



A Member of the St. Juan Diego Deanery  
Sister Parish with Sacred Heart of Jesus

## Parish Staff & Contacts

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**Don Alt** Finance Council Moderator  
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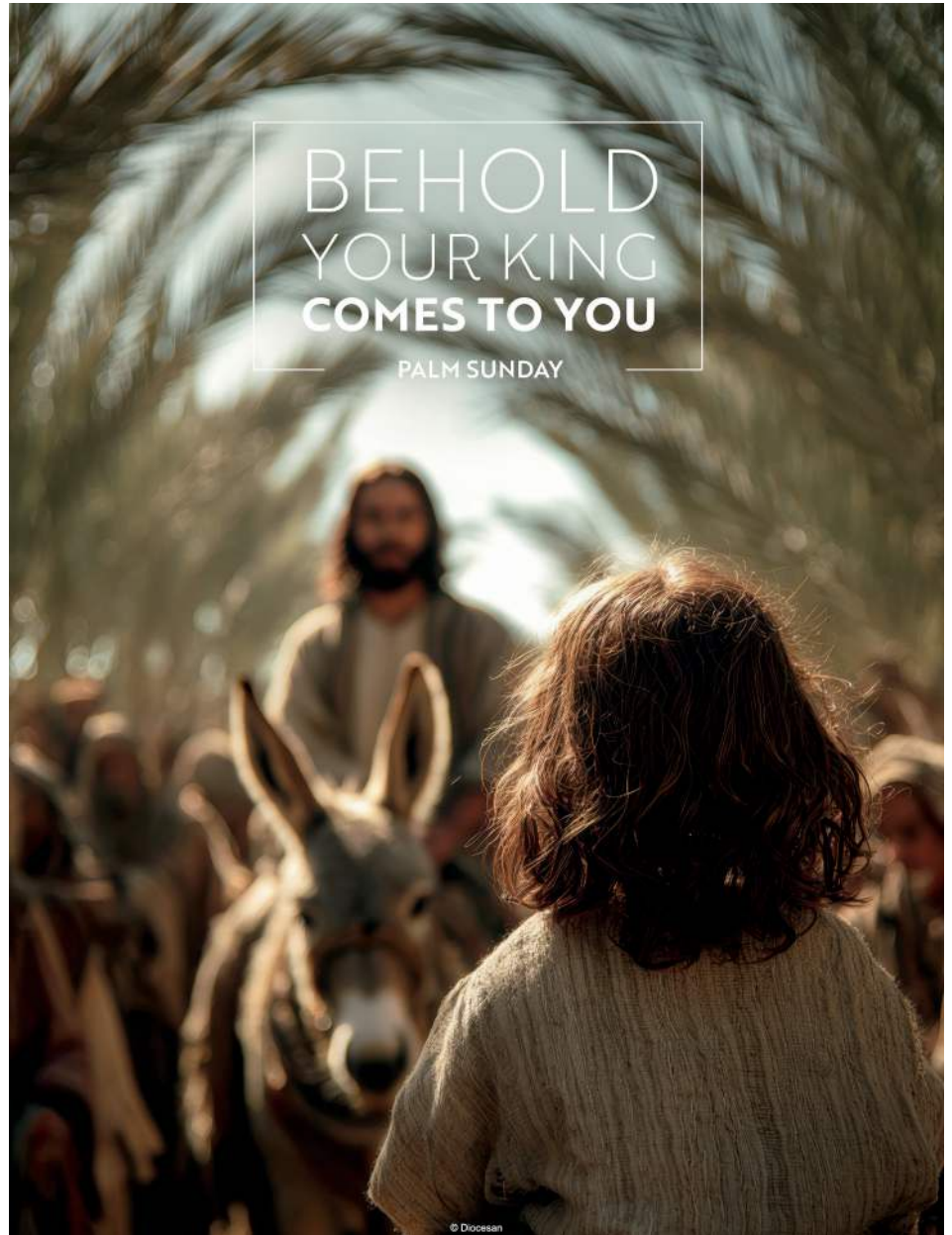
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**Website** [stjosephcrestline.org](http://stjosephcrestline.org)

### Office Hours

Monday - Friday, 8:00am to 1:00pm

### Bulletin Deadline

Monday by 9:00am before the  
desired Sunday. To submit items for  
the bulletin, please email  
[lsimmons@stjosephcrestline.org](mailto:lsimmons@stjosephcrestline.org) or  
call the Parish Office.

