

Easter 2016

Dear Friend of St. Jude,

Christos anesti! Alithos anesti!

Surrexit Christus! Surrexit Dominus vere!

Christ is Risen! He is truly risen!

This is the ancient greeting by which all Christians in the East and many in the West greet each other during the season of Easter. For us it is the greatest news possible because it means that our final enemies, death and hell, have been definitively defeated. The glory of God has conquered the night and we are truly free!

The events of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Night are one great mystery that changes everything. God took on human flesh and offered it up on the altar of the Cross. Christ died and descended into hell, but not as one doomed for eternity; instead he went as a victor, conquering death forever. But although death has been dealt a mortal blow, it still thrashes about creating havoc in this “in-between time” – the time between the resurrection and the consummation of all things to come in the new heavens and a new earth.

For many people this “in-between time” can be one of great turbulence, marked by challenges of all kinds, whether wayward children, suffering family and friends, financial disasters, disease, and every other type of adversity. So great is their suffering that some almost give up hope. But hope abounds during this “in-between time” in the gift that Christ has given us: the ability to make present the paschal mystery in the Eucharist, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Here the One Sacrifice of Good Friday is made sacramentally present in time. Therefore, whenever the Mass is celebrated, the work of redemption is accomplished.

Christ has also left us the Church, which exists triumphant in heaven and here on earth, and has established communion between the saints in heaven and us. That is why we turn to St. Jude to ask for his prayers, especially where hope might seem dim and death still have power.

This Easter, we at the Shrine of St. Jude wish to assure you of our prayers. We encourage you to take part in the Easter novena of Masses, as well as the intercessory prayers offered here at the Shrine on behalf of your loved ones and you. The Mass and prayer are two of the most powerful forces we have to fight the forces of darkness that seem to envelop so many souls in these troubled times. Pray that St. Jude and St. Dominic’s Parish may be a beacon of light to those who may have almost lost hope, and pray above all that everyone might get to heaven to join the ranks of St. Jude, the Blessed Mother and all the saints for all eternity.

St. Jude, pray for us, and for all who honor and invoke thy name.

Blessed Easter!

Fr. James Moore, O.P.

Director