

**St. Paul Catholic  
Church and Mission**

**Iglesia Católica San  
Pablo y Misione**

**4178 Highway 441 South, Douglas, Georgia 31535**

**Parish Office Phone:** 912-384-3560

**Church email:** saintpaul@windstream.net

**Parish Website:** www.stpaulmissions.org

**Confessions:** Thursday from 6:00-7:00pm,  
Saturday 4:30 at St. Paul, or by appointment

**Holy Family Catholic Church**

126 Holy Family Rd., Willacoochee

**Administration** ☐ **Administración**

**Pastor:** Rev. Saimel Perdomo

**Deacon Ron Milkas**

**Church Secretary: Janet Benton**

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**INTENCIONES DE MISA**

**April 20 – April 26**

**Sunday, April 20** – †Maggie & Ed Jacobs

**Thursday, April 24** – For Vocations in our Diocese

**Friday, April 25** – Maria Patricio

**Saturday, April 26** – †Jean & “Brownie” Brown

**April 21 – April 27**

**Monday:** Office closed, No Mass

**Tuesday:** 7:00pm, Servicio de Comunión  
(Spanish)

**Wednesday:** 12:00 noon, Communion  
Service (English)

**Thursday:** Misa-7:00pm (Spanish)  
Confessions-6:00-7:00pm

**Friday:** Mass-12:00 noon (English)

**Saturday:** Confessions-5:00-6:00pm  
Vigil Mass-6:00pm

**Sunday:**

**8:00am** – Mass, Holy Family (English)

**9:30am** – Mass, St. Paul (English)

Rosary in Chapel, 10:30, after 9:30 Mass

**12:00pm** – Misa, St. Paul (Spanish)

**“The Church is a Field Hospital at the  
scene of a Battle.”**

**--His Holiness, Pope Francis**

Our Mission  
Statement  
Declaración  
de Misión

**"La Iglesia es un hospital de campaña  
en el escenario de una batalla. Su  
Santidad, el Papa Francisco**



## Reflection

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Happy Easter to all of you! My prayer is that this season will be of a great joy and peace for all of us and our dear ones. The Lord is Risen and in Him the hope of our resurrection is renewed.

The resurrection of Jesus is the best news of the human history, and the words are not enough to proclaim it. This is why the Church always needs symbols to express the core truths of our faith. We use the Easter candle to proclaim the Risen Lord is the light that scatters every darkness of the human heart; we use the holy water to renew our Baptism and to express the new life Christ won for us by his resurrection; we sing the Alleluia to praise God for his wondrous deeds.

Moreover, when we read the passages of the Gospel that narrate the encounter of Jesus with his disciples, we see there is always a reference that the Lord makes very evident. Every time the Lord appears if the apparition is to a singles person, He will send him or her back to the community with a message to their brethren (Mt 28:9-10; Jn 20:11). However, there are other accounts in which He manifests Himself among a group of his disciples when they are gathered (Mt 28:16-20; Lk 24:36-43). This fact reveals that one of the realities that manifests the presence of Jesus among his own is the community.

My hope is that during the Easter we will be focused on our community. There are certain projects that I would like to work with you for the best of our parish. We need to create our

parish counsel; we have to have a training for the EMHC (Minister of Holy Communion) and their official installation and some other initiatives to make our community a song that proclaims the Lord is Risen and lives among us.

I really pray that the Risen Lord will give us his peace during this Easter.

*Fr. Saimel Perdomo*



**The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring two Easter Egg hunts**, one after the 9:30 Easter Sunday Mass and one after the 12:00 Easter Sunday Mass. **Children ages 1-5 can participate.** Parents, please accompany your children for the fun.

### DATES FOR...

#### **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

May 22 – 6:00-7:00pm, Confessions

May 23 – 6:00-7:00pm, Confessions  
7:00pm, Practice

May 24 – 12:00 noon -  
First Holy Communion

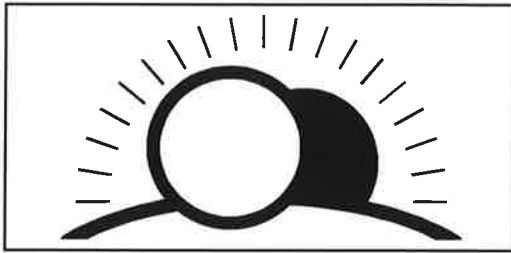
#### **CONFIRMATION**

June 7 – Practice, St. Paul - 5:00pm

June 8 – Confirmation, St. Paul - 9:30am

### **NEXT BAPTISM CLASS**

The next baptism class is **Sunday, April 27 after the 9:30 Mass (10:30-10:45)** in the social hall for parents & godparents who want to baptize their child at St. Paul. This is required before selecting a date.



## Reflexión:

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo:

¡Felices Pascuas a todos! Ruego que esta época sea de gran alegría y paz para todos nosotros y nuestros seres queridos. El Señor ha resucitado y en Él se renueva la esperanza de nuestra resurrección.

La resurrección de Jesús es la mejor noticia de la historia de la humanidad, y las palabras no bastan para proclamarla. Por eso, la Iglesia siempre necesita símbolos para expresar las verdades fundamentales de nuestra fe. Usamos el cirio pascual para proclamar que el Señor resucitado es la luz que disipa toda oscuridad del corazón humano; usamos el agua bendita para renovar nuestro bautismo y expresar la nueva vida que Cristo nos ganó con su resurrección; cantamos el Aleluya para alabar a Dios por sus maravillas.

