

# Church of St. Francis

The Liberal Catholic Church, Province of the USA  
Villa Park, Illinois



## The Risen Lord

The festivals of the Church are divided into several classes according to their importance. Easter is the very greatest of them all — so great that its celebration lasts much longer. We keep the great forty days, running on until the time of the Ascension; and during that period we burn the Paschal candle as an indication that all forty days are part of the most splendid festival of the Christian year.

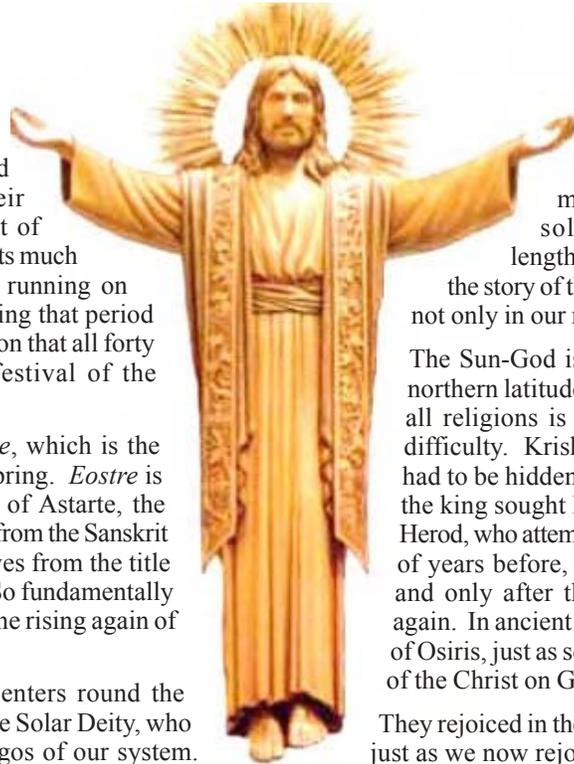
The word Easter is derived from *Eostre*, which is the name of the Anglo-Saxon goddess of Spring. *Eostre* is also another form of *Ishtar*, Ashtaroth of Astarte, the Queen of Heaven. Further back, it comes from the Sanskrit *Ush*, which means light. The word derives from the title *Ushas*, the dawn maidens of the Vedas. So fundamentally Easter is the great festival of light — of the rising again of the Light of the World.

All the symbology of our evolution centers round the fountain and origin of that evolution—the Solar Deity, who in Greek philosophy was called the Logos of our system. Logos means “Word.” It is the Greek term used in the well-known and most beautiful text: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

Each solar system is the expression of a mighty Being whom we might call the Solar Deity, the Logos. This Solar Deity is typically represented in the English language by the title “God”. God exists above and outside the world as well. As is said in a scripture older than ours: “Having permeated this whole universe with one fragment of Myself, I remain.”

We are evolving fragments of God’s Life, sparks of God’s divine Fire. God pours Himself down into matter and thus suffers a crucifixion, a death, and then rises again out of that matter through humanity. The whole life of the solar system comes from God and, therefore, those who wish to become wise, to become Initiates, must follow in God’s footsteps. All the ancient religions have taken up similar ideas and have woven them into beautiful symbols which differ according to the religion, the race, and the people of the time.

The first half of our church year (from Advent/Christmas up to Trinity Sunday) captures the active, eventful part of the solar life. The next six months are devoted to practicing and preserving what we have learned and so we pass into the many intents of the Sundays after Trinity, none of which are connected with the life-story of the Christ, which is also the life of our Solar Logos.



In all religions alike the Sun-God is born in midwinter, a few days after the winter solstice when the days begin again to lengthen. We also see there a sidelight upon the story of the Immaculate Conception, which appears not only in our religion, but in many other older faiths.

The Sun-God is reborn because the shortest day in the northern latitude is past. The early life of the Sun-God in all religions is surrounded by trouble and sorrow and difficulty. Krishna suffered much from persecution and had to be hidden among the cowherds as a child, because the king sought His life. The Lord Jesus was assailed by Herod, who attempted to kill Him. Osiris Himself, thousands of years before, was cut to pieces and destroyed by Set, and only after that He was gathered together and rose again. In ancient Egypt the people mourned over the death of Osiris, just as some Christians now mourn over the death of the Christ on Good Friday.

They rejoiced in the great festival of the assembling together, just as we now rejoice at Easter. Those old religions taught the same truths which we teach now. Truth is one, although it is many-sided.

Great are the storms and tribulations of winter, but the Sun-God survives them all, and God’s strength is steadily growing as the days lengthen towards the vernal equinox. At that equinox, day and night are exactly equal all over the world; and after it the sun crosses the line, so that, in the northern hemisphere, the days grow steadily longer and the victory of the Sun-God over night is assured. He rises triumphantly over the line and ascends in the heavens, ripening the wheat and the grape, pouring His Life into them to make their substance, and through them giving Himself to His worshippers.

