



St. John the Baptist Catholic School

# 4B News

Mr. Nguyen's Classroom Newsletter



St. John the Baptist Catholic School

1021 Baker Street  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

April 8, 2010

## Easter Reflections

### First Sunday of Easter

"There is no tale ever told," author J.R.R. Tolkien once wrote in an essay on storytelling, that people "would rather find was true."

The Catholic author of the *The Lord of the Rings* was speaking of the story of Jesus. Today, as we accompany Peter and the Beloved Disciple, making their way to the tomb, we might echo Professor Tolkien's comment.

Our faith, as St. Paul tells the Corinthians, rests on the reality of Jesus' Resurrection. We base everything on the truth of the story. But establishing that truth is not a matter of science, history or archaeology. It's a matter of faith. We must call upon the Holy Spirit, who is present to the Church, to assist us.

In the Easter Gospels, we hear the witness of the first followers of Jesus: Jesus was risen; they had experienced him, alive in their midst. Their testimony in the Spirit moves us to a faith-filled "Alleluia."



We live in a skeptical age. And yet in his essay, J.R.R. Tolkien pays tribute to the power of the Christian proclamation. He notes that there is no other story which so many skeptics "have accepted as true on its own merits."

Our Easter Gospel is a *story of living faith*, in which we are participants, and to which we are now witnesses. The Spirit of the living Christ has called us to testify to its truth.

### Second Sunday of Easter

"I'll need to see some proof"—how often have you used that expression? Most of us are quick to call for proof for anything out of the ordinary. We don't want to be "taken in" by extravagant claims or scams.

So today's Gospel, the story of "Doubting Thomas," has a modern appeal. It sounds natural to us for Thomas to want to have his doubts answered

## SAINTS FUN FACTS

by mario d. macari

**B**LESSED KATERI TEKAKWITHA, A YOUNG MOHAWK INDIAN WOMAN, WOULD CIRCLE A CORNFIELD WHILE PRAYING THE "HAIL MARY" IN HER NATIVE TONGUE DURING THE BITTERLY COLD WINTER OF 1679.

AS A YOUNG GIRL, SHE HAD LEARNED THE PRAYER FROM HER MOTHER BEFORE BEING ORPHANED, SCARRED AND NEARLY BLINDED BY A SMALL POX EPIDEMIC. SHE WAS THEN RAISED BY HER UNCLE, THE TRIBE'S CHIEF WHO RESENTFULLY OPPOSED HER FLEDGING CHRISTIANITY. SHE WAS BAPTIZED AGAINST HIS WISHES, REFUSED TO MARRY AND WAS PERSECUTED BY HER TRIBE.

YET, THROUGH IT ALL, SHE CONTINUED TO OFFER HER EFFORTS TO OUR LORD AS PENANCE.



with real proof. But Jesus praises those who believe *without* any physical proof. He calls such believers "blessed."

This Easter story is specifically directed at us, those who would come to believe in Jesus down through the ages. We welcome the testimony of those who went before us: those who walked with Jesus after his resurrection and went on to witness to him throughout the world. We are part of a community of faith, a living legacy passed on from generation to generation and often given at great cost, with personal sacrifice.

When we hear this Gospel proclaimed in a community of believers this Easter, we can take heart in the Lord's words. And where my faith wavers, I can gain strength from the Holy Spirit at work in the midst of the community of faith.

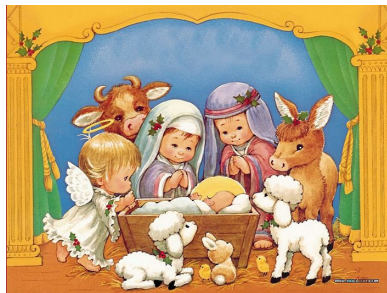
## Easter Humor...

Three men just died and are at the pearly gates of heaven. St. Peter tells them that they can enter the gates if they can answer one simple question.

St. Peter asks the first man, "What is Easter?" The man replies, "Oh, that's easy, it's the holiday in November when everybody gets together, eats turkey, and is thankful..."



"Wrong," replies St. Peter, and proceeds to ask the second man the same question, "What is Easter?"



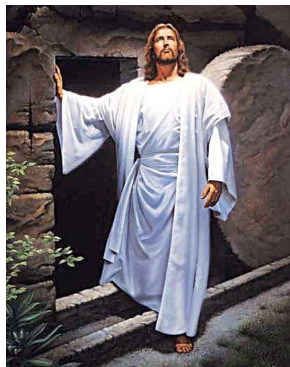
The second man replies, "No, Easter is the holiday in December when we put up a nice tree, exchange presents, and celebrate the birth of Jesus."

St. Peter looks at the second man, shakes his head in disgust, looks at the third man and asks, "What is Easter?"

The third man smiles and looks St. Peter in the eye.

"I know what Easter is.

Easter is the Christian holiday that coincides with the Jewish celebration of Passover. Jesus and his disciples were eating at the last supper and He was later deceived and turned over to the Romans by one of his disciples. The Romans took Him to be



crucified and was stabbed in the side, made Him wear a crown of thorns, and He was hung on a cross. He was buried in a nearby cave which was sealed off by a large boulder. Every year the boulder is moved aside so that Jesus can come out, and if He sees his shadow there will be six more weeks of winter."

## Congratulations!

... to the following students who earned an A+ on the following tests.



<i>Religion Ch. 8</i>			
Josh Andrew	Kelsey Emily	Katherine Julia	Charlie
<i>Story</i>			
Andrew Jeremy Aubrey	Emily Charlie Hope	Kelsey Zachary Alex	Katherine Tiffeny
<i>Patty Reed's Doll Ch. 3</i>			
Michael	Danny	Zachary	Vicky
<i>Patty Reed's Doll Ch. 4</i>			
Kelsey Maile	Jeremy	Emily	Kayla
<i>Math 7B</i>			
Katherine Charlie Tommy	Jeremy Zachary	Marissa G Emily	Danny Julia
<i>Spelling 27</i>			
Hope Julia Kelsey	Marissa G Jonathan	Danny Michael	Zachary Josh

### Upcoming Tests

Religion	Easter (Ch. 27)	Mon. 4/19
Reading	Patty Reed's ch. 5	Wed. 4/14
Spelling + Vocab		Friday 4/16
Math	Ch. 6	Thursday 4/15
Language	Verb part 1	TBA
Science	Unit B, Ch. 4	Tuesday 4/20
Social Studies		Check Planner
Spanish, Music, Computer		Check Planner

### Upcoming Events

- ! **Fri. 4/16:** Noon dismissal  
3rd quarter ends
- ! **Mon. 4/19:** Spirit Attire Monday
- ! **Thu. 4/22:** Earth Day
- ! **Mon. 4/26:** Confessions
- ! **Thu. 4/29:** Sacramento field trip
- ! **Sat. + Sun. 5/1-5/2:** First Holy Communion
- ! **Mon. 5/3:** Spirit Attire Monday
- ! **Wed. 5/5:** Spring Musical (Beauty and the Beast) 7 PM
- ! **Fri. 5/7:** Noon Dismissal  
Spring Musical 7:00 PM