

Easter Blessings

Easter falls on the first Sunday after the full moon of Spring Equinox.



In 1998:
 March 20 - Spring Equinox
 April 11 - First Full Moon
 April 12 - Easter Sunday

*Happy Anniversary
 Clara,
 Here's to many more wonderful
 years!
 Your loving husband, Gary*

The Meaning of Easter

BY ARCHBISHOP JOHN G. VLADNY

People know who we are by the stories we tell. For the most part, we seldom have the opportunity to hear an entire tale that reveals the vision and values of a community. We learn about communities through reports of specific events and narratives concerning certain individuals. People in Oregon know about Christianity in general and Catholicism in particular largely through media reports about our position on controversial legislative actions and political initiatives. In an unchurched state like Oregon, the larger community has too few opportunities to hear "the rest of the story."

For Christians the world over, Easter is the climax of the whole history of salvation. No story reveals more about what it is to be a Christian than the story of the resurrection. It is a story told in grand and epic style in our liturgical celebrations during what we call the "Paschal Triduum" which begins with the evening Mass of the Lord's supper and concludes with Vespers on Easter Sunday. Christ's passion, death, resurrection and ascension into glory constitute the paschal or Easter mystery... the

story of the full deliverance won by Christ for all of us.

Just as the resurrection is the central event in the story; the cross is the principal symbol. Of all the words and acts of Jesus, none have the capacity to touch the heart with love and gratitude more than those that occurred during his passion. The passion narratives are the longest and most moving of all four Gospels.

We live in the shadow of this cross. There is violence in the streets. Poverty, insecurity, lost jobs and under-employment surround us. Drugs and alcohol threaten our children. Anger and rage are part of family life. We see the shadow of the cross in physician assisted suicide, abortion, and the death penalty. And still we believe. We believe we know the rest of the story. Everyone loves a happy ending and ours is a story that ends "happily ever after."

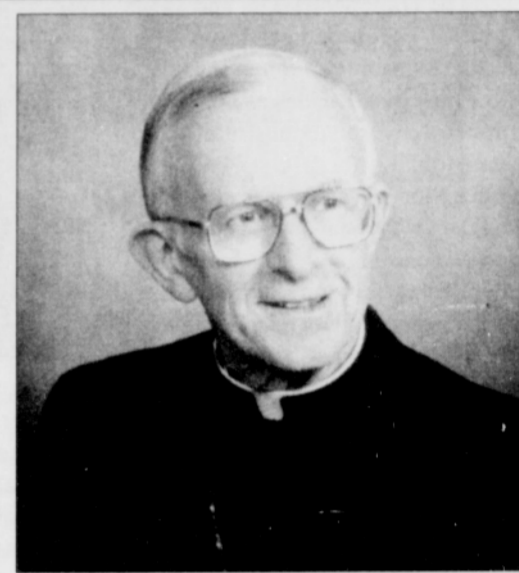
The earth knows first. The stone is rolled away and the tomb burst open. The ground spits forth what it could not contain. Resurrection shattered all of creation and Jesus came shining with glory. The distress of the cross is part of what brings forth resurrection. The endurance and faithfulness is necessary for life to take hold again where death has once

held fast. This is love put to the test, love that survives death itself and learns another way to express itself. This is Easter, the very heart of Christian faith.

Christianity began with a very specific message: the crucified Jesus had been raised from the dead so that he could become the Savior and ever present Lord of all. This is what Christians throughout the world proclaim at Easter.

Christ's resurrection was not tacked onto the passion story like a pleasant addition. The risen Jesus wears the marks of the passion. The Gospel is not a tragedy, but a narrative with a true happy ending. The Resurrection is both a challenge to and a confirmation of our faith. By his death, Jesus freed us from sin. By his Resurrection, he opens for us the path to new life.

To believe in the resurrection is to accept a God who not only grants



Archbishop John G. Vlady

life forever but also transforms that life and renews it. To believe in the resurrection is to accept a God who tells you how to live that life. To believe in the resurrection is to know that you live in the midst of "happily ever after" - that Christ is among us still.

On behalf of all your Catholic friends of Western Oregon, whom I serve as archbishop, I wish you God's grace and joy for Easter and "happily ever after."

EVERYBODY LIKES TO RECEIVE GIFTS!

Jesus Christ has given each member of His Church at least one spiritual gift.

Do you know what your SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE?



ST. MARK BAPTIST CHURCH
 In Cooperation with
 OPEN DOOR COMMUNICATION MINISTRIES, INC.
 Presents

A Twelve Week Workshop Entitled:
**SPIRITUAL GIFTS: THE EQUIPPING
 WORK OF GOD!**
 Conducted by Rev. Robert Kelley
 Beginning Wednesday, April 15th At 6:30PM

SEATING IS LIMITED!
 CALL (503) 287-7457 TO REGISTER

Consciousness of Oneness: Key to Transformation

BY REVEREND DIANA ADAMS

Springtime brings new life, the blooming of trees and flowers, new lambs, rabbits, eggs and chicks, the whole example of life renewing itself all around us. Our springtime celebration of Easter is also a time of awakening in the Spirit. Officially it is the celebration of Jesus' resurrection as Christ. But more importantly, it is our opportunity for the Christ Spirit to be born in our hearts today. As we look around at the transformation in our world, we must also start looking within ourselves and asking some important questions. Have we learned to forgive? Are we willing to let go of old resentments to make room for the Christ Spirit to live in our hearts as peace, love, truth and wisdom?

