

Dear Padre,

**Where did the idea of an Easter bunny come from?
What about the Easter egg?**

The Easter bunny is really a hare which, according to an Egyptian legend, is a symbol of the moon. Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon that occurs after the twenty-first day of March. Put this together, and we have an Easter bunny.

Early Christians gave new meaning to the Roman proverb *Omne vivum ex ovo*, which means, "All life comes from an egg." A hatching chick represented the risen Christ emerging from the shell of a tomb on Easter morning. Consequently, eggs were prohibited during the Lenten fast and were reintroduced at the Easter meal and also shared as decorated gifts. In 1610, a prayer by Pope Paul V blessed the egg "that it may become a wholesome sustenance to Thy faithful servants, eating in thankfulness to Thee, on account of the Resurrection of Our Lord."

In some parts of the world, children carry baskets and torches and sing Easter carols as they go from place to place. They are given brightly colored eggs to put in their baskets. In other places, eggs are carried to church and blessed by the priests. The eggs are taken home and placed in the center of the table as the main dish at the Easter feast. Visitors to the house during Easter week are offered this sacred food of the resurrection. Happy Easter! ●

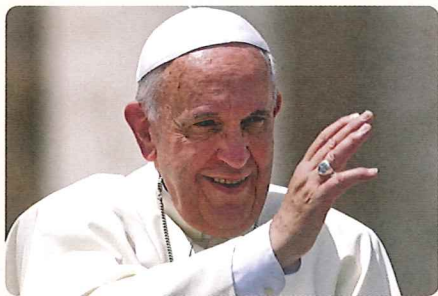


SHUTTERSTOCK / MARTINA MARTYNOVA

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
April 1 <i>Octave of Easter</i> Acts 2:14, 22-33 Mt 28:8-15	April 2 <i>Octave of Easter</i> Acts 2:36-41 Jn 20:11-18	April 3 <i>Octave of Easter</i> Acts 3:1-10 Lk 24:13-35	April 4 <i>Octave of Easter</i> Acts 3:11-26 Lk 24:35-48	April 5 <i>Octave of Easter</i> Acts 4:1-12 Jn 21:1-14	April 6 <i>Octave of Easter</i> Acts 4:13-21 Mk 16:9-15	April 7 <i>Second Sunday of Easter</i> <i>(Sunday of Divine Mercy)</i> Acts 4:32-35 1 Jn 5:1-6 Jn 20:19-31

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A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

In the light of the Risen Lord, our sufferings are now transfigured. Where there was death, now there is life. Where there was mourning, now there is consolation. In embracing the cross, Jesus bestowed meaning on our sufferings and now we pray that the benefits of that healing will spread throughout the world.

URBI ET ORBI MESSAGE, ROME, APRIL 4, 2021



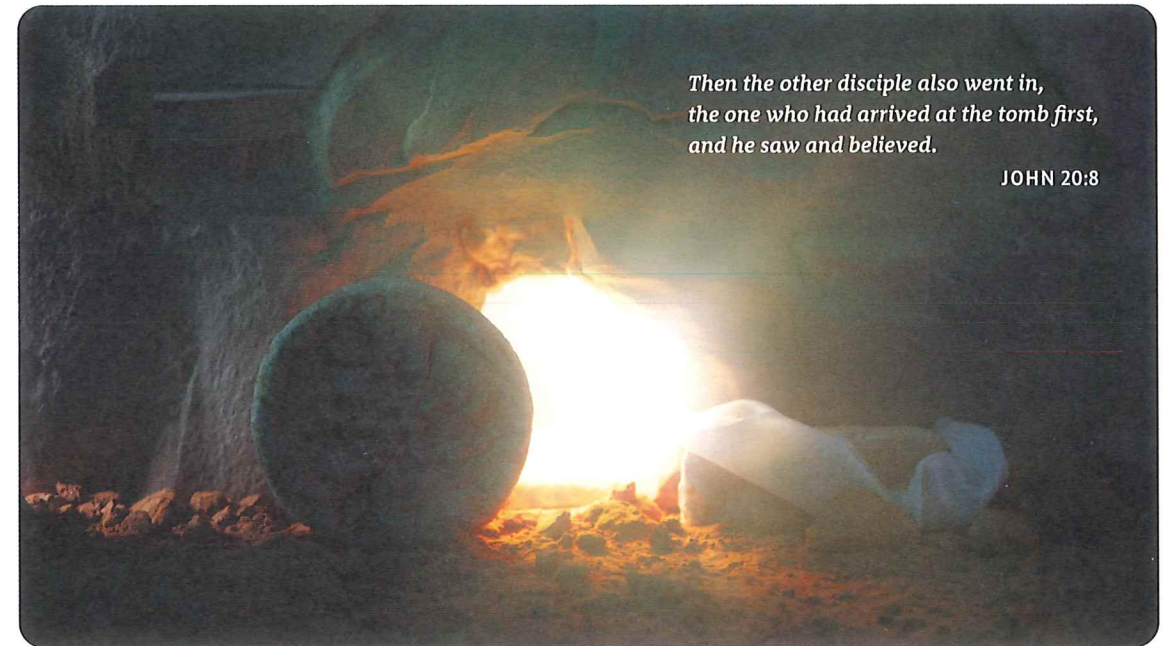
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Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 31, 2024

