



ST. MARY

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

3334B University Ave. • Morgantown, WV 26505
304-599-3747

April 12, 2020
Easter

MASS TIMES: In-Person Mass is suspended during the COVID-19 outbreak. Please visit dwc.org/mass for live-streamed daily and weekend Mass

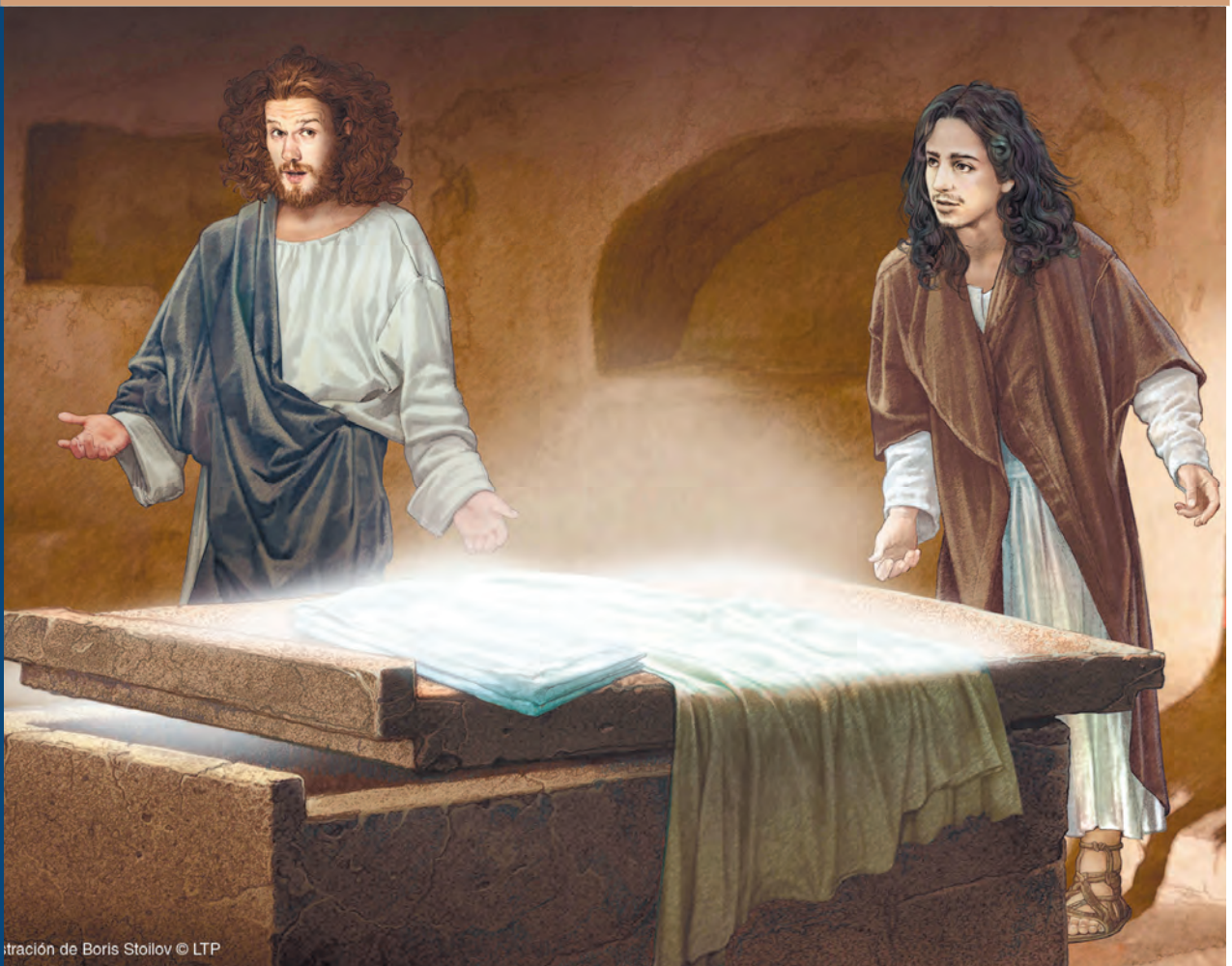


Ilustración de Boris Stollon © LTP

Mission: "They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers." Acts 2:42

St. Mary Parish

Pastor

John V. Di Bacco, Jr. 304-599-3747
jvdjr@comcast.net

Rectory

304-225-0506

Parish Office

Address:

3334B University Ave
Morgantown, WV 26505

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 9:30am-4:30pm
Closed Holy Days & some
Public Holidays

Office Staff

Carmen Riotto DeMasters
Theresa DeMasters

Phone

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TamI Alexander 304-698-7625/599-1996
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St. Ursula Food Pantry & Outreach

Sr. Rachel Blais, S.C. 304-599-3822
stursulafoodpantryoutreach@comcast.net

Virginia Aultman-Moore 304-599-3822
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Formation Center & Peace Hall
304-599-9531

St. Francis de Sales Central School
304-291-5070

Prayer Requests

Barbara Fedikovich 304-599-3910
Rena Cyphert at 304-599-6642

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM

(Birth – Age 7) Parents are required to participate in a preparation program before the celebration of Baptism. Parents must be **registered and attending** Sunday Mass regularly. Please call Kathy 304-225-1163 for information.

RECONCILIATION

As scheduled in weekly bulletin

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION

Children 7-14 years of age—Please contact Kathy Kerzak (304) 225-1163 / kkerzak@comcast.net for information.
Children 15 years of age and older & Adults—*The Order of Christian Initiation*, RCIA please contact the Parish Office, 304-599-3747, for information

MARRIAGE

Engaged couples planning to marry at St. Mary Church should be practicing Catholics, participating in Sunday Eucharist regularly. Also, they must participate in a Marriage Preparation Program. Call the Parish Office for information. At least **six months notice** is required. *No date for a wedding will be set over the phone.*

HOLY COMMUNION TO THE SICK & HOMEBOUND

When a parishioner is confined to home or hospital because of illness or advanced age, call the Parish Office. We will be happy to make arrangements to bring Holy Communion.

ANointing of the Sick

Upon request and communally as scheduled

Will or Estate Planning

Are you thinking of remembering St. Mary Church in your will or estate plans? A bequest through a Last Will and Testament is the simplest way of creating a lasting legacy of support for St. Mary Church. **Bequests should be made out to: "The Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, or his successors in office,"** with a specification of the purpose for which the bequest is to be used, e.g. **"for the use of St. Mary Parish"**

Bulletin Deadline

Tuesday@Noon,
written copy please

Email: stmaryschurch@comcast.net

Subject: attn: Bulletin, please **also include topic**

Are you registered in the Parish?