One of the fundamental principles of the universe is that of oneness. There is a basic unity that connects all of creation. Why then does conflict and fighting persist within the human family? Because the ego, our separate self, maintains the illusion

of separateness. We mistakenly believe that our interests are different from those of our neighbors and act to oppose "the enemy" when we feel threatened. If you are willing to receive the Christ Spirit you will know that every human being is your counterpart. Every other human being possesses aspects of yourself, your dreams, your sorrows and your hopes for a better world.

In their book, Roger and McWilliam give us three rules for living:

1. Don't hurt yourself or anyone else
2. Take care of yourself so that you may be able to help others
3. Use everything for your enlightenment, learning, upliftment and growth.

If you have been wronged by another, hurt and betrayed, fortify your emotions with these words of Jesus, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." When an emotional injury takes place the body

knows how to heal, itself just as it heals a broken bone - slowly and with much patient knitting. In the darkest hour, the soul is replenished and given strength to continue and endure. Developing a forgiving mind does not mean that you approve of that person's behavior, it simply means that you refuse to return unlove for unlove. Unforgiveness holds you a prisoner to that other person because they are still in your thoughts.



The old word for addiction is temptation... "lead us not into temptation."

Hell is the place of people who could not yield their ego system to allow the grace of a transpersonal power to move in them. Unforgiveness is addictive behavior. No matter what you have done in the past, no matter where your soul has traveled, practice self-forgiveness. Transformation is always

possible by renewing the mind (changing our thoughts and words) and allowing the Christ-Self to emerge in the space of the heart.

Take time to meditate on the Oneness of life and of humankind. See yourself as a citizen of the planet Earth, not bound to any one group or nation, but a member of the human community. As each of us makes this shift in consciousness, we are part of the coming transformation. The ripples will spread throughout the world and fear and separateness will be replaced with love and oneness.

One way to think of this process of transformation is to visualize it as your garden. The mind is the soil, your thoughts and words are the seeds, your actions are the cultivation and your life is the harvest. Plant a beautiful garden in your community this Easter, plant the seeds of transformation in yourself, and remember these words of Erasmus, "Give light, and the darkness will disappear by itself."

Easter Calendar

Meet Bunnicula

This is not your ordinary Easter bunny! The friendly vampire rabbit from the children's books by Deborah and James Howe visits with children. The event is scheduled for April 11 at 11 AM at Borders in Beaverton. Admission is free. Call 644-9262.

Good Friday Meditation

Good Friday brings a time of reflection and an opening to release the old. Release prepares us for the experience of a miracle in our lives! Along with hundreds of others, we create an energy of release that empowers us to new life. This meditative evening service is one of the most powerful of the year at the Living Enrichment Center in Wilsonville. Call 682-4251.

Rabbit Romp!

A spring celebration at the Metro Washington Park Zoo for children ages 3 to 10 features a hunt for treats on the zoo lawns (hunts every 20 minutes), plus rabbit-ear headbands, games, puppet shows, and a petting zoo. The Young Peoples Theatre Project brings favorite tales to life in Rabbits Garden. Come and meet Alice, the Mad Hatter, Doormouse, etc. The Humane Society

volunteers show their therapy dogs. Call 220-3687.

Coloring and Poetry Contests

Bridges Toy and Book Store invites children up to age 12 to participate in a Spring Coloring Contest. Kids may use the medium of their choice, and some entries will be displayed in store windows. Coloring forms are available at the store. Artwork is due by Friday, April 10 at 5 PM. The winner will be announced on Wednesday, April 22. Call 699-0550.

Heart and Soul

Reverend Kate Verigin will be offering a special presentation to look at the ancient roots of Easter and its modern day application. There will be a ceremony,

storytelling, music and dancing. The event will be held at the Subud Center at 3185 NE Regents Drive. Call 256-9833.

The Easter Story

You are invited to join us for the presentation of The Easter Story, featuring inspiring original music and drama in our 3,000 seat auditorium, presented by The New Hope Performing Arts Center on April 9, 10 and 11 at 7 PM and April 11 at 4 PM. Performances are signed interpreted for the hearing impaired. Call 659-5683.

Motorcycle Club

The Brothers Free Motorcycle Club will hold its annual Easter Egg Hunt for kids. The event will be held on April 11 at Alberta Park at 11 AM. Alberta Park is in NE Portland on 18th and Ainsworth. Everyone is welcome to this free event. Games and prizes will be included. Find a hidden egg with a motorcycle emblem and receive a surprise gift.

Pre-Easter Celebration

The Highland United Church of Christ headed by Pastor W. G. Hardy, Jr. will present its first annual Pre-Easter Celebration on April 10, 11 and 12 at 7 PM nightly. The church is located on 4635 NE 9th. Admission is free. Call 287-9567.



Northwest Community Fellowship

"The Church Without Walls"
 (360) 693-0134

3 Easter Services

9:15 ~ 10:30 ~ 12:00

*Come And Discover What
 Hundreds Have Discovered!*

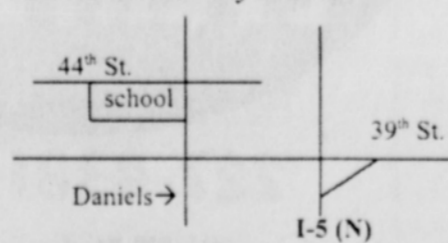
Come On Over To NWCF...

*Just 5 Minutes North Of The
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Meeting at Lincoln Elementary School on
 44th & Daniels off I-5 at the 39th St. exit

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Lincoln Elementary School



Randy E. West

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