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**Hello, my Brothers and Sisters in Christ!**

The older I get the more I realize how truly little is under my control. As people we like to say, “we control our own destiny “but it’s been my experience that only an exceedingly small portion of that is true. Our lives are not our own! Our life was given to us!

This is why mu\*der and s\*icide are sins because our lives aren’t even our own, much less someone else’s to take!

“For we were thrown into existence.” and its God’s business when and how it ends! Do we suffer in this life? Yes! Is it worth it? YES!!! The way I see it is the time between the start and finish that matters! It’s about learning to enjoy the ride! If we are happy in this life, we will be happy but understand suffering will come. If we suffer in this life, we will suffer well!!! And know that happiness is just around the corner, for the pendulum swings both ways.

My life has been riddled with tragedy and some things I still carry with me to this day. I would not want to go through them again, but I am as thankful, now, for those troubled times, as I am for the good ones! It’s made me the man that I am today. I am by no means perfect but I’m happy with who I am!

I think that we can have reasonable expectations for the future but to think that you control your own destiny, or even your own money, is a fallacy. There are many forces that are involved that are well beyond our control, but what I have found is, it does me a lot of good to stop and just be present in the “now” for just a moment. Smell those roses, feel the wind on your face, the rain in your hair, the laughter of a child, the kiss of a lover. ...

There is joy to be had in this chaotic, topsy-turvy, perfectly imperfect world!!! And those are the moments we live for!!! At the end of my life through all the tragedy and pain complemented with immeasurable love and topped with joy unspeakable I’m going to say, “That was one ‘hell’ of a ride!!!” My life is a gift as all life is, and all these things that I have taken pleasure and pain from I did not have to experience, but I am thankful. ...and I thank my God for this life that he has given me and I’m thankful for all of you who are reading this because in some way, shape, form or fashion each one of you have touched my life in such a beautiful way and I’m thankful for that!!!

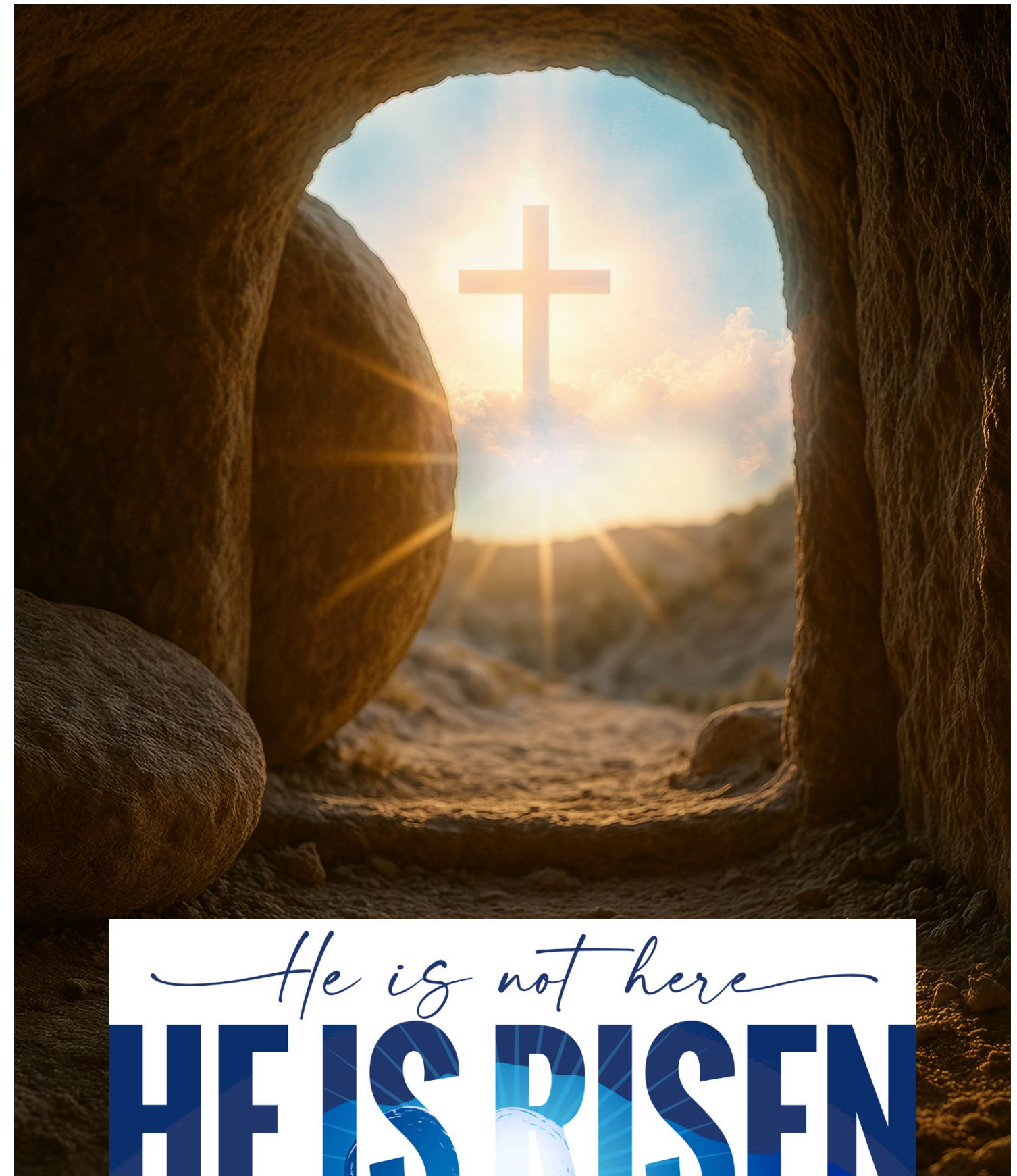
I just had a few more things on my mind that I wanted to share. Continue to pray for my family and me as we continue to embark on a journey whose end we cannot see, but we know it’s in God’s hands!!! He truly has blessed us with each other and our children and our home, and we know that he will continue to bless and move us to where he wants us to be!!