Además, cuando leemos los pasajes del Evangelio que narran el encuentro de Jesús con sus discípulos, vemos que siempre hay una referencia que el Señor hace muy evidente. Cada vez que el Señor se aparece a una persona soltera, la envía de regreso a la comunidad con un mensaje para sus hermanos (Mt 28,9-10; Jn 20,11). Sin embargo, hay otros relatos en los que se manifiesta entre un grupo de sus discípulos cuando están reunidos (Mt 28,16-20; Lc 24,36-43). Este hecho revela que una de las realidades que manifiesta la presencia de Jesús entre los suyos es la comunidad.

Espero que durante la Pascua nos centremos en nuestra comunidad. Hay ciertos proyectos en los que me gustaría trabajar con ustedes para el bien de nuestra parroquia. Necesitamos crear nuestro consejo parroquial; debemos realizar una capacitación para los Ministros de la

Sagrada Comunión (MEHC) y su investidura oficial, y otras iniciativas para que nuestra comunidad sea un canto que proclame que el Señor ha resucitado y vive entre nosotros.

Rezo de corazón para que el Señor Resucitado nos dé su paz durante esta Pascua.

*P. Saimel Perdomo*



**Los Caballeros están patrocinando dos búsquedas de huevos de Pascua:** una después de la Misa del Domingo de Pascua de las 9:30 y otra después de la Misa de las 12:00. **Pueden participar niños de 1 a 5 años.** Padres, acompañen a sus hijos en la diversión.

### FECHAS PARA...

#### **LA PRIMERA COMUNIÓN**

22 de mayo – 6:00-7:00, Confesiones

23 de mayo – 6:00-7:00, Confesiones  
7:00pm, Práctica

24 de mayo – 12:00pm, Primera Comunión

#### **CONFIRMACIÓN**

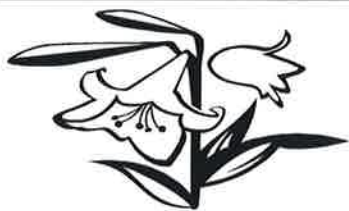
7 de junio – Práctica, San Pablo - 5:00pm

8 de junio – Confirmación, San Pablo - 9:30am

### **LA PRÓXIMA CLASE DE BAUTISMO**

La próxima clase de bautismo será **el domingo 27 de abril, después de la misa de las 9:30 (10:30-10:45)** para padres y padrinos. Esto es necesario antes de que los padres puedan comunicarse con la oficina para seleccionar una fecha.

**FYI**  
~FOR YOUR INFORMATION~



**Special Collection -  
Retired Priests – Easter**

**St. Paul's April Ushers** – Eddie McKinnon,  
Jeremy King, Anthony Sicari



**KNIGHTS  
OF COLUMBUS**

**GIFT SHOP** – Don't forget the Knights' Gift Shop in the St. Paul narthex. They carry a meaningful selection of gifts for First Communion, Confirmation, and Graduations.



**AN ACCOUNT OF OUR STEWARDSHIP**

**St. Paul**

<b>FY Offertory Budget</b>	<b>\$295,720.00</b>
Received to date	272,188.10
Received 4-13-25	7,363.00
<b>FY Bldg Fund Budget</b>	<b>\$144,000.00</b>
Received to date	32,422.00
Received 4-13-25	360.00

**Offertory: Holy Family**  
Sun. (4-13-25): \$662.00

**OUR WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR  
OUR ARMED FORCES**

Jose Bardomiano, Brenda Contreras, Sgt. Blake Downs (N. Carolina), MSgt. Emmanuel Gamboa (New Mexico), Kristopher Lentz, April M. Martin (Japan), Michael Martinez, CW3 Jeb S. McKinnon (USA), Martin Rios, Candise R. Rolerson (Wichita Falls, TX), Juan Vargas, Erick Vilches, Octavio Rodriguez, Rolando Chavez

**Pray for us that we may be healed.**

Toby Cash, Judy Hackett, Michael Hackett, Pong Holton, Tina Hoover, Roxanne Maini, Kayla Marlow, Margaret Milkas, Rachelle Navarro, Tony Sicari, Betty Spears, Gene Waldron, A.D. Young, Mary Young

**PLEASE REMEMBER:**

**No Food** to be eaten in classrooms, hallways, bathrooms, Day Chapel or Main Church—food may only be eaten in the Social Hall.

**No hay Comida** Para comer en las aulas, los pasillos, los baños, la capilla diurna y la iglesia principal--solo en salón social.

**CHARTER FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN**

Visit website: [www.diosav.org/childyouthprotection](http://www.diosav.org/childyouthprotection)  
Or call 888-357-5330 to report knowledge of abuse.

**CAPÍTULO PARA LA PROTECCIÓN DE NIÑOS**

Visite la página Web de la diócesis para leer el código: [www.diosav.org/childyouthprotection](http://www.diosav.org/childyouthprotection) o 888-357-5330.

*Live streaming every weekend*



Please join us for live streaming of all weekend masses and ones of special occasions. Live streaming can watched on FaceBook (St Paul Catholic Church) page and our website page, [stpaulmissions.org](http://stpaulmissions.org) All masses are archieved on our website for viewing anytime.



