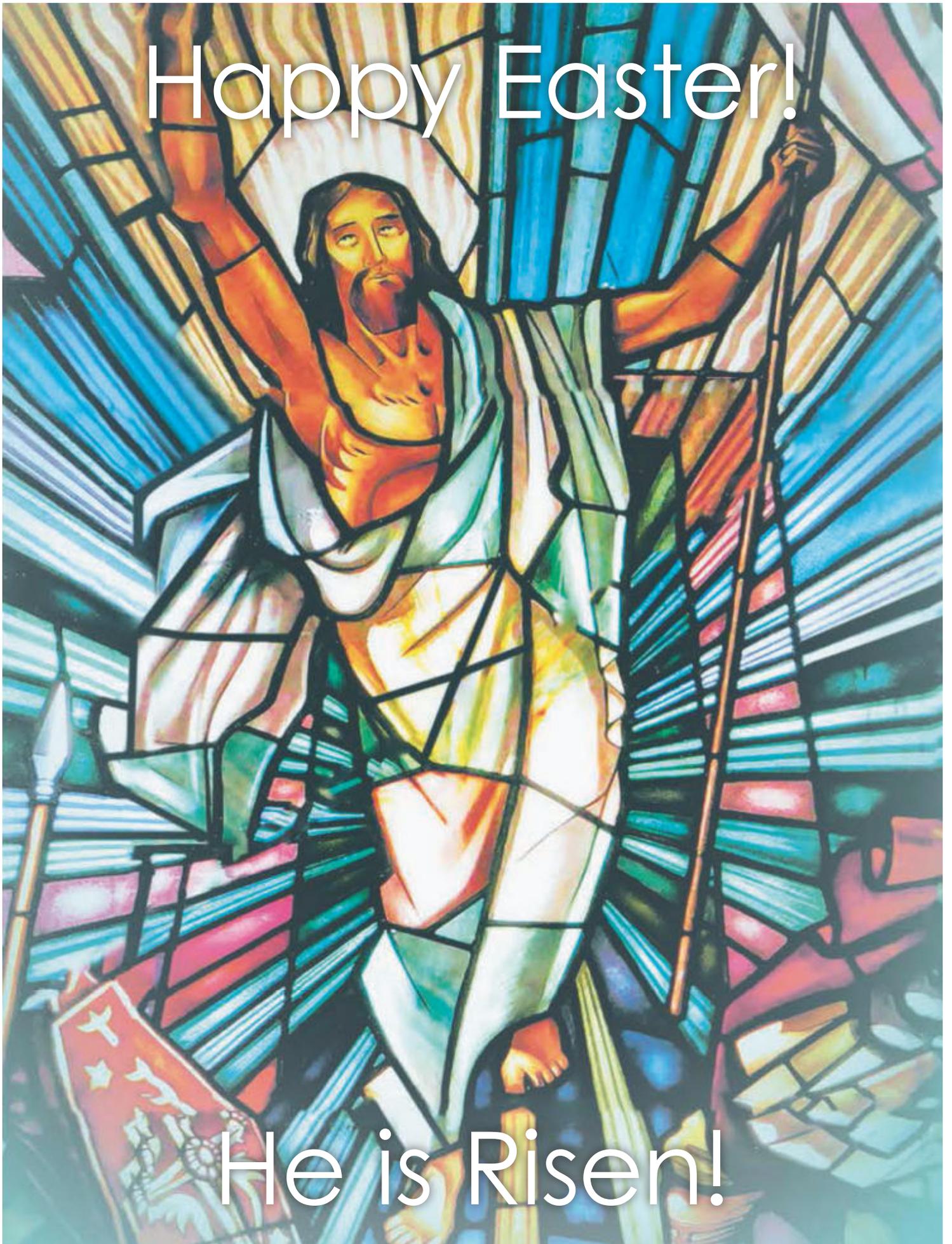


Happy Easter!



He is Risen!

pondering great love and sacrifice

Dear family and friends in Christ,

Today is the central expression of our Faith, and the highest holy day of the year. As we come to Easter, 2021, we once again commemorate and celebrate the great Paschal Mystery. On Holy Thursday we recalled the Lord's Last Supper, wherein He gave us the timeless gift of Himself in the Eucharist.

Every time we gather for the celebration of the Mass, we are brought wonderfully and mysteriously into the very dynamic of the passion, death and resurrection of our Lord. His greatest act of love expressed in dying for us, and giving us a share in the newness of life as we partake of His own flesh and blood.

