

POPE FRANCIS

JORGE MARIO BERGOGLIO

DECEMBER 17, 1936 - APRIL 21, 2025



2nd Sunday of Easter April 27, 2025



FROM FR. JOE

7 New Catholics Baptized & Confirmed: Jessica, Drew, Preston, Kat, Kelly, Ian, Alexandra

My Sons and Daughters, you have been made light in Christ. Walk always as children of light, that persevering in faith you may run to meet the Lord when he comes with all the saints in the heavenly court. You have been born again in Christ and have become members of Christ and of his priestly people. Now you are to share in the outpouring among us of the Holy Spirit, who was sent by the Lord upon the Apostles at Pentecost, to be given by them and their successors to the baptized.

Therefore, you also are to receive the promised power of the Holy Spirit, so that being more perfectly conformed to Christ you may bear witness to the Lord's passion and resurrection, and become an active member of the church for the building up of the body of Christ in faith and charity. Dearly beloved, let us pray to God the almighty Father, that he will graciously pour out the Holy Spirit upon these neophytes, to confirm them with His abundant gifts, and through his anointing conform them more fully to Christ the Son of God.

God bless you all.

Fr. Joe Fowler
Fr. Joe Fowler
Rector & Pastor

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

4/28: Susan Sanborn
4/29: Tandynn Guffy
4/30: Bill Smith, Jr.
5/1: Karen Parker
5/2: Mary Murdock

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Weekly Offertory for April 20, 2025

In-Church Offering: \$8,097.00

Online Offering: \$4,194.85

Total Offertory: **\$12,291.85**

CSA Participation as of April 20, 2025

Pledged: \$120,514

Given: \$85,693

Families Participating: **120**

"May the Lord reward your generosity with abundant blessings."

POPE FRANCIS



As the whole Church mourns the passing of our Holy Father, Pope Francis, we can be comforted by his last words of blessing on Easter Sunday...

The Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee is committed to healing the hurting hearts of sexual abuse victims and has established Victims Assistance Coordinators who are experienced and trained counselors and are available to help persons who have been sexually abused by a priest, deacon, or other church personnel in Northwest Florida. The Coordinator for the program in the Pensacola/Ft. Walton Beach area is Dr. Louis Makarowski; he may be reached at 850-477-7181.

Pope Francis Easter Message 2025

“CHRIST IS RISEN.

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, HAPPY EASTER!

TODAY AT LAST, THE SINGING OF THE “ALLELUIA” IS HEARD ONCE MORE IN THE CHURCH, PASSING FROM MOUTH TO MOUTH, FROM HEART TO HEART, AND THIS MAKES THE PEOPLE OF GOD THROUGHOUT THE WORLD SHED TEARS OF JOY.

FROM THE EMPTY TOMB IN JERUSALEM, WE HEAR UNEXPECTED GOOD NEWS: JESUS, WHO WAS CRUCIFIED, “IS NOT HERE, HE HAS RISEN” (LK 24:5). JESUS IS NOT IN THE TOMB, HE IS ALIVE!

LOVE HAS TRIUMPHED OVER HATRED, LIGHT OVER DARKNESS AND TRUTH OVER FALSEHOOD. FORGIVENESS HAS TRIUMPHED OVER REVENGE. EVIL HAS NOT DISAPPEARED FROM HISTORY; IT WILL REMAIN UNTIL THE END, BUT IT NO LONGER HAS THE UPPER HAND; IT NO LONGER HAS POWER OVER THOSE WHO ACCEPT THE GRACE OF THIS DAY.

SISTERS AND BROTHERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE OF YOU EXPERIENCING PAIN AND SORROW, YOUR SILENT CRY HAS BEEN HEARD AND YOUR TEARS HAVE BEEN COUNTED; NOT ONE OF THEM HAS BEEN LOST! IN THE PASSION AND DEATH OF JESUS, GOD HAS TAKEN UPON HIMSELF ALL THE EVIL IN THIS WORLD AND IN HIS INFINITE MERCY HAS DEFEATED IT. HE HAS UPROOTED THE DIABOLICAL PRIDE THAT POISONS THE HUMAN HEART AND WREAKS VIOLENCE AND CORRUPTION ON EVERY SIDE. THE LAMB OF GOD IS VICTORIOUS! THAT IS WHY, TODAY, WE CAN JOYFULLY CRY OUT: “CHRIST, MY HOPE, HAS RISEN!” (EASTER SEQUENCE).

