



HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH
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APRIL 20, 2025 – EASTER SUNDAY
SOLEMNITY OF THE RESURRECTION OF
OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST

9:00 AM – Holy Mass of the Eucharist to be
celebrated in the Traditional rite.

OPENING HYMN

“TO THEE, WE COME, O LORD OUR GOD”

To Thee we come, O Lord, our God,
Before Thine altar, Father
Thou knowest best our yearning hearts;
This supplication answer.
Lift up from want Thy people, Lord,
Bless us, O God; O Father, bless our toil.
Under Thy cross we stand prepared,
To serve Thee with devotion.
Be it with sweat of blood or tears,
Or humble resignation.
For we Thy people are, O Lord,
Save us, O God; O Father, bless our toil.

ENTRANCE HYMN

(Psalm 139:18, 5 -6; 118:1-2)

- V. I have risen: I am with you once more; you placed
your hand on Me to keep Me safe. How great is
the depth of Your wisdom. Alleluia.
- R. O Lord, You have probed Me and You know Me,
You know when I sit and when I stand. Alleluia.

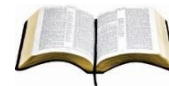
- C. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the
Holy Spirit.
- R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall
be, world without end. Amen.

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the Highest,
And peace to His people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, Almighty God, and Father
We worship You; we give You thanks
We praise you for Your glory
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father
Lord God, Lamb of God
You take away the sins of the world
Have mercy on us
You are seated at the right hand of the Father,
Receive our prayer
For you alone are the Holy One
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ
With the Holy Spirit, in the glory
of God the Father. Amen

OPENING PRAYER

- C. The Lord be with you.
R. And also with you.
- C. Let us pray. Almighty God, our Father, You have
raised Christ, Your Son, Who conquered death and
opened for us the way to eternal life, let our
celebration today raise us up and renew our lives
by the risen Christ Who is among us. We ask this
through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and
reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for
ever and ever.
- R. Amen.



LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD
A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS

(Acts 10:34, 37-43)

Peter proceeded to speak and said: "You know what
has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after
the baptism that John preached, how God anointed
Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He
went about doing good and healing all those oppressed
by the devil, for God was with Him. We are witnesses

of all that He did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put Him to death by hanging Him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that He be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with Him after He rose from the dead. He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that He is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To Him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in Him will receive forgiveness of sins through His name."

C. The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

(Psalm 118: 22-23, 24, 1-2, 16-17 – 118:24)

V. The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. By the Lord has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes. Alleluia.

R. This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad. Alleluia.

V. Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever. Let the house of Israel say, "His mercy endures forever." Alleluia.

R. This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad. Alleluia.

V. The right hand of the Lord has struck with power: the right hand of the Lord is exalted. I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord." Alleluia.

R. This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad. Alleluia.

V. The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. By the Lord has this been done; It is wonderful in our eyes. Alleluia.

R. This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad. Alleluia.



A READING FROM THE LETTER OF SAINT PAUL TO THE COLASSIANS

(Colossians 3:1-4)

Brothers and sisters: If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at

the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.

C. This is the Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

(1 Corinthians 5:7-8)

V. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

V. For our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed.

Therefore, let us celebrate the feast not with the old yeast, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT JOHN

(John 20:1-9)

C. The Lord be with you.

R. And also, with you.

C. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John.

R. Glory be to You, O Lord..

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So, she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put Him." So, Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture that He had to rise from the dead.

C. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise be to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE PROFESSION OF FAITH THE NICENE CREED

I believe in One God, the Father, the Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth
Of all that is seen and unseen.
I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
The only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father.
God from God, Light from Light, True God
from true God, begotten not made
Of one being with the Father.
Through Him all things were made
For us and for our salvation.
He came down from heaven:
By the power of the Holy Spirit
He was born of the Virgin Mary
AND BECAME MAN.
For our sake, He was crucified under Pontius Pilate
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day He rose again
In fulfillment of the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven and
Is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
To judge the living and the dead
And His kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The Lord and Giver of Life
Who proceeds from the Father,
With the Father and the Son
He is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in One, Holy, Catholic
and Apostolic Church
I acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
I look for the resurrection of the dead
And the + life of the world to come. Amen.



