

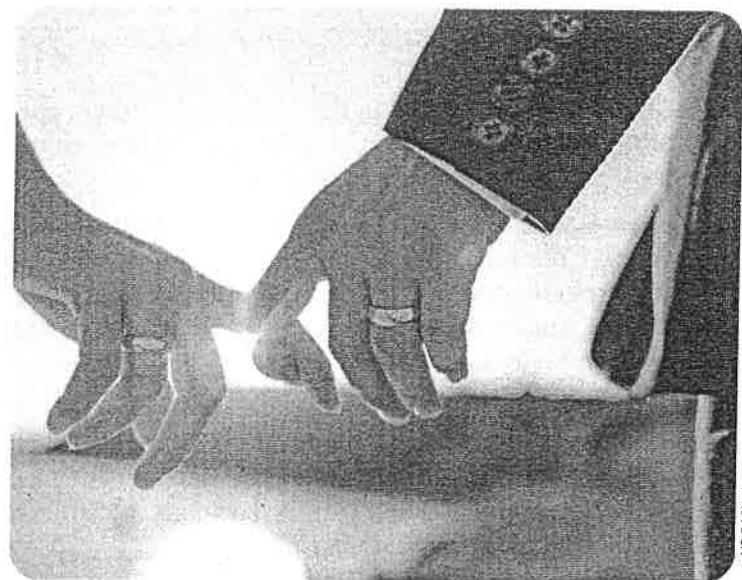
Dear Padre,

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



FUNDA DEMIRKAYA / SHUTTERSTOCK

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 IACOBELLI / 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	Thursday	Sunday
April 6 <i>Octave of Easter</i> Acts 2:14, 22-33 Mt 28:8-15	April 9 <i>Octave of Easter</i> Acts 3:11-26 Lk 24:35-48	April 12 <i>Second Sunday of Easter (Sunday of Divine Mercy)</i> Acts 2:42-47 1 Pt 1:3-9 Jn 20:19-31
Tuesday	Friday	
April 7 <i>Octave of Easter</i> Acts 2:36-41 Jn 20:11-18	April 10 <i>Octave of Easter</i> Acts 4:1-12 Jn 21:1-14	
Wednesday	Saturday	
April 8 <i>Octave of Easter</i> Acts 3:1-10 Lk 24:13-35	April 11 <i>Octave of Easter</i> Acts 4:13-21 Mk 16:9-15	

OUR Parish COMMUNITY

April 5, 2026

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord (A)

Acts 10:34a, 37-43 / Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8 /

John 20:1-9 or Matthew 28:1-10

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!

