

## **The Reflection from Rev. Joe Mancini, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ, April 9, 2023**

Dear Friends,

A traditional Ukrainian Easter hymn contains this opening line: “Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and to those in the tombs, granting life.”

These words capture the essence of what we Catholics believe and celebrate today. Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, took on our human flesh to make God’s kingdom known. The fulfillment of our participation in the kingdom is found in heaven. Where once the gates of heaven were closed by Adam and Eve’s disobedience in the Garden of Eden, Christ, the new Adam, has opened the gates of heaven for believers through his suffering, death and resurrection.

We can lose sight of the big picture if we only focus on the secular aspects of Easter. As joyful as this day is, especially for children, it is not just about the bunny or the baskets or the food or the new clothes. It is about God’s love for us.

I hope that your Lenten observances have helped form you understand the importance of sacrifice. God’s sacrifice of His Son on the cross has won the victory for us.

Today’s celebration of Easter is the cornerstone of our faith. Let us live the joy of this day, not only for the Easter season over the next fifty days, but every day of our lives. Happy Easter!

Father Joe

**耶稣复活主日（4/9/2023）**

- By Rev. Joe Mancini (代理本堂 Joe Mancini 神父信息)

一首乌克兰的赞美诗是这样开头的：“基督从死者中升起，用祂自己的死亡战胜死亡，给坟墓中的死者注入生命。”这首赞美诗捕捉到了我们天主教友们所相信和今天要庆祝的精髓。我们的救主耶稣基督降生成人，让世人得知天国。我们在世上的参与会让我们到达天国得以实现。亚当和厄娃在伊甸园对天主的悖逆（为人类）关上了天国的大门；但基督，即新亚当，以祂的苦难，圣死及复活为相信祂的人打开了天国的门。

如果我们只聚焦在复活节的世俗层面，我们会失掉复活节真正意义的视野。这是充满喜庆的一天，特别对孩子们来说，这不仅是可爱的小兔子，花篮，食物和新衣服，更是天主对我们的爱。

希望四旬期的参与能帮助你们明白祭献的重要性。天主圣子在十字架上的祭献为我们获得救赎的胜利。

今天的复活节庆祝是我们信仰的磐石。我们不光要在复活期的五十天里满心欢喜，也要在我们生活中的每一天心中充满喜乐。  
祝复活节快乐！