

**ST. PETER THE FISHERMAN
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

P. O. Box 298
249 Dyer St.
Mountain Home, AR 72653
Church Office 425-2832
Fax # 424-5172
stpeters@spccmtnhome.org
Web site: www.spccmtnhome.org
PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL

MISSION STATEMENT

Richly blessed in numbers, talents and resources, we the people of St. Peter the Fisherman Roman Catholic Church, are commissioned by Christ, inspired by His teaching, motivated by love and called by our very Baptism to be the living sign of God's loving presence in the community of the Twin Lakes area.

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday Masses
Saturday: 4:00 PM
Sunday: 8:00 AM, & 11:00 AM

OFFICE HOURS: Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM (Closed on Holy Days of Obligation and National Holidays).

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday 7:15 AM
Wednesday and Friday: 5:15 PM, (First Friday: 7:15 AM)
HOLY DAYS – as announced

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Preparation class for parents and godparents is required. Please contact the church office for dates and time of Baptisms and other information pertaining to this Sacrament.

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

Half an hour before each Mass, and by appointment.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Preparation for marriage must begin at least six months before anticipated date of wedding. Please contact the church office to set up an appointment to talk with a priest.

NEW PARISHIONERS

Please register at the church office during office hours.

PASTOR

Fr. Norbert Rappold 424-4841
Fr. Norbert's email: maryjo.spcc@gmail.com

DEACONS:

Jeff Speight
Robert Wochner 425-2832 ext. 1

DOMINICAN SISTERS

Sister Klaudia Klapacz, OP
Sister Irmina Malek, OP
Sister Santina Purcha, OP 425-2832, ext. 1

PARISH STAFF

Parish Secretary (maryjo.spcc@gmail.com)
Mary Jo Rudnik 425-2832, ext. 1

Finance Secretary 425-2832, ext. 2
Mrs. Tina Johnson, OP (tina@spccmtnhome.org)

Director of Religious Education 425-2832, ext. 3
Brandi Noval (brandi.spcc@gmail.com)

Sarah Osorio (cymssaints@gmail.com) 425-2832, ext. 4

Live Streamer/Webmaster Debbie Legner

Director of Music Steven Jamison
(directorofmusic.spcc@gmail.com)

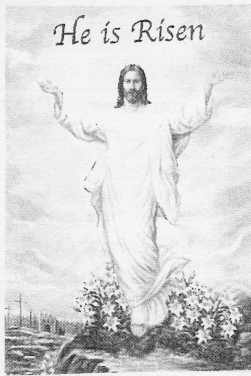
Maintenance Dennis Roam
Steven Jamison

Ministries

Adoration: Angela DeGroot 421-0426
OCIA: Fr. Norbert or Mary Jo 425-2832
Pastor's Advisory Board: 425-2832
Clothing Room: Kathi Clark 870-809-9080
Mon. – Sat. 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
St. Vincent De Paul Society 424-0926
Thursdays 10:00 – Noon
Daughters of Mary: Lynne Weaver 870-404-1252
Knights of Columbus: Dana Brown 512-983-7878
Knights: 4th Degree-O.J. Frenz 501-291-3692
Lay Dominicans: Mrs. Kathi Richey, OP 940-390-6683
Health Care Ministry: Denise Malloy 870-321-4163
Walking With Purpose: Amy Caster 870-421-6351

We welcome all visitors to St. Peter the Fisherman Catholic Church and thank you for celebrating with us the liturgy of the Holy Eucharist. We wish you the most enjoyable stay in our beautiful area and pray for your safety when you travel back home.