Registering in a parish is a declaration of your desire to be part of a Catholic community and to make a commitment to the life of the parish family.

Clearly stating your Catholic commitment in all its dimensions brings many advantages, recognition, and responsibility.

At St. Mary Roman Catholic Church, our policy, is that **you must be registered and participating in Sunday Mass regularly** before a **baptism** can take place, or for the initial meeting with the pastor in the case of **marriage**.

Regular attendance is also required for adults who are asked to be a god-parent or sponsor at another parish, in order that a letter can be sent stating that they are a **practicing Catholic** and a **registered member** of a parish faith community.

Even though you may have attended Mass here for months, or even years, we would like for you to be registered. Pick up a form at the Peace Hall Entrance, at the Parish Office, or visit stmarystarcity.com and click on Census Form. For more information, call the parish office at 304-599-3747.

Why not register today?
We're waiting to welcome you

Safe Environment Reporting

To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact WV Child Protective Services at 800-352-6513.

To report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, please contact one of the Bishop's designees at 888-434-6237 or 304-233-0880: Sister Ellen Dunn, ext. 264; Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; Fr. Dennis Schuelkens, ext. 270 or call the Office of Safe Environment at 304-230-1504.

Giving Summary

Offertory information was not available at the time of publication, please see future bulletins for these figures.

Thank you for your continued Sunday donations and offerings to Special Collections.

For ease of accounting, **separate checks are preferred** for all donations to different collections and purposes.

Spirituality of the Readings – **Soft Light**

Night's dark soul stirs. Chips of life tug at its ear. Just the smallest candle of light peeps through its shadows.

This is the balance-point of time.

Resurrection.

Good Friday had tempted us to guilt—about his wounds, about our sins. About his arms, branded by hurts. He uses them today to hold us, to enfold us. His wounds know somehow the shape of our small selves. Mothering Christ.

At Easter Vigil the cantor sings:

O certe necessarium Adae peccatum
quod Christi morte deletum est!

O felix culpa,
quae talem ac tantum meruit habere Redemptorem!*

Oh truly necessary sin of Adam,
blotted out by the death of Christ!
O blessed fault,
which won so great a redeemer!

Singing in praise of sin? Even though Christ's death has taken their sin away, is it right to rejoice about sin? Original sin was not really a good or blessed event. Nor is our self-ish penchant for misdeed.

Yet we rejoice. Without sin the reason for Christ's coming would have been absent. With it, Christ's healed arms can sweep us up, comfort and absolve and hold us. So we are blessed beyond words.

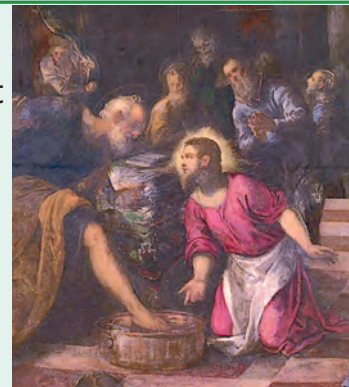
In its midst, night carries the promise of light. In their revolt, sins carry the pledge of forgiveness.

O truly blessed night,
in which earth is wedded to heaven,
and humans to God!

The light is coming. Several rows of people have their candles lit. Over there, several more. Soon half the church awakens to Christ's gentle light. Then all. Morning has eased their faces into daylight, into the soft, humble glow.

Christ became the night. Christ is the light.

John Foley, SJ



* The Latin texts are from the Exultet, an ancient chant sung during the Easter Vigil. It is traditionally sung by the deacon after the Paschal candle has been lit and the clergy have processed to the altar.

COVID-19 Response—As Directed by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston:

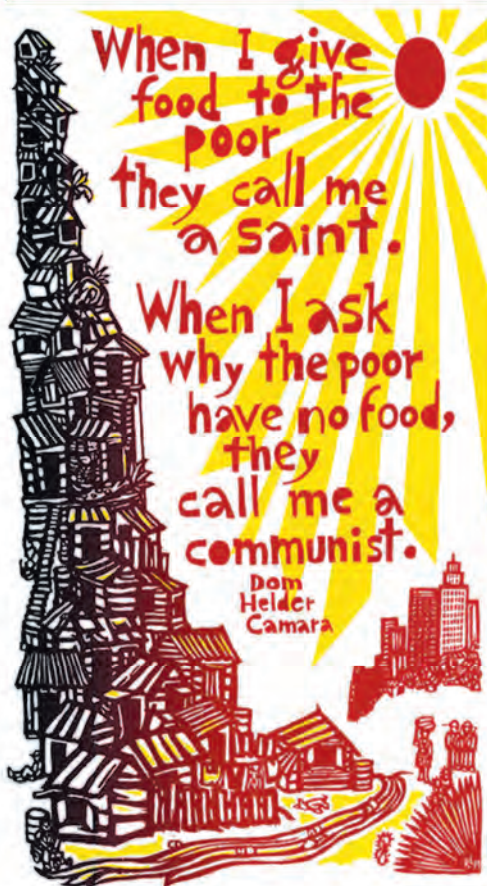
Sunday and Weekday Masses are cancelled until further notice.

All non-essential meetings, gatherings, and parish events are postponed.

ALL buildings will remain closed and locked during this temporary suspension.

NO activities or gatherings may occur in the church or other parish buildings.

The Parish Office will be closed to in-person visits until further notice, and is operating under reduced hours. We are still accessible by phone or email.



DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

Broadcast of Holy Week, Easter Masses



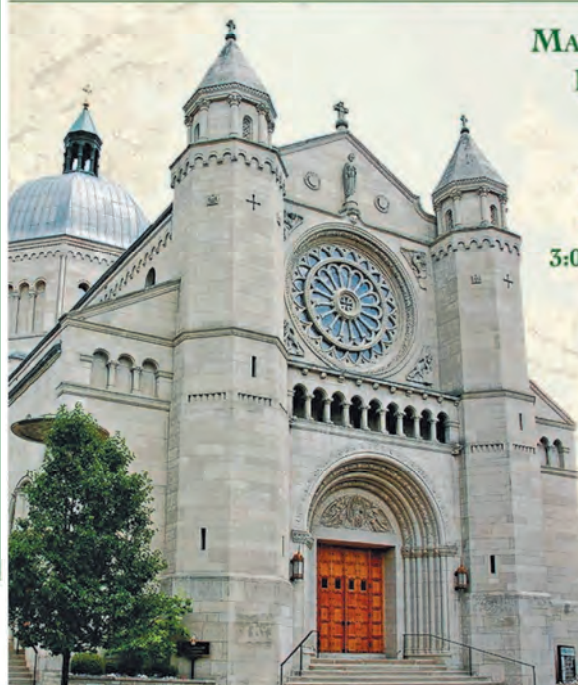
Cathedral of St. Joseph

Most Reverend Mark E. Brennan, Celebrant

Masses will be broadcasted on:

WTRFDT3/ABC - Wheeling Area • WBOYDT/ABC - Clarksburg Area

LIVE THROUGHOUT THE STATE AT WWW.DWC.ORG/MASS



MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Holy Thursday, April 9

7:00 p.m. - LIVE

PASSION OF THE LORD

Good Friday, April 10

3:00 p.m. - Live @ dwc.org/mass

7:00 p.m. - Tape Delay

EASTER MASS

Sunday, April 12

10:30 a.m. - LIVE

Closed captioning provided.



The Easter Mass broadcast is sponsored by the Welty Corporation.

Faith IN WV
DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON

Please visit www.dwc.org to read the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's new weekly bulletin.



For the most current news and updates regarding the Diocesan response to COVID-19, please visit www.dwc.org for information.



Specific information as it relates to our parish is being shared at www.stmarystarcity.com, and in our facebook group, Saint Mary Roman Catholic Church, Star City.



**Saint Mary Roman Catholic Church,
Star City, Please JOIN us on Facebook.**

St. Ursula Food Pantry needs:

*Cleaning Supplies, Especially:

- All Purpose Surface Cleaner
- Disinfecting Wipes (like Clorox),
- Bathroom Cleaner

*Toilet Paper

*Mac & Cheese, Canned Fruit, Tuna, Soup, and Crackers

Baby & Toddler Program needs:

- *Large Diapers (sizes 4, 5, 6)
- *Baby Wipes

****Donations are being accepted at St. Ursula Food Pantry** during their current business hours.



DONATE ONLINE

As parishioners are unable to attend Mass at St. Mary, Star City, if you aren't already doing so, we invite you to consider making a contribution electronically. You can easily do so by clicking on the "Donate Today" image on our website.

Thank you to all who give so generously to St. Mary Church!

www.stmarystarcity.com,
click the image that says:
Donate Today.



This Sunday, while we can't gather for Mass together, here is a great way to pray with your kids.

Join us, and help us spread the Word!

<http://worship.pastoral.center>



The Church Teaches:

The Beatitudes are in no way trite or undemanding, quite the opposite. We can only practice them if the Holy Spirit fills us with his power and frees us from our weakness, our selfishness, our complacency, and our pride.

~GAUDETE ET EXULTATE ("ON THE CALL TO HOLINESS IN TODAY'S WORLD"), 65



Happy Easter! We prayed, fasted and gave alms—and now we celebrate the Risen Lord! Our Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl challenges us as we begin the Easter season to share what we have with our global family.

Liturgy of the Hours

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!



communitas emergency
www.gatherus.org

LTP LITURGY TRAINING PUBLICATIONS As part of our continued response, LTP has compiled **free prayer resources** in English and Spanish, free Virtual Gathering offerings, and more for you, your parish, and your family and friends. For a complete list of free resources available to you throughout this crisis, www.LTP.org/resources-during-crisis.

USCCB Responds to Coronavirus

Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, has issued the following regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19):

With the worldwide outbreak of the coronavirus, we are confronted once more with the fragility of our lives, and again we are reminded of our common humanity; that the peoples of this world are our brothers and sisters, that we are all one family under God.

God does not abandon us, he goes with us even now in this time of trial and testing. In this moment, it is important for us to anchor our hearts in the hope that we have in Jesus Christ. Now is the time to intensify our prayers and sacrifices for the love of God and the love of our neighbor. Let us draw closer to one another in our love for him, and rediscover the things that truly matter in our lives.

United with our Holy Father Pope Francis, let us pray in solidarity for our brothers and sisters here and around the world who are sick. Let us pray for those who have lost loved ones to this virus. May God console them and grant them peace.

We pray also for doctors, nurses, and caregivers, for public health officials and all civic leaders. May God grant them courage and prudence as they seek to respond to this emergency with compassion and in service to the common good.

In this time of need, I invite all the faithful to seek together the maternal intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and I share this prayer with you:

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe, Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas.

We fly to you today as your beloved children.

We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother, and gain for our nation and world, and for all our families and loved ones,

the protection of your holy angels, that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted, we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance.

Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful,

wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing, teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind.

Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence, knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother,

health of the sick and cause of our joy.

Shelter us under the mantle of your protection, keep us in the embrace of your arms,

help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

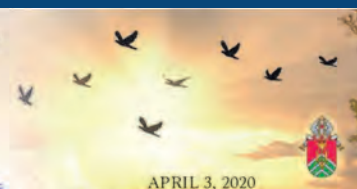


ONLINE RESOURCES

As Bishop Mark Brennan has noted there are many online websites and mobile apps to enrich our spirit during this time. We are all God's children. Receive His love through daily readings, prayer and reflections. Here is a list of resources for you and your loved ones.

In addition to our diocesan website, the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops' website, usccb.org, has a plethora of resources presented in text, audio, and video formats.

- ◆ Daily Readings written <http://usccb.org/bible/readings>
- ◆ Daily Readings audio <http://usccb.org/bible/readings-audio.cfm>
- ◆ Video Reflection <http://usccb.org/bible/reflections/index.cfm> The usccb.org site will also give you tutorials on how to pray the Rosary, the Divine Chaplet, and other prayers and devotions.
- ◆ Daily Reflection from The Word Among Us can be accessed at <https://wau.org/meditations/>
- ◆ EWTN Catholic Radio Daily Schedule <https://www.ewtn.com/radio/schedule>
- ◆ Access The Magnificat free online at <https://www.osvnews.com>
- ◆ Liturgical Press is providing free access to a digital file for Give Us This Day, which includes the daily Mass texts: <https://giveusthisday.org/Digital>
- ◆ National Catholic Register has Catholic news, stories, blogs, etc. at ncregister.com
- ◆ Discover a saint special to you at Catholic News Service's Patron Saints page: <https://www.catholicnews.com/patron-saints.cfm>
- ◆ Catholic enrichment site for children: Catholicsprouts.com
- ◆ For teens and twenty-somethings: lifeteen.com
- ◆ For Catholic headline news: catholicnewsagency.com
- ◆ Daily Living with Fr. Chapin: mydailyliving.com



ACTIVE PARTICIPATION VERSUS WATCHING MASS

By: Bernadette McMasters Kime, D. Min.