*St Paul Catholic Church and Missions*

4178 US HWY 441 S  
Douglas, GA 31535

---



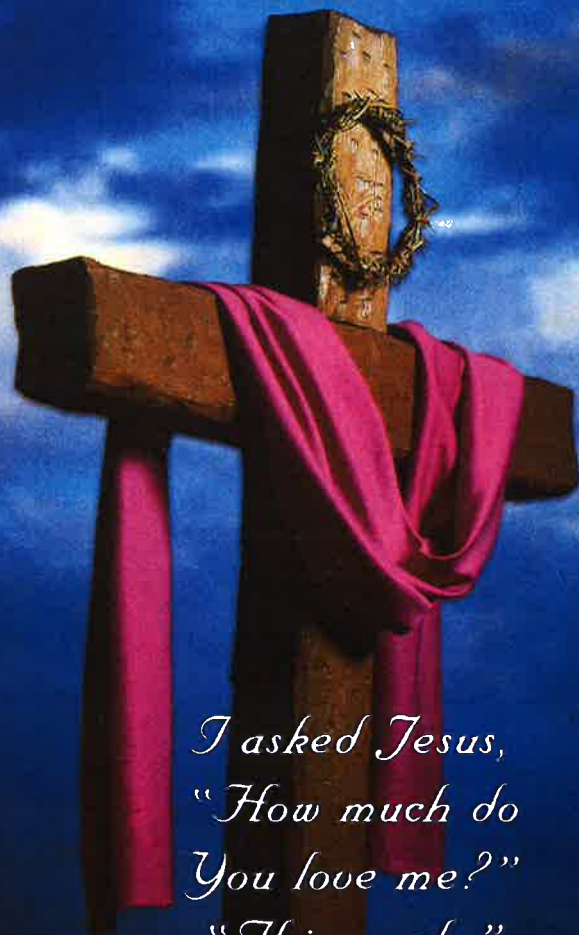


## APRIL Month of the Holy Eucharist

### Month of the the Holy Eucharist

#### Devotion of the Month

**The month of April is traditionally dedicated to devotion to Jesus in the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. The Catholic Church teaches that the Blessed Sacrament is the real and living presence of Christ—His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity—received into our souls with every reception of Holy Communion. Our Eucharistic Lord is the source and summit of our Christian life, the ultimate proof of His infinite love for us.**



*I asked Jesus,  
"How much do  
You love me?"  
"This much,"  
He answered.  
Then He stretched  
out his arms  
and died.*



# Easter

## NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

**EASTER**, the celebration of Christ's Resurrection, is the oldest and most solemn feast of the liturgical year.

**THE RESURRECTION** is recorded in the Gospels and proclaimed in the New Testament, particularly by St. Paul, who wrote that without the Resurrection, "your faith has been in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:14).

**DISCIPLES WHO KNEW JESUS** was dead and where he was buried went to his tomb, but found it empty, and were told: "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised" (Luke 24:5-6). Later, St. Paul writes, the risen Jesus appeared to more than five hundred disciples (1 Corinthians 15:6).

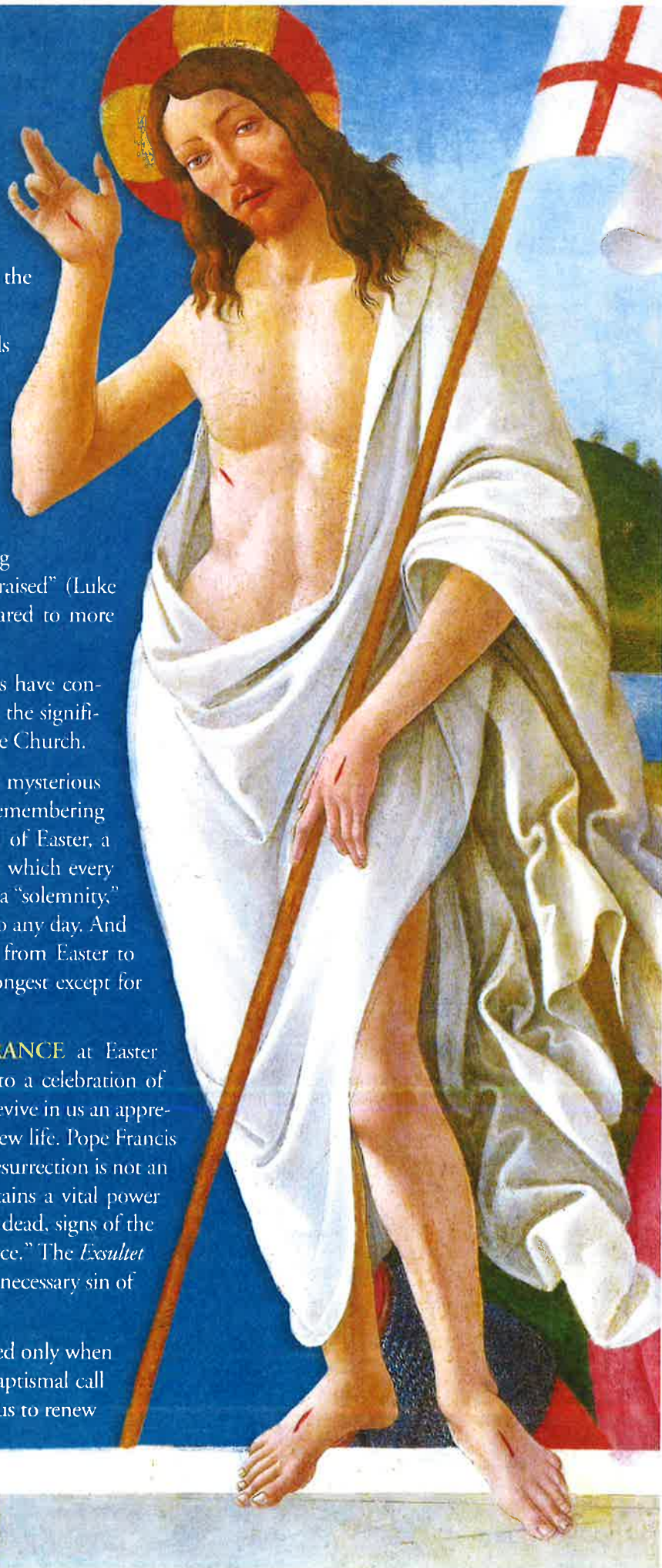
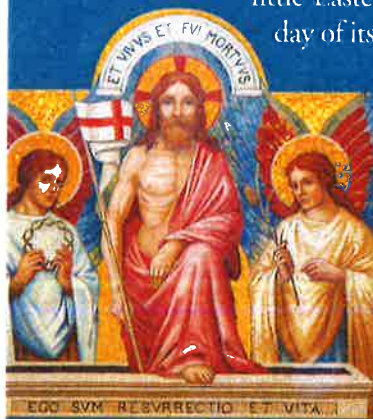
**THROUGHOUT THE CENTURIES**, Christians have continued to try to understand, appreciate and celebrate the significance of this most central experience for the life of the Church.