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord | March 29, 2026

## Letter From the Pastor

Greetings All,

As St. Joseph is hosting the Holy Week Triduum this year, I wanted to give everyone a heads-up about the different Easter schedule.

Easter Vigil

8:30 p.m. – St. Joseph

Easter Sunday

!! 7:00 a.m. – Sacred Heart !!

(This is not a typo—Sacred Heart will have the 7:00 a.m. Mass this year on Easter Sunday.)

9:00 a.m. – Sacred Heart

11:00 a.m. – St. Joseph

We are still in need of ministers for the 7:00 a.m. Easter morning Mass at Sacred Heart. Please check the Ministry Scheduler App if you are able to assist.

The last time Sacred Heart hosted the 7:00 a.m. Easter Mass, only a few people accidentally went to St. Joseph. Please help spread the word that this year the 7:00 a.m. Easter Mass will be at Sacred Heart.

Also please remember that the Easter Triduum is at St. Joe's this year.

Holy Thursday is at 7pm at St. Joe

&

Good Friday service is at 3pm at St. Joe

In Christ,

Fr. Jeff 

## Scripture Readings

For the Week of March 29, 2026

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion</b> Mt 21:1-11; Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14-27:66 or Mt 27:11-54
<b>Monday</b>	Is 42:1-7; Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14; Jn 12:1-11
<b>Tuesday</b>	Is 49:1-6; Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17; Jn 13:21-33, 36-38
<b>Wednesday</b>	Is 50:4-9a; Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34; Mt 26:14-25
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Holy Thursday - Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper</b> Ex 12:1-8, 11-14; Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18; 1 Cor 11:23-26; Jn 13:1-15
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Good Friday of the Lord's Passion</b> Is 52:13-53:12; Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25; Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Jn 18:1-19:42
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Holy Saturday at the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter</b> Gen 1:1-2:2 or Gen 1:1, 26-31a; Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 or Ps 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20 and 22; Gen 22:1-18 or Gen 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11; Ex 14:15-15:1; Ex 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18; Is 54:5-14; Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13; Is 55:1-11; Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6; Bar 3:9-15, 32-4:4; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11; Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28; Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 or Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 or Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19; Rm 6:3-11, Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Mt 28:1-10
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>The Resurrection of the Lord</b> Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23; Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8; Jn 20:20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10 or Lk 24:13-35 ( <i>Afternoon or Evening</i> )



The Easter Vigil is Saturday, April 4th. Please pray for the following as they are fully initiated into the Holy Catholic Church:

St. Joseph: Tawny Garvin and Shelli Watkins

Sacred Heart: Abigail Brockwell, Zachary Derham and Melinda Mess

OCIC: Logan Calkins, Kensley Edginton, Elianna Ettel, Evelyn Harper, Nevaeh Hill and Deacon Keller



## Chrism Mass - Tuesday, March 31

You are most cordially invited to join us for the Chrism Mass, which will be celebrated by Daniel E. Thomas on Tuesday of Holy Week, March 31, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral. Representatives from St. Joseph will be present and will take the blessed and consecrated oils back to our parishes to be used in the celebration of the sacraments during the next year.

## Mass Schedule & Intentions

*Tuesday · March 31*

**6:30 pm Mass at Sacred Heart**  
Jeanne, Paul & Kathleen Gosser

*Wednesday · April 1*

**8:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart**  
Rev. Joseph Weigman

*Thursday · April 2 - Holy Thursday*

**7:00 pm Mass at St. Joseph**  
Paul & Mary Alt

*Friday · April 3 - Good Friday*

**3:00 pm Service at St. Joseph**  
**7:00 pm Stations of the Cross at Sacred Heart**

*Saturday · April 4 - Holy Saturday/Easter Vigil*

**8:30 pm Mass at St. Joseph**  
Lindsey & Lisa Anatra; Walter Johnson

*Sunday · April 5 - Easter Sunday*

**7:00 am Mass at Sacred Heart**  
For the People of Sacred Heart and St. Joseph Parishes

**9:00 am Mass at Sacred Heart**  
Ron & Barb Finnegan; Jeff Belcik; David Hicks

**11:00 am Mass at St. Joseph**  
William "Bill" Sharrock; Rev. Stanley Szybka; Charles Marek

## Sacred Heart Secretary Opening

**Parish Office Secretary - Sacred Heart, Bethlehem Parish is seeking a Part-Time Administrative Assistant** that projects the parish's vision and goals through interactions with the pastor, visitors, parishioners and colleagues. The secretary serves as a welcoming face of our parish and provides essential administrative and clerical support to the pastor, business manager, and other staff members.