As the Church takes action to keep everyone safe during the Coronavirus pandemic, priests, bishops and even Pope Francis are live-streaming and recording celebrations of Mass for the faithful. But sitting at home in your living room watching the Mass is radically different than praying and singing together with your parish community. We must ask ourselves, are we simply watching Mass as we would a movie or television show or are we engaging in the full, active, conscious participation called for by the Church?

How can we make our unique situation of “watching Mass” into a true act of participatory worship of the Living God? Let’s consider some ideas that may be helpful:

- **Mindset:** Make it intentional that it is “time for Church” in your household. Gather in front of the television or computer as a family. Let this be the only activity going on.
- **Environment:** Light candles, set up a table with a cloth (purple for Lent, white for Easter), consider placing a Bible and a crucifix on the table.

- **Participate:** Say the responses aloud, do the gestures (sign of the cross, stand, sit, etc.), actively engage in the prayers as you would if you were physically present at Mass.
- **Make a spiritual Communion:** Ask the Lord Jesus that although you cannot receive him in the Sacrament of the Eucharist, you desire to receive him within your heart.
- **Discuss the readings and the homily:** After the Mass is over, turn off the television and discuss the readings and the homily with other members of your household. Finish the conversation with one idea you will put into action throughout the week ahead.

Sitting in front of the television or computer is less than an ideal way to worship. But then again, we are living in a time where we all wish things were different. Perhaps by incorporating some of these ideas, watching Mass on TV or internet can be a true act of worship, rather than just watching. We all long for the day when we can rejoin our brothers and sisters in body and spirit to worship the Lord together.

3 EASY STEPS

TO KEEPING YOURSELF & OTHERS HEALTHY!

We are cautioned to be especially careful during the Coronavirus outbreak. Here are some simple ways to keep sickness away.



WASH YOUR HANDS

Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds using soap and water. If you can't wash your hands, use hand sanitizer frequently.



DON'T TOUCH YOUR FACE

Especially around the eyes, nose and mouth. If you must sneeze, use a tissue or your arm.



KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

Practice social distancing during this epidemic and stay away from large groups. Instead, call, email or check up on family and friends using social media.

Could It Be True?

This Week's Readings at Mass

- Acts 10:34a, 37-43 • Peter's discourse
- Colossians 3:1-4 • Mystical death and resurrection
- John 20:1-9 • Peter and the disciple at the tomb

As the Easter Season begins, the church replaces the Old Testament readings with passages from the Acts of the Apostles instead. The readings recount the disciples' words and miraculous actions as they begin to spread the word about Jesus far and wide beyond Jerusalem.

All of the resurrection stories begin with the first witnesses to the resurrection being confused and/or afraid, not fully comprehending what they see or hear. It makes sense that they didn't understand. As readers 2,000 years later, we have the benefit of knowing the "end of the story" before Jesus' friends and family did. Although several times Jesus told his followers that he would be killed and then raised from the dead, the evangelists wrote that the apostles didn't understand what Jesus was saying then. How could they have?

Mary Magdalene is a central figure in this resurrection story, as she is in all of the other Gospels. She stayed with Jesus throughout his torture until he died, and all four Gospels tell us she was right there three days later when they discovered the empty tomb. Peter and a mysterious unnamed "other disciple" are a part of this story, too, as they realize Jesus' body is missing. They seem to realize that his corpse wasn't stolen (if it were, the burial garments surely would have gone with it). The unnamed disciple "saw and believed," but we aren't told what



"Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way?"

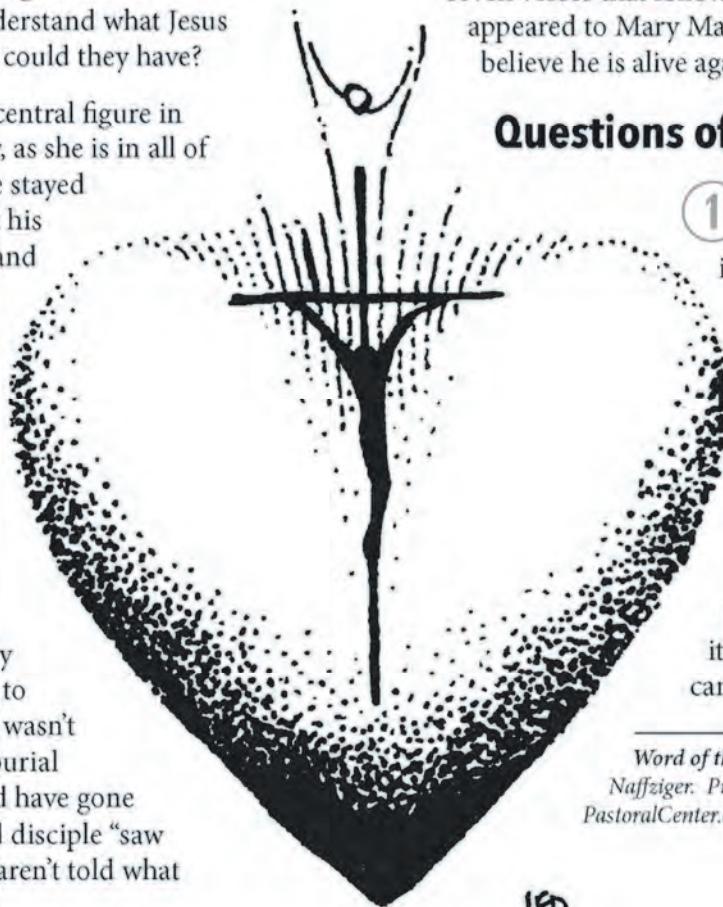
Sheepish Question:

How have I been changed by new life in Christ?
Where do I go from here?

he believed. The passage ends, suggesting the trio still doesn't understand what has happened. The seven verses that follow this passage tell us that Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene, and she comes to believe he is alive again.

Questions of the Week

- ① Mary Magdalene is the only person mentioned in all four Gospels to have learned of or met the resurrected Jesus first. What does that say to you?
- ② When you hear news that seems too good to be true, how do you first react? Do you believe it and thank God for it, or do you look for reasons it can't be true?



