

PARISH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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website: www.holyspiritkennewick.org

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/HolySpiritParishCommunity>

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DEACON ERIC SHABER

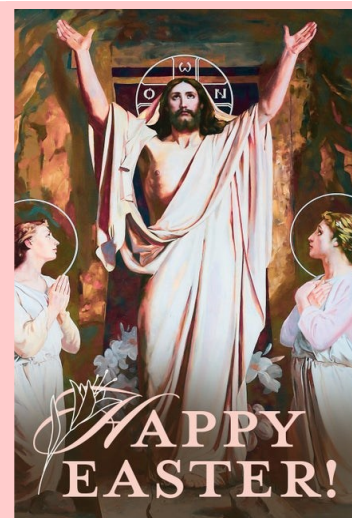
208-521-7846

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DEACON MIKE GAULKE

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APRIL 5, 2026

Parish Staff:

Secretary Debbie Forgette 735-8558
Bookkeeper Bianca Medina 735-8558

Parish Community Center (PCC) Coordinator
Presently Unstaffed

Faith Formation:

Pre-school to 5th Grade Karen Gorham 735-8558
6th to 8th Grades/Edge Danielle May 528-9780
9th to 12th Grades/Life Teen Jennifer Moore 492-6209
& Joe Bliss 216-402-3118
email: lifeteenhs@gmail.com

Confirmation Deacon Mike & Carol Gaulke 551-7626
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults
Joe & Sherry Schroeder 405-2242

Ministers of Music:

4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass Julianne Barnaby 735-2163
9:30 a.m. Mass Paula Bachelor 375-9019
5:00 p.m. Mass Perry Kelly 735-8558
Children's Choir Presently Unstaffed 735-8558

Ministries of Worship:

Scheduler for Liturgical Ministers Trish Feeney 551-0486
Eucharistic Adoration Liz Friedrich 783-6223
Prayer Line Adele Ogrzyk 627-0201
Altar Server Training Zack Rinderer 582-2543

Parish Ministries:

Mary Martha Prayer Group Camille Henneberry 735-4858
Welcoming Committee Jan Beardemphl 948-3367
PCC Nursery Wynona Vaz 222-8982
Ministry to Sick and Shut-Ins Deacon Eric Shaber
& Charlotte Shaber 208-521-7846
Bible Study Judy Turner 438-7938
Women's Group Linda Rego 221-1130
Elizabeth Ministry Catherine Maier 771-2372
Weekend Mass Refreshments Judy Urrutia 438-5039

Councils and Committees:

Parish Council Jim Carey 627-0321
Finance Council Bob Baemmert 531-2085
Stewardship Lenice & Pat Nagle 582-6893
Evangelization Rob Privette 438-1222
Voice of the Spirit Dieter Bohrmann 987-3158
Parish Library Ann Stevens 396-2723

Charter Organizations:

Catholic Daughters Linda Garner 627-2748
Knights of Columbus Peter Dreisbach 205-2377
St. Vincent de Paul Message Line 591-0632
American Heritage Girls Erin Leistriz 406-579-1891

Natural Family Planning:

Carol Gaulke 619-5464

Weekend Masses:

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Weekday Masses:

Monday: 9:00 a.m.
Tuesday: 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday through Friday: 9:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Tuesday: 4:15 - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 3:00 - 4:15 p.m.

Please visit our Holy Spirit Facebook page to join livestream events:

<https://www.facebook.com/HolySpiritParishCommunity>

Office Hours: Monday through Friday

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and
1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

The Sacrament of Baptism

Babies and young children are usually baptized during Mass on Saturday or Sunday, or on Saturday at 12:00 p.m. Call the parish office for a list of upcoming Baptism dates and to receive registration information for pre-Baptism classes. (735-8558)



Holy Matrimony

On Being Married at Holy Spirit ...