**EASTER SUNDAY OF THE
RESURRECTION OF THE LORD
APRIL 4/5, 2026**



*"This is the day the Lord
has made; let us rejoice
and be glad."*

Psalm 118

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Collection for Mar. 28/29.....\$14,543.00

PRAYER AT THE DAWN OF EASTER

*Risen Lord,
As light breaks over the quiet earth,
Let your victory over death
Rise within our hearts.
Fill us with the joy
That no shadow can dim,
The peace than no grave can hold,
The hope that no night can end.
May our lives proclaim
The wonder of Your Resurrection,
Today and always.
Amen*



PARISHIONERS WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY RECENTLY We commended to God all the souls of our faithfully departed. May they all rest in eternal peace. Please remember their families in your hearts and prayers.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION OF THE LORD We are so blessed we can visit Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration. For more information or to sign up for your personal hour contact Angela at 421-0426

Sunday: 2:00 AM, Mondays: 1:00 AM, Tuesdays: 3:00 AM, Fridays: 12:00 AM and 8:00 PM.

ST. PETER'S KITCHEN ON THURSDAYS
Please join us for free lunch and fellowship from 12:30 to 1:30 PM in DeClerk hall on Thursdays. Big thank you to the cooks, our Greeters, Servers and Clean-Up Crew. A big thank you to Dcn. Bob for saying the prayer before our meal. God bless you all, this could not happen without you!!

**FISH FRY AT ST. PETER'S FRIDAY,
APRIL 24TH**

Please join us for a Fish Fry on Friday, April 24th from 5:00 – 7:30 PM in the Family Life Center. \$12.00 per plate for fried cod, coleslaw, fries, hushpuppies, dessert and drink accepting cash or check only. This will help benefit the children's program. You can purchase tickets from the church office, Jay Chafin State Farm office Kinetico and Shay's Appliance. You can dine in or carry out. Let's make this an awesome event. All are welcome!!

DAUGHTERS OF MARY MEETING

Daughters of Mary will have its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 7th in DeClerk hall. The Daughters of Mary is open to all ladies of the parish, 18 years and older. Rosary will begin at 12:30 with the meeting to follow. Please remember to bring 2 boxes of cereal for the Food Basket. Questions please call 870-404-1252.

THANK YOU!! Thank you to everyone who attended our Lenten Soup Suppers. It has been a wonderful opportunity to gather, share a simple homemade meal, and enjoy fellowship together during this sacred season. I also want to express my heartfelt appreciation and deep gratitude to the many people who made this possible: those who lovingly prepared the soups, breads, crackers, and sweet treats, as well as those who helped with set-up, serving, and clean-up afterwards. God bless you, and have a blessed Easter!! Brandi

2026 Knights of Columbus Scholarships. The Knights of Columbus Council #7353 sponsors student candidates of all ages for scholarship funding to be used in their pursuit of educational opportunities at accredited schools. As an example, accredited schools for scholarships could be universities, community colleges, or trade schools. The St. Peter the Fisherman Knights of Columbus Scholarship application period of 2026 is from February 16-May 11th. Eligible candidates are members of St. Peter's (Mountain Home) & St. Andrew's (Yellville) parishes in Arkansas. Awards are merit based. The application packets will be available at the St. Peter's church office starting February 16th and must be returned by May 11th. Please contact Mary Jo Rudnik if you are interested in applying for a scholarship or drop by the church office during normal operating hours.