**Jesus Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!**

Eli, Your Brother in Christ

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Looking Ahead- SAVE THE DATE	
April 11	Dedication of new Altar- reception to follow
April 12 2:00 PM	Divine Mercy Devotions
May 3	First Communion
May 9-10	Hispanic Marriage Retreat
June 27-28	Bethlehem Wood Carvings



*He is not here*  
**HE IS RISEN**

MATTHEW 28:6

# ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

April 4-5, 2026

Welcome Visitors and Guests!

Bienvenidos a los Visitantes y Huéspedes!

Pastor/Párroco Fr. Tom Buckman [tom.buckman@pastoral.org](mailto:tom.buckman@pastoral.org)

[stmaryfranklinky@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryfranklinky@gmail.com)

PO Box 388, 403 N. Main St., Franklin, Kentucky 42135

Office: 270-586-4515 Rectory Phone: 270-253-3230

Music Director: Joshua Wagner

Erin Denny- Office Administrator email: [stmaryfranklinky@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryfranklinky@gmail.com)

Diocese of Owensboro [www.owensborodiocese.org](http://www.owensborodiocese.org)

*The deadline for Calendar submissions for the May Calendar Bulletin is 4/22/2026*

Saturday, April 4	No Mass	No Easter Vigil Mass at St Mary- 8:00PM at Christ the King
Sunday April 5	8:30 AM	Easter Sunday –Intentions: For the Soul of John Kelly
		OCIA Reception and Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday April 5	6:00 PM	Domingo de Pascua de la Resurrección- Para la gente de la parroquia
Monday, April 6	8:00 AM	Intentions: For the Soul of Joseph Reilly Jr.
Tuesday, April 7	Noon	Intentions: For the Soul of Michael Garrett
Wednesday, April 8	6:00 PM	Intentions: For the Soul of Jesus Echipare
Thursday, April 9	8:00 AM	Intentions: For the Soul of Mae Sloan
		Eucharistic Adoration 9:00 AM – 10:00 PM
Friday, April 10	8:00 AM	Intentions: For the Soul of John McMahon
Saturday, April 11	5:00 PM	Divine Mercy Sunday-Intention for Soul of Michael Fenley
		Dedication of New Altar- Reception to follow
Sunday April 12	8:30 AM	Divine Mercy Sunday-Intentions For the Soul of Jesus Echipare
Sunday April 12	6:00 PM	Domingo de la Divina Misericordia- Para la gente de la parroquia

**If you have Mass intentions, please contact Fr. Tom or Erin in the office.**

Mass Ministers: Please try to arrive at least 10 minutes prior to the start of Mass.