Engaged couples who wish to be married at Holy Spirit Parish are asked to contact the parish office at least nine months prior to their desired wedding date. The couple and the priest will then meet to begin the Marriage preparation program. (735-8558)

Deaths

What should I do when there is a death in my family? Please call the parish office and speak with the office staff and the pastor before making arrangements with the funeral home, to ensure that the church is available at the desired date and time. (735-8558)

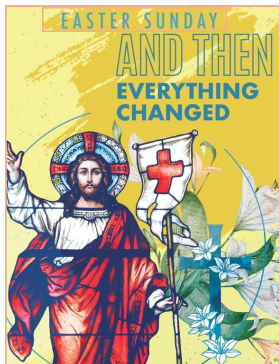
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord, April 5, 2026

Calendar for the Week: (Note: PCC = Parish Community Center)

Sunday, April 5:

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

***** NOTE THE SPECIAL EASTER MASS TIMES *****



Mass in the church at **8:30 a.m.**

Easter Egg Hunt, PCC field, 10:00 a.m.

Mass in the church at **11:00 a.m.** Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

No Sacrament of Reconciliation

No evening Mass

No Edge

No Life Teen

Monday, April 6:

Monday within the Octave of Easter

Mass in the church at 9:00 a.m. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Tuesday, April 7:

Tuesday within the Octave of Easter

Holy Spirit Mommy and Me, PCC nursery, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Religious Education, pre-school to fifth grade, 4:00 - 5:15 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation, CHURCH, 4:15 - 5:00 p.m.

Mass in the church at 5:30 p.m. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Knights of Columbus Council 10653 officers, PCC room 9, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 8:

Wednesday within the Octave of Easter

Mass in the church at 9:00 a.m. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Mary Martha Prayer Group, PCC room 5, 1:30 p.m.

Parish Council, PCC room 7, 6:00 p.m.

Amazing Grace Choir, church, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 9:

Thursday within the Octave of Easter

Mass in the church at 9:00 a.m. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA), PCC rooms 7, 7:00 p.m.

Celebration Choir, church, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, April 10:

Friday within the Octave of Easter

Mass in the church at 9:00 a.m. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Apostolate of the Returning King Prayer Group, PCC room 7, 10:00 a.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 9:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., in the vestibule. Concludes with *Prayers for Priestly Vocations* and *Prayers for Peace* at 4:30 p.m. and the *Rite of Benediction* at 4:45 p.m.

Saturday, April 11:

Saturday within the Octave of Easter

Spiritual Exercises in Everyday Life (SEEL), PCC room 6/8, 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Vigil Mass in the church at 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 12:

Second Sunday of Easter

Sunday of Divine Mercy

Mass in the church at 9:30 a.m. Mass is also livestreamed on [Holy Spirit Facebook page](#).

Confirmation Super Sunday, PCC hall and rooms 3 and 5, 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Divine Mercy Rosary, in the church at 2:30 p.m.

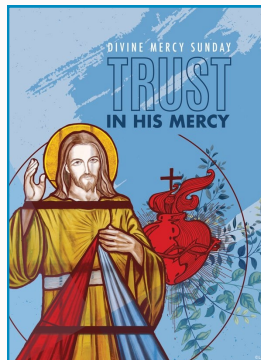
Divine Mercy Chaplet, in the church at 2:45 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation, PCC room 9, 3:00 - 4:15 p.m.

Mass in the church at 5:00 p.m.

Edge (Middle School), PCC rooms 5 and 6/8, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Life Teen (High School), PCC hall, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.