**ACKNOWLEDGING THE RESURRECTION'S** mysterious depths, the Church's liturgical cycles are based on remembering and celebrating Easter. Every Sunday is a memorial of Easter, a "little Easter." Easter is the only feast in which every day of its Octave (Eight Days) is itself a "solemnity," the highest ranking given to any day. And the 50-day Easter season, from Easter to Pentecost Sunday, is the longest except for Ordinary Time.

**LITURGICAL EXUBERANCE** at Easter is intended to draw us into a celebration of God's gift of salvation, to revive in us an appreciation of the promise of new life. Pope Francis reminds us that "Christ's resurrection is not an event of the past but contains a vital power

that has permeated this world. Where all seems to be dead, signs of the resurrection suddenly spring up. It is an irresistible force." The *Exsultet* at the Easter Vigil boldly declares: "O happy fault, O necessary sin of Adam, which gained for us so great a Redeemer!"

**AS IF TO REMIND US** that our Easter joy is fulfilled only when we do our part, when we respond faithfully to our baptismal call to love God and others as ourselves, the Church asks us to renew our baptism promises to reject evil and to "serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church."





## THE HISTORY OF EASTER

Easter is the celebration of Christ's resurrection, the culmination of Christ's mission and the foundation of our faith. Easter is also the oldest Christian holiday, one that Pope Leo I regarded as the greatest feast of the liturgical year, a conviction that has since been widely embraced. As St. Paul wrote, "If Christ has not been raised, then your faith has been in vain" (1 Cor 15:14).

St. Bede suggests that word "Easter" could be related to *Estre*, an ancient goddess of spring. The more common term for Easter was the Latin *Pasch* or Passover. Easter was the *Festa Paschalia*, a name that is plural because Easter is not just a one-day event but includes seven more days of celebration (called the Easter octave). The name Easter is also related to the German word for east, *ostern*, where the sun rises. So the associations of light from the rising sun and the new life of spring naturally carry over to our celebration of new life through Christ.

The fixing of the date of Easter was complex and somewhat controversial. To the members of the early Church, every Sunday was regarded as a celebration of the resurrection. When it was determined to single out one day to highlight the feast, there was disagreement as to the proper date. Some Christians, including St. Irenaeus and St. Polycarp, felt it should coincide with the Jewish Passover, which was determined by the lunar calendar, while others preferred the Sunday celebration date that eventually prevailed when the Council of Nicaea in AD 325 determined that Easter is to be celebrated on the first Sunday following first full moon that occurs on or after the spring (vernal) equinox.



## Terms of the Easter Season

**Alleluia:** From the Hebrew word meaning "Praise the Lord," *Alleluia* is a special acclamation of joy in the Easter Season.

**Ascension:** Originally celebrated on Thursday (40 days after Easter), now all U.S. dioceses except 6 celebrate it on the Seventh Sunday of Easter.

**Easter:** The first Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox, Easter is the celebration of Jesus' resurrection. The Church considers every Sunday in the year a commemoration of Easter.

**Easter Duty:** Having received First Communion, every Catholic in the United States must receive communion at least once a year during Easter time, defined in the U.S. as the period from the First Sunday of Lent to Trinity Sunday.

**Easter Season:** The fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday.

**Paschal Candle:** A large decorated wax candle that is a symbol of the risen Savior, the light of the world. It is lit during Mass from the Easter Vigil to Ascension Thursday, and used thereafter in baptisms and funeral liturgies.

## Mass Readings for the Easter Season 2020

**Easter Sunday:** Acts 10:34, 37-43;

Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 Colossians 3:1-4  
or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8; John 20:1-9

**2nd Sunday:** Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24;  
1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

**3rd Sunday:** Acts 2:14, 22-33; Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-11;  
1 Peter 1:17-21; Luke 24:13-35

**4th Sunday:** Acts 2:14, 36-41; Psalm 23:1-6;  
1 Peter 2:20-25; John 10:1-10

**5th Sunday:** Acts 6:1-7; Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19;  
1 Peter 2:4-9; John 14:1-12

**6th Sunday:** Acts 8:5-8, 14-17; Psalm 66:1-7, 16, 20;  
1 Peter 3:15-18; John 14:15-21

**Ascension of the Lord:** Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47:2-3, 6-9;  
Ephesians 1:17-23; Matthew 28:16-20

**7th Sunday:** Acts 1:12-14; Psalm 27:1, 4, 7-8;  
1 Peter 4:13-16; John 17:1-11

**Pentecost:** Acts 2:1-11; Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34;  
1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13; John 20:19-23

# Pray every day this Easter season

Join the Daily Miracles Challenge

What makes Hallow  
the #1 Catholic app?

