorrows, our hopes and dreams, our struggles and predicaments, our anxieties and ambiguities. Without the resurrection of Jesus, how can we hope to make this world a better place for everyone? How can we strive for peace and justice for all? The Risen Christ has demonstrated for us as to how to bear sufferings redemptively. With the grace of the Risen Lord, we shall keep dying to sin and rising to new life.

Meaning of Easter in the Afterlife: For the dear departed, especially from among our families and close circles, life is only changed, not ended, thanks to the Risen Christ. Jesus' words "I am the resurrection and the life" are exceedingly persuasive at Easter. To the bereaved families, the most consoling truth in their sorrow and grief is that their beloved dead shall rise and luxuriate in the fullness of life, thanks to the Risen Christ. The Paschal candle we place at every funeral represents the light of the Risen Christ dispelling the darkness of death. As the poet John Donne says: "Death, thou shalt die."

We celebrate: This Easter Sunday, let's gather together to delight in the joys and blessings of the Risen Christ. Every Sunday is the extension of the celebration of Easter. That's why we are called Sunday after Sunday (and weekdays, if possible) to gather for Mass to proclaim the death and resurrection of Jesus in word and sacrament---and extend them into witness and service.

Thank You: I am deeply grateful for your faith and service at St. Elizabeth Parish. Thank you for all your engagement in the life of the parish and for your generous support and collaboration.

Happy Easter: At this most auspicious feast of Easter, may I have the pleasure and privilege of wishing each one of you and your families the lavish blessings and graces of the Risen Lord. May the Risen Christ "easter" in us and the world now and always!

Your Friend and Pastor,

Father Charles Puthota, Ph.D