Top Qualifications:

- Detail oriented
- Possesses strong organizational skills and record keeping
- Good communication skills
- Proficient in computer skills specifically using Microsoft Office products

Interested persons should send a resume to Fr. Jeff Smith at [jsmith@toledodiocese.org](mailto:jsmith@toledodiocese.org).

*I would like to extend my profound gratitude to Becky Kromer for her nine years of dedicated service in this essential parish ministry.*

*In Christ, Fr. Jeff*

<i>Check Ministry Pro for updates.</i>	<i>Saturday, April 4 8:30 pm</i>	<i>Sunday, April 5 11:00 am</i>
<i>Lector</i>	Dan Legge Katie DiLullo Joe DiLullo	Adrienne Ruhe
<i>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</i>	John Bonen Dan Legge Steve Vogt	Tracy Dzugan Adrienne Ruhe Kristen Wozniak
<i>Altar Servers</i>	Charlie Rietschlin Louie Rietschlin Veronica Rietschlin	Max Ruhe Miles Ruhe Luci Wozniak
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	OCIA Candidates	Matt & Adrienne Ruhe Family
<i>Ushers</i>	Bernadette Karasko Keith Ketcham	Matthew Ruhe Mark Schneider

## Holy Week Ministry Schedule

*Holy Thursday, April 2 - 7:00 pm at St. Joseph*

**Lector** - Debby Ketcham  
**EMHCs** - Steve Vogt, Dave Horning, Steve Marek,  
**Servers** - Felix Beeson, Titus Beeson, Blaise Metzger  
**Gift Bearers** - John & Shari Link  
**Ushers** - Bernadette Karasko, Keith Ketcham

*Good Friday, April 3 - 3:00 pm at St. Joseph*

**Lector** - Linda Salvati  
**Servers** - Blaise Metzger, Gus Metzger  
**Ushers** - Dave Sharrock, Lynn Whites



## Catholic Women's Club

The Catholic Women's Club of St. Juan Diego Deanery will meet **Wednesday April 8th at the Ontario Event Center**. We will gather for social time at 11:30, luncheon at 12 noon, and our speaker will be Angela Eisaman from Taking Roots Farms. We will collect Canned goods for Shelby Helpline. All women are invited to attend, so if you need a reservation please call 419-545-2242 Sharon Houseworth, our April chairperson.

## Widow Support Group at Sacred Heart

*Sunday, April 26 at 1:00 pm*

*Sacred Heart School Gymnasium*

The Ladies of Sacred Heart Church are inviting all widows to join them in the school gymnasium on **Sunday, April 26th. at 1:00pm** for a time of prayer, sharing, light snacks and games. While rooted in the Catholic faith, all widows are welcome. Please feel free to invite a friend.

For more information: contact Lillian Niese at: [rrlniese@hotmail.com](mailto:rrlniese@hotmail.com) or 419-631-1603 or Kathy Cole at: [kathym.cole@icloud.com](mailto:kathym.cole@icloud.com) or 419-565-8060

## Area Opportunities for Confession During Lent

### **Sunday, March 29**

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm at Most Pure Heart of Mary, Shelby  
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm at Resurrection Parish, Lexington - 3 priests

### **Monday, March 30**

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm at St. Peter, Mansfield - 3 priests

### **Tuesday, March 31**

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm at St. Mary of the Snows, Mansfield - 3 priests

## Women's Retreat - Spa Day for the Soul

*Saturday, April 18, 2026*

*8:15 am - 1:00 pm*

*St. Mary School, 26 West Street, Shelby, Ohio*

Speaker: Emily Jaminet - Catholic author, speaker, podcaster, married and the mother of seven. \$30 per person, brunch and lunch included.

Go to [tinyurl.com/MPHM26Women](https://tinyurl.com/MPHM26Women) to register. Scholarships available. Please make checks payable to MPHM Altar & Rosary. Contact Myra Snider for more information at 614-563-2856.



## This Week on Formed

Week of March 29, 2026



### **Triduum: A Spiritual Pilgrimage**

Triduum: A Spiritual Pilgrimage cinematically walks through the locations of the Holy Week story, representing the most important days of human history. Immersed in the Holy Land, the pilgrim is brought tangibly nearer to the story, the landscape, and the reality of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.