"This app has been an answer  
for my weary soul. I am finding  
peace for the very first time."



**Daily Gospel,  
Rosary, & Examen**

All the classic Catholic prayers,  
plus over 3,000 audio-guided  
meditations, homilies,  
reflections, and Bible studies



**Praylists &  
Family Content**

Curated meditations on topics  
like love, joy, hope, humility, and  
discernment, plus prayers for all  
ages to pray together as a family



**Bible Stories &  
Sleep Content**

Close your day with an Examen,  
Night Prayer, or a Bible Story  
from guests like Fr. Mike  
Schmitz, Matt Fradd, Emily  
Wilson, and more



[hallow.com/pray](https://hallow.com/pray)

[info@hallow.app](mailto:info@hallow.app)

Scan with  
your phone





# Jubilee 2025

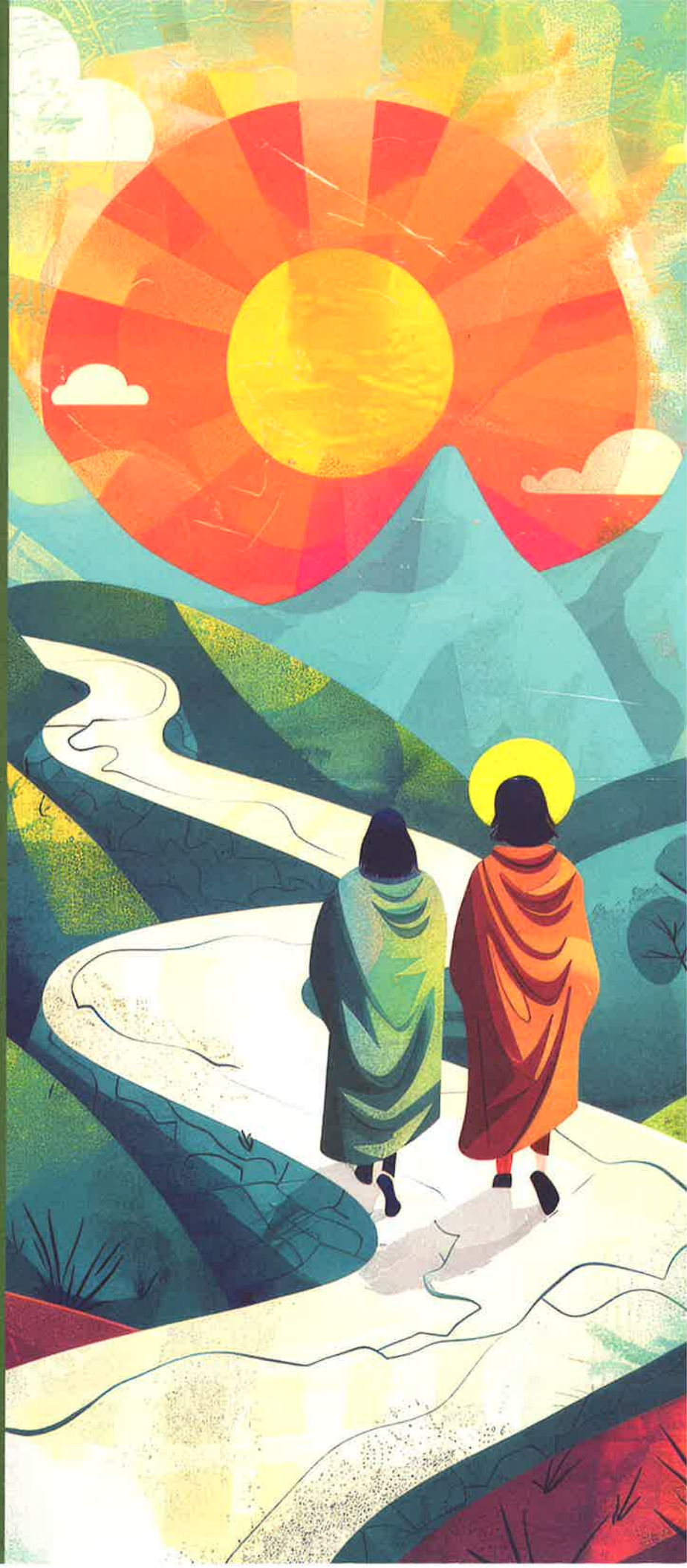
## **We Are Pilgrims of Hope**

On May 9, 2024 Pope Francis solemnly announced that the Church's Jubilee year 2025 "will be a Holy Year marked by a lively experience of grace and an opportunity to be renewed in the hope that does not fade, our hope in God. May it help us to recover the confident trust that we require, in the Church and in society, in our interpersonal relationships, in international relations, and in our task of promoting the dignity of all persons and respect for God's gift of creation. May the witness of believers be for our world a leaven of authentic hope, a harbinger of new heavens and a new earth, where men and women will dwell in justice and harmony, in joyful expectation of the fulfilment of the Lord's promises."