JFD

GOSPEL MEDITATION

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

When we awoke this morning, we found ourselves blessed with another day. It is Easter Sunday. As that thought crossed our minds, did we find ourselves saying "so what" or "alleluia"? For many, today is truly a day of alleluia. For others, it is just another day of "so what." Faith makes a huge difference. It not only makes a difference in how we understand today and the significance of what we celebrate, it also makes a huge difference in terms of how we understand ourselves.

Succeed, live well, be productive, find your niche, follow your dreams, make money, protect your social status, be politically correct, and keep your preferences to yourself are pretty good examples of the messages our secular life wants us to hear. In and of themselves, they don't sound all that harmful. But

when really examined, they are. The life of resurrection embodied in the Gospel tells us a much different story.

Life keeps us busy. We are always connected, distracted, occupied, and working. For many of us, an agenda awaits us before we even start our day, and unfinished stuff is brought with us when we retire at night. Make the best of life and "find your own road to happiness" are messages we all too easily believe. The "so what" response to the new life of resurrection is often the result of believing that life is only what I make it. What God has to say isn't important to me securing my next raise.

Sadly, we live as if the grave is the end. While we may give the wonder of heaven a blink now and then, its glory really doesn't impress us or matter all that much. It's all about the here and now and what I need to do

today to get where I want to be tomorrow. We tend to put off considering the one significant "tomorrow" that will come the millisecond after we take our last breath. When that happens, will we want to be thinking "so what?" or "alleluia"?

There is only one Jesus, one mission, and one resurrection. There is also only one of us. Have you ever pondered what one solitary, humble human life can do? Faith, not our world, tells us how special we are. We are not robots. We are not replaceable. We have one shot. There are no do-overs. Love is at our core and unites us together as one with the God of love who so desperately wants us to be with Him forever. This may not match our secular agenda, but it ought to make our true inner agenda leap for joy. There doesn't need to be an end. I can live forever. Alleluia!



When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and 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. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. - Jn 20:6-8

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

Local businesses and sponsors that advertise on bulletins need you now more than ever before. Please encourage and remind others to show their support during this time.

EASTER SUNDAY



Living Our Salvation

Lord of heaven and earth,
the Resurrection of your Son is a promise
that you will not abandon us to sin
and death
but will transform all creation
until it has at last become your
perfect kingdom.
Continue the work you have begun.
Refashion us now, today.

Liberate us from whatever is luring us
into the grave.

Share your life-giving power with us
so that we will rejoice in your love,
live in hope of our future together,
act with the unwavering courage of Jesus,
and marvel at all you accomplish.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, April 12, 2020

New Beginnings



Today's Readings: Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8; John 20:1-9 or Matthew 28:1-10. Today we rejoice, feast, and spend time with family and friends. Easter Sunday is a day of beginnings. In John's Gospel, two disciples rush to the empty tomb, where it dawns on them that something tremendous has happened. In Matthew's Gospel account, the women are given only a few moments with the Risen Christ before he sends them to evangelize.

The months following Jesus' Resurrection are busy ones. In the passage from the Acts of the Apostles that we hear today, Peter has entered the house of a Gentile. Filled with the Holy Spirit, this Apostle delivers a powerful proc-

lamation of the Gospel, yet before he finishes, the Holy Spirit comes upon everyone else in the room too. Throughout the Easter season we will hear how the Spirit of the Risen Lord leads and empowers Jesus' followers to inspire more and more people to believe in the Resurrection and to make a new beginning of their lives.

It is now our turn. It is our season of new beginnings. God shared the Spirit with us so that we will "seek what is above" and allow the Spirit to further transform us into just and holy people. God shared the Spirit with us so that we will enter people's houses, enter people's lives, and help them to begin anew.



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, April 13 The Empty Tomb

No one disputes that the tomb was empty. The question is how it became empty. By spreading a false report, some of the religious authorities hope to prevent people from believing that Jesus rose from the dead. When Peter speaks to the crowd, however, he doesn't use the empty tomb as proof of Jesus' Resurrection, but refers instead to the Scriptures and his encounter with the Risen Jesus. How would you explain the true meaning of the empty tomb? *Today's Readings: Acts 2:14, 22–33; Psalm 16:1–2a and 5, 7–8, 9–10, 11; Matthew 28:8–15.*

Tuesday, April 14 The Spirit of the Risen Lord

Mary Magdalene must let go of Jesus as she knew him in order to encounter him in a new way. Having been crucified and raised, Jesus is no longer confined to time and space, but is now present among and even within his followers through the gift of the Holy Spirit. All who accept this gift become brothers and sisters of the Risen Lord and sons and daughters of God the Father. Send a note of welcome to anyone in your community who was baptized at the Easter Vigil. *Today's Readings: Acts 2:36–41; Psalm 33:4–5, 18–19, 20 and 22; John 20:11–18.*

Wednesday, April 15 Amazement

The two disciples leaving Jerusalem are amazed by the women's report of the empty tomb. They grow increasingly astonished as the Risen Christ opens the Word and breaks bread with them—and then vanishes. Also astonished are the people in the temple who see the disabled man jumping about and praising God. These stories invite us to rejoice at the enduring power of Christ in the world. *Today's Readings: Acts 3:1–10; Psalm 105:1–2, 3–4, 6–7, 8–9; Luke 24:13–35.*

Thursday, April 16 Witnesses

Jesus' followers witnessed his mighty deeds. Two of his disciples witnessed the Risen Lord as they headed to Emmaus. Still more disciples heard the Risen Christ speak words of peace to them and prepare them to minister in his name. A man in the temple area experienced the Risen Lord acting through Peter. Peter urged the people who witnessed that healing to acknowledge the saving power of the Risen Lord. Thank someone who has been an especially strong Christian witness for you. *Today's Readings: Acts 3:11–26; Psalm 8:2ab and 5, 6–7, 8–9; Luke 24:35–48.*

Friday, April 17 Bolder than Ever

Peter seems as impulsive as ever as he dives into the water to swim to the Risen Lord. This man of action then rushes to drag over the net laden with fish when Jesus asks for more food. The Holy Spirit strengthens this natural tendency of Jesus' lead disciple. After a night in the custody of religious authorities who wish to silence him, Peter goes on to speak as boldly as ever. Pray for the Holy Spirit to help you do something brave today. *Today's Readings: Acts 4:1–12; Psalm 118:1–2 and 4, 22–24, 25–27a; John 21:1–14.*

Saturday, April 18 Dealing with Disbelief

The extended ending of Mark's Gospel account is reassuring to those who struggle to believe in the Risen Lord. Even Jesus' closest followers did not initially believe in the Resurrection. Jesus had to appear to them and empower them with his Spirit. Once that happened, it became "impossible" for them not to share the story of Christ. Read and reflect on a Gospel passage for this week. Imagine you are one of those early disciples. Ask God to strengthen your faith. *Today's Readings: Acts 4:13–21; Psalm 118:1 and 14–15ab, 16–18, 19–21; Mark 16:9–15.*





UP AND AT 'EM!