### **The Last Days: The Passion and Death of Jesus the Christ w/ Jonathan Roumie**

This filmed presentation of the theatrical production movingly recreates the final moments of Jesus' earthly ministry as a teacher through His crucifixion and death. The play has been seen by thousands worldwide, not only as a live performance but also in live streams and televised broadcasts.



### **Understanding Palm Sunday**

Focusing on the Biblical account of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. Ben Akers break open the meaning of why Jesus rode on a donkey, the significance of the palm branches and the singing of Hosanna, and how this event launched Holy Week and the redemption of the world.

Our parish has a Formed subscription.  
Visit [signup.formed.org](https://signup.formed.org) and select our parish name.

An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

## Year of St. Francis Pilgrimage Sites

Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed a Year of St. Francis to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the saint's death. During this time of grace, which extends through January 2027, the faithful have the opportunity to obtain a plenary indulgence.

Bishop Thomas has designated three Franciscan Pilgrimage Sites in the Diocese of Toledo for the faithful to visit in prayer:

The Portiuncula on the Motherhouse grounds of the Sylvania Franciscans

The Motherhouse Eucharistic Chapel on the grounds of the Tiffin Franciscans

The Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey

For more information about the Year of St. Francis and details for Franciscan Pilgrimage Sites, visit: [toledodiocese.org/franciscan](https://toledodiocese.org/franciscan)

## The Passion of Our Lord According to Saint John by Randall DeBruyn

*A Good Friday Music Reflection by The Adoramus Ecumenical Choir*

*Good Friday, April 3 at Noon*

*Basilica & National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation, Carey, Ohio*

Featuring beautiful choral passages, moving solos, and congregational song, the music is sure to help all meditate deeply on the Lord's Passion. The Adoramus Choir is an ensemble comprised of members of Christian churches of many denominations.

All are welcome to come and listen to the music of this most sacred and somber day in the stunning acoustics of the historic Basilica and Shrine.

## Eucharistic Healing Service

*Friday, April 10 6:30 - 8:30 pm*

*Sorrowful Mother Shrine Indoor Chapel, Bellevue, Ohio*

Led by Fr. Patrick Gonyeau. This healing service will have prayer for both spiritual and physical healing.

Due to limited seating in the Shrine Chapel, please confirm attendance by RSVP to 419-483-3435 option 4.



## Protecting Our Youth

The Diocese of Toledo remains committed to ensuring the protection of children and providing a safe environment for all young people. If you have any knowledge of abuse that has been committed by a cleric, or any personnel of the Catholic Church, you are urged to report the abuse to your local police department, Children Services, and the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator at (419) 214-4880 or by mail at 1933 Spielbusch Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43604.



Diocese  
of Toledo

JUBILEE YEAR OF  
**SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

Declared by Pope Leo XIV to commemorate the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the saint's death

## JANUARY 2026 – JANUARY 2027

During this time of grace, extending through January 2027, the faithful are granted the opportunity to obtain a plenary indulgence, under the usual conditions. This Franciscan Jubilee Year is a gift for the entire Church and an occasion for authentic spiritual renewal. Following the example of St. Francis of Assisi, every Christian is invited to grow in holiness of life and to be a constant witness of peace.

### How to Participate

The faithful are invited to participate in the Jubilee Year in the Diocese of Toledo by making a pilgrimage to the following Franciscan Pilgrimage Sites, as designated by Bishop Daniel Thomas:



#### **PORTIUNCULA**

*On the Motherhouse grounds of  
the Sylvania Franciscans*  
620 Convent Blvd, Sylvania, OH 43560

Open Every Day  
from 8:00am to 5:00pm



#### **MOTHERHOUSE EUCCHARISTIC CHAPEL**

*On the grounds of  
the Tiffin Franciscans*  
200 St. Francis Avenue, Tiffin, OH 44883

Chapel Open Wednesdays & Sundays  
from 10:00am to 2:00pm with Mass at 11:00am;  
Grounds Open Every Day  
from 9:00am to Dusk



#### *The Basilica & National Shrine of* **OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION**

*The Conventual Franciscan  
Friars of the Province of Our  
Lady of Consolation*  
315 Clay St, Carey, OH 43316

Open 24/7

# PLENARY INDULGENCES



## What is A Plenary Indulgence?

A plenary indulgence is a grace granted by the Catholic Church through the merits of Jesus Christ to remove the temporal punishment due to sin. The indulgence applies to sins already forgiven. A plenary indulgence cleanses the soul as if the person had just been baptized.