Easter

Living in the Light of the Risen Christ

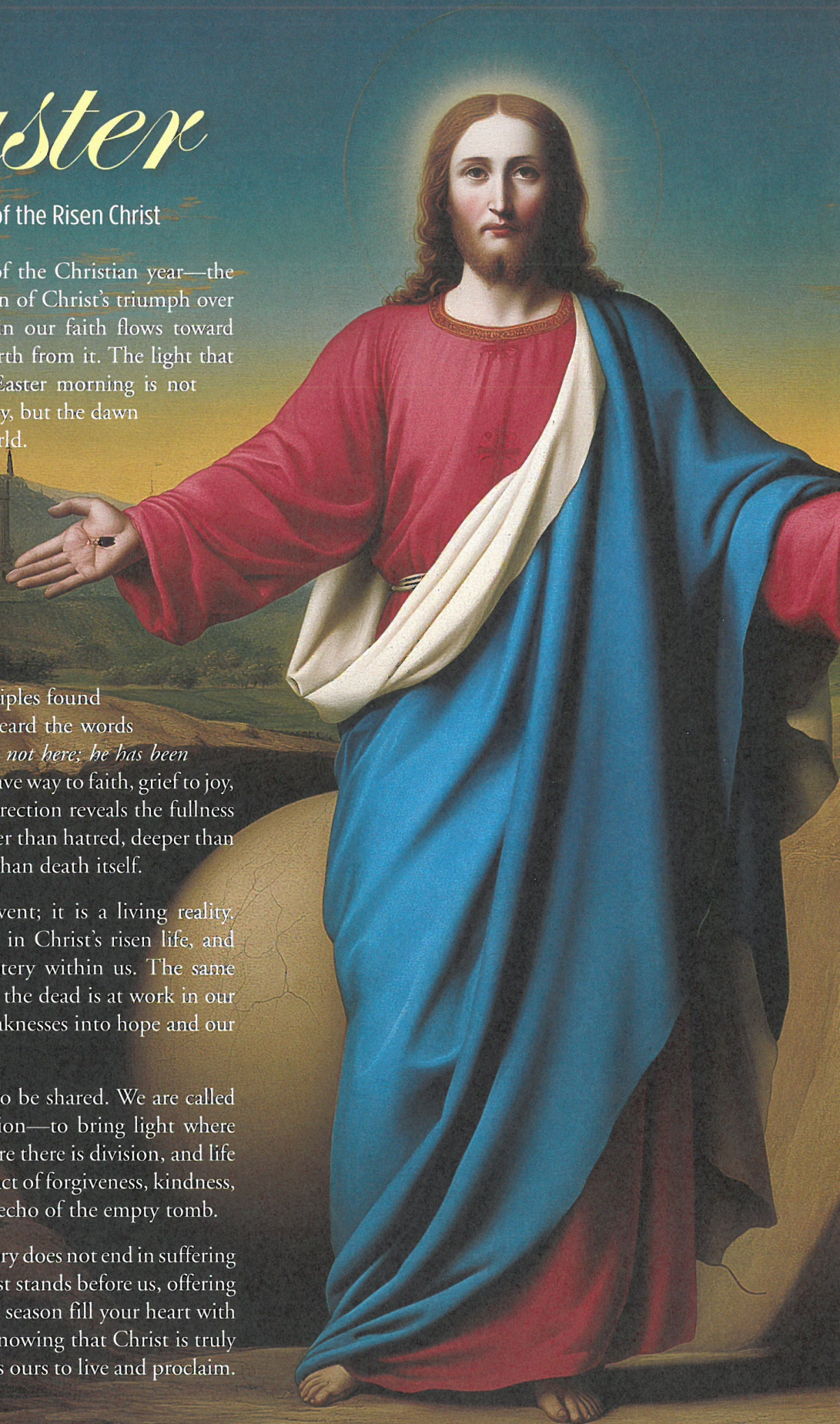
Easter is the radiant heart of the Christian year—the feast of feasts, the celebration of Christ’s triumph over sin and death. Everything in our faith flows toward this moment and springs forth from it. The light that breaks from the tomb on Easter morning is not merely the dawn of a new day, but the dawn of new life for the whole world.

On that first Easter, the disciples found the stone rolled away and heard the words that changed history: *“He is not here; he has been raised.”* In that instant, fear gave way to faith, grief to joy, and death to life. The Resurrection reveals the fullness of God’s love—a love stronger than hatred, deeper than sorrow, and more powerful than death itself.

Easter is not only a past event; it is a living reality. Through baptism, we share in Christ’s risen life, and each Mass renews that mystery within us. The same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead is at work in our hearts, transforming our weaknesses into hope and our wounds into grace.