**PRAYER LINE - 870-404-2039
God bless our Church Family!!!**

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, April 6

Acts 2:14,22-33/Mt 28:8-15

7:15 AM Special Intention of Sally Stidham

by Evelyn Clegg

Tuesday, April 7

Acts 2:36-41/Jn 20:11-18

7:15 AM Special Intention of Michael & Kathleen

DeGroot by Louise Clark

Wednesday, April 8

Acts 3:1-10/Lk 24:13-35

5:15 PM St. Peter's Purgatorial Mass

Thursday, April 9

Acts 3:11-26/Lk 24:35-48

7:15 AM +Virginia Blackowicz Vostatek

by Carin Vostatek

Friday, April 10

Acts 4:1-12/Jn 21:1-14

5:15 PM Happy Birthday Debbie Filbeck by Cal

Saturday, April 11

Acts 4:13-21/Mk 16:9-15

7:15AM +Glenn Cox by Renee and Family

4:00 PM +In loving memory of Frank Bradley on our

58th Wedding Anniversary by Sue Bradley

Sunday, April 12 Divine Mercy Sunday

Acts 2:42-47/1Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31

8:00 AM For the People of St. Peter's

11:00 +Eleanor Stearns

by David & Brenda Dover & Family

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS/FAMILY OF THE MONTH

We are pleased to recognize Jim and Lynn Weaver as our Family of the Month. Lynn and Jim faithfully serves our parish through the Daughters of Mary, Religious Education, and many parish events. Together, they are a beautiful example of faith, service, and love.

LOST AND FOUND

Are you missing something? Please look in the lost and found boxes above the coat rack in the vestibule of the church. Or call Mary Jo in the church office at 870-425-2832, ext. 1.

BIG THANK YOU FOR ALL WHO HELPED CLEAN THE CHURCH

Donnie Peters, Joe Grabowski, John Harsgrove, Rose Matta, Anna Rue, Elaine Luttrell, Sally Stidham, Norma Bohaty, Janet Theis, Annette Walden, Brenda Dover, Cheryl Gardener, Cathy Doyle and Mary Ann Lockman. Thank you so much, Fr. Norbert and the Dominican Sisters

Please note:

The Church Offices will be closed, Monday, April 6th.

PLEASE KEEP ALL THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR HOLY HEARTS AND PRAYERS

Paul Oswald, Amy, Bill K. Stapleton, Mick, Tia, Colleen, Clay Kennedy, Jeff Torphy, Joey, David, Pam Pellicane, Claudette Hough, Fraser, Ruben Pasillas, Kevin Kennedy, Kaleb, Tina Urban, Mary Eckert, Trish, Tom and Patricia Kelley, Joey H., Tom Handby, Regina Niggemann, Ginny Cox, Clare Joanne Fulton, Schill Family, Victoria Malichi, Mike, Jack Insinga, Amy Spiegle, David Sullivan, Ed and Jean Moranz, Kathleen Szpicki, Louie Dreder, Parker, Sam Ferrara, Lois Runkle, Mary Ann Balwierzak, Stephanie Kratovil, Clark Knight, Terry and Kathy Mason, Fred Browning, Pat Favara, Ron Dziekan, Sarah, Carol Kennedy, Kristin Meinholz, Jim, Kaleb, Jacob, Theresa, Hannah, Alex Till, Debra Burley, David Totten, Ron Briggs, Linda, Alice Mason, Don Dotson, Judie Kubal, Paul Pablo – Garay, David Russell, Joey, Terry, Nick Kennedy, Paul and Barbara Lachel, Savino Mandujano, Anne Middleton, John and Andy Willette, Jack Clarke, Lisa, Kaitlin. Nathan, Aria and Ivy Barbeau, Chris and Carly Webb, Leo, Bonnie, Bill Holstine, Jim Allen, Bond Family, Ellen Moran, Marty Kowalkowski, Kevin, George Ferrara, Kathy McAleese, Bill and Deb Brewer, Carolyn, Kenneth, Sarah, Kole, Patty Shay, Larry Rice, Kennedy Sheffler, Mary Anderson, Judy Fazekas, Amy, Christina Lorkowski, Janet Musters, Judith Burlette, Charlie (Gonzalo) Delgado, Tara, Jennifer, Gabriel, prayers for all who suffer in silence, Beverly Downs, Elodie Cox, John and Cynthia Malenshek, Courtney, Lynn Ryals, Margaret Lee, Anne Davis, Jeff Rathbon, Todd Dalton, David Marx, John Green. Lief and Courtney House, Jack Burns, Dominic Podsiadcik, Sgt. Alex Baumhardt, Sgt. Lawrence Lee, Steven and Les Torres, Ben Farmer, Jacob Taylor.