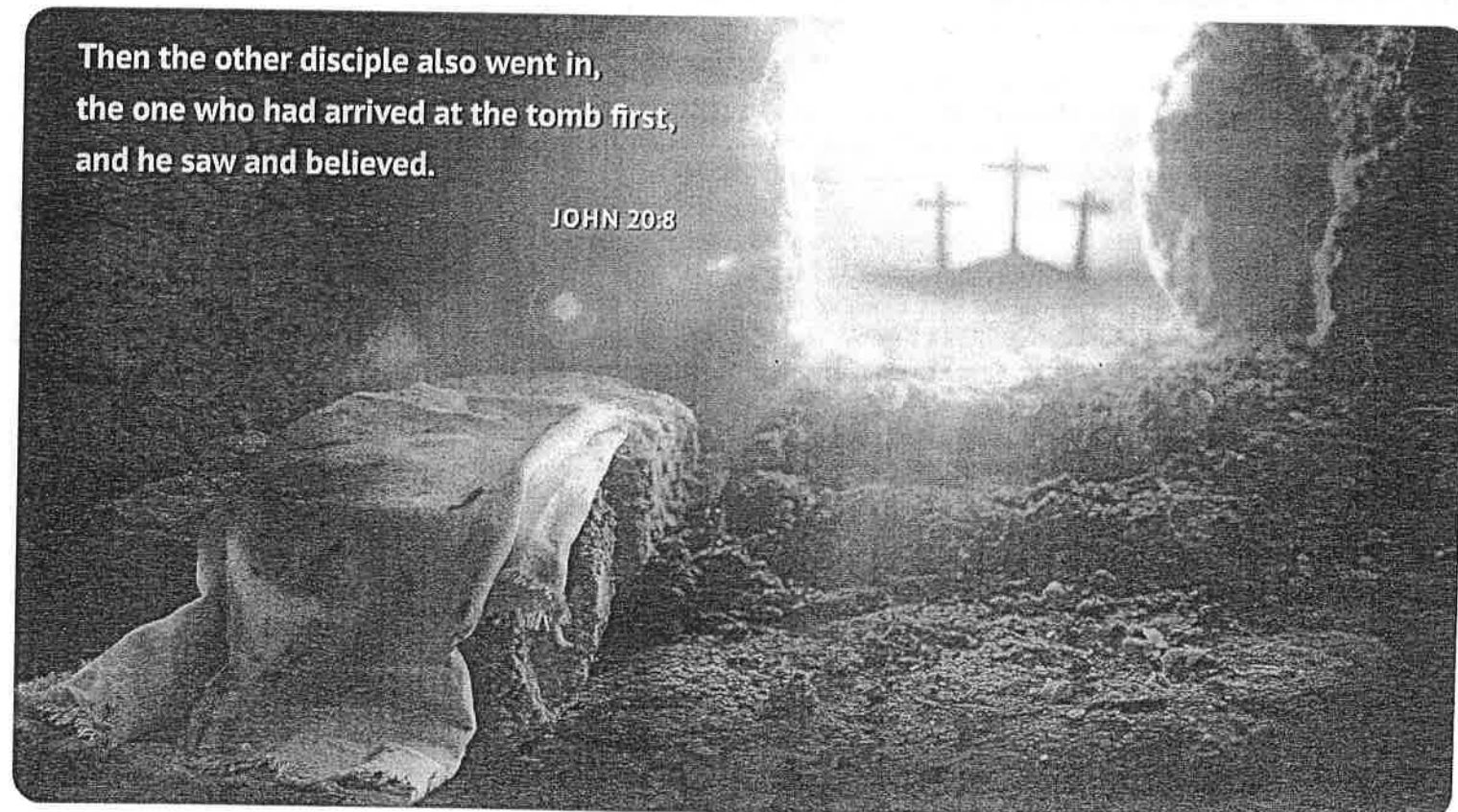
The first reading from the Acts of the Apostles follows the story of the centurion Cornelius, the first prominent pagan convert. (His story is fascinating—take time to read it this week.) Peter gives a speech including a kind of catechism that had been standardized in a formula repeated at least six 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



© 2026 LIGUORI PUBLICATIONS • A MINISTRY OF THE REDEMPTORISTS • IMAGE: ROMOLO TAVANI / SHUTTERSTOCK

Office hours are Wednesday & Thursday 7:30 am—5:30 pm.

If there is an Emergency you may call Corinne at 715-250-2109 or

Father David at 920-228-1814. Thank-you.

St Mary's Mass schedule in Black Creek: Saturdays @ 4 PM,

Sundays @ 8 AM, Tuesday—Friday @ 7:30 AM

Father David Greskowiak—Administrator

Sunday 3/29/26 = \$1,519.38 Attendance = 109

Amount needed per week - \$ 1,583.27

Mass Intentions

04/05/26— Remem. of Ann Herb & Gayle Herb by Charlie Herb

04/12/26— Bill Letter by The Letter Family

Mass Servers—

04/05/26— Landon & Natalie Fischer, Nina Drossart

04/12/26— Jamesen Boerst, Malachi Gray

Ministers of the Word—

04/05/26— Anita Wegner

04/12/26— Kevin Peeters

Hospitality

04/05/26— Keith Pennings, David Nowak

04/12/26— Barb Erb, Charlie Herb

Liturgical schedules are available at each entrance of the church and also on our website under Trumpet. Thank you for all you do for our parish.

RE NEWS: Wed Apr. 8th 6:30pm LAST RE Class

Have a great summer, see you in the fall.

Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry

Wednesday April 15 4—6 PM

Saturday, April 18 9—11 AM

Thank you for all the donations so far this year!!

March Report 36 Familie,96 Individuals, 24 Children

Mass Intentions that are available for the year of 2026:

October 18, 25; November 26 Deer Hunter's Mass; December 20, 25

Christmas Day, 27, and New Years. You may contact the office.

Happy Birthday!

April 05 Benjamin Diemel; 08 Makayla Gray, John Carpenter, David Patza;

10 Thomas Pionek; 11 Carrie Rasmussen, Austin Strayer; 12 Wyatt Erb,

Joey Krings; 13 Darlene Pionek; 14 Gabrielle Seefeldt, Linda Reif, Harper

Hill; 16 Jim Hackel, Mary Herb; 17 Isaac Guyette; 18 Aubrey Hartleben;

19 Aaron Peeters, Cloe Zuleger; 20 Mellissa Hutter; 29Sandy Heinemeyer,

Steve Short

Wine, Beer and Coffee Tasting Event—

St. Mary's in Black Creek

Sunday, 26 April from 1:00-4:00 P.M.—Parish Hall

The event will include: wine, beer, coffee, soda, water,

non-alcohol drinks, food, music, silent auction, and 50/50

drawing. We will also draw names for the winners of the

raffle. Admission--\$10, age 12 and under-free with an

accompanied adult. EVERYONE FROM ST. LAWRENCE IS

MOST CORDIALLY INVITED!!