When/if you are unable to fulfill your scheduled Mass Ministry, please find a replacement Thank You, Fr. Tom

Anyone aware of the abuse of a person under the age of eighteen is required by law to report this to the proper state authorities: local law enforcement (270) 586-7425 or the Kentucky Child Abuse Hotline (toll-free: 1-877-KYSAFE1).

The Diocese of Owensboro seeks to help all who have been sexually abused and especially those abused by a person working for the Church, paid or unpaid, either past or present. To report such abuse, please call the diocesan Pastoral Assistance Coordinator (270-852-8380). The revised sexual abuse policy, which explains fully the diocese's efforts to address sexual abuse in the Church, can be found in the back of the church on the parish bulletin board and on the diocesan web site (<https://owensborodiocese.org/safe>).

If you are sick, or know someone who is ill, we want to include them in our prayers.

Please contact Erin in the parish office on 270-586-4515 or by email so our parish can pray for you and your caregivers.

Please Remember in Your Prayers the Following Parishioners, Family and Friends: Regina Cozzy and Family, Cindy & John Janicek, Harry & Mae King, Richard Hearn, Judy Cates, Helen, Ed, and Ben Berry, Tom, Margaret, Roger, and Sherrie Berry, Gail Hall, Gail Briley, DeWayne, Susie, Kassidie, Katie, and Kennedie Kirkham, Mary, and Bill Sloan

Please keep our deceased family and friends in your daily prayers:

Patrick Collins, Gracie Scott, Carol Sue Durbin, Charles Andrew Yanov, Jason W. Bracy, Mary Barnes, Conner Sheahan, Marie Watson, Debbie Head, Crystal Becker, Andrew & Michael Garrett, Angela Berry Maynard, Sarah Drake, Basil Trouten Sr., Hilda Trouten, Dorthy O'Bryan, Joseph Hagan, Susie Wyatt, Miriam Harbin, Roger Farley, Dr A.V. Wilwayco, Frank & Marie Farmer, Keith Obriskie, Helen Garst, Lois Oshefsky, John Herrmann, Sharon Henderson, Sr Maretta Murphy IHM, Dr John Kelly, Ellie Mirgoux and Rose Vogt.

## Mission Statement

*We, the people of St Mary Catholic Church, are a welcoming Catholic community called to live our faith by celebrating Mass, Sacraments, and Prayers; proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ; seeking life-long faith and formation; sharing our time; talents and reaching out in compassionate service to others.*

As of 03/30/2026			
Budget Needs 2025-26	Weekly	\$ 4,038	Budget YTD Needs \$ 157,500
Received last week		\$ 2,666	Received YTD \$ 155,040
Difference		\$ (-1,372)	\$ (-1,786)
On Going Projects	Last Week	\$ 112	YTD \$ 3,932

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 Easter Sunday 8:30 AM Mass	6 8:00 AM Mass	7 10:30-2PM SVDP Noon Mass	8 6:00 PM Mass <b>No Religious Ed</b>	9 8:00 AM Mass 9:00 AM- 10:00 PM Eucharistic Adoration 6:00 PM OCIA	10 8:00 AM Mass	11 10 AM Baptism Prep Class 12:00 Wedding Pascual/Andres 3:30 Confessions 5:00 PM Mass <b>The Dedication of the Altar</b> <i>reception to follow</i>
6:00 PM Misa						

Mass Attendance— 03/14 5:00 PM-98 3/15 8:30 AM-101 3/15 6:00 PM-103

**Please pray for our military:** Jack Jeffers, Army, Ft Carson, Colorado Springs, CO.; Eric Rafferty, Air Force, England; Korbin Bray, US Navy, Japan; Capt. Ryan Berry, USMC California; Jonathan Thompson, Navy, Jacksonville, FL; Ariel Molina Jr, Marines, Pensacola, FL.

Please call the office to add a name

The Divine Mercy Novena (materials in Parish Hall) runs from April 3 Good Friday until April 11. Divine Mercy devotions will be at St. Mary on Divine Mercy Sunday April 12 at 2:00 pm. Please plan to join us.