Every one of us will have in turn to undergo the suffering symbolized by the cross. Every one of us must learn how to give himself up utterly for others; but also for every one of us is the glory of Easter, the Resurrection, the victory—the triumph of spirit over matter.

The victory which we gain over the lower nature is something that must be achieved in the life of every Christian. There must come in our life a point at which we finally triumph over the lower matter and rise out of the darkness of sin and ignorance into the light of wisdom and the higher, purer life. So Easter is not only the commemoration of something in the far-distant past; it is a real day of celebration and of thankfulness for the victory which we



## The Risen Lord - continued

will gain through the ages over that which is lower, that which is less developed.

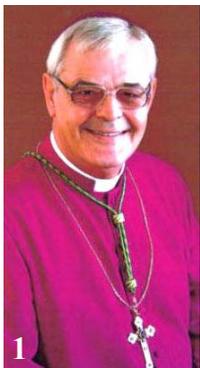
In everyone of us there is the divine spark. The Christ said: "Ye are gods, ye are all the children of the Most High." In every one of us that divine spark is the true human, and that spark manifests in the lower planes of our souls and that, in turn, moves down to still lower levels in the personality, which is what we know as the "self" down here. We are only a tiny fragment of the magnificent reality. That which we see ourselves to be down here is the seed of the future glory, but each one of us is also a soul; each is a spirit—the divine spark, slowly, slowly unveiling itself, slowly developing the qualities through which it can show itself. At present the sparks burns low; at present we are but at the beginning of the higher part of our evolution.

We have reached humanity, we have joined with the Father and have developed the soul; but that soul in its turn must grow and expand. Just as the personality has to become one with that soul, so has that soul to become one with the divine spark which it represents, and then later still the divine spark sweeps back into the flame of which it is a part, and God is all — in all.

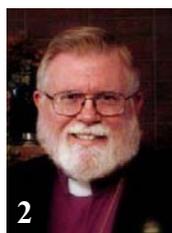
Because Christ has conquered evil, because He has risen above matter, others have been able to follow Him and to do the same; and because they have done it, we shall do it also. Easter is a magnificent reality to every one of us, just as it was to Him. At Christmas we sing not only the commemoration of the victory of the birth of the Christ; but we also sing of a personal possibility. It was no figure of speech when we said: "Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given." The possibility is for every one of us and we should feel that glory of resurrection at Easter—the mighty triumph of good over ill is an absolute and actual reality for each individual.

We may or may not regard the biblical allegory which is read to us at Easter as representing a historical occurrence on the physical plane; our people are entirely free to believe or disbelieve; but most of us hold that it embodies in symbolical form a great and mighty truth. Therefore have we a true joy in exchanging with one another the traditional Easter greeting. For just as on Christmas Day we wish one another a Merry Christmas, so when the early Christians met one another on Easter Day, one said to the other: "The Lord hath arisen," and the reply was: "He is risen indeed."

## Anniversaries



1: The Right Rev. Graham Wale, Presiding Bishop of The Liberal Catholic Church worldwide will celebrate his tenth anniversary of consecration on April 15th.



2: Auxillary Bishop Lloyd Worley will celebrate the fifth anniversary of his consecration May 15th.



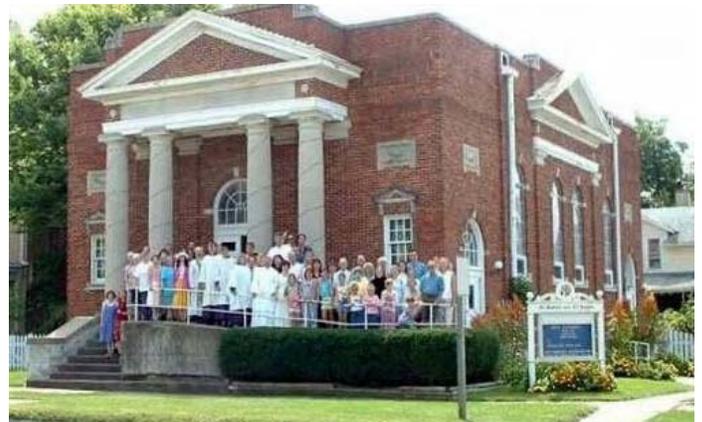
## Ash Wednesday Service

For the first time in the history of our parish, The Church of St. Francis held the Blessing of the Ashes ceremony. It was a special evening, which also included the Ray Rosary and Healing Service. One dozen people attended in holy prayer.



## Annual Retreat

The Church of St. Gabriel's and All Angels LCC in Fairfield Iowa will be hosting TLCC Annual Retreat this May 14, 15, & 16th. There is no charge. Please visit [www.stgabe.org](http://www.stgabe.org) or on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Fairfield-IA/St-Gabriel-and-All-Angels/206377410968?ref=sgm> for more details.