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord (B)

Acts 10:34a, 37-43 / Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8 / John 20:1-9 or Mark 16:1-7



Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed.

JOHN 20:8

Life without a Blankie

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

F **ait**h can have the look of high dives and learning to ride a bike without training wheels and life without one's "blankie." All are confrontations with the specter of death asking us to have faith. From youth to old age, our lives seem to be laced with the loss of control, and unless we embrace such moments, not only will we never really grow up, neither will we ever become people of faith who live in the resurrection.

The Easter Gospels are about women and men who arrive at the tomb but hesitate going in; it is the home of death. Yet they become believers after they have entered that home of death and discover it to be abandoned. Over the years, I have become convinced that the only way to become a believer in the resurrection is to walk into the tomb yourself and there discover that where you thought death

was present now has been abandoned. That is the pattern of coming to faith.

Usually such moments do not have the look of faith. They tend to seem more akin to death than any promise of new life—like having to move to a new city or a new school, or abandoning an addiction, or confronting a problem through counseling, or aging, or grieving over lost love. They all can have the look of tombs yet they are also where we find the beginnings of new life. Risk it often enough and so discover new life, and we begin to believe in the reality of resurrection—Jesus' and ours. ●

Reflect

Have you ever experienced life flowing from what appeared to be a death?



Rectory & Parish Office
 600 Soderberg St. Lakin, KS 67860
 Mailing Address: PO Box 983
 Fr. Peter Tran, Pastor—355-6405
 Tuesday—Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
 Email: saintanthonylakin@gmail.com
 Website: saintanthonylakin.org



MARCH 31, 2024

EASTER SUNDAY – THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.” (PS118)

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sat.	Mar. 30	4:00 pm	Holy Saturday	Gary Sack
Sun.	Mar. 31	9:00 am	Easter Sunday	John Perez
Mon.	Apr. 1	5:30 pm		Joyce Sack
Tues.	Apr. 2	9:30 am		David Hoang
<i>(Tuesday Mass at the High Plains Retirement Village)</i>				
Thurs.	Apr. 4	12:15 pm		Thanksgiving
Fri.	Apr. 5	7:30 pm		David Hoang
Sat.	Apr. 6	4:00 pm	2nd Sunday of Easter	Danny Batt Family
Sun.	Apr. 7	9:00 am	2n Sunday of Easter	Johnnie Perez

HAPPY EASTER!

My dear friends, alleluia! What a joy it is to be with all of you this day as we celebrate our incredible God --- a God who loves us more than we could ever imagine. And on a day such as today, most words just won't do --- don't accurately express the joy we are feeling, don't express the hope that fills our hearts, don't express the comfort this day brings. Only one word will do --- alleluia! It's been a while since we've been able to say that.

And in one sense, we are gathered here because of one thing, one event, one act, one miracle --- the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus. That goes without saying. And in the earliest days of Christianity, this one, simple, profound experience was the totality of the Christian message, was the Good News, was about all they could say about what they (or others) had witnessed.