WELCOME

If you are new to our Parish, please fill in this form and place it in the collection basket or bring it to the church office. Thank you!

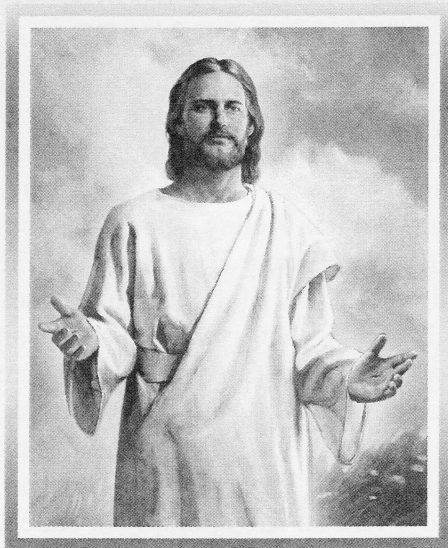
Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

If you are registered and any of your information has changed, please call Mary Jo in the church office at 870-425-2832, ext. 1.



*Rejoice in the Glory
of Easter*

*Welcome Our
New Catholics*

Catechumens

*Dylan Rosendo Castillo
Caitlyn Brianna-Marie Grcich
Clancy Nathaniel Jones
Abbygail Lynn Methvin
Richard Augustine McNames
Elena Lynn Soltysiak*

Candidates

*Shelby Lynn Eakle
Matthew Jared Howerton
Jeffrey Allen Hunter
Cassie Ann Jones
Natasha Masumi
Matthew John Powell
Shyanne Elaine Villaivazo
Paige Ann Zander*



FIVE STEPS ON EMBRACING OUR BAPTISM

WIT PRAYER:

1. Lord I give you my body.
Live this day with me.
Live this day in me.
Live this day through me.

2. Get a Bible
 - A. Keep it on your pillow.
 - B. Promise God to never go to sleep without reading one line.

3. Develop the habit, before making decisions, of always asking yourself "How does this bare witness to the values of Christ?"

4. "Start Being Loving" A healing smile, acknowledge others around you, tell people around you something good about themselves.

5. Move from "maintaining our Catholicism" to "proclaiming our Catholicism" we are called to "renew the face of the earth."

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY APRIL 12

Jesus said to St. Faustina:

“On Divine Mercy Sunday, the soul that will receive Holy Communion, go to Confession and stay in the state of Grace will receive forgiveness of sins and punishment” (All of the soul’s Purgatory time is removed) Pg 699 in the Diary

Confession may be within 20 days.

Invite everyone especially anyone who has left the Faith.

Also

DIVINE MERCY SERVICE AT 2 PM

We will pray the Novenas that were dictated to Faustina by Jesus for His concerns, and His Chaplet.

“It is Jesus’ desire that at the moment of His death on the cross, 3:00 PM, be venerated every day. This is the hour of Grace for the whole world.” St. Faustina

EASTER MEMORIALS 2026

FOR:

Anita Hanby
Zachary Clifton
Robert Sladek
Laura Waters
Jim and Helen Nusbaum
Rosemary Szpicki
Helen Windsor
Edward and Florence Madore
Frank Shubert, Jr.
Al Moore
Patricia Obszarny
Wayne Roth
Father Jim Fanrak
Mrs. Thea Urban
Deceased Loved Ones
James Kubal
Marissa
Gorden Gurley
Paul Gurley
Jim Hanson
Phil Hahn
Josephine Ryan
William Joseph Pinkston
Mr. and Mrs. Arch Housley
Sami Grabowski
Cassandra Guillory
Barbara Lachel
Peter Tottenham
Eugene Kamp
Alice Downing
Steve Monte
William and Nadine Buckner
Judith and Richard DeAtley
Jay and Lorraine Popek
Dan and Joanne Buckner
Susan Crockett Spoon
Andy DeAtley
Elizabeth Collier
Derek McWilliams
Kenneth Koepf
Carl Bahr
Kay Beat

