

FATHER MARK SCHULTE
HOMILY
APRIL 5, 2026

EASTER SUNDAY (A)

My Brothers and Sisters, We have arrived at the Holiest day of the year, Easter Sunday. It is the culmination of Holy Week which began with Palm Sunday last Sunday. Palm Sunday brought to our attention in a particular way the Passion of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We heard how the people initially joyfully welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem waving their palm branches with shouts of “Hosanna to the Son of David”. But ultimately, they called for Jesus’ execution with shouts of “Crucify Him” and “We have no King but Ceasar”.

The following Holy Thursday we celebrated the Mass of the Lord’s Supper, the Passover Meal. Here attention was given to how Jesus gave His Church the Holy Priesthood and the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in the form of consecrated bread and wine. It was the fulfillment of our Lord’s words in John Chapter six, “Unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood you have no life in you” (Jn 6:53).

On Good Friday, we addressed our Lord’s crucifixion and death on the Cross, while venerating Jesus’ Holy Cross.

And now we finally arrive at Easter Sunday, or “Resurrection Sunday” as it is sometimes referred to. We see that death and the grave have no power over the Son of God. We began with the service of the light. A sacred fire was prepared from which the Paschal Candle was lit. Each member of the parish lit their own candle from the Paschal Candle. The Burning Paschal Candle represents the Light of Christ in the world, or perhaps more particularly the light of our faith in Jesus Christ. Each person’s burning candle represents their personal faith in Jesus, a faith that is now being taken into the world. The Paschal Candle will be present at baptisms and funerals reminding us of our faith in the resurrected Jesus Christ and our own share in His Resurrection to eternal life in heaven.

The various scriptural readings that we heard reminded us of our own Salvation History, from the time that God created the world, through the patriarchs of the Old Testament and God’s covenant with them, and the prophets who were called to remind God’s people of their covenant with Him. Those covenants were ultimately fulfilled in the promised Messiah, Jesus Christ, now raised from the bondage of death and poised to return to His people at sometime in the future (Lk 18:8).

These Holy Days are meant to help us refocus on our faith, helping us to remember all that God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit has done for us.

These days are also meant to be days of grace for all believers as we are called to remain faithful through the use of the Holy Sacraments that Jesus has given to His

Church. We should remember to use the Sacrament of Reconciliation frequently, but especially during the Easter Season (CCC 1457).

Jesus has given us His Blessed Mother the Virgin Mary to be our example of discipleship. Through her *fiat* (let it be) in becoming the Mother of God, and her ultimate sharing in the Passion of her Son, Jesus Christ, Mary has merited the supreme place of honor in heaven by the side of her Son. From there she will assist us in our every need.

In a moment I will bless the water to be used for the renewal of our own baptismal promises. As I pass through the congregation sprinkling the people, make the sign of the cross while recommitting ourselves to faith in our Risen Saviour, Jesus Christ.

NOTE: CCC = Catechism of the Catholic Church