2026 Bishop's Appeal

“Be the Light”

We have just lived the sacred Triduum and celebrated the Lord's Resurrection. Over this last week, we were reminded how Jesus calls us all to be His disciples. Through the good works of the Bishop's Appeal, we can follow Jesus by sharing our faith.

Giving a gift to the Bishop's Appeal during the six weeks of this Easter Season would be a wonderful way to continue to follow in the footsteps of our risen Christ. If you have not yet made your gift to the Bishop's Appeal, please consider the joy you could bring to the lives of others now and throughout the year.

We invite everyone who is able, to please participate in the Bishop's Appeal. Our parish goal this year is \$14,805.00. As of 31 March we have received 35 gifts of \$9,278.00. Thank you!

We are 63% of our way there.*

(*Sorry for the misprint last Sunday.)

If you have already given, thank you so much. If you haven't given before, please consider making your first gift this year. Every gift makes a difference. Those who are able may want to join the Crozier Society with a gift of \$500 or more, which helps these ministries to reach even more people.

Please prayerfully consider supporting the 2026 Bishop's Appeal. You may have received a pledge card at home in the mail. If you have not, we have materials at the entrances of the church. You can also visit www.catholicfoundation.org/give.

Thank you for helping St. Lawrence Parish and our Diocese share the light of Christ.

Please bring your Rice Bowls either to Mass or to the parish office.

RE Students--please bring your Rice Bowls to class with you this week.

Thank you for supporting the work of Catholic Relief Services.



Reflection on Easter Sunday

Here is an excerpt from an article titled: “Easter Sunday, Sunday April 5, 2026” found on the “Young Catholics” website—young-catholics.com:

God Is Always at Work

Easter is the most important feast in the Catholic liturgical calendar, as it celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Through his death and Resurrection, Jesus has triumphed over sin and death, and offers us the hope of new life and salvation.

The readings for Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday remind us of God's goodness, power, and saving work throughout history. From the Creation Story to the Exodus from Egypt, God has been at work, leading his people to freedom and new life. In the Epistle reading, St. Paul exhorts us to die to sin and live for God, emphasizing the importance of baptism and faith in Jesus. And in the Gospel reading, we hear the amazing news of Jesus' Resurrection, which brings hope and new life to all who believe.

A Message of Hope

This message of hope is especially important in our world today, where there is so much suffering, pain, and despair. We are all touched by the effects of sin and death, whether in our own lives or in the lives of those around us. But the Resurrection of Jesus offers us a way out of this darkness. It reminds us that death is not the final word, and that God never abandons us, even in our darkest moments.

As we celebrate Easter, we are called to let go of sin and selfishness, and to embrace the new life and hope that Jesus offers. We are called to let Easter change our hearts and transform our lives, so that we may become more fully the people that God created us to be. We are called to be bearers of hope and agents of new life, bringing the light of Christ to a world that is so often shrouded in darkness.

Meaning through Faith

Luke's writings in the Bible remind us that God sent his Son to free us from sin and death and to live without fear. This message is just as important today as it was in the time of the early Christians. Sometimes, religion can become focused on ceremony and lose its true meaning. The Resurrection of Jesus is a powerful reminder of the transformative power of our faith.

The message of the empty tomb was initially confusing to the disciples. They couldn't understand where the body had gone and what had happened. However, when they were reminded of Jesus' words, the message began to make sense to them. Similarly, the experiences of our lives can sometimes be confusing and difficult to interpret without faith. We need to remember that, through the Resurrection, God has the power to transform our lives.

The early disciples were so energized by the shock of the Resurrection that nothing, not even death or persecution, could stop them from spreading the Good News. We too, as Christians, must be willing to hear the message of transformation and then spread it to others. We should not keep the Good News to ourselves, but share it with others so that they too can experience the joy and hope that comes from knowing Jesus.

So let us rejoice and be glad this Easter, as we celebrate the triumph of Jesus over sin and death. Let us give thanks to God for the gift of new life, and let us renew our commitment to follow Jesus, the risen Lord, wherever he may lead us. May the hope and joy of Easter fill our hearts and our lives, now and always.

Divine Mercy Chaplet

We will be praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy prior to the start of Mass next Sunday— 12 April.

Please feel free to join in this beautiful prayer.

