



My Dear Parishioners,

The Lord is Risen, He is Risen Indeed, ALLELUIA!

On behalf of the clergy and staff of St. Patrick, I extend each of you a VERY HAPPY EASTER! Today is the Day of Salvation and we REJOICE in both the EMPTY TOMB and the APPEARANCES OF THE RISEN LORD!

I share with you here a reflection from Fr. John Hardon on the thought found deep in the Church – but not in the Scripture – of the Risen One’s appearance to Mary, His Mother! As Easter begins, let us pray God’s work to continue and to bring to great fulfillment his Plan for us, our families and our parish.

Peace,

Fr. Rogers

Our Lady, the First Witness

“The Mother was probably the first person to whom the risen Jesus appeared. Could not Mary’s absence from the group of women who went to the tomb at dawn (cf. Mk 16: 1; Mt 28: 1) indicate that she had already met Jesus?” (St. John Paul II)

It is not only a pious opinion that the Risen Savior first appeared to His Mother Mary on Easter Sunday. No less than six Doctors of the Church, including SS. Ambrose, Anselm and Albert the Great held that Our Lady was the first witness of the Resurrection. Pope Benedict XIV declared that this fact is “based on the tradition proclaimed by ancient architectural and liturgical monuments, starting from Jerusalem itself.”

Therefore it is not surprising that St. Ignatius of Loyola in his Spiritual Exercises simply assumes that Jesus “appeared in body and soul to His Blessed Mother” immediately after rising from the dead. In fact, Ignatius makes this Marian mystery the first of fourteen meditations on the risen life of Christ. It is also the key meditation which introduces the capstone of the Spiritual Exercises, the “Contemplation for Obtaining Divine Love.” We are to learn from Mary that “love ought to be found in deeds rather than words,” and that “love consists in mutual interchange on either side.”

The Resurrection Fulfills the Annunciation to Mary

Over the centuries, the Church’s masters of the spiritual life have explained why Christ opened His forty days on earth after the Resurrection by appearing to His Mother. It is because the Resurrection was the fulfillment of the Annunciation. At the Annunciation, Mary submitted her will by faith to the word of God. At the Resurrection, her faith was rewarded by actually seeing and speaking with her glorified Son.

236



**St. Patrick Parish
Rosary
Sunday Evenings
7:00 PM
via Zoom**

**THERE WILL BE NO PARISH ROSARY ON
SUNDAY, APRIL 20 or SUNDAY, APRIL 27.
Happy and Blessed Easter!**

Our Parish Rosary will resume on Sunday, May 4.