OFFERTORY VERSE

(Psalm 89:13b-16)

- C. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.
C. The earth feared and was silent when God arose in judgment. Alleluia.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

- C. Almighty and Loving Father, accept these sacrificial gifts we offer You with joy in which Your Church is reborn and nourished, Through Jesus Christ, our Lord; Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Let us Pray: Most loving Jesus, I adore You in the Most Blessed Sacrament, in which You are truly present. I love You above all things and I long for You in my soul. Since I cannot receive You sacramentally, I ask You to come spiritually into my heart and heal my soul. I embrace You and unite myself with You; may I never be separated from You. In flame my heart with the fire of Your love, my Lord and Savior. Amen.

COMMUNION VERSE

(Romans 6:9)

- V. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over Him.
Alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- C. The Lord be with you.
R. And also with you.
C. Let us pray. Eternal Father, watch over Your Church and bring us to the glory of the Resurrection promised by this Easter Sacrament. We ask this in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
R. Amen.



EASTER SUNDAY

THE DAY OF THE RESURRECTION

Easter Sunday is a most important day in the life of a Christian. While the birth of Jesus ushered in the Anointed One of God, the Christ, **Easter** is the

fulfillment of all the Old Testament prophecies and proved that Jesus was everything He claimed to be.

The Birth of our Lord at **Christmas** and the Resurrection of our Lord on **Easter** are dependent upon each other, for both of these most holy solemnities fulfill the divine plan of God. While Christmas celebrates the birth of the Messiah, **Easter** fulfills the completion of God's Divine plan for the salvation of man. At **Easter**, our blessed Lord conquered sin and death and offered, "Eternal life" to all who would come and believe in the redeeming power of His Word, His presence, and in His Resurrection.

We read in the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans Romans 10:9-10: "If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Found in the celebration of Easter, the three symbols of Easter are presented to members of our congregation to carry in procession:

The first is that of **Glorified Cross** which represents the salvation of man through the crucifixion of the Lord, the second is that of the **Statue of the Resurrected Lord** which symbolizes the Resurrection of our Lord, Who rose from the dead, and finally is the **Pascal Candle**, representing the Light of Christ, All members who carrying these symbols, take their places behind the Processional Cross. The celebrant now goes to the **Altar of Repose**, where Psalms are sung.

Following the Psalms, the celebrant blesses and incenses the **Ostensorium** or **Monstrance** and removes the tulle covering. Donning the **Humeral Veil**, the Priest now holds the **Ostensorium** or **Monstrance**, containing the Blessed Sacrament and intones: "Come, Rejoice Our Lord Has Risen."

The procession begins with the Crucifier, then the three symbols of Easter, followed by the altar servers and finally the celebrant. The procession goes around the interior of the Church three times, stopping at the four corners and proclaiming the Lord's Resurrection. This is to signify the proclaiming of the news of the Risen Lord to the four corners of the world. The procession concludes with the celebrant placing the **Ostensorium** or **Monstrance**, on the **Mensa**, or altar table, and following a final blessing and incensing, the **Luna** with the consecrated host is place back in the **Tabernacle**. The three symbols of Easter are then

placed back to their designated places in the Sanctuary. The final symbol, the **Glorified Cross** is taken by the celebrant and kneeling at the top step of the Main Altar, intones three times: "**Christ the Lord is risen from the grave, Alleluia.**"

Finally. The **Glorified Cross** is placed back on the Epistle side of the main Altar and Holy Mass begins.



EASTER – A MESSAGE OF HOPE

As a Christian, I think back of the events that took place in Jerusalem circa 30 AD. There was a rabbi from Nazareth, named Jesus, the "Word made flesh," who came to usher in the "Kingdom of God," heal the sick and preach a Gospel of hope and love. Through this Galilean, many came to know that this teacher was the long-awaited Messiah, promised through the words of the Old Testament prophets such as Isaiah and Malachi.

On that first Palm Sunday, so many people gathered in Jerusalem to show their love and devotion to Him. What joy was expressed and what hope was felt as multitudes of people welcomed Him and laid palms in His path. But their joy was soon to be replaced with sadness and their hope was soon to be dashed. For many, who were present that first Good Friday, saw this teacher from Nazareth suffer, be mocked, spat upon, scourged and made to carry His own cross to His place of crucifixion and death, while so many others hid themselves behind locked doors out of fear for their own safety and lives.