The joy of Easter is meant to be shared. We are called to be witnesses of resurrection—to bring light where there is darkness, mercy where there is division, and life where there is despair. Each act of forgiveness, kindness, or courage becomes a small echo of the empty tomb.

Easter reminds us that the story does not end in suffering but in glory. The Risen Christ stands before us, offering peace and renewal. May this season fill your heart with the hope that comes from knowing that Christ is truly risen—and that his victory is ours to live and proclaim.



THE EASTER SEASON AND ITS TIMING

Easter is the central feast of the Church year, but unlike Christmas, it does not have a fixed date. The early Church sought to link Easter closely with the **Jewish Passover**, the context of Jesus' Passion and Resurrection. In A.D. 325, the **Council of Nicaea** established that Easter would be celebrated on **the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox**.

This ancient formula connects Easter to both the sun and the moon—the cycles of light and life in creation. Because of this, Easter can fall anywhere between **March 22** and **April 25**. Western Christianity follows the **Gregorian calendar**, while many Eastern Churches use the **Julian calendar**, sometimes celebrating Easter on different dates. Yet both traditions proclaim the same mystery: Christ's victory over death and the dawning of new life for the world.

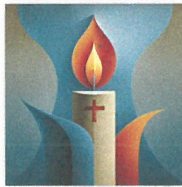
The celebration of Easter does not end on Easter Sunday—it begins there. The **Easter Season**, or **Eastertide**, lasts for fifty days, culminating in the feast of **Pentecost**. These days form one great festival of joy, during which the Church rejoices in the Risen Lord's presence and the gift of new life received in baptism.

Throughout Eastertide, the liturgy shines with light and renewal. The **Paschal Candle**, lit at the Easter Vigil, remains near the altar as a sign of Christ, the Light of the World. The word **Alleluia**, silent during Lent, rings out again in hymns and prayers.

The season invites us to live as Easter people—bearing witness to hope, walking in the light of the Resurrection, and allowing the joy of new life in Christ to shape everything we say and do.

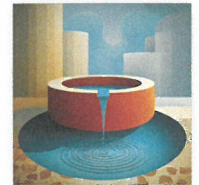
THE SYMBOLS OF EASTER

Easter is rich with symbols that proclaim life, light, and renewal. The **Paschal Candle** is the central symbol of the season, representing Christ, the Light of the World. Its flame dispels darkness and reminds us that the Resurrection shines into every shadow of life.

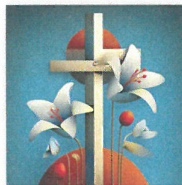


Water is another key sign. During the Easter Vigil, new water is blessed, and the faithful renew their

baptismal promises, recalling that through baptism we die and rise with Christ. **White vestments and altar cloths** replace the purple of Lent, symbolizing joy, purity, and new life.



The **empty tomb**, the **cross transformed by lilies**, and the word **Alleluia** all speak of victory and renewal. Even common springtime symbols—**eggs, flowers, and light**—echo the message of new beginnings.



Through these signs, the Church expresses the truth that Easter is not only about Christ's Resurrection but about our own: we are called to live as people of hope, reflecting the light of the Risen Lord in our daily lives.

THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

The first eight days of the Easter Season are known as the **Octave of Easter**, an extended celebration of the Resurrection. Each day is liturgically treated as Easter Sunday itself, emphasizing the depth and joy of the mystery.

During the Octave, the Church continues to sing "*This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad!*" The **Gloria** is sung at daily Mass, and the readings recount the appearances of the Risen Lord to his disciples.

The Octave concludes with **Divine Mercy Sunday**, established by Pope St. John Paul II in 2000. This feast highlights the boundless mercy poured out through Christ's Resurrection. The image of Jesus, with rays of red and white light streaming from his heart, invites us to trust in his mercy and share it with others.

The Easter Octave reminds us that resurrection joy cannot be contained in a single day—it is a grace that fills the whole Church with light and life.



Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and Alleluia is our song. May the light of the Risen Christ dispel the darkness of our hearts and renew the face of the earth. — *Pope St. John Paul II*

STEWARDSHIP: Very early in the morning after the Sabbath, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body with precious oils. The reward given to this good and conscientious steward was to be among the first to know that Jesus had been raised from the dead! Alleluia!