Plenary indulgences obtained during the Special Jubilee Year of St. Francis can also be applied to souls in purgatory with the possibility of obtaining two plenary indulgences for the deceased in one day, according to the Apostolic Penitentiary.

## How to gain a plenary indulgence

This indulgence can be obtained, given the completion of the ordinary conditions (see below), through pilgrimages (including the holy sites designated for the Diocese of Toledo) or works of mercy and penance.

**Make a pious pilgrimage to one of the designated pilgrimage sites.** A pious visit includes:

- Spending a “suitable” amount of time during a prayerful visit in Eucharistic adoration, either in exposition or before the tabernacle, meditation, and concluding with praying for the intentions of Pope Leo XIV, the recitation of the Our Father, any legitimate form of the Creed, and invocations to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

## Ordinary conditions for plenary indulgence

To obtain any of the plenary indulgences the following conditions must be fulfilled:

- Detachment from all sin, even venial.
- Sacramental confession, holy Communion, and prayer for the intentions of the pope. These three conditions can be fulfilled a few days before or after performing the works to gain the indulgence, but it is appropriate that Communion and the prayer take place on the same day that the work is completed.
- A single sacramental confession is sufficient for several plenary indulgences, but frequent sacramental confession is encouraged to obtain the grace of deeper conversion and purity of heart.
- For each plenary indulgence that is sought, however, a separate Holy Communion and a separate prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father are required.
- The prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father is left up to the choice of the individual, but an Our Father and Hail Mary are suggested.



Diocese  
of Toledo



*Learn more:*  
[toledodiocese.org/francis](http://toledodiocese.org/francis)

## Weekly Offering

March 22, 2026

<b>Total Offertory Collection</b> .....	<b>\$5,362.38</b>
Sunday Envelopes .....	\$1,815.00
Loose Checks .....	\$725.00
Loose Currency .....	\$394.00
Online Giving (All Categories).....	\$416.38
Votive Lights .....	\$82.00
School Support .....	\$140.00
Parish Maintenance .....	\$755.00
Church Building Maintenance .....	\$695.00
Flower Fund.....	\$30.00
Altar Candles .....	\$205.00
Caritas .....	\$5.00
Easter .....	\$100.00

## Thank You !

To sign up for weekly or one-time online contributions, you can use the QR code or visit our parish website: <https://stjosephcrestline.org/announcements>.



## Holy Hour

**Update!** - We will resume our weekly Holy Hour prayer in church beginning Tuesday, April 7 at 11:00 am.

We hope you can join us as we pray for our beloved country. God bless us all and the USA.

## Pray the Rosary With Us!

Every Sunday at 9:55 am in church before the 10:30 am Mass

Extra rosaries can be found in the narthex.



## Palm Sunday

D E N Y D L P C R L  
 P F T E M P L E C W  
 A P A S S O V E R C  
 S M B X W N D I C R  
 L J R L B R M S R Q  
 E T N E O R H O O N  
 E N K H M O E Y W O  
 P H L L M A D A S S  
 B E T R A Y I M D O  
 R E B U I L D N F U

Passover  
 Betray  
 Bread  
 Blood  
 Crows  
 Deny  
 Remain  
 Asleep  
 Temple  
 Rebuild



SUNDAYKIDZ

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## Pilgrimage to Italy

**Pope Leo XIV has declared a Jubilee Year to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi.** We have the unique opportunity to spend time in Assisi during this Jubilee. The Mansfield area Catholic churches invite you to join us on the upcoming pilgrimage to Italy, which includes three nights in Assisi, with visits to the Basilicas of St. Francis, St. Clare, and St. Mary of the Angels. We will visit the final resting sites of St. Francis, St. Clare, and St. Carlo Acutis. We will also see the San Domiano cross from which Christ spoke to St. Francis in 1206, commanding him to "rebuild my Church".

For additional information about the pilgrimage you may contact Kathy Wilkinson at 419-989-8513 or by email to [kmadams58@gmail.com](mailto:kmadams58@gmail.com) or go [catholicfaithjourneys.com](http://catholicfaithjourneys.com).



## Thank You!

A big thank you to everyone involved with our St. Joseph Feast Day event. John Wood's presentation was both dynamic and thought-provoking.