But according to our faith, this was not the end of the story, for something remarkable was to happen.

On that first Easter morning, darkness was to be replaced with light and sadness was to be replaced with joy, for on that first Easter morning, the tomb that held the body of Jesus was empty and, on that day, there were those who experienced the presence of the risen Lord. Did not Jesus foretell of His own resurrection? We hear these words of Jesus:

"He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the

chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.”
- Mark 8:31

Was it not Jesus who taught in John 14:19: “Because I live, you will also live?”

I believe that the mission of Jesus, was not only to establish the “kingdom of God,” here on earth, but most importantly die for the collected sins of mankind. As the Savior of the world, and through His “Good News,” He came not only to establish His own divinity, but also teach of the divinity that exists in all mankind. We continue to see the “works of the Spirit” manifested and expressed among countless people, men and women alike, who being filled with the Holy Spirit, becoming “new creature.” This spirit of love and sacrifice for one another is what Jesus came to teach about and to die for.

Although there is still much darkness and sadness in our world today, there is and always has been rays of light which shines forth through the darkness. As God’s people, we have an assurance that, in the resurrection of Jesus, there is hope; and this message of hope is found in the words of this teacher from Galilee who said in John 16:33: “In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” May this Easter bring all of us hope in the eternal words of the risen Lord.

“But it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Lord, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel.”

- 2 Timothy 1:10.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CELEBRATION OF EASTER.

Easter, or in Greek “**Pascha**” is the principal solemnity or feast day of the Christian Church. It celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, three days following His Crucifixion and Death. It has been referred to as the “greatest miracle and event of the history of mankind.”

The celebration of Easter as we know it today, finds its roots in the early Christian Church as far back as the 2nd century AD. Over the years, the early Christian Church developed from varied traditions and celebrations which would eventually mark the celebration of that first Easter morning. Even though the first historical mention of Easter as an annual event did not occur until the late 2nd century, there is evidence from the New Testament that the early Apostles changed the Sabbath from the seventh day to the first day of the week to commemorate the Resurrection on a weekly basis.

Both John and Luke note that Christ’s followers met together on “the first day of the week” (John 20:19; Acts 20:7; see also John 20:26). Luke also adds in his writing of the Book of the Acts of the Apostles that there would be a “breaking of bread.” The reason for this change seems to be centered in the events of the Last Supper and the miraculous Resurrection of the Lord Jesus.



EASTER AND THE EARLY CHURCH FATHERS

Early Christian Church Fathers, such as **Justin Martyr** and **Tertullian** spoke of the celebration of Easter, which took place every Sunday in the early Christian communities of the second century AD. Eventually these weekly commemorations would form the early annual Easter celebration.

An Early Church father, **St. Irenaeus**, born circa 130- 200 A.D, and who was ordained by blessed **St. Polycarp**, wrote of this annual celebration, as he wrote against the dogmatic position of Bishop Victor of Rome, who demanded that Easter be affixed to only one day. (**Irenaeus** favored a date that coincided with the Jewish Passover). The fallout from this exchange confirms that by circa 160 AD, the Christian community had adopted a single, annual celebration of Easter. The Christian community, however, were far from being unified as followers, concerning the date of Easter.

In the 2nd and 3rd centuries, controversies surfaced over which day of the week and which calendar would be used for observing Easter.

In Rome, the first Sunday after the 14th day of Nisan 14 (Passover), would become the Christian feast of Easter. Others insisted on the Jewish Passover as the exact date. And finally, those living in Syria and Mesopotamia insisted on following the spring equinox upon which the Jewish Passover was calculated, thereby removing the need to establish Easter on the annual Jewish announcement of the date of Passover.

At the First Eccumenical Council of the Christian Church, held in the city of Nicaea in 325 AD, finally settled the controversy that Easter would be on the first Sunday after the paschal moon, which could not precede the vernal equinox. In practical terms this meant that Easter Sunday could fall on any one of the thirty-six days between March 21 and April 25.

Added to this discussion, another question would be asked: What calendar would be the standard? Alexandria and the eastern churches chose the Julian calendar, while western Christians selected the Gregorian calendar. These differences have persisted for thousands of years and account for the modern discrepancies between eastern and western Christian dates for Easter.

