

**March 31, 2018**  
**Conclusion of Triduum – Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter**  
**Genesis 1:1, 26-31; Genesis 22:1-18; Exodus 14:14-15:1;**  
**Romans 6:3-11; Mark 16:1-7**

Was it morning or night when you were born? What was the name of your first neighborhood friend? Why were they your friend? Besides your mother, with whom did you share a first kiss? What was your first trip away from home without family? What was your first frightening life experience? Who was your first serious boyfriend or girlfriend with whom you broke up? What were your favorite subjects and favorite teachers in school? Why? Details, details details...our lives are full of them and within the details exists our **UNIQUENESS**. Depending on the depth of relationship we seek to build with assorted people, we convey our uniqueness to them within the stories we share. Throughout this past week we have slowly unfolded **OUR** story of faith, a story that has its origins within the primitive, yet sacred, creation myths of our ancient human and Jewish ancestors. Our story is of God slowly but methodically revealing himself to our ancestors and finally becoming one with us, within the Incarnation of Jesus. Our story-telling has taken on greater depth in these past days of **TRIDUUM** as we have remembered the life and death of Jesus....death at our hands and a death that Jesus allowed to occur so as to affirm the depth of his love for all humanity. This **VIGIL** night, like our ancestors of old, we gather within the comforting light of the sacred outdoor paschal fire and our lit candles inside. In sharing our stories and rituals we welcome those who have sought to become united with us as members of our Roman Catholic-Christian community. In embracing them, with their own unique histories and experiences, our 'spiritual gene pool' is freshly enriched and their lives are likewise enlivened by what we have learned from our successes and failures, our joys and our times of grief, all summed up within our rituals, rites, prayers and community rhythms. Each Easter, **ALL OF US** are invited to renew **OUR** story, to hear it again, to speak it to our children, to celebrate it with smoke, fire, water, oil, bread and wine, eggs and chocolate, fasting and feasting, weeping and smiling. Winter is past and Spring is erupting from the soil beneath our feet. In like manner, on this Vigil night, we are invited to open those spots within our lives that are maimed by anger, fear, disappointment, shame, embarrassment, loss and hurt. We open these tombs so that the grace of **RESURRECTION** can begin to restore us to life, the life that God has imagined for us from the moment he willed us into existence. Our story tonight is different from the one we would have told last year and next year's will be different than the one we share tonight. But tonight...this is the night when God again looks at us and repeats what he said in the dawning moments of our humanity....

*'Then God said: Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the tame animals, all the wild animals, and all the creatures that crawl on the earth. God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and God said to them: Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that crawl on the earth. God also said: See, I give you every seed-bearing plant on all the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food and to all the wild animals, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the earth, I give all the green plants for food. And so it happened. **God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good.**'*

Thank you for sharing this 2018 Easter Vigil with our Santa Clara community. **We WELCOME Ryan Gray, Nicholas Grimmell, Ryan Hamilton, Natalie Gray, RaeAnn Salvador and Aimee Juarez to our Roman Catholic Family of Faith...** please join them for a celebration of food and beverage outside on the patio at the conclusion of Mass. Tonight has been filled with our sacred rituals, tomorrow we are not as constrained and the Masses are tinged with brightness in the same manner as the rising sun dispels the dark of night; if you have the energy, you might wish to return tomorrow to experience Easter Morning. Please take a Bulletin home with you **and as you celebrate our successful passage through Holy Week, remember, you are LOVED. FKB**