It was wonderful to see everyone step up to make this event a success, from bakers, candy makers, cooks and servers, to the set-up and clean-up crews!

Also, thank you to our parishioners and friends who came to honor and celebrate our patron saint.

St. Joseph ... please pray for us!

## Gift Cards from RaiseRight (formerly known as SCRIP)

*Please remember our RaiseRight program when shopping for Easter gifts and dining out.*



RaiseRight.

Information about RaiseRight can be found on our school's website at [stjosephcrestline.org/school-news](https://stjosephcrestline.org/school-news) or in the back of church.

Lindsay Mills is our program coordinator, and she can be reached at 419-961-4276 for assistance. Thanks for your support of our school.

## One Minute Meditations

### St. Anselm of Canterbury

Born in Aosta, Italy, he attended a Benedictine school as a youth. After traveling around France and Italy for his studies, St. Anselm entered the Benedictine Order. When the current Archbishop of Canterbury died, Anselm, who by then was a Benedictine abbot, was promoted as Canterbury's new Archbishop. St. Anselm navigated church reforms, theological study, and political tensions. He was exiled for resisting the king's interference in Church matters but was allowed to return in peace.

### Glorious wounds

Every Easter, we celebrate that Jesus definitively conquered sin, evil and death. God, not evil, has "the last laugh." Yet, He still has His wounds. The Resurrection transformed what were wounds of rejection into glorious trophies - proof of His love, power, and trustworthiness as our Savior. When we encounter difficulty, even great suffering, we can look to the glorious wounds of our Savior with hope. If we stay close to Him, we'll be victorious too.

"It comes down to this: If Jesus didn't rise from the dead, then Christianity is a fraud and a sham. If He did rise from the dead, then He is who He said He is, and our lives must change accordingly. There is no middle ground."

Bishop Robert Barron

## Don't Just Celebrate Easter. Step Into It.

At the heart of Christianity is not just an idea or a rule of life, but an encounter with the Risen Christ and the new life of grace He offers. Easter invites us to step into that life more deliberately. Here are four simple ways to begin:

**Encounter the Risen Christ.** Mary Magdalene stood before Jesus and didn't recognize Him until He spoke her name (John 20:16), and her grief became joy. That encounter is possible for us. Come to Mass with intention. Don't just attend—arrive expecting to meet Him. Listen closely, pray honestly, and remember that in the Eucharist, Christ is truly present.

*Practical step: Before Mass, pray, "Jesus, help me recognize You today."*

**Take an "Emmaus walk."** Two disciples left Jerusalem discouraged, and Jesus met them on the road. He helped them to see God's faithfulness in their lives. He can do the same for you. Take time this Easter season for a quiet walk with Him. Speak openly about what's

on your heart, and listen for His voice.

*Practical step: Ask, "Lord, where have You been at work in my life that I haven't seen?"*

**Choose mercy.** Jesus gave His Apostles the power to forgive sins (John 20:21–23), ensuring His mercy would always be available. We're called to receive it—

*"Do not be afraid. Open wide the doors for Christ." John Paul II*

and extend it. Forgive, hold back harsh words, and choose patience.

*Practical step: Identify one situation where you can offer a concrete act of mercy this week.*

**Be open to mission.** The Resurrection sends us out. God still calls ordinary people for His work. Your mission may be simple: show patience, reach out, or step up where needed.

*Practical step: Ask, "Where am I being nudged to act?" Then take one small step.*

Easter isn't just celebrated—it's lived, one step at a time.

## Why Do Catholics Do That?

## Why do Catholics believe in the Resurrection?

The Resurrection is not only a matter of faith; it has also been examined through historical and forensic inquiry. The New Testament accounts draw on early eyewitness testimony, preserved with notable consistency compared to other ancient sources. The Shroud of Turin has likewise been widely studied, with some researchers noting

features consistent with a first-century Roman crucifixion, while the image's formation remains unexplained. Finally, despite intense early persecution, Christianity spread rapidly, reflecting the deep conviction of its first followers. Together, these considerations suggest the Resurrection is rooted in both faith and historical reflection.

# After Lent, the work begins

Pope Leo XIV described Lent as a time to “place the mystery of God back in the center of our lives.” Yet the growth in holiness and renewal of faith that begins in Lent is meant to continue well beyond the season.