During the first few centuries of early Christianity, the term **Easter** did not yet exist. Early Christians referred to Easter simply as “**Pascha**,” the Greek term for the Hebrew word “**pesach**,” or “**passover**.”

In Latin, the word for Easter is still a derivation of the Hebrew word “**pesach**.”

In the English and Germanic cultures, the earliest mention of the word “**Easter**” comes from the English historian Saint Bede the Venerable. Writing in the eighth century, Bede claimed the term “**Easter**” referred originally to a pagan holiday centered on the Anglo-Saxon goddess “**Eostre**,” celebrating both spring and fertility. Thus, the origin of the egg.

Saint Bede supported his account by citing a provocative letter from Pope Gregory I. In this letter, the pontiff suggested that missionary work among the heathens would improve if pagan holidays were synchronized with Christian celebrations. Some of these assertions led to the widespread conclusion that the Christian holiday Easter had its origins in a pagan fertility rite versus the actual Resurrection of Jesus.

In recent years other explanations to the pagan theory have been noted. Among them is the notion that Easter is the abbreviated form of the German word for “resurrection,” or “**auferstehung**.” Still another explanation is that the early Church referred to Easter week as “white week” because the newly baptized members dressed in white clothes. The plural of “white week” was very similar to the Old German word for dawn, “**Eostarum**.” When this was translated later into English, it became the word which we call “**Easter**.”

Sources:

- Encyclopedia Britannica, 15th ed., “Easter”; World Book Encyclopedia, 2006 ed., “Easter.”
- “The Christian and History of the Development of Easter” by Keith J. Wilson
- Encyclopedia Americana (Danbury, CT: Scholastic, 2005), “Easter.”
- Henry Chadwick, *The Early Church*, rev. ed. (London: Penguin Books, 1993)



THOSE WHO SAW THE RESURRECTED LORD

Reading Holy Scripture, I have found that there is approximately twelve other occasions where the Lord appeared to others following His Resurrection and leading up to His Ascension, forty days later. The following are those whom our Lord appeared on that first Easter Day.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9-11; John 20:11-18)

“Now after He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons. She went out and told those who had been with Him, while they were mourning and weeping. But when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it.”
- Mark 16:9-11

“But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she

saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to Me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to My brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that He had said these things to her."

-John 20:11-18

**Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene,
Salome, and Mary the mother of James**
(Matthew 28:1-10)

"Now after the sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Mag'dalene and the other Mary went to see the sepulchre. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He has risen, as He said. Come, see the place where He lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that He has risen from the dead, and behold, He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see Him. Lo, I have told you." So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy and ran to tell His disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Hail!" And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me."

- Matthew 28:1-10

Jesus appears to Peter
(Luke 24:34)

We do not know the details of this appearance, only that when the two of His disciples were on the road to Emmaus and came back to Jerusalem to tell the Lord's disciples that Jesus appeared to Peter. "They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and He has appeared to Simon!" - Luke 24:34

**Jesus appears to two men
on the road to Emmaus**
(Luke 24:13-35)

"Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing Him. And He said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered Him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹ He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people and how our chief priests and leaders handed Him over to be condemned to death and crucified Him. But we had hoped that He was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find His body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see Him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, He interpreted to them the things about Himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, He walked ahead as if He were going on. But they urged Him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So, He went in to stay with them. When He was at the table with them, He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it

to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while He was talking to us on the road, while He was opening the scriptures to us?” That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and He has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road, and how He had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

- Luke 24:13-35

Jesus appears to the Apostles (Luke 24:36-45)

“While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at My hands and my feet; see that it is I Myself. Touch Me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, He said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave Him a piece of broiled fish, and He took it and ate in their presence – **Luke 24:36-43**

JESUS APPEARS TO THE APOSTLES BUT WITHOUT THOMAS (John 20:19-25)

“When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So, the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in His side, I will not believe.”

The following is a list of the other appearances of our Lord in the forty days leading up to His Ascension.

- He appeared to the apostles with Thomas. (John 20:26-29).
- He appeared to seven of His disciples on the shores of the Sea of Galilee (John 21:1-25).
- He appeared to the apostles on a mountain in Galilee (Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-18).
- He appeared to over 500 brethren (1Corinthians 15:6).
- He appeared to His brother James (1 Corinthians 15:7)
- He appeared to the apostles and ate a meal with them (Acts 1:3-8; Luke 24:44-49).
- He appeared to His disciples prior to His ascension (Acts 1:9-12; Mark 16:19-20; Luke 24:50-53).