The “meaning” of the death and resurrection of Jesus had yet to be unpacked, yet to be understood, yet to be brought into focus. With joy let us go to all the nations and proclaim the Good News that Christ was dead but He has risen. Fr. Peter

Easter Sunday
 3/30/2024 - Saturday, 8: 00 p.m.
Servers: Volunteers
Reader: Volunteer
E.O.HC: Volunteers
 3/31/2024 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
Servers: Volunteers
Reader: Volunteer
E.O. HC: Volunteers

2nd Sunday of Easter
 4/6/2024 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.
Servers: Jason Velasco, Jonathan & Nathan Gannett
Reader: Karen Burden
EO.HC: Debbie Frederick, Gwen Waechter
 4/7/2024 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
Servers: Cade Berning, Jace Berning, Haley Berning
Reader: Alvin Gergkamp
E.O. HC: Del & Julia Kaps

Karen Burden, Rel.Edu. Committee 355-6388
 Lisa Gannett, DRE 355-6611
 Gwen Waechter, Parish C. Chair 272-1030
 Tressa Powers, Finance C. Chair 355-6206
 Altar S. President, Nanette Rice 355-7676
 Tom Bachman, Grand Knight 640-8259
 Prayer Line Starters, Allison Bushek 355-1696
 & Nanette Rice 355-7676
 Vocation Committee, Nanette & Sandra

Reconciliation: Confessions will be heard every Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. or by appointment.

Baptism: Parents who have children to be baptized must be registered. Godparents must be 16 years of age or older and have received Confirmation and Eucharist. Please call the parish office for an appointment.

Marriage: Please contact parish priest at least four to six months before the wedding.

Anointing of the Sick: Celebrated anytime by calling a priest.

COLLECTION FOR MARCH 24, 2024

Envelopes: \$830.00
 Loose: \$534.00
 Online Giving: \$918.72
 Total: \$2,282.72
 Average Weekly Expense: \$1,761.17
 Income over/under + 521.55

THE READINGS OF THIS WEEK

- For years, Jesus had confounded even his closest disciples. He insisted the crowds stay for a meal when all they had were a few loaves and fish. He told them to turn the other cheek, that it is the poor and down-trodden that are blessed, and that each of them had a cross to carry. He revealed that he would be condemned to death. Now he's disappeared from the tomb they'd buried him in just three days before. Mary Magdalene is frantic. Peter and John are rendered speechless. All three are confused. What has happened? None of them yet understood that they had to look for him in a different way. Jesus may confound us as well. We may not find him where we expect, or when we expect, or in the way we expect. But let us take comfort in the confidence that no matter where we go, no matter how confounded we are, he will find us.

- In his letter to the Colossians, Paul gives us a clue as to finding the risen Lord: "Seek what is above" (3:1). If we have died with Christ, as we did in baptism, then we have been raised with Christ. This ought to be our perspective. There is a permanence to what is above that cannot be achieved on earth. How relatively fleeting even our happiest times have been: our wedding day, the birth of a child, a career accomplishment. The Resurrection frees us to seek love and mercy and life in a way that outlasts what is on earth.

- The Resurrection transforms us. Holding the promise of resurrection for ourselves and those we love gives hope and meaning to our life. It transforms us. But we are also transformed by the power God has to raise us from our graves of sinfulness and our tombs of despair. In many ways, our lives are reborn by the Resurrection, like a fresh batch of dough, as Paul told the Corinthians, and by focusing our minds on what is above, as he told the Colossians. A God who has the power to transform death to new life has the power to transform our ordinary, difficult lives to new lives as well. May we recognize that our lives stand ever ready for transformation.

- Durante años Jesús había confundido hasta a sus más íntimos discípulos. Insistió en que la gente se quedara a comer cuando todo lo que tenían eran unos cuantos panes y pescados. Les dijo que ofrecieran su otra mejilla, que los bendecidos eran los pobres y los oprimidos, y que cada uno de ellos tenía una cruz que cargar. Él reveló que sería condenando a muerte. Ahora se ha desaparecido del sepulcro donde lo habían sepultado sólo tres días atrás. María Magdalena está en pánico. Pedro y Juan se han quedado mudos. Los tres están confundidos. ¿Qué ha sucedido? Ninguno de ellos entendía todavía que tenían que buscar a Jesús de una manera diferente. Puede que Jesús nos confunda a nosotros también. Puede que no lo encontremos donde lo esperamos, o cuándo lo esperamos, ni de la manera que esperamos. Pero consolémonos y no dudemos en que no importa donde vayamos, no importa cuán confundidos estemos, él nos va a encontrar.