While you don't have to set the alarm for an early start as you would for a typical school day, establish a routine by choosing a regular time to start the day. Student athletes might begin with a short workout. Morning chores include making beds, picking up clothes, brushing teeth and getting dressed for the day. Children also can help the household by folding laundry, emptying the dishwasher and walking the dog.



BREAKFAST AND PLANNING

Whether breakfast is a communal meal fixed by mom, dad or another family member or everyone prepares their own, begin the routine by sitting down together to pray, eat and map out the day. Imagine this as a "team meeting" where the game plan is chalked out. Each child should leave the table with a list of tasks that need to be accomplished during the day, as well as a review of longer-term assignments that might be worked on, but not completed. When the dishes are cleared and the table is clean, it's time to start school.

FLEXIBLE SCHOOL WORK IN THE MORNING

Students in grades five through eight are capable of a fair amount of self-directed learning, especially in literature-based courses. For assignments that involve reading from textbooks or novels, they may only need a few minutes with a parent for direction. Depending on the number of children engaged in school-at-home, parents can decide to spend blocks of time with each one individually throughout the day, working on several subjects during their one-on-one time. In addition, since several children at home may be sharing a computer, the day may look different for each child – one may be working on schoolwork for the morning while another enjoys playtime until the laptop is free.



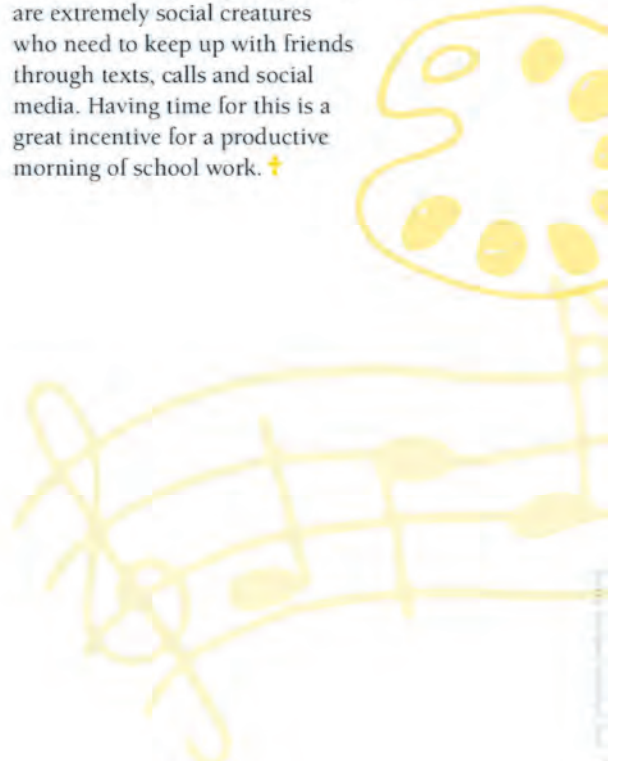
PARTICIPATE IN ONLINE LEARNING

During this unprecedented public health crisis, schools have rallied to offer continuity of learning plans and online learning opportunities for students. Many teachers are sending daily emails with assignments that are due online. Whether they're joining a Facebook Live class or watching a lesson previously recorded and posted to YouTube, students will likely be engaged with technology for big chunks of the day. For this reason, it's even more important that children enjoy tech-free recreation when their schoolwork is done.



PLAYTIME, EXERCISE, GAMES, MUSIC AND MORE

The school-from-home day ends much sooner than a typical school day, since working independently on assignments takes less time without the elements of structure that a school day requires. The result? You may announce "Class dismissed!" just in time for lunch, leaving the afternoon open for free play, board games, exercise, practicing an instrument or engaging in a hobby. Keep in mind that fifth- through eighth-graders are extremely social creatures who need to keep up with friends through texts, calls and social media. Having time for this is a great incentive for a productive morning of school work. ✚




MARRIAGE
MATTERS

HOW DO WE KEEP THE STRESS AND ANXIETY OF THIS TIME FROM STRAINING OUR MARRIAGE?



SHE SAYS:

I'm enjoying all
this together time



HE SAYS:

I need my
personal space



STEVE AND BRIDGET PATTON

*hold master's degrees in theology and
counseling and serve as family life
ministers for the Diocese of Sacramento.*



**WHAT DO
THEY DO?**

Calamities can bring out the best and the worst in a marriage. Our routines can serve us well by keeping our lives predictable and peaceful, but they can also shield us from seeing and more fully embracing the whole of each other, warts and all. So try to view this disruption to our routines as an opportunity to grow in love.

For starters, keep in mind it's only human to get on one another's nerves whenever we're forced to stay cooped up inside together. Now, as always, "be patient, bearing with one another in love." (Eph 4:2) But don't stop there.

Trust that God is in the plan even when life's wrecking balls come smashing in. "Do not be alarmed when disaster comes ... As gold is tested in the fire, so are we in the furnace of humiliation." (Ecc 2: 2-5)

Here are three verbs to help transform this calamity of forced intimacy into a purifying furnace:

Accept. I have unique needs and limitations, and so does my spouse. This means I should not expect my spouse to fully understand, let alone meet, all my needs. So, my spouse may need more time alone than I do, and I must respect and support that. Likewise, my spouse may need more socializing than I do, and I must respect and support that.

Adjust. Even if we have differing needs and limitations, we are still called to suffer well for one another. So if I think I need 14 hours a day of "me time," could I maybe shoot for 13? If I'm on the other end of this spectrum, could I likewise adjust, maybe by connecting with friends at online meeting spaces?

Pray. If you are sacramentally married, you have God at the heart of your marriage, waiting there to help you grow in sacrificial love for one another. If that sounds hollow and unreal, give this a try. During all these hours of forced togetherness, set aside just a few minutes each day to sit together before God. Light a candle, and say, "God, help us to better appreciate, support and be patient with each other." Sit there quietly for five minutes afterward, and then blow out the candle. You'll be amazed. ✝



I FEEL OVERWHELMED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. Every day things seem to get worse, and I feel powerless to do anything about it. Even going to church isn't an option right now.

