

Background on the Gospel Reading

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord | Loyola Press

Today we begin the Easter Season, our 50-day meditation on the mystery of Christ's Resurrection. Our Gospel today tells us about the disciples' discovery of the empty tomb. It concludes by telling us that they did not yet understand that Jesus had risen from the dead. Thus, the details provided are not necessarily meant to offer proof of the Resurrection. The details invite us to reflect upon a most amazing gift, that is faith in Jesus and his Resurrection.

Each of the four Gospels tells us that Jesus' empty tomb was first discovered by women. This is notable because in first-century Jewish society women could not serve as legal witnesses. In the case of John's Gospel, the only woman attending the tomb is Mary of Magdala. Unlike the Synoptic accounts, John's Gospel does not describe an appearance of angels at the tomb. Instead, Mary is simply said to have observed that the stone that had sealed the tomb had been moved, and she runs to alert Simon Peter and the beloved disciple. Her statement to them is telling. She assumes that Jesus' body has been removed, perhaps stolen. She does not consider that Jesus has been raised from the dead.

Simon Peter and the beloved disciple race to the tomb, presumably to verify Mary's report. The beloved disciple arrives first but does not enter the tomb until after Simon Peter. This detail paints a vivid picture, as does the detail provided about the burial cloths. Some scholars believe that the presence of the burial cloths in the tomb offers evidence to the listener that Jesus' body had not been stolen (it is understood that grave robbers would have taken the burial cloths together with the body).

The Gospel passage concludes, however, that even having seen the empty tomb and the burial cloths, the disciples do not yet understand about the Resurrection. In the passage that follows, Mary of Magdala meets Jesus but mistakes him for the gardener. In the weeks ahead, the Gospel readings from our liturgy will show us how the disciples came to believe in Jesus' Resurrection through his appearances to them. Our Easter faith is based on their witness to both the empty tomb and their continuing relationship with Jesus—in his appearances and in his gift of the Holy Spirit.



ST. MONICA PARISH

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DEACON: **Wilbur Victoria**

PARISH OFFICE HOURS
Monday – Friday
9:30 am – 1 pm / 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

MASS SCHEDULES
WEEKDAYS: **9:00 am**
SATURDAYS: **9:00 am & 5:00 pm**
SUNDAYS: **9:00 am, 11:00 am**
& 4:00 pm (YVR)

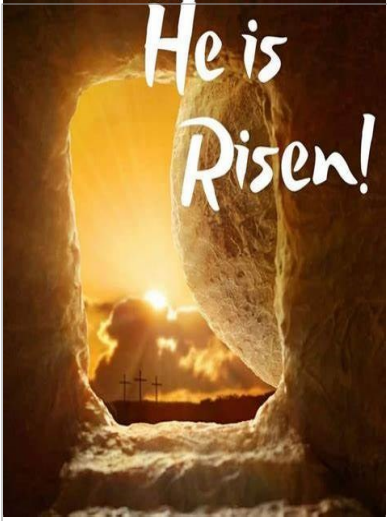
CONFESSION SCHEDULES
SATURDAYS: **9:45 am—10:30 am**
20 minutes before Daily Mass
BAPTISM every Saturday @ 11am
WEDDING – Please call the Parish Office
at least 6 months in advance.
FUNERAL, HOUSE BLESSING, SICK CALL
Please call the Parish Office.

WEDNESDAY:
Perpetual Help Novena after 9am Mass
FRIDAY:
Holy Hour after 9am Mass
1st SATURDAY:
Rosary for Vocation after 9am Mass

Easter Sunday
March 31, 2024

Jesus Christ has risen today! For those good stewards of their faith who die with Jesus, they rise with Christ their savior every day. They are an Easter people. Our Savior is active, alive, and transforming us and our communities of faith, even the world, at this very moment. Easter is a time of joy, a time of celebration. To have faith in the risen Lord is also to believe that we are disciples who bear witness to Christ in a broken and troubled world. To be good stewards of this faith obliges us to be living witnesses to Christ's peace at home and in public. Jesus cannot be found buried in some long forgotten time, in some far away land. He is risen. He lives within each one of us. Alleluia!





Archbishop Miller's Easter Message 2024

From time immemorial, people have asked whether there really is life after death and, if so, what kind of life it would be. Some have suggested that life simply ends in nothingness. For them, the world is just a war-torn and violent waiting room where death has the last word.

We Christians, on the other hand, today shout "Alleluia" because Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead. His Resurrection is neither a myth nor a dream. It wasn't a vision. Nor is it a fairy tale. It is a singular and unrepeatable event in the history of the cosmos.

At Easter we celebrate that He conquered sin and death, opening us to a future of hope. Thanks to Him, evil has been robbed of its power; failure can no longer hold us back from starting anew; and death has become a passage to eternal life.

This Easter the Church invites us to relive the thrilling experience of the disciples who encountered Jesus as a living Person. Today we too can encounter Him.

He might be right there before us: in a troubled son or daughter; a difficult spouse or family situation; a neglected person clamouring for our attention. He is waiting to be encountered as Risen Lord, but He wears many disguises. He is found in the poor, the sick, the trafficked, the addicted, the imprisoned, the abandoned, the homeless, and the marginalized in our midst.

As Bishop Robert Barron has written: "It all comes down finally to this: if Jesus was not raised from death, Christianity is a joke. But if he did rise from death, then Christianity is the fullness of God's revelation, and Jesus must be the absolute center of our lives. There is no third option."

If you sincerely seek the Lord, rest assured that you will find Him. Indeed, He will come to find you, to meet you. Calling you by name, He will take you into the intimacy of His love and ask you, in return, to share your experience with others.

J. Michael Miller, CSB
Archbishop of Vancouver

Pontifical Collection for the Holy Land

Political and economic instability, poverty, and discrimination make it difficult to live in the lands where Christ once walked. Your generous support of the special collection for the Holy Land will enable many social, educational, and parish renewal projects, and permit a measure of peace for Christians. Tax-deductible donations can be made in person at the parish or online at rcav.org/holy-land.

Official Enshrinement of San Pedro Calungsod

The Cebuano Society of Canada, in collaboration with the Filipino Catholic Ministry of the Archdiocese of Vancouver, invites devotees and all faithful to witness the official enshrinement of St. Pedro Calungsod, Filipino patron saint of migrants and youth. Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, and Bishop Julito Cortes, D.D., of Dumaguete, Philippines, will preside over the Holy Mass. On Friday, April 19, 6:00 p.m. at St. Monica's Parish in Richmond.

Marriage Anniversary Mass 2024

"Love isn't easy. No. But the most beautiful thing that a man and a woman can give each other is true love, for a lifetime." - Pope Francis

On Sunday, May 12, Archbishop Michael Miller, CSB will be honouring couples celebrating milestone marriage anniversaries: five-year increments from 5 to 60 years, and every year beyond 60 years. The Marriage Anniversary Mass will be at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Port Coquitlam at 1:30 p.m. Registrations received by Friday, April 19, will receive their certificate at the Mass. Learn more and register at family.rcav.org/mam.

Save the Date: Archdiocesan Mass for Civilly Married Couples

Are you married outside the Catholic Church? Would you like to regularize your union so you can receive the sacraments once again? Now, you have a great opportunity as Archbishop Miller celebrates the Mass Wedding for civilly married couples. It will be a beautiful community celebration that will cost very little for the individual couples! For more information, please contact Deacon Raul Abella at rabella@rcav.org or 778-512-9163.