On Good Friday we recalled the Passion and Death of our Lord. It is such a solemn and sorrowful remembrance that it is the only day of the year in which the glory of the Mass is not celebrated. As we recall the mortal death of our Christ and Savior we think of a world without His presence, thus no Mass. It is meant to be sobering and a true call to action to let our lives cry out with a deep longing for Him who thirsted for us.

Now, with the Easter glory, we recall that the author of life could not be trapped and bound by the sorrow and finality of death. He Is Risen! Alleluia, alleluia! And His resurrection is the source of hope and joy for every Christian. He truly has conquered both sin and death. And in our own baptisms we are united with Him in that awesome paschal mystery.

One year ago, our Easter celebrations were limited to just observing from afar as the churches were still in locked down mode, and all were at home in a nationwide and worldwide quarantine. We have made a lot of progress, and although we are not yet at full capacity, I give thanks for the many who have been coming to Mass now for several months as well as those who are looking over and conscientiously offering us the protections we have when we do gather.

Let us, on this Easter, remember and pray in a particular way for the over two million who have died worldwide from the pandemic. Let us also give thanks and prayerful support to the many, many women and men in the fields of science and medicine, first responders, all the service workers who are often overlooked and yet an essential part of the work that needs to be carried out daily, as well as their families and loved ones who have shared the burdens. Give thanks to God for their dedication, service and care and the willingness to make sacrifices, large and small, for the sake of their neighbors.

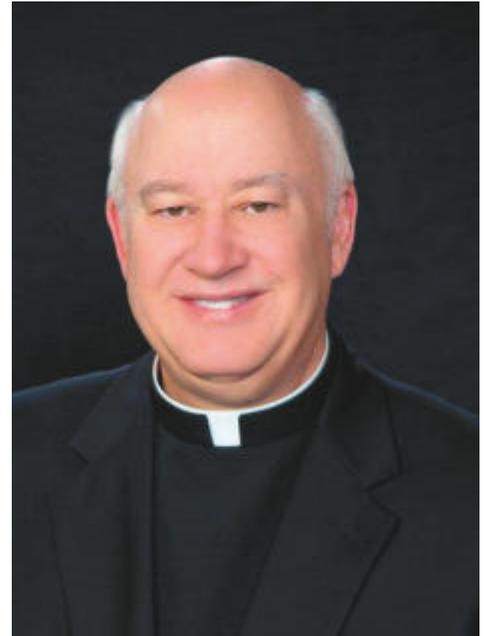
I also want to offer a heartfelt thank you to the many staff and parishioners who have made our parish faith life possible over these past twelve months. You probably have no idea the countless hours, dedication, work and commitment that has gone into making what has been possible here at St. Thomas More Parish and School. I see a little more of it from being on the "inside" and even I know that the full of the picture is richer and more beautiful than I can appreciate. I want to sincerely say thank you from the bottom of my heart to one and all. I will be remembering you in a special way in my Masses this week. May the Lord of Life and Love fill you with the choicest of His blessings and grace. And may our whole parish family of faith cherish that faith which lies underneath all that is meaningful and good in our lives.

God bless and be with you all in this glorious Easter Season.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Monsignor Tom Fryar
Pastor



a reflection on today's readings

Today, we celebrate the Resurrection of Christ! This event is the greatest event in our Catholic faith. It is through the resurrection that Christ defeated sin and death and opened for us the gates to eternal life. All of God's promises are fulfilled through this glorious event. We have been preparing for 40 long days, through prayer and penance, so that we might be better prepared to receive Christ this day, and to better prepare our hearts to one day rise with Christ in eternal life. Today, we do not fast, but rather, celebrate and rejoice because of our great and merciful God!

The meaning and joy of Easter is not a "one-day" affair, but is an essential element of our Catholic faith. We are called to live out the joy of Easter all year long. Our readings today reveal how we can do this here and now in our day-to-day lives.

Our Gospel portrays the third day after Jesus' death when Mary of Magdala visits Jesus' tomb in the morning. Once she saw the stone removed, she ran to tell Peter and John in fear that someone had taken Jesus' body. Peter and John ran to the tomb as well, and upon seeing, they believed. Each figure in our Gospel today "ran." We can tell the relationship that these disciples had with Jesus because of the way they responded about Him. Mary didn't see the empty tomb and think, "someone else will figure it out." Peter and John didn't hear the news and think, "I will check on it in a little bit." They each responded with conviction as they "ran" for Jesus.