"Hope is the virtue that gives inward direction and purpose to the life of believers so that we may bear credible and attractive witness to the faith and love that dwell in our hearts; that our faith may be joyful and our charity enthusiastic; and that each of us may be able to offer a smile, a small gesture of friendship, a kind look, a ready ear, a good deed, in the knowledge that, in the Spirit of Jesus, these can become, for those who receive them, rich seeds of hope."

## **Our Pilgrimage Journey to and with Jesus**

A pilgrimage is both an outer journey to a sacred place, and an inner journey to meet Christ and deepen our relationship with him. Thus Pope Francis desires that this Jubilee Year be a time "to encourage and sustain the hope that guides our steps towards the goal of a genuine, personal encounter with the risen Lord Jesus, who is not only the destination of our earthly pilgrimage but also a constant presence in our lives. I invite everyone to place their trust in the Lord who not only guides us, but is God-with-us, who loves us and walks with us in every circumstance of life. He shows us the path of love, lifts us up when we fall and supports us in our labors, opens our eyes to see our wretchedness and that of the world, but at the same time fills us with hope."





## THE MEANING OF THE JUBILEE LOGO: PILGRIMS OF HOPE

The official logo of the 2025 Jubilee Year shows four colorful pilgrims, who symbolize all of humanity coming from all directions on their common journey to Christ. As they embrace each other in unity, the figure in front grasps the cross, which is the sign of our hope that united with Jesus we will also move through our death to new life. The elongated cross also changes at its base into an anchor, which was an ancient sign of hope because sailors used the anchor to stabilize ships during storms. So during the challenges of our daily lives and the events of the wider world symbolized by the rough waves beneath the pilgrims, hope keeps us focused on the goal of our pilgrimage to draw ever closer to encounter the Risen Christ.



### WHAT IS A JUBILEE YEAR?

The jubilee year (from the Hebrew word *yobel*, meaning horn, which was blown to proclaim the year's beginning) is an ancient Jewish tradition (see Leviticus 25:8-17, 29-31) of pardon and reconciliation celebrated every 50 years (after a "sabbath of sabbaths," 7 x 7 years) when the community imitated God's mercy and forgiveness by forgiving debts and by each family returning to its own land and not cultivating it that year.

This jubilee tradition was first adapted for Catholics in 1300 by Pope Boniface VIII as a universal "year of forgiveness of all sins." Since that time the "ordinary" jubilee years have usually been at 50 or now 25 year intervals (the last was in 2000), with other "extraordinary" jubilee years declared for special reasons like that of Mercy in 2015. Jubilee years are characterized especially by prayer, good works, pilgrimages to sacred sites (especially Rome), cultural events and special indulgences for those who participate.

### THE HOLY DOOR OF ST. PETER'S

Since the 1500's, the ceremonial opening at St. Peter's Basilica of the usually locked massive bronze Holy Door (also called the "Door of the Great Pardon" since its 16 panels portray various biblical scenes of sin and redemption) begins each Jubilee Year. After reciting specific prayers and invoking the Holy Spirit, the Pope pushes open the door and enters the Church, inviting pilgrims likewise to renew their spiritual journey and cross the threshold.



The opening of the Holy Door invites the faithful to embark on a journey of even deeper faith. Crossing the threshold of the door is a powerful act, inspired by Jesus' words in John 10:9, "I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture." This passage highlights the transformative experience of entering through the Holy Door, symbolizing the decision to follow Jesus, the Good Shepherd. The door serves as a physical and spiritual gateway, leading pilgrims into the sacred space of the church and inviting them to renew their commitment to their faith.

## 2025 JUBILEE PRAYER PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Father in heaven,  
may the faith you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of charity enkindled  
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed hope  
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators  
of the seeds of the Gospel.  
May those seeds transform from within  
both humanity and the whole cosmos  
in the sure expectation of a  
new heaven and a new earth, when,  
with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

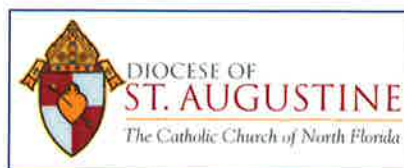
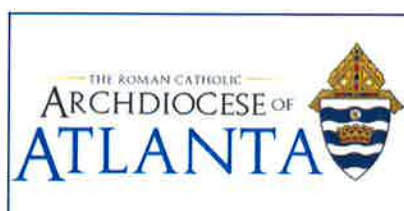
May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.  
To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever. *Amen.*