March 1: \$23,988.89 Recorded givers: 133

Thanks for your giving of time, talent, and treasure.

For online giving, visit:

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/holy7409270>

Thank you for maintaining your financial support of our parish as you are able. If you'd prefer to mail an offering, please send it to **Parish of the Holy Spirit, 7411 W. Clearwater Ave., Ste. E, Kennewick, WA 99336**. If you are currently using offering envelopes and would like to switch to online giving (or bill-payer from your bank), please call the parish office so we can discontinue your envelope mailings with our printing service. Thank you.



"On the wounded faces of the poor, we see the suffering of the innocent and, therefore, the suffering of Christ himself."
— Pope Leo XIV

Called to Share Bread for Life

Happy Easter! As our CRS Rice Bowl journey comes to an end, may the Eucharist continue to transform our lives and help us respond to God's call to serve our global family. Let us commit to sharing the joy of the Resurrection with people in our local community and around the world. Don't forget to turn in your CRS Rice Bowl in the vestibule or donate online at crsricebowl.org/give.

PARISH LANDSCAPING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



This rewarding ministry is a silent sermon of love to keep God's house a place of beauty and welcome. Landscaping entails a once-per-month commitment in one designated area of our parish grounds. Pick up trash and pull weeds any day/time during an assigned week. Subs are available if needed. Please contact Robin Rego at 253-370-9899 with questions or to volunteer.



*Nathan Ryan Donohue,
son of Patrick and Morgan Anyan Donohue,
was baptized at Holy Spirit on March 28th.*

*May God's blessings of peace and joy
be with him and protect him all of his days.*



Are you a St. Joseph Catholic School parent or a St. Joseph Church parishioner? Are you passionate about supporting Catholic education and helping the school grow? Do you want to make a difference? Serving on the St. Joseph School Advisory Council (SAC) is your opportunity to offer input and insight on long-term school planning, represent parent and parish voices, effect positive, strategic change, and contribute professional skills in key areas. Those with experience or interest in the following areas are encouraged to apply: financial and business management, educational leadership, fund development, strategic planning, facility operations, technology and safety integration, grant writing, coaching and mentorship. To learn more about SAC, and to submit an application, visit the school website at sjske.org/sac.

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

All dates are tentative

Monday	April 6	Pat Kelly RIP
Tuesday	April 7, 5:30 p.m.	Denny & Mary Houston RIP
Wednesday	April 8	Forgette Family
Thursday	April 9	Lu Ann Jones RIP
Friday	April 10	Adele Perrault RIP
Saturday	April 11, 4:00 p.m.	Mary Jane Royack RIP
Sunday	April 12, 5:00 p.m.	Polli Walsborn

The Sunday morning Mass is normally offered for the people of the parish.

To have your need added to our parish prayer phone chain, please call Adele Ogrzyzek at 627-0201.

To have your need added to the list which is published in the bulletin once each month, please call the parish office.

A Note From the St. Serra Club of Tri Cities

"The Lord has truly been raised!" (from Luke 24:34) The risen Lord calls us to proclaim new life to the world. Are you being called to be a priest, permanent deacon, brother, monk, or nun to proclaim the Lord's resurrection?



The April Ultreya of the Cursillo movement will be held Monday, April 6th at Christ the King in Richland. We'll begin by praying the Rosary at 6:30 p.m. in the chapel, with the meeting starting at 7:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room. Please come, and invite your friends to join in the fellowship.



Join us in the afternoon on **Divine Mercy Sunday**, April 12, in the church. We'll pray the Holy Rosary at 2:30 p.m. followed by the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 2:45 p.m. Worship aids will be provided.

**Holy Spirit Catholic Church
Parish Mission
"A Pilgrimage of Love"
Rev. R. Tony Ricard
April 20-21, 2026**

Monday, 6:30PM

"What's Love Got to Do with It?"

Tuesday, 6:30PM

"Don't Be Stupid! Lessons You Should Already Know!"