FROM:

Mr. Tom Hanby and Family
Mr. and Mrs. John Clifton
Ms. Mary Ann Sladek
Mr. John Waters
Ms. Kathryn Nusbaum
Mr. James Szpicki
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Gunter
Ms. Jeanne Whittam
Mrs. Shubert
Ms. Veronica Moore
Mr. Thomas Obszarny
Mrs. Jeanne Roth
Ms. Catherine Doyle
Mr. Kenneth Urban
Ms. Catherine Doyle
Mrs. Rose Kubal
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Metcalf
Mr. and Mrs. Raymon Shivers
Mr. and Mrs. Raymon Shivers
Ms. Diann Schooler
Ms. Gail Hahn
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Ryan
Ms. M.J. Pinkston
Mrs. Barbara Muier
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Grabowski
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Guillory
Mrs. Janice Porretto
Ms. Lanita Tottenham
Ms. Judy Kamp
Mr. George Downing
Mrs. Vicki Monte
Dr. and Dr. Irvin DeAtley
Dr. and Dr. Irvin DeAtley
Dr. and Dr. Irvin DeAtley
Dr. and Dr. Irvin DeAtley
Dr. and Dr. Irvin DeAtley
Dr. and Dr. Irvin DeAtley
Dr. and Dr. Irvin DeAtley
Dr. and Mrs. George Murphy
Mr. and Mrs. Michael McWilliams
Mrs. Veronica Koepf
Mrs. Catherine Bahr
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Beat

EASTER MEMORIALS 2026

FOR:

*Andy Lewandowski
Larry Tendall
Jerry Clark
Frank Holt
Joycelyn Bourgeois
Betty Lindsey
Joe Johnsey
Lloyd Klamut
Paul Bernard
Vic Beck
Terri Magnoni
Elwood Mosely
Tom and Colleen Hancock
Louis and Rose Marie Magnoni
Bridget McIntosh
Mike Peterson
Fred C. Drake
John Peters
John Bany
Mom and Dad
Ted Szopinski
John Pawlak
Kevin Sam Earl
Waline Maxim
Fr. Gregory Hart
Myslinskis Family
Luke Harrison
Irving Bourgeois
Kay Bourgeois
Karen and Gonzolo Delgado
Joseph Bourque, Sr.
Al Moore
Dovie Bourque
Theresa Boekholder
Frank and Rose Shubert
Jean-Marie Lucas
Michael R. Vavrek
Sgt. Rick Grabowski
Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Couch
Edward and Eleanor Wrona
Deceased Family Members
Mary Brown*

FROM:

*Mr. Bob Lewandowski
Ms. Helen Tendall
Ms. Kathi Clark
Ms. Ann Holt
Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Danhauer
Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Harrison
Ms. Judi Johnsey
Ms. Janice Klamut
Mrs. Ellen Gassie
Mrs. Rose Beck
Mr. James Magnoni
Mr. James Magnoni
Mr. James Magnoni
Mr. James Magnoni
Mr. and Mrs. Ernest McIntosh
Mrs. Mary Peterson
Mrs. Evelyn Drake
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Peters
Mrs. Sue Bany
Mr. and Mrs. George Stidham
Mrs. Claire Szopinski
Ms. Linda Pawlak
Mrs. Carol Earl
Ms. Carol Tiskus
Mrs. Helen Gunter
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Myslinski
Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Harrison
Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Danhauer
Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Danhauer

Ms. Veronica Moore and Family

Mrs. Beverly Shubert
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Lucas
Mrs. Beverly Shubert
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Couch
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Couch
Ms. Evleyn Drake
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pairolero
Ms. Debbie Legner*

EASTER MEMORIALS 2026

FOR:

