

From the PA's Desk

Easter Sunday:

The staff and I pray that joy-filled hope, unexpected blossomings, and profound possibilities be your blessings this year, beginning this Easter. May God's grace be felt in your homes as you commemorate this 50-day season of hope and joy!

Congrats to our new Catholics!

Congratulations to Aaron Lloyd, Sydney Lloyd, and Natalie Lloyd, who were baptized at the Easter Vigil, and Terry Catrell and Alan Larson who were received into the Church through Confirmation and Eucharist, along with Aaron, Natalie, and Sydney. We as a community of faith are blessed to have you join us as a parish family!

Gospel Today:

A lifetime ago when I was in the seminary, we were given a reflection on retreat, and I've kept it all these years. I like to share some of it now as we celebrate the glorious resurrection of Christ.

One of the best Easter greetings we can offer another is to say: "I hope you discover empty tombs all the days of your life." As Christians, we should hope to enter other people's lives in such a way that they are touched and lifted, rescued and freed from whatever is holding them back from life.

When we are born we are not automatically "alive." Having been born does not guarantee full life. It guarantees only that we have begun the process of either coming alive or being entombed. Any person with eyes open to the world can recognize how many dead men and women there are walking around. The tomb is a very definite threat in this life. We either need to be rescued from it, or, if we've been fortunate enough to escape it so far, to remain free from its encasement.

The most painful experience for any person is to be trapped in the tomb, from which only love can free them. Our news stories are filled every day with the tragic tales of desperate efforts people take to kill the pain of being entrapped in a tomb infected by a lack of love, rejection, indifference, intolerance, and hatred. They don't have to wear the linen cloths of a mummy to show that they are entombed. Anybody who truly knows them recognizes the fact.

Jesus became one of us to show us how to go about raising people from whatever tomb they find themselves in. God reached humanity in a unique way through Jesus, and through our

assistance, God continues to raise people from the dead. God calls us to be a lover of others, and commissions us to be ambassadors and witnesses of his love. We are sent to free others from their tombs. At the end of our lives, we will be asked how successfully we fulfilled the challenge. God will ask us: "How many people did you raise from the dead? How many people did you set free?"

May you discover empty tombs all the days of your life! May you discover your own empty tomb; the tomb from which you have been rescued, or the one that you have been fortunate enough to be freed from. May you discover the empty tombs of others you have freed. May you discover empty tombs your whole life through.

Alpha Next Week: Why and How Do I Read the Bible

Talk summary:

- The Bible is the most popular book in the world, the most powerful book in the world, and the most precious book in the world. But why?
- The Bible is the primary way God communicates with us
- God has spoken: Revelation – he has revealed himself in creation and through a person – Jesus. Through the Bible we get to know Jesus. The Bible is all about Jesus.
- The Bible is inspired by God (*God-breathed*)
- The Bible is a collection of books written over 1600 of years by over forty different authors: 100% human authors. 100% inspired by God.
- God speaks: Relationship – through the Bible we develop our relationship with Jesus, and receive guidelines for living.
- How do we hear God speak through the Bible? Find a plan, pattern, place

Maple Syrup Festival Table:

Since we are looking for various ways to evangelize and spread the Christian message of who we are in this area, during the Maple Syrup Festival, on Saturday from 9am until 7 pm, we will have an evangelization table located in the Atrium of the High School, and our goal is to have literature about our parish (who and what we are) available for people as they file by for lunch or dinner. I need volunteers to sign up for perhaps one or two hour shifts... to greet people and pass out parish information flyers. If you can help, please let me know.

Download the New Parish App:

The St. Vincent de Paul Parish app is now available to download for iPhone and Android smart phones. Stay connected throughout the week with instant notifications, an easy-to-access event calendar, and the ability to quickly reply to or share messages. We still have some work to do on it, but you can download our app today at myparishapp.com