## Ordinations to the Priesthood

The Church of St. Gabriel's and All Angels LCC invites us to a special celebration of the Holy Eucharist on Sunday April 25, 2010 at 10:15am, at which + Rt. Rev. William Downey will ordain Rev. Steven Arndt and Rev. James Palmer to the priesthood. Contact vestry members for carpooling information if you are interested in attending.

3: Rev. Stephen Arndt  
4: Rev. James Palmer

Front page: Gold Sun Disk from Bronze Age (2,000-400 BC). National Museum Dublin, Ireland.





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## Liturgia de la Santa Eucaristia

On February 28th The Church of St. Francis had the privilege of celebrating the Mass in Spanish. We also welcomed new servers Luz and Josafat Alcalá. Bienvenida!

5 : Josafat Alcalá traduce el sermón del Padre Metz.

6 : Luz de Alcalá y Emily Berrum unirse Stephanie Chantos y Renee Turner en la dirección de la congregación en el Homenaje a Nuestra Señora.

7 : Josafat lee la Epístola.

8 : Puesto oraciones comunión.

9 : La comunión se da a los servidores.

10 : Santuario de Nuestra Señora

11 : Recogida Ofertorio.



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## 2010 Liturgical Calendar

Intent

Celebrant

## Church Calendar

March 7	3rd Sunday in Lent	<i>Understanding</i>	Rev. Provost	11:00am Ladies Guild luncheon
March 14	4th Sunday in Lent	<i>Spiritual refreshment</i>	Rev. Forth	11:15am Video presentation & discussion: Eckhart Tolle's "A New Earth - Awakening to Your Life's Purpose" Chapter 4: Role Playing - The Many Faces of the Ego
March 21	Passion Sunday	<i>Humility</i>	Rev. Provost	
March 28	PALM SUNDAY	<i>Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.</i>	Rev. Metz	Vestry meeting
April 2	Good Friday		Rev. Metz	3:00pm Mass of the Presanctified
April 4	EASTER DAY	Special Collect <i>O God of love, we praise thee, we bless thee, with all of our hearts do we thank thee and magnify thy name for this most holy and wondrous festival of Easter, for in the glorious victory which in it is commemorated and symbolized, thou hast given us the sure and certain witness that good shall finally triumph over ill and that death is but a gateway to the ineffable splendour of eternal life in thee, O never-setting sun of righteousness, who livest and reignest God for ever and ever.</i>	Rev. Metz	11:00am Ladies Guild luncheon
April 11	Low Sunday		Rev. Provost	11:15am Video presentation & discussion: Eckhart Tolle's "A New Earth - Awakening to Your Life's Purpose" Chapter 4: Role Playing - The Many Faces of the Ego, part two
April 18	2nd Sunday after Easter		Rev. Forth	* Octave of + Graham Consecration
April 25	3rd Sunday after Easter		Rev. Provost	* Fairfield Ordinations

The above event schedule is correct at the time this newsletter is published, but may be subject to changes.

Visit us on FACEBOOK at <http://www.facebook.com/#/pages/Villa-Park-IL/The-Church-of-St-Francis/161267259600?ref=nf> for updates.

## St. Francis Vestry 2009-2010

Rev. Terrence Metz	<i>President</i>
Rev. James Ascareggi	<i>Vice President</i>
Rev. Jeffery Forth	<i>Junior Warden</i>
Rabecca Collins	<i>Secretary</i>
Lori Jo Metz	<i>Treasurer</i>
Vicky Fitzmaurice	<i>Ladies' Guild President</i>

Rev. Daniel Provost

Julie Hamilton • Marion Schulte • Carolyn Smith  
Renee Turner • Felite Manila • Pat Mieke



## Servers

Stephanie Chantos	<i>Office of Devotion, Stage of Knowledge</i>
Raymond Amegatcher	<i>Doorkeeper</i>
Frank Pepich	<i>Doorkeeper</i>
Dawn Regnier	<i>Server</i>
Emily Berrum	<i>Bell Ringer</i>



**We are very happy to announce that have expanded our newsletter to seven issues a year:**

Christmas • Candlemas • Easter • Whitsuntide  
Midsummer • Lammas • Autumn

Unfortunately, our meager resources will only allow us to print and mail the Easter and Christmas issues at this time, with the others available in PDF form, which will be sent by email and through our website. **Please send your current email address to [tlcc\\_lector@mac.com](mailto:tlcc_lector@mac.com)** so that we can continue to keep you informed and connected with the Church of St. Francis. Or use the enclosed envelope to drop us a note, and perhaps a small donation if possible. It will be much appreciated.

**Happy Easter to All!**

## St. Francis Liberal Catholic Church

12 West School Street • Villa Park IL 60181 • 630-834-3320 • <http://www.stfrancisvillapark.org/>  
Holy Eucharist Sundays at 10:00 am, followed by refreshments and fellowship hour.

Vestry meeting and Women's Guild luncheon first Sunday of the month • Adult Study classes second Sunday of the month