Spring 2026 Catholic Education Series

Join us on Mondays at 6:15 p.m. starting April 27th in the PCC



- 4/27—Fundamentals of Christian Morality, Joe Schroeder
- 5/4—Rediscovering Reconciliation, Fr. Edgar Quiroga
- 5/11—Decoding the Music of the Mass, Theresa Barnaby
- 5/18—The Heart of Worship through Time, Perry Kelly



Save the date for our

Parish Celebration on Saturday, May 30th
at 5:00 p.m. outside the PCC.



More details to follow ... Everyone is welcome!



Believing Is Seeing

MIGUEL DULICK

We celebrate Easter on the first Sunday after the first full moon of spring, which is also the first Sunday after Passover. The whole history of the world comes to this point, and today’s gospel catches the eternal thrill of that day. A desperate Mary Magdalen cannot find her Lord in the tomb. Thinking that his body has been stolen, she alerts the apostles. Peter and John go running, and a moment of unforgettable suspense follows as first Peter and then John enter the tomb. The details are significant. They 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” (John 20:7). Thieves would not have taken

the time to unwrap the body and fold the face cloth. These details are intended to point to the truth of the resurrection. They saw and believed!

The first reading from the Acts of the Apostles follows the story of the centurion Cornelius, the first prominent pagan convert. (His story is fascinating—take time to read it this week.) Peter gives a speech including a kind of catechism that had been standardized in a formula repeated at least six times in Acts. This proclamation, or *kerygma*, incorporates the message and the motivation for a change of life. God anointed Jesus, raised him from the dead, and promised that all who believe in him will be forgiven their sins and rise with him. Happy Easter! ●

Reflect

Why do I believe in the resurrection, and how does my belief impact my life?

Then the other disciple also went in,
the one who had arrived at the tomb first,
and he saw and believed.

JOHN 20:8





One Minute Meditations

St. Anselm of Canterbury

Born in Aosta, Italy, he attended a Benedictine school as a youth. After traveling around France and Italy for his studies, St. Anselm entered the Benedictine Order. When the current Archbishop of Canterbury died, Anselm, who by then was a Benedictine abbot, was promoted as Canterbury's new Archbishop. St. Anselm navigated church reforms, theological study, and political tensions. He was exiled for resisting the king's interference in Church matters but was allowed to return in peace.

Glorious wounds

Every Easter, we celebrate that Jesus definitively conquered sin, evil and death. God, not evil, has "the last laugh." Yet, He still has His wounds. The Resurrection transformed what were wounds of rejection into glorious trophies - proof of His love, power, and trustworthiness as our Savior. When we encounter difficulty, even great suffering, we can look to the glorious wounds of our Savior with hope. If we stay close to Him, we'll be victorious too.

"It comes down to this: If Jesus didn't rise from the dead, then Christianity is a fraud and a sham. If He did rise from the dead, then He is who He said He is, and our lives must change accordingly. There is no middle ground."

Bishop Robert Barron

Don't Just Celebrate Easter. Step Into It.

At the heart of Christianity is not just an idea or a rule of life, but an encounter with the Risen Christ and the new life of grace He offers. Easter invites us to step into that life more deliberately. Here are four simple ways to begin:

Encounter the Risen Christ. Mary Magdalene stood before Jesus and didn't recognize Him until He spoke her name (John 20:16), and her grief became joy. That encounter is possible for us. Come to Mass with intention. Don't just attend—arrive expecting to meet Him. Listen closely, pray honestly, and remember that in the Eucharist, Christ is truly present.

Practical step: Before Mass, pray, "Jesus, help me recognize You today."

Take an "Emmaus walk." Two disciples left Jerusalem discouraged, and Jesus met them on the road. He helped them to see God's faithfulness in their lives. He can do the same for you. Take time this Easter season for a quiet walk with Him. Speak openly about what's

on your heart, and listen for His voice.

Practical step: Ask, "Lord, where have You been at work in my life that I haven't seen?"