*We would like to say thank you to all who celebrated the imminent arrival of our newest member, Naomi. Erica and Eli were touched by all who attended the baby shower. Thank you to all who brought food, gifts, well wishes and helped to clean up afterwards.*

*A special "Thank You" to Robin Clark, Hannah Clark- Scarbrough, and Alex Becker for their creative talents.*

*Marian Becker*

In addition to supporting the St Mary Conference of St Vincent de Paul by giving alms, you are cordially invited to help serve our neighbors by joining our Conference. We assist our neighbors, and our fellow parishioners, by supporting those in need with food, rent, utility, gasoline, and other types of support. It is an extremely rewarding experience to talk with them, pray with them, provide them with tangible help, and help guide them back to self-sufficiency. Christ died on the Cross to forgive our sins and open the gates of heaven. You can follow Christ's example of loving His neighbor by reaching out to our neighbors and offering your work up to Jesus. Join us as we serve our neighbors this Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> (or any Tuesday) between 10AM and 2PM in the Parish Center. May God bless you for all you do in His name!

<b>Office Hours at St Mary: Erin is in the office on Tuesday and Thursday 9AM-4 PM (Fr Tom leaves about 3:00). Fr Tom's office hours are by appointment. Please call the office or the rectory to make an appointment.</b>
<b>Building and Grounds Committee:</b> Fr Tom Buckman, Mark Pais (Chair) David Duncan, Kenneth Bracy, Allan Cravalho, Casmiro Moratin, and Thom Boyne, and Josue Cabrera
<b>Administration &amp; Finance Committee Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday @ 5:00 PM</b> <b>Chairman- Duane Wolter</b> , John Janicek, Darrell Fenley, and Andrew Tamm
<b>Ladies Guild: President-Sheila Jeffers</b> , Secretary- Terri Tyler, Treasurer- MaryAnn Forney
<b>Religious Education Committee: DRE- Robin Clark</b> , Maria Molina, Hannah Clark, Fabiola Humphrey, and Kateri Edwards.
<b>Music Director- Joshua Wagner</b> <a href="mailto:stmaryccmusic@gmail.com">stmaryccmusic@gmail.com</a> Cantors: Valerie McGowen, and Margaret Wolter
<b>Worship/Liturgy Committee:</b> Fr. Tom Buckman, Margaret Wolter (Chair), Joshua Wagner, and Maggie Tamm.
<b>Evangelization and Outreach Ministry:</b> Fr. Tom Buckman, Duane Wolter (Chair), Eli Gantt, Colleen Rafferty, and Robert Loza
<b>Librarian-</b> Kathleen Kaapcke
<b>Archivist-</b> Sheila Harrington, Marian Becker, and Andrew Tamm

# Dear Padre,

***I'm marrying my girlfriend! Although she grew up Catholic, she doesn't practice the faith. Is it still OK to marry her?***

Will you enter marriage with your fiancée because of a mutual love for each other? Do you both understand that this love will be strengthened by the sacramental grace of your matrimonial union, a grace you will receive because of baptism, not practice? Will you both try to create a loving family and, together as a family, try to be open each day to the grace of God already at work in your lives? Do you both realize that this grace calls you to create, in the name of Jesus, a witness to the truth of the gospel, which is even more powerful than the love you share?

If you hesitate to answer any of these questions with a wholehearted “yes,” then consider exploring these questions together with your pastor or another person helping to prepare you for marriage. Perfect faith is not required for a good, sacramental marriage. Openness to faith is believing that the Lord who has brought you together is not yet finished with either of you. You both have more to learn, and, with God’s grace, you will respond to his love. Jesus will work through both of you in ways that you may not even be able to imagine. In that spirit, marry her, build a life together, and know that God’s plan for you will always be there. ●



FUMIDA DEMIRKAYA / SHUTTERSTOCK

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

## A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

***Holy Saturday...is the day in which heaven visits earth most deeply. It is the time in which every corner of human history is touched by the light of Easter.... Nothing can be excluded from [Christ's] redemption. Not even our nights, not even our oldest faults, not even our broken bonds. There is no past so ruined, no history so compromised***

***that it cannot be touched by mercy.***

**GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME, SEPTEMBER 24, 2025**



MARCO IACOBucci / SHUTTERSTOCK

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

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

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

April 5, 2026

**Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord (A)**

Acts 10:34a, 37–43 / Colossians 3:1–4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b–8 / John 20:1–9 or Matthew 28:1–10



## Believing Is Seeing

MIGUEL DULICK

**W**e celebrate Easter on the first Sunday after the first full moon of spring, which is also the first Sunday after Passover. The whole history of the world comes to this point, and today’s gospel catches the eternal thrill of that day. A desperate Mary Magdalen cannot find her Lord in the tomb. Thinking that his body has been stolen, she alerts the apostles. Peter and John go running, and a moment of unforgettable suspense follows as first Peter and then John enter the tomb. The details are significant. They saw the burial cloths there and “the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place” (John 20:7). Thieves would not have taken

the time to unwrap the body and fold the face cloth. These details are intended to point to the truth of the resurrection. They saw and believed!