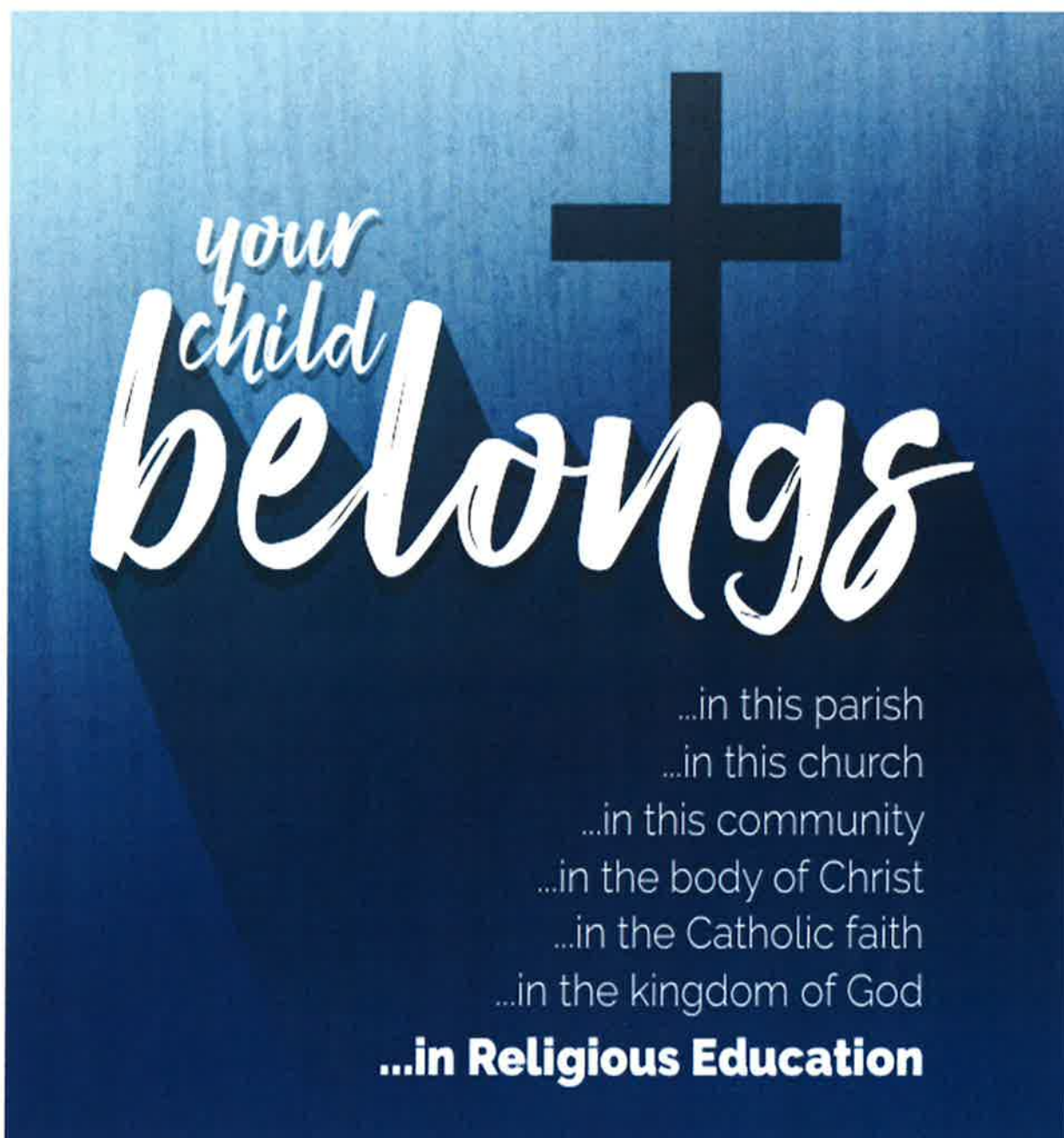


For more information on the 2025  
Jubilee Year of Hope and how you may  
participate more fully see the Vatican's  
official website at  
[www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html](http://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html)

# MARRIAGE PREPARATION

- Meet with the Priest is who is to perform the ceremony
- Bring Baptism and Confirmation certificates
- Must complete a pre-Cana (marriage) class either through the Diocese of Savannah, Arch-Diocese of Atlanta or the Diocese of St Augustine.
- Complete all necessary forms
- At least one of the witnesses **must be** Catholic.