With businesses and restaurants shuttered and Sunday Masses cancelled, we can quickly feel isolated. But social distancing doesn't mean we can't find ways to stay close to God and one another. Even from inside our homes, we can connect with those around us through small acts of kindness that can have a ripple effect on others.

How can I stay close to God and one another right now?

1

Be generous. Buy a gift card from your favorite restaurant or order takeout (and leave a tip!) where available. Pay or tip your hairdresser or cleaning person even if you have to cancel; they are vulnerable during a downturn like this.

2

Read. Set up a sharing library in your neighborhood and/or a virtual book group; support your local bookstore by purchasing books online as well.

3

Reach out. Call your grandma or friends with whom you have lost touch; encourage your children to write notes or draw pictures to send to those who may be lonely.

4

Get social. Go online to participate in a parish Bible study or meet up for a virtual Easter brunch. Watch a film together via Netflix Party (Bonus: It's OK to "chat" during the movie).

5

Help neighbors.

Offer to pick up groceries or share hard-to-find items.

6

Keep holy the Sabbath.

Gather with those around you, and watch a televised/live-streamed Mass. Pray a rosary together.

These everyday gestures can be powerful antidotes to the sense of helplessness and isolation many of us feel.

Remember Philippians 4:6-7: "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." †



EASTER SEASON
AT HOME

KEEPING A PRAYERFUL LIFE AT HOME



Getty Images/aldomurillo

How to get the most out of Mass online

Preview the televised Masses offered to determine which may be most appropriate for your household.

- Set up a space in your home for prayer/worship. Consider covering a table with a tablecloth or another nice cloth of the seasonal liturgical color. Place a Bible, a candle and a cross or crucifix on the table.
- Straighten the space, and arrange enough furniture for all.
- Have everyone go to the bathroom, get drinks, wash faces and come prepared to attend to the Mass.
- Turn off and remove all devices that can distract from the space.
- Remind everyone that we do not kneel and perform the ritual gestures of Mass while we are watching it, since this does not take the place of attending Mass. But everyone should attend to it prayerfully and make a spiritual communion.
- Before the Mass begins, light the candle. ▶

The pope has granted a plenary indulgence to those suffering from COVID-19

"The Plenary Indulgence is granted to the faithful suffering from Coronavirus, who are subject to quarantine by order of the health authority in hospitals or in their own homes if, with a spirit detached from any sin, they unite spiritually through the media to the celebration

of Holy Mass, the recitation of the Holy Rosary, to the pious practice of the Way of the Cross or other forms of devotion, or if at least they will recite the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and a pious invocation to the Blessed Virgin Mary, offering this trial in a spirit of faith in God and charity towards their brothers and sisters, with the will to fulfil the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer according to the Holy Father's intentions), as soon as possible."

The full text can be found at: tinyurl.com/plenaryindulgence

Catholics encouraged to practice "spiritual Communion" during COVID-19 Epidemic

After the Angelus prayer on March 3, Pope Francis invited the faithful "to rediscover and deepen the value of the communion that unites all the members of the Church. United to Christ we are never alone, but we form one single Body, of which He is the Head."

Pope Francis encouraged those unable to attend Church to pray for spiritual Communion, "a practice that is highly recommended when it is not possible to receive the Sacrament." Archbishops and bishops in the U.S. join the pope in inviting the faithful to this practice.

In his encyclical, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, Pope John Paul II explained how the essential role of the Eucharist in uniting us to Christ led to the practice of "spiritual Communion":

In the Eucharist, "unlike any other sacrament, the mystery [of communion] is so perfect that it brings us to the heights of every good thing: Here is the ultimate goal of every human desire, because here we attain God and God joins himself to us in the most perfect union."

Precisely for this reason it is good to cultivate in our hearts a constant desire for the sacrament of the Eucharist. This was the origin of the practice of "spiritual Communion," which has happily been established in the Church for centuries and recommended by saints who were masters of the spiritual life. St. Teresa of Jesus wrote: "When you do not receive Communion and you do not attend Mass, you can make a spiritual Communion, which is a most beneficial practice; by it the love of God will be greatly impressed on you." (*Ecclesia de Eucharistia* 34:68-70)



What is spiritual Communion?

Spiritual Communion is the practice of desiring union with Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. It is used primarily by individuals who cannot receive holy Communion, such as the ill, the divorced and remarried, and those who have not yet been received into full communion with the Church. St. Thomas Aquinas described it as "an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the most holy sacrament and lovingly embrace him" at a time or in circumstances when we cannot receive him in sacramental Communion.

Act of spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that you are
present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love you above all things, and I desire
to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive you sacramentally,
come at least spiritually
into my heart. I embrace you
as if you were already there and
unite myself wholly to you.
Never permit me to be
separated from you. Amen.

Saints have encouraged spiritual Communion

"Communion is to the soul like blowing a fire that is beginning to go out, but that has still plenty of hot embers; we blow, and the fire burns again."

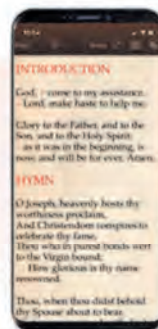
"After the reception of the Sacraments, when we feel ourselves slacken in the love of God, let us have recourse at once to spiritual Communion. When we cannot go to the church, let us turn towards the tabernacle; no wall cannot separate us from the good God." ST. JOHN VIANNEY

Spiritual Communion is "an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received Him." ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

"What a source of grace there is in spiritual Communion! Practice it frequently and you'll have more presence of God and closer union with him in your life." ST. JOSEMARIA ESCRIVA ✝

Pray the Liturgy of the Hours

The Church has another liturgy (public prayer) with which people may be unfamiliar. That is the Liturgy of the Hours, also known as the Divine Office, the daily prayer of the Church. This beautiful liturgy marks the hours of each day and sanctifies the day with prayer. The Hours are a meditative dialogue on the mystery of Christ, using scripture and prayer. Join priests and religious around the world each day, and particularly on Sundays, in praying the Liturgy of the Hours. You can find it at www.ibrevariary.com.



CULTURE

EASTER LESSON FOR KIDS

AT
375°



PHOTOGRAPHY BY SHANE FOLKERTSMA

My daughter once asked me, “Mom, what is the best thing that’s ever happened to you?” I immediately answered with what most parents would say, “Well, of course, the day you were born!”

I often ponder that miraculous event that took place in my life. Of all the events of my life, the birth of my children remains the most powerful and beautiful in my memory. But of course, as Christians, we know even something as miraculous as childbirth actually pales in comparison to the single most important event in human history, something that has happened to all of us and the most important truth and proof of our Christianity – Christ’s resurrection. It is that which has given us “a new birth into a living hope.”