- En su carta a los colosenses, Pablo nos ofrece una pista en cuanto a encontrar al Señor resucitado: "Busquen los bienes de arriba" (3, 1). Si hemos muerto con Cristo, como sucedió en nuestro Bautismo, también hemos resucitado con Cristo. Ésta ha de ser nuestra perspectiva. Existe una permanencia en lo que es de arriba, que no puede lograrse en la tierra. Qué relativamente fugaces han sido, aun nuestros momentos más felices: nuestro día de bodas, el nacimiento de un hijo o una hija, los éxitos en una carrera. La resurrección nos da la libertad de buscar el amor, la misericordia y la vida de una manera que subsiste lo que hay en la tierra.

- La resurrección nos transforma. Albergar la promesa de la resurrección para nosotros y para nuestros seres queridos da esperanza y propósito a nuestra vida. Nos transforma. Pero también somos transformados por el poder de Dios para sacarnos de los sepulcros de nuestros pecados y de nuestra desesperanza. Por la resurrección renacemos de muchas maneras, como una masa nueva y fermentada, como le dice Pablo a los corintios, y con nuestro corazón puesto en los bienes del cielo, como le dice a los colosenses.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR—UPCOMING EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS

4/3/2024

Pastoral Council Meeting @ 5:30 pm

K of C Meeting @ 7:30 pm

4/2/2024

Finance Council Meeting @ 7:00 pm

4/7/2024 Parish Breakfast

Right after 9:00 am Sunday Mass

4/20/2024 First Communion

St. Anthony @ 4:00 pm

4/30/2024 Confirmation Mass

6:00 pm

2024 EASTER EGG Easter Egg Hunt today. Meet on sidewalk in back of church and listen for instructions. Ages 2 through 8

SINCERE SYMPATHY & PRAYERS Our deepest sympathy and prayers to you and your family, on the passing of your beloved father, Edwin Darnell. May the Almighty God wrap His loving arms around you and the entire family and give you peace. May he rest in peace.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY Next Sunday, April 7 will be the Sunday of Divine Mercy. We will have a Eucharistic Adoration and pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet from 2:00—3:00 pm.

PRAYER AND ACTION We are happy to announce to you that this year—the first time in our parish we will host "Prayer and Action" June 16-21. High School and their parents are invited to a summer mission trip. Prayer and Action offers a rich experience of the Christian lifestyle where a relationship with God overflows as service to others. A team of stellar college students will be leading the program, selecting the projects—painting houses, cleaning yards, etc.—and sharing the Gospel throughout. If you would like to them to do the above projects the "Work Order Request Form" is available at the entrance of the church.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION March 31

"Think of what is above, not of what is on earth." - COLOSSIANS 3:2

On this day we thank God for His Son, Jesus, who died, rose and opened the gates of heaven for us. We celebrate and sing "Alleluia." Let's try to keep the joy of this Easter season in our hearts throughout the year! Pray daily and listen for how God is calling each of us to joyfully use our gifts to fulfill His salvation plan.

"Piense en lo que está en el cielo, no en lo que está en la tierra". - Colosenses 3:2

En este día agradezcamos a Dios por Su Hijo, Jesús, que murió, resucitó y abrió las puertas del cielo para nosotros. Celebremos y cantemos "Aleluya". ¡Tratemos de mantener la alegría de esta temporada de Pascua en nuestros corazones durante todo el año! Ore diariamente y escuche como Dios nos llama a cada uno de nosotros a utilizar con alegría nuestros dones y cumplir Su plan de salvación.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (Opening Prayer for Easter Sunday) O God, who on this day through your only begotten Son have conquered death and unlocked for us the path to eternity, grant, we pray, that we who keep the solemnity of the Lord's resurrection may, through the renewal brought by your Spirit, rise up in the light of life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK How has the Resurrection transformed my life? How can it continue to do so?

