

Saint Joseph Church  
404 Charles Street  
Coatesville, Pennsylvania 19320  
(610) 384-0360

Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church  
209 West Lincoln Highway  
Coatesville, Pennsylvania 19320  
(610) 384-1172

Easter 2010

Dear Friends,

Christ is risen, alleluia! He is truly risen, alleluia!

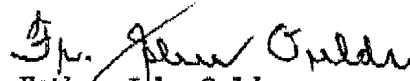
An editor at one of the leading newspapers in London told a story about his chance meeting with a fisherman one Easter morning near Eastbourne, England. After a while, their conversation turned to the fisherman's faith in the resurrection of Jesus. "How do you know Christ is risen?" asked the skeptical newsman. The fisherman pointed at the windows of the cottages on the nearby cliffs and said, "Well, sir, sometimes, when I'm far out at sea, I know that the sun is risen by the light that is reflected in those cottage windows. How do I know Christ is risen? Well, sir, I see His light reflected in the faces of my friends and neighbors, and I feel the light of His glory in my own life."

This short story uses a simple analogy to attest to the profound change that took place in the lives of those who first witnessed the empty tomb of Jesus and His subsequent appearances. If their contemporaries did not believe them when they said that Jesus was risen, the believers were compelled to account for whatever factor had changed their lives so dramatically. One theologian called it the X-factor. Believers call it faith in the power of the living God at work in Jesus.

That first Easter came softly, not with a blare of trumpets, but with a quiet gasp of astonishment. It was still dark when Mary Magdalene discovered that the stone had been rolled away. Jesus' body was gone; the tomb was empty. She told John and Peter. They did not immediately comprehend what had happened, so they went home. Mary stayed at the tomb, weeping. In the muted light of dawn, Jesus began to reveal Himself to her. Unrecognized at first, Jesus spoke her name. As the full light of day erased all doubt, Mary Magdalene stood before the revelation and proclaimed the joyous mystery of faith: "I have seen the Lord."

May the fullness of faith be yours this Easter, allowing you to stand in the company of the Risen Lord, our Companion in life and our Conqueror over death, and recognize Him. Behold, with hands raised in benediction upon you, He showers down the precious gifts of hope, peace and gladness. With Mary Magdalene, we exclaim, "I have seen the Lord." Much love to you!

Sincerely yours in Christ crucified and risen,

  
Father John Oulds

P.S. Your generosity to the Annual Easter Collection would be deeply appreciated, as your Parish feels the sting of increased costs for services and goods, similar to your own households. Your gift to the Church is itself a gift to the very Body of Christ. Thank you.

THE WEST END CATHOLIC PARISHES OF COATESVILLE  
SOLEMNLY CELEBRATE THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM AND EASTER

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SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Confessions will be heard on Wednesday, March 31st, from 4:50 to 5:20 p.m. in St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, and from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in St. Joseph Church. Also, the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation is available upon your request.

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 1ST

The Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper, with its Eucharistic Procession to the Repository, will be celebrated at 7:00 p.m. in St. Stanislaus Kostka Church for parishioners of both West End Churches. Adoration before the Repository will be concluding at 12:00 midnight.

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2ND

The Solemn Service of the Lord's Passion and Death will be celebrated at 3:00 p.m. in St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, and again at 7:00 p.m. in St. Joseph Church. This Service includes the Reading of the Passion according to St. John, the Veneration of the Cross and the Distribution of Holy Communion.

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 3RD

The Solemn Easter Vigil will be celebrated at 7:30 p.m. (when the sun has set) in St. Joseph Church for parishioners of both West End Churches. It is a Liturgy rich in scripture and signs, songs and symbols to mark Jesus' rising from the dead. Blessed Easter water will be available for use in the home during the Paschal Season; kindly bring a container.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4TH

Festive Masses will be celebrated at 8:00 and 9:45 a.m. in St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, and at 10:30 a.m. in St. Joseph Church. A special highlight is the congregation's renewal of Baptismal promises and their being sprinkled with newly blessed water at all the Masses. Also, at the 10:30 a.m. Mass, the children will be invited to approach the altar that their Easter baskets might be blessed and a little sweet treat given them.

BLESSING OF THE FIRST FOODS OF EASTER

Keeping alive a venerable Eastern European custom, the First Foods of Easter will be blessed for home use on Holy Saturday, April 3rd, at 2:30 p.m., in St. Stanislaus Kostka Church. On the same occasion, Children's Easter Baskets will likewise be blessed.

SPECIAL HOLY WEEK COLLECTIONS

At the Solemn Evening Mass on Holy Thursday, the collection taken up will benefit the Lenten Operation Rice Bowl Program to feed the hungry of the world.

At the Solemn Services, afternoon and evening, on Good Friday, the collection taken up will benefit the maintenance of the Christian Shrines in the Holy Land under the guardianship of the Franciscan Friars.

Thank you for your kind response to these respective appeals.