Religious Education classes begin at 10:45

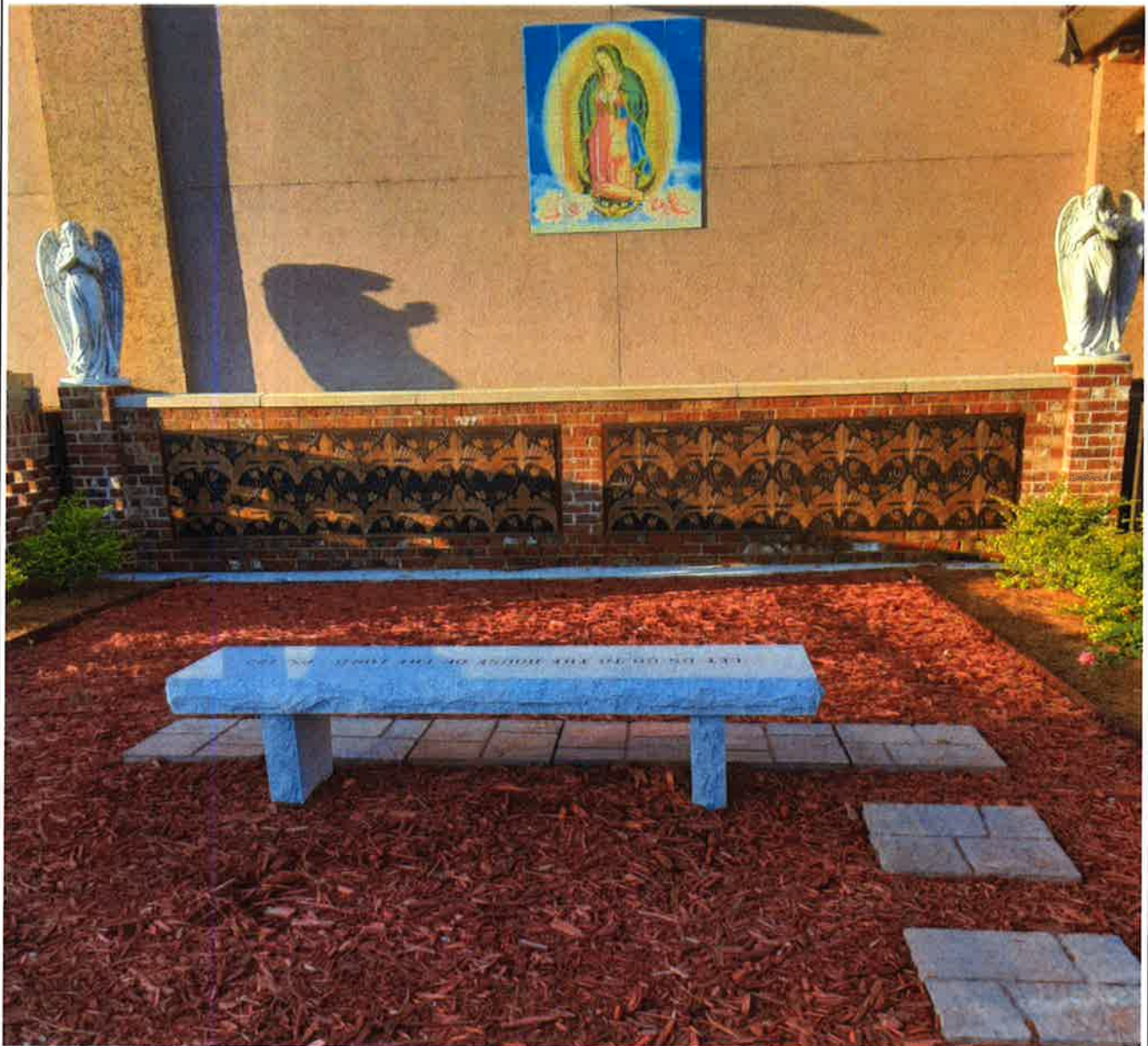
DRE Maria Gomez



# ST PAUL'S COLUMBARIUM



*St Paul now offers a  
serene and sacred place  
for deceased loved ones.*



**"LET US GO TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD" P.S. 122**



On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb.

JOHN 20:1



## Bit by Bit

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**L**ooking for proof of the resurrection is like looking for proof of love. Sometimes, we realize only gradually—bit by bit—that we are loved. John's Gospel abounds with images of light and darkness. So when this Sunday's Easter Gospel recounts Mary of Magdala going to the tomb early in the morning while it was still dark, the gospel is not simply marking the time of day. It's noting that what was taking place was before they believed in the resurrection, when they were still in the dark. All sorts of hints about the resurrection begin to occur: Mary sees the stone rolled away, Peter and the other disciple go to the tomb and find the burial cloths. They see the cloth that had covered his head rolled up and set aside. No apparition of Jesus, no men in white garments, no angels. Only hints that with the resurrection of Jesus,

God has made all life new and destined for resurrection.

What, then, might one do who is plagued by doubts? Look for hints of resurrection, of life coming about where one expects only death (as if to symbolically enter the tomb). What types of hints? Going for counseling, as frightening as that may be, and finding peace. Talking through a problem in marriage. Finding that empty-nesting gives way to new life. Discovering retirement's gifts. Making a dreaded move to a new city or school. The resurrection of Jesus means God makes all life new. We only need to see it and discover that, bit by bit, it leads to faith. ●

### Reflect

***What are the hints of resurrection surrounding me? Have I missed any?***



# Dear Padre,

***I was baptized as a baby, but I never really went to church. Lately, I've been attending Mass. Are there steps I should take before I receive Communion?***

The first step is to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation (confession). This is a wonderful opportunity to be officially welcomed back into full practice with the Church. After such a long absence, it is important to examine your conscience and celebrate the forgiveness of the Lord before you receive holy Communion.

I would also recommend that you “beef up” your understanding of what it means to be a practicing Catholic. You might do this by participating in your parish’s process for the Christian Initiation of Adults (called OCIA or sometimes RCIA). The Liguori Publications program, *Journey of Faith*, is one resource used by many parish communities. Another possibility is to use some of the resources offered online, such as Bishop Robert Barron’s *Word on Fire* website, which has a fine reputation.

I am happy you have responded to the stirrings of the Holy Spirit within you and answered the call to deepen your spiritual practice and journey. The Church needs you. The people of God welcome you. You are beloved among us, and your response in faith is a powerful witness, a reminder to those who may be tempted to take for granted the gift of faith. Thank you. ●



*A candidate and his sponsor sit for a photo after an Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) class. LOS ANGELES TIMES VIA GETTY IMAGES*

**Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
April 21	April 22	April 23	April 24	April 25	April 26	April 27
<i>Octave of Easter</i>	<i>Octave of Easter</i>	<i>Octave of Easter</i>	<i>Octave of Easter</i>	<i>Octave of Easter</i>	<i>Octave of Easter</i>	<i>Second Sunday of Easter /</i>
Acts 2:14,	Acts 2:36–41	Acts 3:1–10	Acts 3:11–26	Acts 4:1–12	Acts 4:13–21	<i>Sunday of</i>
22–33	Jn 20:11–18	Lk 24:13–35	Lk 24:35–48	Jn 21:1–14	Mk 16:9–15	<i>Divine Mercy</i>
Mt 28:8–15						Acts 5:12–16
						Rv 1:9–11a,
						12–13, 17–19
						Jn 20:19–31

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

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



CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY

## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

***We welcome the Easter message: “Peace be with you!” Brothers and sisters, let us allow the peace of Christ to enter our lives, our homes, our countries!... Let there be a decision for peace.... Please, please, let us not get used to war!... May the leaders of nations hear people’s plea for peace.***

**URBI ET ORBI MESSAGE, ROME, APRIL 17, 2022**