“But the angel answered and said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, for He is risen, as He said.” – Matthew 28:5-8

First of all, on this Easter morning,. Happy Easter to all of you.

Easter has always been for me and I believe for many of you, a very special day. So many memories of our past years represent the joy of Easter Day that we recall this Easter Day.

I remember, like many of you, dressing up when we were young and coming to Church with our parents and grandparents to share a very special day.

Today, so many of us, who are of Polish ancestry remember Easter food being blessed on Holy Saturday and told not to eat this blessed food until Easter day. I remember kielbasa and scrambled eggs those Easter mornings, and later the blessed ham, horseradish and babka, a Polish bread or rye bread.

Amid all our traditions, I would like to share with you some other thoughts with all of you, of what took place that the first Easter.

When the women came to finish the anointing of our Lord, according to Jewish practices, they returned

that Easter morning, where they encountered an angel.

Now an angel as many of us have learned that in God's hierarchy, angels, are "pure spirits," who came unto the Old Testament prophets of God; who came and still come to proclaim God's Word and direction..

"He is not here, for He is risen," the women are told. So where did our Lord go following His glorious resurrection?

He went to His believers, like you and me. He appeared to Mary and other women, to the two disciples on the road of Emmaus, and to His first chosen that first Easter day.

I hope that this evening, after all our celebrations with our loved ones, we might find a moment of quiet time, in prayer and to reflect on this essential miracle of life.

To believe that the Resurrection of Jesus and His appearances to others that first Easter, was only a story that took place 2000 years ago, is limiting the very power and presence of the eternal God.

The greatest truth this Easter day is that Christ lives and He presents Himself to those who truly seek Him and believe in the miracle of the Resurrection.

When He comes to us, it may not be an intense light that fills your entire house, as what happened to St. Paul, in his conversion, but it may be just a simple feeling in the depths our heart and souls, that we know, without a doubt that "He lives."

The joy of Easter is so much more than chocolate candy or blessed food; so much more than Easter parades or putting on a new Easter bonnet or dressing up. It is the gift of life itself, that God has given us through His Son.

May you all experience His loving presence this Easter in your life and in the lives of your loved ones.



EASTER – THE LORD CALLS TO US BY NAME

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me, and I give them eternal life; that they shall never perish."
- John 10:27-28a

We read in today's Gospel, taken from the 20th chapter of St. John's account, that Mary of Magdala, goes very early in the morning, to the tomb of Jesus and finds that His sealed burial stone has been rolled away.

In fear, she runs and tells Peter and John, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put Him."

As we continue to read in the Gospel of John, Mary returns to the empty tomb. She first encounters two angels and afterward Jesus, who she mistakes to be a gardener. She said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away." Jesus then said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabbo'ni!" (which translated means "my Teacher.")

So, Mary, according to the Gospel of Mark 16:9, and the Gospel of John, was the first person to encounter the Risen Lord; \ not Peter, not John or any of His Apostles. but Mary. Whatever the reason Mary did not first recognize the Lord, we will never know, but she knew it was her Lord when He called her by name. Mary must of went from uncontrollable grief and sadness to unbelievable joy and happiness. How she would have wanted to embrace Him, but most importantly, she must of felt not only surprised but also relieved that He was alive.

On this Easter Sunday, our blessed Lord calls silently to each one of us, within, by name, as He called Mary at His Resurrection, and I am sure many of you, have heard His voice and today share the realization of true meaning of Easter "I am risen."

"In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." - 1 Peter 1:3

OTHER THOUGHTS THIS EASTER

"Easter says you can put truth in a grave, but it won't stay there."
- Clarence W. Hall

"Easter is the demonstration of God that life is essentially spiritual and timeless."
- Charles M. Crowe

"The very first Easter taught us was this: that life never ends and love never dies."
- Kate McGahan

"God gave us spring as a reminder of how beautiful life can be even after death."
- Unknown



SUNDAY, APRIL 27 2025 – EASTER 2

9:00 am – **Holy** Mass of the Eucharist to be celebrated in the Contemporary rite of the PNCC.