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME, PART 23: The “Fifth Gospel”



The Mass

More on the Gospels? This week, for our final Gospel topic, we are going to discuss the fifth Gospel. *Fifth Gospel?! But Father, you went into detail last time about why there are four Gospels!* Before I cause too much confusion, let me clarify that the fifth “Gospel” is not one that is written. It is the place

where Jesus lived, the place where he walked on the water and worked miracles, the place where he celebrated the Last Supper with the Apostles, and the place where he carried the Cross and offered himself as the perfect sacrifice to the Father for the forgiveness of sins: the Holy Land.

The Land Where Jesus Walked

A *New Catholic Encyclopedia* article quotes Gino Concetti’s 1974 article in *L’Osservatore Romano*: “The geographical and historical setting...bears a quite special witness (to Christ). It has been said that the Holy Land is itself a Gospel, the fifth Gospel. The judgment is not an exaggerated one. [...] Those places that Christians have venerated, since the beginning, as sacred because sanctified by the Savior, are still able today, 2000 years later, to re-echo his voice and his message” (*New Catholic Encyclopedia*, p. 245). Similarly, Pope Francis recently encouraged journalists to “keep telling stories from the Holy Land, calling it the ‘Fifth Gospel,’” a title which “has been invoked by popes from Paul VI to Benedict XVI to describe the Holy Land” (Courtney Mares, *Pope Francis: The story of the Holy Land is the “Fifth Gospel”* CNA, January 17, 2022). The Holy Land is more than a spot on the map half a world away: it is a true witness to the Lord Jesus as the place where he lived and walked and died for our sins!

Since I had the privilege to spend some time in the places where Jesus walked, the words of the four Gospels truly do feel different. Standing by the shore of the Sea of Galilee and feeling the afternoon breeze, it is not hard to see where a large crowd could have gathered to listen to Jesus. Experiencing the dusty, dry environment brings a deeper understanding of the moment Jesus asks the Samaritan woman for a drink. Walking up the stone steps in part of the Old City of Jerusalem, the Way of the Cross is vivid and closer.

Unfortunately, the Holy Land continues to be a place of turmoil and violence. As an important center for three world religions (Christianity, Judaism, and Islam), there has been a long history of ongoing tensions. Although leaders have worked together to secure and protect important religious shrines and historical places, the struggle for territory and control has long made the Holy Land a place of unrest and uncertainty. Sadly, this uncertainty has at times prevented many Christians from journeying to Israel and walking in the places and pathways that Christ walked, losing an opportunity to grow closer to him by walking in his footsteps. May our respect for this unique “fifth Gospel” inspire us to pray always for peace and justice and for the opportunity for each soul to freely seek out the true Savior of the world, Jesus Christ.

For Reflection:

1. Next time you read or hear a Gospel passage referring to a place Jesus visited, find its location on a map. You can watch [this video](#) that offers a virtual tour of the Holy Land. Imagine yourself in that place with Jesus and any others in the Gospel passage. If you have time, learn more about the condition of that place now. Pray for those who live there, that they, too, might encounter Jesus in the land where he lived.
2. Do you have any images or artifacts from the Holy Land? If possible, display such items in a suitable area of your home as a way to remember and pray for the Church there. (Fr. Luke Spanagel)

SOLEMNITY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

Wide –eyed wonder

Today you witness something that opens your eyes to the power and glory of God’s love in a way no other event could. Jesus raised from the dead? How is it possible? Only through the love of God, which makes all things possible. Spend this glorious day in fascination at the miracle you are witnessing.

SOLEMNIDAD DE LA RESURRECCIÓN DEL SEÑOR

Maravilla con los ojos muy abiertos

Hoy eres testigo de algo que abre tus ojos al poder y la gloria del amor de Dios de una manera que no puede compararse con ningún otro evento. ¿Jesús resucitado de los muertos? ¿Cómo es posible? Sólo a través del amor de Dios, que hace posibles todas las cosas. Pasa este día glorioso con los ojos bien abiertos en embeleso por el milagro que estás presenciando.