Choose mercy. Jesus gave His Apostles the power to forgive sins (John 20:21–23), ensuring His mercy would always be available. We're called to receive it—

"Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors for Christ." John Paul II

and extend it. Forgive, hold back harsh words, and choose patience.

Practical step: Identify one situation where you can offer a concrete act of mercy this week.

Be open to mission. The Resurrection sends us out. God still calls ordinary people for His work. Your mission may be simple: show patience, reach out, or step up where needed.

Practical step: Ask, "Where am I being nudged to act?" Then take one small step.

Easter isn't just celebrated—it's lived, one step at a time.

Why Do Catholics Do That? Why do Catholics believe in the Resurrection?

The Resurrection is not only a matter of faith; it has also been examined through historical and forensic inquiry. The New Testament accounts draw on early eyewitness testimony, preserved with notable consistency compared to other ancient sources. The Shroud of Turin has likewise been widely studied, with some researchers noting

features consistent with a first-century Roman crucifixion, while the image's formation remains unexplained. Finally, despite intense early persecution, Christianity spread rapidly, reflecting the deep conviction of its first followers. Together, these considerations suggest the Resurrection is rooted in both faith and historical reflection.

After Lent, the work begins

Pope Leo XIV described Lent as a time to “place the mystery of God back in the center of our lives.” Yet the growth in holiness and renewal of faith that begins in Lent is meant to continue well beyond the season.

Keep custody of the heart. To guard the heart is to protect it from whatever disrupts our relationship with God. It means “allowing the word of God to touch our hearts and welcoming it with a docile spirit.” The habits formed during Lent can help sustain this: a daily Morning Offering, reading the Gospel, or setting aside time to visit the Blessed Sacrament. A healthy spiritual life depends on staying connected to the God who loves us most.

Keep custody of the tongue. This is a form of fasting that

lasts all year. Pope Leo urges us to “disarm our language,” avoiding harsh words and rash judgment. Refusing gossip and slander is an act of self-denial. Instead, we are called to measure our words and practice kindness and respect. This simple discipline can bring new life not only to our own hearts, but to those around us.

Keep custody of your time. What we give our time to shapes who we become. It’s easy to let our days fill with noise, distraction, and busyness that leave little room for God. Be intentional about how you spend your time. Protect moments for prayer, rest, and what truly matters—your family, your vocation, your relationship with the Lord. Even small choices, repeated daily, create space for grace to grow.

from **S**cripture

John 10:1-10, The Good Shepherd seeks us

In this passage, Jesus uses the image of a shepherd to reveal who He is, how He cares for us, and how He invites us to respond. But why a shepherd?

In Jesus’ time, shepherding was a demanding and often dangerous way of life. A good shepherd knew each sheep personally and remained constantly with the flock. Many sheepfolds had no gates; at night, the shepherd would lie across the entrance, becoming the barrier that protected the sheep from danger. If a sheep was lost, injured, or attacked, the shepherd would go after it, tending to its wounds and, if

necessary, risking his own life.

The meaning is clear. Without the steady care, guidance, and protection of the shepherd, the sheep would not survive. In the same way, we depend on God. Jesus, our Good Shepherd, knows each of us by name. He does not abandon us. He seeks us out when we are lost, heals us when we are wounded, provides for our needs, and protects us—even to the point of laying down His life.

In response, He asks for our trust, so that He may lead us safely home.

Feasts & Celebrations

April 2 – Holy Thursday. Today, we celebrate Jesus’ institution of the Holy Eucharist and the Priesthood to perpetuate it. Today, we celebrate He who remains really present to us in the Blessed Sacrament. Pray for priests.

April 12 – Divine Mercy Sunday. In 1931, Jesus appeared to St. Faustina and asked that the Sunday after Easter become the “Feast of Mercy.” Jesus promised special graces to those who honor Him as the King of Mercy and pray The Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

April 17 – St. Stephen Harding (1134). St. Stephen and two companions founded the Cistercian religious order in Citeaux. As abbot, he guided the community through many hardships. St. Bernard of Clairvaux and

several companions joined him and revived the order. St. Stephen founded twelve more religious communities throughout France.