As we reflect on this Gospel, we must ask ourselves, "Do I have a relationship with Christ to the point where I am running to Him each day?" The way these disciples responded with willingness and eagerness is how we should respond to Christ. We must avoid complacency, and as intentional disciples, we must stop rationalizing our choices by telling ourselves we will someday get around to putting God first — "I am too busy now, but I will pray later" or "I will eventually get around to spending less on material things and increase my gifts to the church." Every moment throughout our day is an opportunity to respond to God in gratitude, compassion and eagerness. And although there will be moments when we do not "feel" like responding to Him, it is in those moments when we faithfully respond anyway that matters the most.

Let us celebrate this glorious day with prayer and feasting, for Christ is risen! And let us strive to carry this Easter joy with us all year long by the way we live our lives and how we respond to Christ each day. Happy Easter!

—Catholic Stewardship Consultants





sharing our parish memories

Throughout our 50 year history, we have been blessed to witness many milestones, celebrations and events in our parishioners lives. St. Thomas More is glad to share these photos from parishioners and our archives.

If you have photos or memories you would like to share, email them to bulletin@stthomasmore.org.



Parishioners at STM come together for Easter Mass in 1975.



Fr. Michael Walsh celebrates Easter Mass at STM in 1996.



*Frank and Marge Welsh at the RCIA Seder Dinner.
(photo from Jere Allen, date unknown, approx. late 90s)*



Fr. Andrew Kemberling baptizes a young parishioner during the 2010 Easter Vigil.



A father hold his sleeping daughter during the 2017 Easter Vigil.



Makenna Patten finds her photo displayed during the livestreamed Easter Mass in 2020.

easter blessings

Our St. Thomas More clergy and staff wish you a blessed and joyous Easter Sunday and Easter Season.

The parish office and school will be closed on Easter Monday, April 5 and will reopen on Tuesday, April 6.

HE IS RISEN! Indeed, He is Risen! Alleluia, Alleluia!



mass & prayer intentions



Sunday, April 4:

Easter Sunday
6:30AM Celebrant's Intention
8:30AM Celebrant's Intention
10:30AM Mass for the People
12:30PM Celebrant's Intention
(No 5:30PM Mass)

Monday, April 5:

6:30AM Ian Stemper
9:00AM Jane Steel-Jessop †

Tuesday, April 6:

6:30AM Dcn. Ron Ansay †
9:00AM Debbie Scott

Wednesday, April 7:

6:30AM Dean & Dorothy
McConnell †
9:00AM Wes Rohleder †

Thursday, April 8:

6:30AM Mary Bushey †
9:00AM Russ Schneider †

Friday, April 9:

6:30AM Shannon Hooper
9:00AM Delores Gagel †

Saturday, April 10:

7:30AM Lionel Bassett
4:00PM Randy Cross †
5:30PM Eileen Emerson †

Sunday, April 11:

Divine Mercy Sunday
7:00AM Robert Hartmann
8:30AM The Lupton Family
10:30AM Mass for the People
of St. Thomas More
12:30PM Dcn. Steve Stemper
5:30PM Charles & Denise Jeske †

Pray for our ill parish members & relatives:
Tessie Cicarelli and Cecilia German

Pray for our deceased parish members & relatives:
Tom Benson, Mike DePlato, Mary McAleer,
Ed Roman, Eric Talley

Due to the Privacy Act, only immediate family members may request a name to be placed on the prayer list. Please call the parish office at 303.770.1155.

Traveling Chalice:

The Ingrum Family will be praying for vocations this week.

St. Thomas More Catholic Parish

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worship with us

Sunday Masses: Saturday (Anticipatory): 4:00 & 5:30PM Sunday: 7:00, 8:30 & 10:30AM (live streamed); 12:30PM, 5:30PM

Daily Masses: Monday–Friday 6:30AM (live streamed) & 9:00AM, Saturday 7:30AM (live streamed)

Confessions: Thursday: 6:30PM & Saturday: 8:30AM. Or contact the parish office for an appointment.

Holy Hour for Vocations: Thursdays 6:30–7:30PM

Perpetual Adoration: 24-hour Eucharistic Adoration in our beautiful Adoration Chapel. Contact 303.220.3392 or adoration@stthomasmore.org for more information.