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS IS INDEED THE BASIS OF OUR HOPE. FOR IN THE LIGHT OF THIS EVENT, HOPE IS NO LONGER AN ILLUSION. THANKS TO CHRIST — CRUCIFIED AND RISEN FROM THE DEAD — HOPE DOES NOT DISAPPOINT! SPES NON CONFUNDIT! (CF. ROM 5:5). THAT HOPE IS NOT AN EVASION, BUT A CHALLENGE; IT DOES NOT DELUDE, BUT EMPOWERS US.

ALL THOSE WHO PUT THEIR HOPE IN GOD PLACE THEIR FEEBLE HANDS IN HIS STRONG AND MIGHTY HAND; THEY LET THEMSELVES BE RAISED UP AND SET OUT ON A JOURNEY. TOGETHER WITH THE RISEN JESUS, THEY BECOME PILGRIMS OF HOPE, WITNESSES OF THE VICTORY OF LOVE AND OF THE DISARMED POWER OF LIFE.

CHRIST IS RISEN! THESE WORDS CAPTURE THE WHOLE MEANING OF OUR EXISTENCE, FOR WE WERE NOT MADE FOR DEATH BUT FOR LIFE. EASTER IS THE CELEBRATION OF LIFE! GOD CREATED US FOR LIFE AND WANTS THE HUMAN FAMILY TO RISE AGAIN! IN HIS EYES, EVERY LIFE IS PRECIOUS! THE LIFE OF A CHILD IN THE MOTHER’S WOMB, AS WELL AS THE LIVES OF THE ELDERLY AND THE SICK, WHO IN MORE AND MORE COUNTRIES ARE LOOKED UPON AS PEOPLE TO BE DISCARDED.

WHAT A GREAT THIRST FOR DEATH, FOR KILLING, WE WITNESS EACH DAY IN THE MANY CONFLICTS RAGING IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF OUR WORLD! HOW MUCH VIOLENCE WE SEE, OFTEN EVEN WITHIN FAMILIES, DIRECTED AT WOMEN AND CHILDREN! HOW MUCH CONTEMPT IS STIRRED UP AT TIMES TOWARDS THE VULNERABLE, THE MARGINALIZED, AND MIGRANTS!

ON THIS DAY, I WOULD LIKE ALL OF US TO HOPE ANEW AND TO REVIVE OUR TRUST IN OTHERS, INCLUDING THOSE WHO ARE DIFFERENT THAN OURSELVES, OR WHO COME FROM DISTANT LANDS, BRINGING UNFAMILIAR CUSTOMS, WAYS OF LIFE AND IDEAS! FOR ALL OF US ARE CHILDREN OF GOD!

[... continuing]

MAY THE PRINCIPLE OF HUMANITY NEVER FAIL TO BE THE HALLMARK OF OUR DAILY ACTIONS. IN THE FACE OF THE CRUELTY OF CONFLICTS THAT INVOLVE DEFENCELESS CIVILIANS AND ATTACK SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS AND HUMANITARIAN WORKERS, WE CANNOT ALLOW OURSELVES TO FORGET THAT IT IS NOT TARGETS THAT ARE STRUCK, BUT PERSONS, EACH POSSESSED OF A SOUL AND HUMAN DIGNITY.

IN THIS JUBILEE YEAR, MAY EASTER ALSO BE A FITTING OCCASION FOR THE LIBERATION OF PRISONERS OF WAR AND POLITICAL PRISONERS!

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, IN THE LORD’S PASCHAL MYSTERY, DEATH AND LIFE CONTENDED IN A STUPENDOUS STRUGGLE, BUT THE LORD NOW LIVES FOREVER (CF. EASTER SEQUENCE). HE FILLS US WITH THE CERTAINTY THAT WE TOO ARE CALLED TO SHARE IN THE LIFE THAT KNOWS NO END, WHEN THE CLASH OF ARMS AND THE RUMBLE OF DEATH WILL BE HEARD NO MORE. LET US ENTRUST OURSELVES TO HIM, FOR HE ALONE CAN MAKE ALL THINGS NEW (CF. REV. 21:5)!

”

HAPPY EASTER TO EVERYONE!

POPE FRANCIS



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