



Easter Letter 2023

195A Brandon Rd. Pleasant Hill, CA
ctkph.org

Dear Friends,

“Yes, Christ my hope is arisen...” With these powerful words sung in the Easter Sequence at Mass, we proclaim the Good News of Easter: that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who took up His cross and died for our salvation, has been raised from the dead. This is, indeed, the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad (Psalm 118).

We have reached this most joyful celebration after the hardship of Lent and in the midst of a waning—we pray—three-year-long pandemic that has impacted all our lives. We have made the sacrifices; we have endured the losses; we have lived the sorrow. And now, with the Risen Jesus, let us put aside our worries and fears, living as St. Paul reminds us, with “no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God” (Phil: 4:4-6).

When you see the disciples moving from a position of fear and even denial of Christ and within 50 days they’re out in the public squares proclaiming that Jesus has been resurrected and they have seen him and they are willing to go to their death for that belief – that’s pretty strong evidence that they saw something.

While it may be the aspirational hope of our faith to “lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light” (Romans 13:1) too many times we are drawn into the darkness. The light of God’s love is more powerful than any of the darkness of our present age. We who follow Jesus are called to be faithful to the vows of our Baptismal Covenant and to trust that God’s power working in us “is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine” (Ephesians 3:20). As poet Amanda Gorman offered, “For there is always light, if only we’re brave enough to see it. If only we’re brave enough to be it.”

I am so happy to see our churches beginning to look and sound normal. We will once again offer Sunday morning donuts, our altar servers will be back in the sanctuary, and there will be an upcoming Ministry Faire to invite you all to be more engaged with our parish community and much more. I see His light shining in our midst.



Let us invite family and friends to church this Easter and the season of grace that follows it. The most effective way to welcome someone this Easter is with a personal invitation done face-to-face. As you gather with friends, family, or neighbors over coffee, a meal, at the playground, at the gym, at the office, or at school, be prayerful and attentive for opportunities to simply invite someone to join you for Easter. Eighty-two percent of people who don’t attend church say

they would visit a church if they were personally invited. A personal invitation is a powerful opportunity for someone to find their home in Jesus.

Here is a sample message: “I hope you’re having a great day! I just wanted to let you know I was thinking about you and wondered if you’d be interested in joining me for church on Easter? I would love to go together! Hope you have a great week!”

On behalf of our parish clergy and staff, I extend to you Happy Easter. May the miracle of Christ’s resurrection fill our hearts with love, hope, and blissful joy.

Fr. Paulson



Lenten and Holy Week Services

Parish Reconciliation Services

Saturday - March 25 at 3pm

Monday - March 27 at 6pm

St. Stephen Church - Friday, March 24 at 6 pm

Holy Thursday - April 6

7pm Mass

St. Stephen Church - 7pm Mass

Good Friday - April 7

12pm - Taize Prayer Around the Cross

1pm - Stations of the Cross

1:40pm - Preaching on the Passion

2pm - Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

6pm - Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

St. Stephen Church - Stations of the Cross - 6pm

Easter Vigil Saturday - April 8

7:30pm Mass

St. Stephen Church - 7:30pm Mass

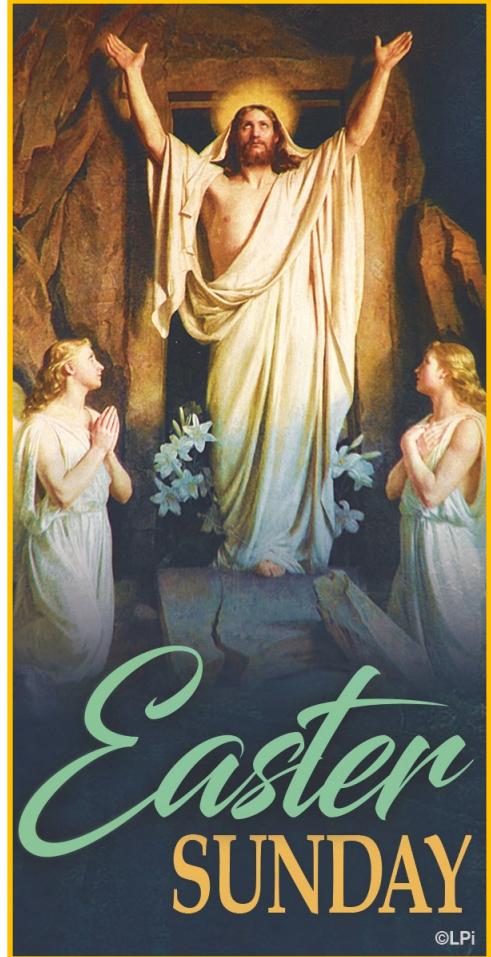
Easter Sunday Masses - April 9

7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am - In the church

9am & 10:30am - Children/Family Mass - Outdoors

No 4pm Mass

St. Stephen Church - 9:30am



- ⇒ Please bring your own chairs for the outdoor masses.
- ⇒ Livestreaming links to our services can be found at ctkph.org.
- ⇒ 10:30am Easter Sunday Mass will be livestreamed