*Brandon Wolf
Sam Grabowski
Luke Harrison
Johnny Rudnik
Robby Evans
Agnes House
Roy Petrino
Leo Petrino
Roger and Dorothy Reeves
Buck and Olga Lossin
Bill and Sue Hill
Betty Bryant
Mary Ornelas
Mrs. Estelle Dhooghe
John Paul Nevers
Brian Brandt
Thomas E. Medina
Brooklyn Grace Pendarn's
June Angelloz
Robert Thies
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Grabowski
Shirley Wiles
William Allyn Brown, Jr.
Wanda Jane Boren
Ann Clark
Walter and Virginia Vostatek
Mr. Arlen Voldness
Diane Oakland
Jack Shary
Bob and Mary McCormick
Bob Grabowski
Habbe and Lawless Families
Paul and Miriam Summers
Eileen Clark
Mr. Steve Toth
Oma and Opa Toth
Opa and Oma Bany
Maureen Regan Short
Karen L. Tyndorf
Roland Horn, Jr.
Richard Slagle
Bleidt and Herring Families*

FROM:

*Mr. and Mrs. Vern Rudnik
Mr. and Mrs. Vern Rudnik
Mr. and Mrs. Vern Rudnik
Mr. and Mrs. Vern Rudnik
Ms. Kim Petrino
Ms. Sue House
Ms. Kim Petrino
Ms. Kim Petrino
Dr. and Mrs. William Hill
Dr. and Mrs. William Hill
Dr. and Mrs. William Hill
Ms. Joyce Bryant
Mr. Ronald Dziekan & Sarah Vasquez
Mr. and Mrs. William Chmielewski
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Nevers
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Brandt
Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Stevens
Ms. Shannon Nachtigal
Dr. and Mrs. Lynn McAlister
Ms. Janet Thies
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Couch
Mr. Mary Meyer
Mama Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Rayford Boren
Ms. Kathi Clark
Ms. Carin Vostatek
Ms. Helen Voldness
Family
Mr. and Mrs. Kelly Shay
Mr. and Mrs. Kelly Shay
Ms. Jo Grabowski
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Habbe
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Clark
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Clark
Ms. Mary Toth
Mr. David Toth
Mr. David Toth
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Short
Mr. Wally Tyndorf
Mr. and Mrs. Roland Horn*

EASTER HONORARIUMS 2026

TO:

President Donald John Trump
Sharon Quint
Jim and Joan Lossin
Lauren Rayfield
Andres Torrez Cruz
VanSchaik
Charles Brown
Jared Moore
All the Choir at St. Peter's
All St. Peter's Employees
Judy Paul
Rachel Stillwell
Debra Legner
Marilyn Rizzardo
Rose Matta
Louise Clark
The Dominican Sisters
Fr. Norbert Rappold
Fr. Stan Swiderski
Our Deacons and their Families
Mary Jo Rudnik
Bruce and Vicky Wolf
Dominican Sisters
Donna and Ron Waggener

FROM:

Mr. and Mrs. David Witherington
Mr. Frank Quint
Dr. and Mrs. William Hill
Dr. and Mrs. William Hill
Mr. and Mrs. Orlando Sequeira
Mrs. Joan Gilbert
Ms. Debbie Legner

Mrs. Jane Singbeil

Mr. and Mrs. Vern Rudnik
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Lockman
Ms. Carin Vostatek

MAY YOU HAVE A HAPPY AND BLESSED EASTER SEASON!

[Handwritten signature]

Brandi

Dcn. Jeff

Jim Johnson

Sister
Klaudia

Deans 7 Room

Sr. Irminda

Dabbie

DEACON BOB W.