Sacrament of the Sick:

Contact the parish office at the onset of illness. In the case of a death in the family, contact the parish office immediately at 303.770.1155. For sacramental emergencies when the parish office is closed, call 303.698.1111.

receive the sacraments

Sacrament of Matrimony:

Engaged couples or civilly married couples who would like to be married in the Catholic Church, contact Connie Wood at conniew@stthomasmore.org no less than eight months prior to the wedding for marriage preparation information.

Sacrament of Baptism:

For baptisms, contact Sandra Schwab at sandras@stthomasmore.org no less than one month prior to the baptism ceremony.

Sacraments of First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Eucharist:

For information, visit our website at stthomasmore.org or contact the Office of Catechesis at 303.770.0531. Registration is open now for children entering grades 2–4.

Visit our website at stthomasmore.org and click “Sacraments” for more information about the sacraments.

If you are an adult who is interested in becoming Catholic please contact the Office of Catechesis at 303.770.0531 for more information about the RCIA process.



middle & high school youth

Our parish has a thriving, exciting Youth Ministry, where all youth in middle school (grades 6–8) and high school (grades 9–12) are welcome! Come make new friends, learn more about Christ, grow in faith and have fun.

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To get involved, visit stthomasmore.org/youth or contact our youth ministers at youth@stthomasmore.org or 303.220.3388.



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learning from the *exsultet* the proclamation hymn of easter

By Bill Schmitt

The first major section of the annual Easter Vigil celebration may be the most memorable and engaging to the senses. It certainly includes some vivid symbols and actions which we do not encounter in the liturgy every day. Beginning with the instruction that we in the pews, the whole Church, our world and the angels in heaven should get ready to “exult” tonight, the Proclamation of Easter calls us, in its own words, to an “ardent love of mind and heart.”

Connecting us to past, present and future

The Latin name for this all-encompassing, centuries-old proclamation of praise and thanksgiving is *the Exsultet*. Its panoramic poetry, centered on the Paschal Candle cutting through darkness, invokes a “sanctification of light and night, of place and time, of priest and faithful for the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord,” as Rev. Jerome Gassner, OSB, describes.

I would add that this prayer’s chanted words connect us to past, present and future. They also honor both our access to eternal happiness and our temporal experience of God’s gradual, providential work in our lives. My favorite part of *the Exsultet* speaks of the “happy fault” of Adam’s sin that won for us so great a Savior.

*O truly necessary sin of Adam,
destroyed completely by the Death of Christ!
O happy fault
that earned for us so great, so glorious a Redeemer!*

Another high point is the repeated phrase, “This is the night,” first referring to the Lord’s merciful love in the Old Testament and then recalling when Christ’s gift of self “burst the bonds of death.”

This proclamation is truly an invitation for families and parishes. If you’re a parent who wants to impress upon your children how history is essential to appreciate our circumstances today and tomorrow, or if you’re a religious educator struggling to keep eternity on parishioners’ radar screens amid a spontaneous, empirical, short-attention-span culture, *the Exsultet* is for you.



Dcn. George Morrin delivers the Exsultet during the 2019 Easter Vigil Mass



Parishioners hold the light of the Paschal Candle during the 2019 Easter Vigil Mass

This is the night, but savor the fullness of time

One word you might consider in contemplating *the Exsultet* is “timeful.” I recently saw a televised panel of book authors in which geologist Marcia Bjornerud discussed her 2018 book, *Timefulness: How Thinking Like a Geologist Can Help Save the World*. Her thoughts focused on material matters, rather than spiritual; she said she had coined the “timefulness” term as a deliberate counterpoint to “timelessness.” The latter word, she explained, is “something we think we should aspire to, which is outside the realm of time, but which ultimately is a kind of sterile idea.”

Watching this event, I saw value in Bjornerud’s arguments. “Everything has a past and evolves and is more interesting because of that history,” she said, adding that “the past is very much present” in such things as rocks and mountain ranges.

But give me *the Exsultet* as a better invitation to understand and love the world around us. I can accept a concept of timefulness that respects humanity’s need to put the present moment in context, trusting in God’s timing. But it still may miss the bigger

picture that extends beyond time and transcends nature.

