

COMING EVENTS

Novena April 17th thru 25th

Pilgrimage Sunday, April 20th

Mass at 11:00 AM

Rosary and Novena Prayers before Mass

Mass Times at St. Wenceslaus Home of the
National Shrine of the Infant Jesus

Saturday Night Vigil 5:00 PM

Sunday 11 :00 AM

Tuesday through Friday at 9:00 AM

Holy Hour 9:30 to 10:30 AM

First Friday and First Saturday Mass 9:00 AM

Holy Hour 9:30 to 10:30 AM

Gift Shop hours are Tues-Fri 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Sunday Shrine open till 2:00 PM

This newsletter is published monthly to promote
the devotion to the Infant Jesus of Prague at the
National Shrine in Oklahoma, USA.

www.shrineofinfantjesus.com

www.facebook.com/iopshrine

THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE

April 2025

THE MORE YOU HONOR ME
THE MORE I WILL BLESS YOU



Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

This year, Easter will fall on Sunday, April 20. When I write this Newsletter we are still in Lent. We are in the Lenten season of the Jubilee Year of Hope 2025, leading up to the great Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord, with the motto “Pilgrims of Hope.”

Have you heard the story of a man who had a hobby of growing roses? While working in his rose garden, he was always whistling. To everyone else, it seemed that he was whistling much louder than necessary to please himself. One day, a neighbor asked him why he was whistling so loudly. The man then invited the neighbor into his house to meet his wife. The woman was not only disabled but also completely blind. You see, the man was whistling, not for his own pleasure, but for the benefit of his wife. He wanted his blind wife to know that he was nearby, and that she was not alone.

The proclamation “Christ is risen!” reminds us that the Lord is always close to us. The experience of his presence strengthens our frailty in life.

During Lent, we commemorate the passion and death of Jesus. He truly died and was buried in the tomb. Today, the whole Church celebrates the great feast of Christ’s Resurrection. It is an amazing event, a unique event in human history and the foundation of the Christian faith. That is why Saint Paul affirmed:

“And if Christ has not been raised, then empty (too) is our preaching; empty, too, your faith.” (1 Cor 15:14)

For this we toil and struggle, because we have set our hope on the living God, who is the savior of all, especially of those who believe

Our faith is fundamentally based on belief in the Risen One and our hope is in the Living God (cf. 1 Tim 4:10). St. Augustine says: “The faith of Christians is in the Resurrection of Christ. There is no difficulty in believing that Christ is dead, non-believers also believe that, and everyone believes that too. But the greatest thing of all is to believe that Christ has truly Risen from the dead.”

I believe that the Lord is risen because I believe, that’s all, just like John saw the burial cloth and he believed. It is a gift. This cannot be explained from a scientific point of view.

One thing we can learn is: Faith in the Resurrection is linked to love. The first three witnesses of the Resurrection mystery were those who were full of love for their Master.

Mary went to the tomb early in the morning. For her, it was the most important thing of the day. Going out with her Master, now only the body remained. I think there is no greater loyalty than this.

When she did not find the Master’s body, she ran to tell the disciples. When the two disciples heard the news, they immediately ran to the tomb. Love is shown through action: running. Children often run, but for adults, running is a serious matter.

The person who loves more runs faster. The Gospel says that John ran to the tomb first, perhaps because he was younger, but I think it was because he loved Jesus more. The disciple who loves much believes first.

The other two did not believe immediately. At first, they did not understand the Scriptures about the Resurrection of the Lord.. After the event of the empty tomb and the encounters with the Resurrected One, they finally believed. A belief expressed through love and attachment to their Master.

Thus, the Resurrection of Christ proves that God is powerful, that He is the master of life and death, and that He conquers evil. This event proves the Divinity of Jesus: He is true God, who has risen, to free people from death and lead them to new life. If the death on the cross proves that Jesus is a man, then the Resurrection proves that He is God.

At the same time, the Resurrection event is the first fruits for those who have fallen asleep, and is the foundation for our hope in the Resurrection in the future. As St. Paul affirms: “But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.” (1 Cor 15:20) That is the fundamental truth. We believe it. Amen!

Funny story “Borrowed until the weekend”
Joseph of Arimathea was a very wealthy Pharisee, a member of the Sanhedrin, and a secret disciple of Jesus. He was the one who went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus to be taken down after his death. And it was Joseph who provided the tomb in which Jesus was buried. Someone took him aside and asked, “Joseph, that is a beautiful, expensive, hand-hewn tomb. Why are you lending it to someone else?” Joseph replied, “Why not? He only needs it until the end of the week!”

Happy Easter Everyone! Christ is Risen, Alleluia!

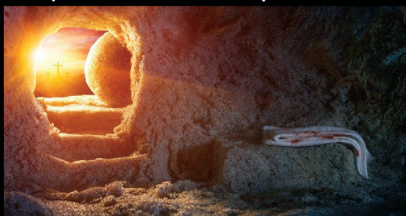
Sincerely in Christ,
Very Reverend Christopher Hai Tran, Rector

HE IS
RISEN

Hallelujah!
HE IS RISEN



Happy Easter 2025
Very Reverend Christopher Hai Tran



The spirit of Easter is all about hope, love, and joyful living. May you have a blessed day! Thinking of you on this special day! Best wishes for Easter and the season ahead.



Happy Easter!
Very Reverend Christopher Hai Tran, Rector

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If you have questions or comments about this publication, please address them to:

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