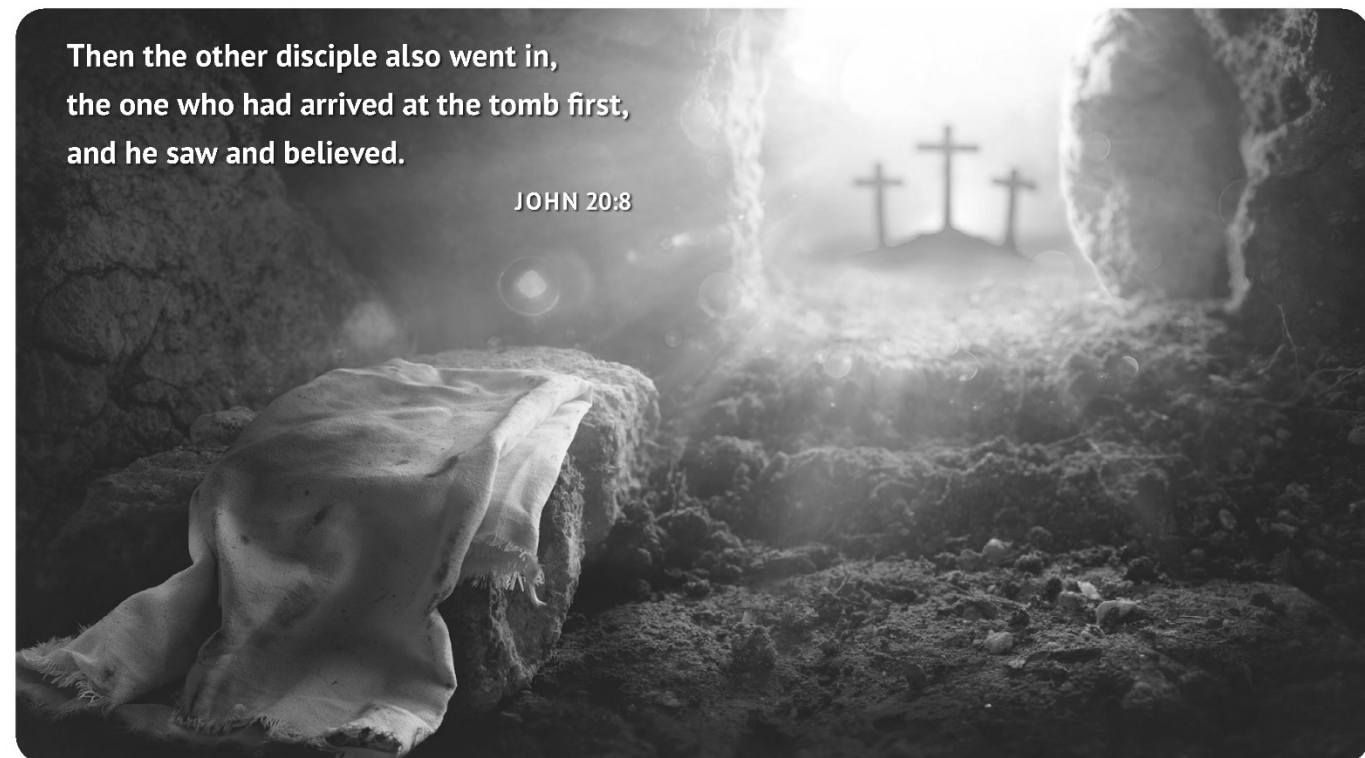
The first reading from the Acts of the Apostles follows the story of the centurion Cornelius, the first prominent pagan convert. (His story is fascinating—take time to read it this week.) Peter gives a speech including a kind of catechism that had been standardized in a formula repeated at least six times in Acts. This proclamation, or *kerygma*, incorporates the message and the motivation for a change of life. God anointed Jesus, raised him from the dead, and promised that all who believe in him will be forgiven their sins and rise with him. Happy Easter! ●

### Reflect

***Why do I believe in the resurrection, and how does my belief impact my life?***

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

JOHN 20:8



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