Keep custody of the heart. To guard the heart is to protect it from whatever disrupts our relationship with God. It means “allowing the word of God to touch our hearts and welcoming it with a docile spirit.” The habits formed during Lent can help sustain this: a daily Morning Offering, reading the Gospel, or setting aside time to visit the Blessed Sacrament. A healthy spiritual life depends on staying connected to the God who loves us most.

Keep custody of the tongue. This is a form of fasting that

lasts all year. Pope Leo urges us to “disarm our language,” avoiding harsh words and rash judgment. Refusing gossip and slander is an act of self-denial. Instead, we are called to measure our words and practice kindness and respect. This simple discipline can bring new life not only to our own hearts, but to those around us.

Keep custody of your time. What we give our time to shapes who we become. It’s easy to let our days fill with noise, distraction, and busyness that leave little room for God. Be intentional about how you spend your time. Protect moments for prayer, rest, and what truly matters—your family, your vocation, your relationship with the Lord. Even small choices, repeated daily, create space for grace to grow.

## from **S**cripture

### John 10:1-10, The Good Shepherd seeks us

In this passage, Jesus uses the image of a shepherd to reveal who He is, how He cares for us, and how He invites us to respond. But why a shepherd?

In Jesus’ time, shepherding was a demanding and often dangerous way of life. A good shepherd knew each sheep personally and remained constantly with the flock. Many sheepfolds had no gates; at night, the shepherd would lie across the entrance, becoming the barrier that protected the sheep from danger. If a sheep was lost, injured, or attacked, the shepherd would go after it, tending to its wounds and, if

necessary, risking his own life.

The meaning is clear. Without the steady care, guidance, and protection of the shepherd, the sheep would not survive. In the same way, we depend on God. Jesus, our Good Shepherd, knows each of us by name. He does not abandon us. He seeks us out when we are lost, heals us when we are wounded, provides for our needs, and protects us—even to the point of laying down His life.

In response, He asks for our trust, so that He may lead us safely home.

## Q & A

### Why Do Catholics eat bacon on St. Mark’s feast day?

The Feast of St. Mark the Evangelist (April 25) has become, for many Catholics, a fitting day to enjoy bacon. The Church has a long tradition of honoring saints through liturgical celebrations, local customs, and even particular foods—practices that help preserve our shared spiritual heritage and remember their heroic witness.

In 828, Venetian merchants transferred the relics of St. Mark from Alexandria, Egypt, to Venice, Italy. To pass safely through Muslim-controlled ports, they hid the relics beneath layers of pork, a meat considered unclean under Islamic law. According to tradition, port officials, repelled by the cargo, chose not to inspect it closely, allowing the relics to reach Venice safely, where they remain today. In remembrance of this event, some Catholics mark his feast day—or the anniversary of the relics’ arrival on January 31—by eating pork.

Honoring a saint’s relics is a tangible expression of reverence, much like placing flowers on the graves of fallen soldiers. It reflects respect for their lives, their witness, and their service to God. Ultimately, in honoring the saints, we honor the God who formed them.

## Feasts & Celebrations

**April 2 – Holy Thursday.** Today, we celebrate Jesus’ institution of the Holy Eucharist and the Priesthood to perpetuate it. Today, we celebrate He who remains really present to us in the Blessed Sacrament. Pray for priests.

**April 12 – Divine Mercy Sunday.** In 1931, Jesus appeared to St. Faustina and asked that the Sunday after Easter become the “Feast of Mercy.” Jesus promised special graces to those who honor Him as the King of Mercy and pray The Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

**April 17 – St. Stephen Harding (1134).** St. Stephen and two companions founded the Cistercian religious order in Citeaux. As abbot, he guided the community through many hardships. St. Bernard of Clairvaux and

several companions joined him and revived the order. St. Stephen founded twelve more religious communities throughout France.

**April 20 – St. Agnes of Montepulciano (1317).** At a young age, she begged her parents to let her enter the Franciscans. When she was thirteen, the pope asked her to found a monastery at Proceno. Inspired by a vision, she founded a Dominican order at Montepulciano.

**April 30 – Pope St. Pius V (1572).** Born to a poor family in Italy, Antonio Ghislieri became a Dominican, taught theology, and became Pope Pius V. As Pope, he established seminaries and hospitals, and published the Roman Catechism, Roman Breviary, and the Missal. He promoted the praying of the Rosary for the victory of Christian forces at the Battle of Lepanto (1571). He is also known for efforts to implement the Council of Trent.

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