

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

APRIL 21, 2019



*Because I Live
you will live also.*

John 14:19

Saint Rita's Parish

PO Box 537

Gouldsboro, PA 18424

Happy Easter,

On this, the greatest feast in the Church year, we are reminded that even those closest to Jesus hid behind locked doors following Jesus' crucifixion. They didn't immediately preach Jesus as Savior, not until they experienced Jesus as resurrected, and then only after experiencing the Holy Spirit at the feast of Pentecost. They gained courage at experiencing the resurrected Jesus. They gained wisdom and understanding after experiencing the Holy Spirit descending upon them at Pentecost. And then they went forward to preach Jesus as Savior.

All of this would be unthinkable if those followers of Jesus had not experienced a real encounter with the resurrected Jesus. They had fled Jesus' side when he was arrested. The only apostle mentioned at Jesus' crucifixion was John. Their apparent concern was that having been associated with Jesus, look at Peter's denial of even knowing Him, what had happened to Jesus might also happen to them. And then they experienced Jesus risen. They were transformed from frightened men hiding behind locked doors to fearless proclaimers of the Good News of Jesus as Savior and resurrected.

Are we today open to the good news of Jesus risen and present in our lives? Will we allow the Holy Spirit to transform the fears and hurts of our lives into confidence and courage that we are also disciples loved by Jesus? The Acts of the Apostles tell stories of how the transformation takes place between Easter Sunday and Pentecost. Will we allow ourselves to be opened to transformation during this Easter season. Again, happy Easter. He is Risen!

I want to thank all those who have helped plan, prepare and celebrate the Triduum. Thank you to all those who helped clean and decorate our Church, those who participated in the bringing up the oils, and those who had their feet washed. Thank you to our Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers who help make the liturgies special and flow smoothly. A special thanks to our Music Ministers for helping us express beautifully the sentiments of each liturgy. A special thank you to Fr. Kevin for leading us in the beautiful Triduum liturgies. And, of course, a special thanks to all of you who gathered to celebrate the Triduum and Easter Sunday. May you have a blessed Easter season.

Tony Butel

Parish Life Coordinator