(1 Pt 1:3)

But, of course, at her young age, I could have never expected my daughter to grasp the significance of Christ’s resurrection, right? Surely a reference to her own birth is a safer and more understandable response. I’m certain it makes more sense to wait for her to be a bit older before I bore her sincere question with some heavy response about human salvation.

Or does it?

It should never be too early to make the reality of our Christian inheritance known to children. I know that we are better able to grasp theology as our minds develop into adulthood, but children are smarter than we think. With the right tools and delivery, we can start them toward a better understanding of the most important, and beautiful, part of our life – our relationship with God.

One such way is to bake “resurrection rolls.” I wish I would’ve known about these when my daughter was much younger. These little gems are not only a great way to teach younger kids about the resurrection but also a quick and delicious sweet roll to make for any Easter gathering. How delicious? Well they aren’t going to be “the best thing that ever happened to you,” but they will rank highly on your list of Easter treats — and they certainly reference well the best thing that ever did happen to all of us! †



**MICHELLE
DIFRANCIO**

is a designer and the busy mom of three children.



Resurrection rolls

- 1 (10 ounce) can refrigerated crescent rolls
- Package of large marshmallows
- ¼ cup butter, melted
- ¼ cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon

SYMBOLISM

Marshmallow – Body of Jesus

Butter – Oils used in burial

Sugar and cinnamon –
Spices used in burial

Dough triangle –

Cloth used to wrap Jesus

Baked roll with empty center –
Empty tomb

■ Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Prepare a baking sheet with non-stick cooking spray or parchment paper. You may also use a cupcake tin. Separate dough into eight triangles and set aside. Combine sugar and cinnamon in a small bowl and set aside.

■ Dip each marshmallow into bowl of melted butter and roll in cinnamon-sugar. Place on each dough triangle. Pinch dough around marshmallow, sealing all edges. Make sure to seal well to prevent marshmallow from leaking.

■ Brush tops of dough balls with remaining butter and dip in cinnamon-sugar. Place roll with the sugar side up on baking sheet (or in muffin pan).

■ Bake for 13-15 minutes. The marshmallow melts into the dough, and the result is the appearance of an empty tomb upon breaking one in half. Best when served warm.

Sunday, Apr 12, 2020

SOLEMNITY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD (EASTER SUNDAY)

What do you see?

Once more, we arrive at the most significant void in sacred history: that empty tomb of Easter. What we see in this space defines the shape of our destiny. Do we view nothing or everything in this place? Is Jesus simply gone or restored to glory? Is death the end of us, or the start of something everlasting? Are we God's cherished children or just another expression of nature's capriciousness? Most of all, are we prepared to call Jesus Lord and to follow him through death into life? Or do we have other plans?

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8; John 20:1-9 (42); gospel for p.m. Mass: Luke 24:13-35 (46). "Everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

Monday, Apr 13, 2020

MONDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Put the Resurrection to work

Do we bravely race from the tomb toward new life as Mary Magdalene and Mary did, or burrow into timid cover? Consider the example of Henri Perrin, born this day in 1914. He was part of the French worker-priest movement where priests went to work in factories to bridge the abyss between the working class and the church. The Vatican grew alarmed by the political activism of the priests on behalf of labor, and stopped the experiment. The concerns of worker-priests were given new life in the Vatican II document *Gaudium et Spes*, "On the Church in the Modern World," and later by Pope John Paul II, who demanded of priests that the "fumes of incense mix with those of industry." Reflect on what worker-justice concerns you can give new life.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 2:14, 22-33; Matthew 28:8-15 (261). "Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed."

Tuesday, Apr 14, 2020

TUESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Our star witness

Mary of Magdala was first to witness and testify to Jesus' Resurrection. She is called "apostle to the apostles" for good reason. Mentioned by name in the gospels more often than most apostles, Mary traveled with Jesus and helped support his ministry financially. The question is, how do we witness to resurrection in our own life and times? In a world too often bent on destruction and death, how can we witness to hope and to life? Let "the Magdalene" be an inspiration!

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 2:36-41; John 20:11-18 (262). "Mary went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord,' and then reported what he had told her."

Wednesday, Apr 15, 2020

WEDNESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Call for backup

The miracles of Jesus did not end with Jesus' earthly sojourn. Today's reading from Acts describes Peter and John healing in

Jesus' name. What confidence that must have taken, to try healing a man lame from birth! The word *confidence* means "with trust." A nice way to understand the power of faith. Be a healing presence in the world, with the trust that Jesus has your back!

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 3:1-10; Luke 24:13-35 (263). "Peter said, 'I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have I give you: in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean, rise and walk.'"

Thursday, Apr 16, 2020

THURSDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Eat, drink, and take heart

Where would Catholic culture be without food and drink? In today's gospel Jesus reassures his disciples that he is not a ghost by eating a piece of baked fish. Food is simple, basic, and necessary. It is natural that we eat and drink together at the Eucharist, at parish dinners, at family meals. Every bite of baked fish can remind us of our Savior. Savor your next meal with fellow believers and let it drive out fear as it opens you to love, the way it did for Jesus' disciples 2,000 years ago.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 3:11-26; Luke 24:35-48 (264). "Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones."

Friday, Apr 17, 2020

FRIDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

No need to hide your solidarity

However did the fish symbol—two intersecting arcs—come to be associated with Jesus? Because his disciples were fishermen? Because of the miracle of the loaves and fishes? Because Catholics eat fish on Fridays? The letters of the Greek word for fish, *ichthys*, are an acronym for "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior." It was a secret symbol used by the persecuted early Christians. What outward sign of solidarity can you make with those who are persecuted for their faith today?

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 4:1-12; John 21:1-14 (265). "Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish you just caught.'"

Saturday, Apr 18, 2020

SATURDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

The news is still good

Do you ever think about how the followers of Jesus must have felt after his death? We see their situation through the lens of the Resurrection, but they thought his death was the end of everything. Those grief-stricken men and women were lost and afraid. Imagine their disbelief when some among them began to report that they had seen Jesus. Disbelief began to feel like hope as he continued to show up and even eat with them. That was the beginning. Two thousand years later, we continue to share the meals and tell the stories of this incredibly good news.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 4:13-21; Mark 16:9-15 (266). "She went to announce the good news to his followers."

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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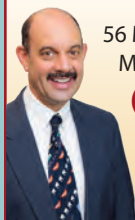
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