Mary Jo

CARIN

+ Blessings

[Handwritten signature]

Sarah
Osorio

Sister Santia

Easter

Living in the Light of the Risen Christ

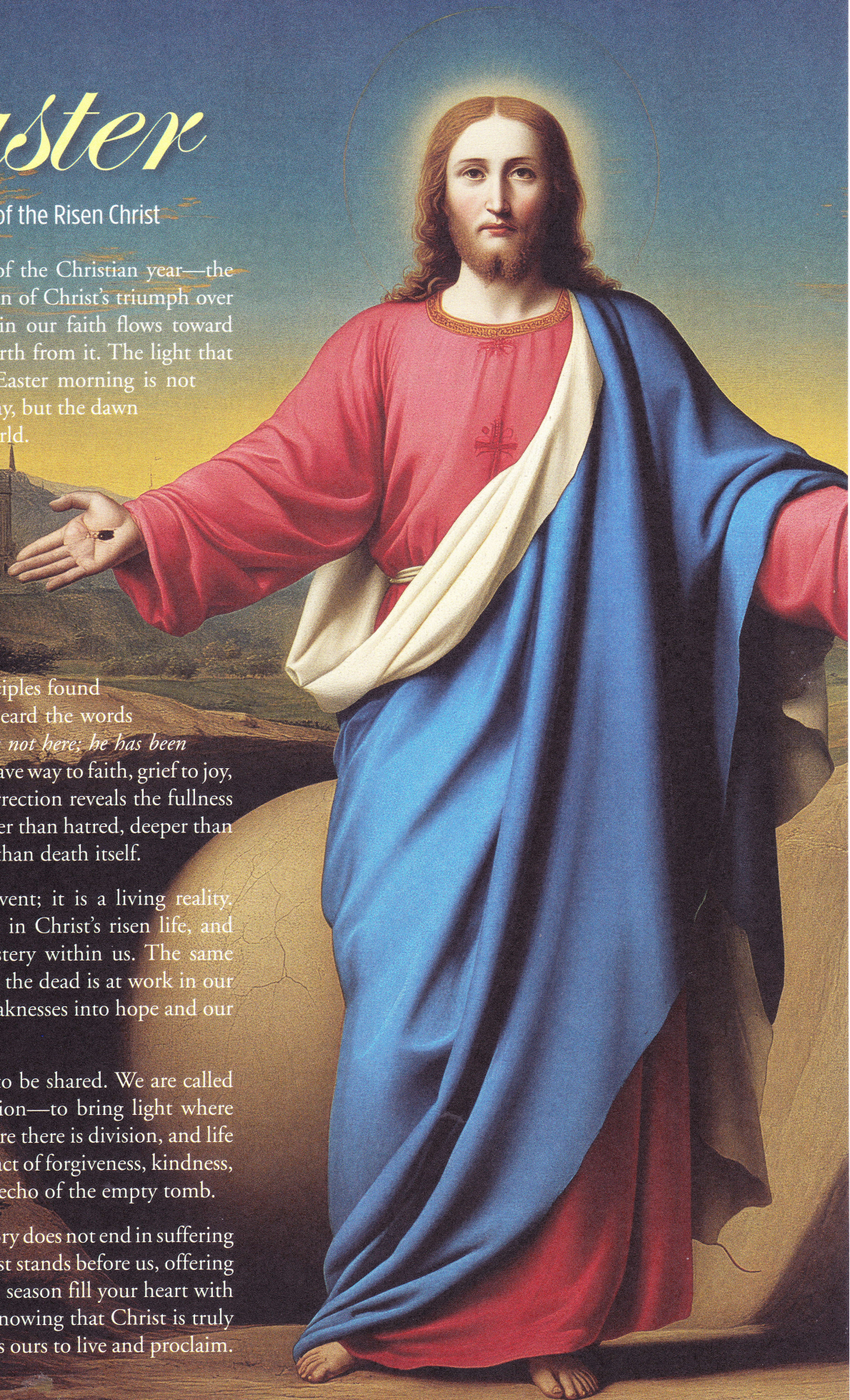
Easter is the radiant heart of the Christian year—the feast of feasts, the celebration of Christ's triumph over sin and death. Everything in our faith flows toward this moment and springs forth from it. The light that breaks from the tomb on Easter morning is not merely the dawn of a new day, but the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