April 20 – St. Agnes of Montepulciano (1317). At a young age, she begged her parents to let her enter the Franciscans. When she was thirteen, the pope asked her to found a monastery at Proceno. Inspired by a vision, she founded a Dominican order at Montepulciano.

April 30 – Pope St. Pius V (1572). Born to a poor family in Italy, Antonio Ghislieri became a Dominican, taught theology, and became Pope Pius V. As Pope, he established seminaries and hospitals, and published the Roman Catechism, Roman Breviary, and the Missal. He promoted the praying of the Rosary for the victory of Christian forces at the Battle of Lepanto (1571). He is also known for efforts to implement the Council of Trent.

Q & A

Why Do Catholics eat bacon on St. Mark’s feast day?

The Feast of St. Mark the Evangelist (April 25) has become, for many Catholics, a fitting day to enjoy bacon. The Church has a long tradition of honoring saints through liturgical celebrations, local customs, and even particular foods—practices that help preserve our shared spiritual heritage and remember their heroic witness.

In 828, Venetian merchants transferred the relics of St. Mark from Alexandria, Egypt, to Venice, Italy. To pass safely through Muslim-controlled ports, they hid the relics beneath layers of pork, a meat considered unclean under Islamic law. According to tradition, port officials, repelled by the cargo, chose not to inspect it closely, allowing the relics to reach Venice safely, where they remain today. In remembrance of this event, some Catholics mark his feast day—or the anniversary of the relics’ arrival on January 31—by eating pork.

Honoring a saint’s relics is a tangible expression of reverence, much like placing flowers on the graves of fallen soldiers. It reflects respect for their lives, their witness, and their service to God. Ultimately, in honoring the saints, we honor the God who formed them.

Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible - Revised)

Dear Padre,

I'm marrying my girlfriend! Although she grew up Catholic, she doesn't practice the faith. Is it still OK to marry her?

Will you enter marriage with your fiancée because of a mutual love for each other? Do you both understand that this love will be strengthened by the sacramental grace of your matrimonial union, a grace you will receive because of baptism, not practice? Will you both try to create a loving family and, together as a family, try to be open each day to the grace of God already at work in your lives? Do you both realize that this grace calls you to create, in the name of Jesus, a witness to the truth of the gospel, which is even more powerful than the love you share?

If you hesitate to answer any of these questions with a wholehearted “yes,” then consider exploring these questions together with your pastor or another person helping to prepare you for marriage. Perfect faith is not required for a good, sacramental marriage. Openness to faith is believing that the Lord who has brought you together is not yet finished with either of you. You both have more to learn, and, with God’s grace, you will respond to his love. Jesus will work through both of you in ways that you may not even be able to imagine. In that spirit, marry her, build a life together, and know that God’s plan for you will always be there. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org



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A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Holy Saturday...is the day in which heaven visits earth most deeply. It is the time in which every corner of human history is touched by the light of Easter.... Nothing can be excluded from [Christ's] redemption. Not even our nights, not even our oldest faults, not even our broken bonds. There is no past so ruined, no history so compromised that it cannot be touched by mercy.

**GENERAL
AUDIENCE, ROME,
SEPTEMBER 24,
2025**



MARCO IACOBucci EPP / SHUTTERSTOCK

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to **DearPadre.org** to send your question and to learn more about **Dear Padre**.

Monday

April 6
Octave of Easter
Acts 2:14, 22–33
Mt 28:8–15

Tuesday

April 7
Octave of Easter
Acts 2:36–41
Jn 20:11–18

Wednesday

April 8
Octave of Easter
Acts 3:1–10
Lk 24:13–35

Thursday

April 9
Octave of Easter
Acts 3:11–26
Lk 24:35–48

Friday

April 10
Octave of Easter
Acts 4:1–12
Jn 21:1–14

Saturday

April 11
Octave of Easter
Acts 4:13–21
Mk 16:9–15

Sunday

April 12
Second Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy)
Acts 2:42–47
1 Pt 1:3–9
Jn 20:19–31



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