



St. Catherine of Alexandria Roman Catholic Church

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Easter 2021

Dear Parishioners,

Easter greetings to all of you! What a wonderful day Easter is, the day we celebrate the Solemnity of the Resurrection of the Lord, the central truth of our faith. The doctrine of the Resurrection was a constant theme of his preaching of the Apostles. St. Paul was so emphatic on this in his first letter to the Corinthians (15:17-19), “And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain; you are still in your sins. Then those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are the most pitiable people of all.”

By God’s grace, I had a chance to join a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in the summer of 2019. Among the high points were a visit and a short prayer at the tomb of the Lord inside the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem. As the Gospels relate, it was empty, because Jesus Christ rose from the dead.

Some of you may remember Cecil B. DeMille, the famous Hollywood director of the movie “The Ten Commandments.” Anyway, one hot summer afternoon, he was reading a book in a canoe on a lake in Maine. He noticed a bunch of water beetles at play on the surface of the lake. Suddenly one of the beetles began to crawl up the side of the canoe. When it got halfway up, it attached the talons of its legs to the side of the canoe and died. DeMille then continued to read his book. An hour or two later, he looked at the dead beetle. He was amazed that the beetle had dried up, and its back was starting to crack open. Then something began to emerge from the opening: first a moist head, then the wings. It was a beautiful dragonfly. DeMille sat there in awe as the dragonfly began to move its wings. It hovered gracefully over the water where the other beetles were at play, the same beetle at play a few hours earlier now transformed into a dragonfly. The dried-out shell of the beetle was like an empty tomb. (This is an anecdote as told by Mark Link.)

Dear Friends, the empty tomb is one of the powerful images of the Resurrection of the Lord. Beyond the empty tomb, we believe in the Resurrection of the Lord because the Apostles saw, witnessed, and experienced the Risen Lord. And they died for that truth with unwavering faith. May our lives witness to the truth of the Resurrection by overcoming with God’s grace every vice, evil, addiction, and sin that entomb us, so as to have the freedom of the sons and daughters of our God.

Happy Easter to you and your family.

Fr. Gene Sabio, MSC
Pastor

We Remember • We Celebrate • We Envision

Vision Statement: One God, One people in Christ, One community of love guided by the Holy Spirit to impact lives.