An invitation to a brighter future

The Easter Vigil immerses us in the timeless providence of God the Father and Christ’s gift of redemption. But *the Exsultet* introduces that Saturday night celebration with a poem about salvation history. It reveals in specifics of our past—and in the Paschal Candle—our ongoing passage of darkness into light, led by the Lord.

By sending us His Son to die and rise for us, and by acts of love beginning in the Old Testament, God shows us how He acts through the ages. The past is prologue to an even brighter future, so we want to embrace the mission to receive and spread the Good News of mercy we need throughout life. “O happy fault!”

Published on Saturday, April 20, 2019 by the McGrath Institute for Church Life at the University of Notre Dame.

the exsultet: christ our light

Exult, let them exult, the hosts of heaven,
exult, let Angel ministers of God exult,
let the trumpet of salvation
sound aloud our mighty King's triumph!

Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods
her,
ablaze with light from her eternal King,
let all corners of the earth be glad,
knowing an end to gloom and darkness.

Rejoice, let Mother Church also rejoice,
arrayed with the lightning of his glory,
let this holy building shake with joy,
filled with the mighty voices of the
peoples.

(Therefore, dearest friends,
standing in the awesome glory of this holy light,
invoke with me, I ask you,
the mercy of God almighty,
that he, who has been pleased to number me,
though unworthy, among the Levites,
may pour into me his light unshadowed,
that I may sing this candle's perfect praises).

(Deacon: The Lord be with you.
People: And with your spirit.)
Deacon: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them up to the Lord.
Deacon: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right and just.

It is truly right and just,
with ardent love of mind and heart
and with devoted service of our voice,
to acclaim our God invisible, the almighty Father,
and Jesus Christ, our Lord, his Son, his Only Begotten.

Who for our sake paid Adam's debt to the eternal Father,
and, pouring out his own dear Blood,
wiped clean the record of our ancient sinfulness.

These, then, are the feasts of Passover,
in which is slain the Lamb, the one true Lamb,
whose Blood anoints the doorposts of believers.

This is the night,
when once you led our forebears, Israel's children,
from slavery in Egypt
and made them pass dry-shod through the Red Sea.

This is the night
that with a pillar of fire
banished the darkness of sin.

This is the night
that even now throughout the world,
sets Christian believers apart from worldly vices
and from the gloom of sin,
leading them to grace
and joining them to his holy ones.

This is the night
when Christ broke the prison-bars of death



*Christ leads Adam Out of Hell by the Hand,
Artist Unknown (circa 1503-04)*

and rose victorious from the underworld.

Our birth would have been no gain,
had we not been redeemed.
O wonder of your humble care for us!
O love, O charity beyond all telling,
to ransom a slave you gave away your
Son!

O truly necessary sin of Adam,
destroyed completely by the Death of
Christ!

O happy fault
that earned for us so great, so glorious a
Redeemer!

O truly blessed night,
worthy alone to know the time and hour
when Christ rose from the underworld!

This is the night
of which it is written:
The night shall be as bright as day,
dazzling is the night for me, and full of gladness.

The sanctifying power of this night
dispels wickedness, washes faults away,
restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to mourners,
drives out hatred, fosters concord, and brings down the
mighty.

On this, your night of grace, O holy Father,
accept this candle, a solemn offering,
the work of bees and of your servants' hands,
an evening sacrifice of praise,
this gift from your most holy Church.

But now we know the praises of this pillar,
which glowing fire ignites for God's honour,
a fire into many flames divided,
yet never dimmed by sharing of its light,
for it is fed by melting wax,
drawn out by mother bees
to build a torch so precious.

O truly blessed night,
when things of heaven are wed to those of earth,
and divine to the human.

Therefore, O Lord,
we pray you that this candle,
hallowed to the honour of your name,
may persevere undimmed,
to overcome the darkness of this night.
Receive it as a pleasing fragrance,
and let it mingle with the lights of heaven.
May this flame be found still burning
by the Morning Star:
the one Morning Star who never sets,
Christ your Son,
who, coming back from death's domain,
has shed his peaceful light on humanity,
and lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

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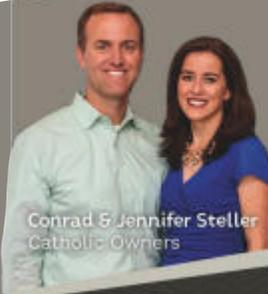
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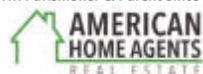
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