Dear Parishioners of Divine Savior and our Cherished Visitors:
A very blessed Easter Day and Season to all! May the love of God that raised Jesus from death to New Life fill the hearts and souls of all of us with renewed joy and peace! Our scripture passages for today offer very timely material for reflection that will help us to integrate more deeply into our personality the wisdom that helps us to live the Easter mystery.

Our Gospel begins with Mary of Magdala going to Jesus’ tomb when it was still dark. We can easily empathize with her because we know from our own traumatic experiences that we feel as if we are in the dark. In those moments, we can also come to conclusions that might not be based in reality. Mary engages in the typical blame game: when she game, they have taken the body of Jesus. It seems that she thinks that His dead body could be found if she knew where it put. Mary reminds us of how difficult it can be for us to think differently when we are under great stress.

Peter and the other disciple have a foot race to the tomb. They both see the burial cloths but only the other disciple saw and experienced very transforming moments that really challenged their preconceived notions about race, culture and what is or is not profane.

Our Gospel ends with the story of Mary’s weeping and the other disciple’s seeing of the resurrected Jesus. Both see the burial cloths but only the other disciple saw and experienced very transforming moments that really challenged their preconceived notions about race, culture and what is or is not profane.

From the dead. The other disciple thought that regardless of what happened overloaded his mental and emotional circuits. We pray that in similar circumstances we keep an open mind and pay attention to and reflect on all of our experiences.

When we get to where our first reading begins in history, both Peter and the one in whose house he shares the message, have experienced very transforming moments that really challenged their preconceived notions about race, culture and what is or is not profane.

As we reflect on our first reading, we see how much Peter has grown in his faith since the episode in our Gospel. First of all, he is speaking to a Roman centurion and his family and friends, a person who is clearly aligned with the Roman Emperor who put Jesus to death. This man invited Peter into his home and Peter at that time to gather that he was forbidden to associate with them. Through their interaction, Peter got to the point where he brilliantly articulated very pertinent points about Jesus.

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Is God calling you?
Interested in becoming a Catholic?
Are you a Catholic who now feels separated from the Church?
Catholics Returning Home
An Open Door for Returning Catholics

Were you raised Catholic but do not come or seldom come to church anymore?
Are you a Catholic who now feels separated from the Church?
Would you like to know more about the Catholic Church as it is today?

No matter how long you have been away and no matter the reason, we invite you to consider renewing your relationship with the Catholic Church.

Please join us for six informal sessions beginning Thursday April 26, 7:15 – 8:30 p.m. The sessions will include sharing, and updates on the Church today. Please contact Kathleen Hass at kathleen@divinesavior.com or 916-980-7400 for additional information.

Divine Savior is one of many churches sponsoring this community event in order to bring together people across Orangevale and Fair Oaks to serve on a wide range of projects that will have a broad community benefit. We are asking any parishioners who are capable and willing to please volunteer... as an individual, a family or a group. There are projects for all ages and skill levels. Please go the parish website for info. or to the BIG DAY WEBSITE at www.bigdayofservice.com for more information and to volunteer.

Our Young Adult Ministry has been reignited!
The name is LUX which is Latin for Light and their goal is to provide a safe community for young Catholic adults where they learn to live as Christ lived and live to show the loving light of Christ to others. 
Join us THIS WEDNESDAY, April 4th from 7pm – 9pm in Y1. We will meet every Wednesday from 7pm - 9pm in Y1.
Daniel Ardoin is the contact coordinator for the new ministry and if any questions come in, he can be reached at (916) 844-6428 or email him at luxdivinesavior@gmail.com.

TEXAS HOLD EM *** POKER TOURNAMENT
Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus
Saturday April 14 - 5:30 – 10:00 PM - in Parish Hall
Advance Registration $60 donation
Register at the Door $75 donation
Advance reg. includes $1000 bonus chips
Includes No Host Bar and Free Appetizer Bar
And Great Prizes
For more info & registration contact Bill Wagner (916) 320-2868
Net Proceeds to benefit Scouting and Divine Savior Ministries

A Blessed and Happy Easter to All

Our parish can be rightfully pleased with and grateful to God for the degree that we have been collaborating with Him to bring a greater sense of New Life to our faith community and to all those who are being positively affected by our being sources of light, hope, joy and peace. In a word, we are living out what it means to be baptized.

When we are baptized, we become part of the family of God – we are part of the deep loving relationship God wants with us. That means we have a sacred responsibility, and the deeper we continue to dive into our relationship with the Lord, the more we are inclined to honor it and to want others to desire the same relationship and honor it. As part of the baptismal ritual we are anointed with sacred oil as priest, prophet and king.

Priest – I’m baptized as priest? This has to do with choosing to live the way Jesus did, to offer our lives in sacrifice so that we can serve one another in love. We look to Jesus on the Cross as the servant of the Father who revealed the Father’s love for all people. Dedicated as Jesus was, He freely offered himself in a non-violent way to those who tortured him and crucified him. Fulfilling what the prophet Isaiah had said hundreds of years before him, Jesus realized that the only way to deal with violence was to be non-violent. From the altar of the cross, Jesus invites us to be open to the love he revealed and to live love to the fullest degree possible. This means that we offer our lives in self-sacrificing love to others. As a priest, we all determine how to sacrifice for the good of others.

Prophet – A prophet is first attentive to how God wants people to live and to be treated. Secondly, a prophet finds every possible way to empower others to understand God’s will that all people and our common home are to be treated as God’s precious creation. Like Jesus, we rely on the constant Presence of God’s love to give us the courage and confidence to live the life of Jesus and to speak out and act as Jesus did to create a community in which all people are honored as God’s beloved people. We look to the support of the community to help us deal with any adversity we experience as we live out our identity as prophet.

King – Jesus was a king because he led people into community where all were honored as God’s cherished people. Jesus was a King who served the needs of others with the love he experienced in his relationship with the father. We are called to do likewise.

This year, we will not sprinkle people with holy water. Instead, we will have containers of water at all entrances so that we can all bless ourselves while we pray that as we return to our world we are all the more able to live out our identity as priest, prophet and king. Not because we feel forced to, but because we desire in our hearts to live out what Baptism calls us to be. The deeper we go in our relationship with Jesus, the more we want to live out our baptismal commitment – to be priest, prophet, and king constantly.

~Fr. Roman Mueller, S.D.S.