

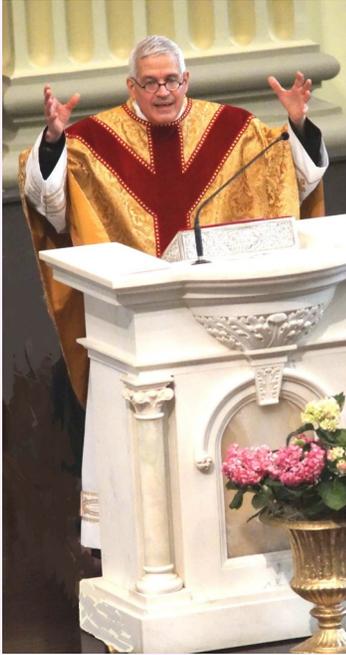


# Radio Mass of Baltimore

## Easter 2017 Newsletter



### Directors Easter Message



Fr Casciotti

Easter Day is neither a happy ending, nor a seasonal festival: blue skies after gray, daffodils after snow, pretty eggs, baby chicks, and bunnies. The Resurrection is a radical transformation of life, a whole new, mysterious re-creation. There were no eyewitnesses. The accounts were written years later and differ in detail. The earliest ones by St. Paul don't mention the empty tomb. All of them are faltering attempts to express a unique event.

Disciples try to describe their experience of the Presence of Jesus

within and among them—an undeniable Presence. They had to say that something had happened to Jesus and not just something they imagined or felt.

That Presence changed everything—it changed them. The Easter appearances of Christ are the transition between, as Anglican mystic Evelyn Underhill wrote, “the historical manifestation of the Word Incarnate, and the beginning of His hidden life within the Church.”

The whole Christian vision, from the Annunciation to the Final Judgment, is that God who is ecstatic, self-emptying love, has emptied himself into, has entered into every atom and fiber of his creation.

Jesus enters into the depths of human sin and suffering in order to place within them the redemptive power of God's grace and mercy. He shows his absolute trust in God by accepting suffering and willingly dying. His suffering and death begin the reordering of everything.

Suffering and death are now signs of the new covenant—the “new

covenant in my blood.” The resurrection confirms what Jesus did for us on the cross.

The resurrection is hidden in the shadow of the cross: “When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.”

Lifted up on the cross, from the grave, to the right hand of the Father, those glorious wounds show us what we do with love, what love costs, show us that God is with us right now in all we suffer in this world.

Suffering and dying now hold within them new life. They have become a sharing in his love for us, a way to be hidden within him. As the 2nd reading says:

*You have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed—and he is your life—you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.*

The burning bush of God's presence within his creation becomes the divine presence burning in our hearts. (continued page 4)

# Easter Eggs



Why are eggs, specifically with decorated shells, and

not so specifically of candy and other sugar products, associated with the Easter Season?

Evidence exist that eggs were associated with tombs in Mesopotamia about six thousand years ago. There is some consensus that eggs, stained red, started with the early Christians of Mesopotamia. Sociology professor Kenneth Thompson discusses the spread of the Easter egg throughout Christendom, writing that "*use of eggs at Easter seems to have come from Persia into the Greek Christian Churches of Mesopotamia, thence to Russia and Siberia through the medium of Orthodox Christianity. From the Greek Church the custom was adopted by either the Roman Catholics or the Protestants and then spread through Europe.*"

The Christian Church officially adopted the custom, regarding the eggs as a symbol of the resurrection of Jesus, with the Roman Ritual, the first edition of which was published in 1610 but which has texts of much older date, containing, among the Easter Blessings of Food, one for *eggs*, along with those for lamb, bread, and new produce. The blessing is for consumption as a food, rather than decorated.

The Easter egg tradition may also have emerged from the early Lenten fast traditions which prohibited eggs in the diet. Forty Lenten days of egg production provided an abundance of eggs on Easter Sunday.

While the origin of Easter eggs can be explained in the theories described above, yet among followers of Eastern Christianity the legend says that Mary Magdalene was bringing cooked eggs to share with the other women at the tomb of Jesus, and the eggs in her basket

miraculously turned bright red when she saw the risen Christ

A different, but not necessarily conflicting legend concerns Mary Magdalene's efforts to spread the Gospel. According to this tradition, after the Ascension of Jesus, Mary went to the Emperor of Rome and greeted him with "Christ has risen," whereupon he pointed to an egg on his table and stated, "Christ has no more risen than that egg is red." After making this statement it is said the egg immediately turned blood red.

