

Easter Morning homily by Deacon Rick Moser
A Happy Easter and a joyous Easter from all the clergy and staff of St. Anthony's.
May all your Easter Season be filled with grace and joy.

*On the third day, the friends of Christ came at
daybreak to the place and found the grave
empty and the stone rolled away.
In varying ways they realized the new wonder;
but even they hardly realized that
the world had died in the night.
What they were looking at was the
first day of a new creation,
with a new heaven and a new earth;
and in a semblance of the gardener,
God walked again in the garden,
in the cool, not of the evening,
but the dawn.
G.K. Chesterton*

Christmas may be the most celebrated Solemnity during the Church's Liturgical Year and is celebrated for eight days, or an Octave. Easter, including Holy Thursday and Good Friday, the three days we call the Triduum, is celebrated as a "single day." The Triduum is the greatest Solemnity in the Church's Liturgical Year. Easter is the only Solemnity that is celebrated for eight days and each of those days is itself, a Solemnity. Easter is also celebrated every day, because every Eucharistic Celebration, or Mass, reenters the eternal events of the Last Supper, the Passion and Death of Our Lord and His Rising from the dead. Since Holy Mass is celebrated around the world 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, Easter is continuously celebrated by the Church. We should treat every day as Easter, but especially every Sunday. We should spend every Sunday, with our families, walking in the garden with Our Heavenly Father. That is what Sunday, or the Sabbath, is all about, getting our priorities in order; loving God and loving one another.

That said, let's look at today's Gospel and the similar Gospel from St. John. Mary Magdalen went to the tomb early in the morning and saw that the stone had already been rolled away from the tomb and that the tomb was empty. Mary Magdalen spoke to the two angels present at the tomb and then turned around and saw Jesus - although she thought He was the gardener. After Jesus revealed Himself to Mary Magdalen, He sent her to tell the apostles. I understand why Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalen before the Apostles. Mary Magdalen was present at the crucifixion and death of Our Lord, but the Apostles had run off and hid, except for St. John who had returned after first running off.

What's wrong with this gospel; what's wrong with this scene; what's missing? I know I am not the only person who has seen it. Where's Mary, the Mother of Jesus? Why didn't Jesus appear to His Mother first? She was always with Him; she was at the cross and held His dead body in her arms. Well, I'm certain; I am so certain that Jesus did appear to His Mother first that it is not even faith; I am certain of it.

Mary lives in the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Her Son, and Jesus lives in His Mother's heart. Jesus' first moment of existence was in Mary's egg. At Mary's "yes," at the moment of the Incarnation, the Annunciation, her egg became Divine. Mary nourished Jesus for nine months in the her womb. When Jesus opened His eyes for the first time, He saw His Mother's face and she was looking lovingly into His eyes and they both had tears

of love and joy. Mary nourished Jesus at her breasts, fed Him, taught Him and loved Him. Their two hearts were as one. We can be sure that Jesus appeared to His Mother even before the shroud collapsed in on itself.

We are asked to be that close to Jesus; to have a relationship that unites us to Him. We were created solely for the purpose of being united with God for all eternity. The single most important reality in existence is that there is an eternal God, a God who is all reality, all power, all knowledge and all loving. That is the single-most reality that is at the center of our lives; to spend eternity with God.

How do we do that? By entering into the Sacred Heart of Jesus and allowing Him to enter into our hearts. And, there is no easier way, more sure way, no quicker way than by giving ourselves to His Blessed Mother, to Our Blessed Mother. Give yourselves to her, consecrate your life to her and she will take you into the heart of her Son.

Let this be your Easter resolution:

“I will live my life in a way that will lead me to my ultimate personal reality, eternal union with God. A union that can be realized by union with Christ now, through the constant reception of the sacraments, especially Holy Communion and Reconciliation and by giving ourselves to His Most Holy Mother, who is also Our Mother, so that she can form us, as she did Her Divine Son, into her sons and daughters.

Have a Happy and Holy Easter, everyday this coming year!

(This is the basis for the Easter Morning homily. It is certainly not everything that was said.)