10:00 am – Parish Committee to meet following Holy Mass



The **Sacrament of Baptism** will be administered this Sunday to Sophia Harrington, daughter of Benjamin and Daisy Harrington, born on August 4, 2024. May we all pray this day for the blessing of God to rest upon Sophia.



PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING

In our prayers, may we remember all our brothers and sisters, who are sick and ill and ask for God's blessings of health and healing.

Let us pray. O Lord, God of mercies, in Your kindness stretch out Your hand and heal all our brothers and sisters who are in any way ailing. Make them worthy of health, deliver them from their present sicknesses and illness and grant them recovery in Jesus' holy name. We ask this through the same Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.



LENTEN COLLECTION BOXES

As we have come to the close of this Lenten season, I wish to thank all who gave towards helping others.

May God bless your generosity. As previously mentioned, our Parish will decide on what charities we will give these donations towards.



OUR PARISH OUTREACH PROGRAMS

“Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.” - Philippians 2:4



Our Food Ministry: “To Feed the Hungry”

**“I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat.”
- Matthew 25:35**

I wish to thank Cheryl Major who gave of her time in handing out free groceries this month. Speaking with Cheryl, she told me that our Parish gave out 11 bags of groceries along with 5 children bags.

We continue to ask for the following donations:

- Cereals and packets of instant oatmeal.
- Fruit juices, - V8, Apple and cranberry.
- powder milk / condensed milk.
- Hot chocolate and tea bags.
- Pasta and spaghetti sauce.
- Boxes of Mac-n-cheese.
- Canned tuna in water.
- Canned meats- chicken, salmon, etc.
- Ramen noodles.
- Soups- all varieties.
- Canned veggies and fruits.
- Children's snack packs.



Please note: Through our Parish ministries, we are continuing to collect full sized containers of personal care items as well as full size cleaning items to aid

others less fortunate through the various survival centers in our area. Some of those items that are needed:

- Bar soaps and body wash, shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant, hand sanitizers, toilet paper, and personal products for incontinence (pads & panty liners, baby powder, baby wipes and diapers.
- Liquid dish soap, laundry detergent, paper towels, bathroom and kitchen cleansers, dish sponges/scrubbers, trash bags.



Collecting plastic tops

One of our dear parishioners, Maryanna Foster, who works closely with veterans, has asked for our help in collecting **white or clear plastic bottle tops** that will be donated to aid in the making of prosthetics for veterans in need. A collection container has been set up in the vestibule of our church. Please help donate your plastic tops to this new ministry. May God bless all of our endeavors.



Can Soda Tabs

We are also collecting tabs from soda cans that are then donated to aid the **Shriners Hospitals for Crippled children**. Please save your can soda tabs. There are containers that are located in our Parish vestibule for this purpose. Thank you to all who have donated to this cause and may God bless all our endeavors.



THE EASTERN DIOCESE OF THE PNCC

ED MISSION & EVANGELISM COMMISSION WEDNESDAYS AT NOON – CALL TO PRAYER

On Wednesdays, at 12:00 Noon, during the month of April, members of the Eastern Diocese as well as

others, are called to “prayer” and are asked to offer these two devotions prayers:

Let us Pray: Lord Jesus Christ, Savior of the world, You taught us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. Enlighten the hearts of our enemies that they may seek the peace that only You can give. Grant us grace to forgive and to be forgiven. Enable us all to work toward justice and embrace Your love that reconciles us with one another. In Your blessed Name we pray. Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed by Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us our daily bread and forgive us of our trespasses this day as we forgive those who trespass against us and led us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Ame



PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE

O Lord, our God, Your Son taught us how blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called Your children. We come before You Father on this Easter Sunday, praying for peace in our world.

We pray on this day, for all the innocent victims of war and turmoil and for all those who have been displaced from their homes and countries.

We pray especially this day, for the children, many who are now orphans; for the women, for the young and the aged, and for all who only seek peace, safety and security. In the name of Jesus, the “Prince of Peace,” we offer this humble prayer. Amen.

WORDS OF APPRECIATION

I want to thank all our dear parishioners who gave of their time in support of our recent Palm Sunday Food and Bake Sale. Although we woke up Saturday morning, the day of this event, with several inches of snow, God blessed us with a successful day that could only have been achieved with the help of so many.