All of the above is found on the web site - [wikipedia.com](http://wikipedia.com), where more information on this fascinating topic is available.

Red Colored  
Easter Egg  
St. Kosmos Aitolos  
Orthodox Monastary



Radio Mass broadcasts live Sunday morning at 9:03 am on two AM stations

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## Meet Our Cantor



Julie / Tom

*Angels we have heard on high* is a yuletide flavored paraphrase of correspondence from listeners praising Radio Mass music and hymns. Our angel, since 2004, is St. Ignatius Parish cantor, Julie Kurzava, who not only enchants Faithful Listeners with her voice, but also is adept at controlling the pace of the broadcast so that we correctly fill the time slot. Occasionally her husband, Tom Zielinski, substitutes as cantor and is often found in the attending congregation improving their participation.

The multi-tasking Catonsville residents are parents of 12 year-old Matthew; own and operate a licensed home improvement company and do licensed home inspections. As cantor for St Ignatius, Julie sings at two masses on Sunday morning; helps celebrate marriages by suggesting music which she sings to make the event memorable; and eases funeral grief with appropriate hymns. A graduate alumna of the Peabody Conservatory of Music, Julie lectures in the Road Scholar program and other educational outlets in the senior community. Loyola University has benefited from her talents where she has taught voice on a part-time basis for the past twelve years.

A graduate alumnus from the University of Illinois School of Music, Tom studied opera which he has performed throughout the United States and Europe. They met during Easter services in Chicago where Tom was the church cantor and Julie was an extra singer. That particular Easter was the start of twenty six years of marriage and counting.

In 2006, they founded New Moon Theater, a non-profit touring theater for young audiences. Over the years they have been in almost every Maryland county, and parts of Delaware and Virginia. Their primary audiences are elementary schools, summer camps, pre-schools, libraries and museums. More recently they became creative partners with the Port Discovery Children's Museum where they develop and perform theatrical pieces in the inner city Baltimore schools.

Radio Mass salutes them and is very thankful for all they do to enhance our ministry.

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## Letters to the Editor

Thank you so much for your Easter Card. You all will be in my thoughts and prayers at Mass and Communion on Easter.

Thank you again for providing a truly worshipful Mass. It gives me peace and guidance to live these days the best I can.

The Risen Christ is there to be recognized in the stranger, the imprisoned, the vulnerable, even in our enemies.

He is here to be recognized in the breaking of the bread. As St. Thomas Aquinas wrote 800 years ago: Deus est in omnibus rebus, et in-time (God is in all things, and intimately so).

There is a joyful, easy side of all this: holding a new-born in your arms, sensing the majesty of God walking along the beach or in the woods or gazing at a snow covered mountain range—those moments of stillness and wonder and oneness. But there is hidden in

the resurrection an even deeper truth, an even deeper joy. We can live with gusto and generosity, laying down our lives in handing on life.

We need not fear death, or even the process of dying. The Risen Lord is waiting for us, even in our dying. I will close with a meditation Fr. De Chardin recorded in The Divine Milieu:

*...grant when my hour comes, that when the signs of age begin to mark my body (and still more when they touch my mind); when the ill that is to diminish me or carry me off strikes from without or is born within me...and above*

*all at that last moment when I feel I am losing hold of myself and am absolutely passive within the hands of the great unknown forces that have formed me; in all those dark moments, O God, grant that I may understand that it is you (provided only my faith is strong enough) who are painfully parting the fibers of my being in order to penetrate to the very marrow of my substance and bear me away within yourself.*

Teach me to treat my death as an act of communion. A life hidden with Christ in God. Bear me away within yourself. Until you come in glory. *Fr. Casciotti's 2016 Easter Homily*

**The Radio Mass Staff and Volunteers extend our best wishes for a Blessed and Happy Easter to all of our Faithful Listeners and Benefactors**

## About Radio Mass

### Our Mission Statement

Radio Mass of Baltimore, a seventy year ministry of the Maryland Jesuits and Saint Ignatius Church, broadcasts the Liturgy of the Eucharist live every Sunday for the sick, homebound, imprisoned and other interested persons in the Baltimore-Washington region. This ministry provides an opportunity for Catholics and others listeners to draw closer to God in adoration and closer to others in service.

### Remembrance

A bequest to Radio Mass may be the most meaningful charitable gift you will make

### Contact Us

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Radio Mass will provide free Missalettes upon request Call 410-539-7812

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