

Dear friends,

At the beginning of this month, we find ourselves in the midst of Holy Week and the celebration of Easter. For those who have succeeded in being faithful to their Lenten resolution to draw closer to Christ, there is cause for rejoicing. I hope and pray you will continue to cherish your relationship with the Lord. But for those of us who might have found ourselves too busy to fully embrace the mysteries of the Lenten season, our Lord looks at us with compassion and reminds us that he is always with us in our falls and failures. Surrender your failings at the foot of the cross, but do not remain there. He will help you rise and walk again. That is the whole point of his sacrifice. Stay close to him, and don't give up. There is rising to do each time you fall.

Jesus' cross has profound meaning. With arms outstretched, they were big enough in that act of love to embrace the entire world for all of time, and that includes you. In the words of St. John Chrysostom, "**The cross is the symbol of God's infinite love. It was on the cross that He spread out His hands to embrace the ends of the earth.**" Word on Fire has this challenge for us: "How do we make the most of this Holy Week? And how can we enter more deeply into these sacred days?"

The Easter Triduum — Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday — is the heart of the Church's liturgical year. During these three days, we walk with Christ from the Upper Room to Calvary to the empty tomb. The Church grows quiet and watchful. We are invited not simply to remember these events but to participate in them and to unite our lives, our sufferings, and our hopes to the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

On Spy Wednesday, we recall Judas' betrayal: thirty pieces of silver in exchange for the Lord of glory. It is a sobering reminder of our own capacity to turn away from Christ. As we examine our hearts this week, we are invited to ask where we are called to deeper fidelity and how we can offer a more generous love in return.

The sacred Triduum begins with **Holy Thursday,** the Mass of the Lord's Supper. We remember the institution of the Eucharist, Christ's body and blood given for us, and his command to love through humble service as symbolized in the washing of feet.

On **Good Friday**, we stand at the foot of the cross. It is a day of silence, fasting, and profound gratitude. What appears to be defeat becomes victory, and what looks like tragedy becomes redemption. In Christ's suffering, we discover that no pain is meaningless when united to him. The cross reveals both the seriousness of sin and the even greater power of divine mercy.

Holy Saturday is a day of stillness and waiting. Christ lies in the tomb; the Church keeps vigil. Then, in the darkness of the Easter Vigil, a single flame pierces the night. The resurrection changes everything! Death is defeated, and hope is restored. The stone is rolled away not only from Christ's tomb but from our hearts. As we prepare to celebrate Easter Sunday, we pray that the joy of the resurrection fills your home and renews your faith."

There is much more coming in the month of April. Please read the bulletin and fill your calendars with all our parish offers to celebrate our faith.

A surprise announcement: **We will host Vacation Bible School (VBS) from Monday through Friday, 8-12 June, from 9-12 p.m. each day.** Thanks to Lisa and Neil Starr for coordinating this year's VBS. Parents, stay tuned for more information.

On behalf of Fr. Martin, the deacons, and the staff, I would like to wish you all a very blessed and Happy Easter! May the uncontainable joy of the Resurrection impel you to share it with all those you encounter.

With amazement and gratitude,

Love,
Fr. John

Let us look at some important dates on the calendar for April 2026:

2 April

HOLY THURSDAY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Mass at 7:00 p.m. (Livestreamed).

3 April

THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Mass at 3:00 p.m. (Livestreamed).

Teens Living Stations of the Cross at 7:00 p.m. (Livestreamed).

4 April

Easter Basket Blessing and Egg Hunt – at 11:00 a.m. in the Hall

EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT

Mass at 8:00 p.m.

5 April

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

On this day of days we offer a joyful sacrifice of praise to the Father who raised his Son from the dead.

Masses at 6:00 a.m. (Sunrise in Grotto), 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. (Simulcast in Hall), and 12:00 p.m. (Simulcast in Hall & Livestreamed).

8 April

Sunshine Ministry —At 1 pm in rooms 3-4.

10 April

W.I.N.G.S. – Meeting in room 5 at 6:30 p.m., rooms 1-2 for child care. Reoccurs 2 weeks later on 4/24/2026.

Kerygma – Healing service being offered at 7:00 p.m. in the church.

11 April

Welcome Back Catholics —At 10:30 a.m. in the Father Patrick Peyton Room. Will run at the same time, place, and day of the week until 5/9/2026.

11-12 April

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY.

We give thanks to the Lord for this gift of faith, especially when we gather for the breaking of the bread and prayers.

Tamil Mass – 1:00 p.m.

Divine Mercy Sunday Holy Hour – 3-4 p.m. in the Church.

Seedlings of Hope –4:00 p.m. in rooms 6-7.

14 April

15 April **CCW Meeting** – At 11:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

18 April **Gratia Plena Easter Lunch** – From Noon-3:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Blessed is She Brunch – 9:00 a.m. in rooms 3-4.

18-19 April **THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER.**

Through the blood of Jesus we have been delivered from the power of sin.

Sensory Friendly Mass – Sunday 1:00 pm in the Parish Hall.

Baptism Prep – At noon in rooms 6-7.

24 April **SJE Monica Ministry** – 7 pm in Rooms 3-4.

25-26 April **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER.**

God has made Jesus both Lord and Messiah. Through his wounds, we have been healed and returned to our shepherd.

Fr. John 15th Anniversary of Ordination

Celebration – Mass at 11:00 a.m. followed by a celebration in the Parish Hall.