

Dear Padre,

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

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

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

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



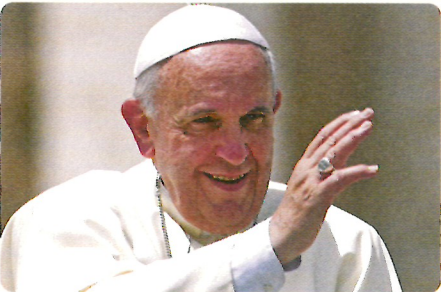
SHUTTERSTOCK / SUTLARA MARTINOW

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

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

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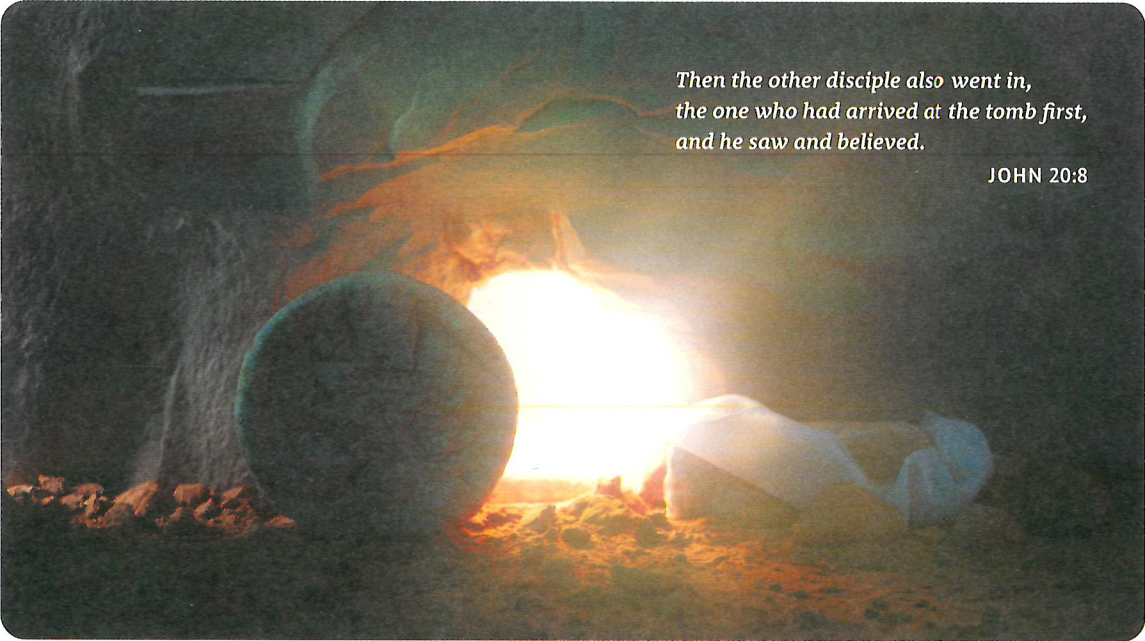
A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

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

URBI ET ORBI MESSAGE, ROME, APRIL 4, 2021

Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 31, 2024
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord (B)
Acts 10:34a, 37-43 / Colossians 3:1-4 or 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8 / John 20:1-9 or Mark 16:1-7



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

JOHN 20:8

Life without a Blankie

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

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

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

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

Reflect

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

Sunday, March 31, 2024 – Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

ST. JUDE PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday Mass at 9:30 a.m.

Confessions by appointment or after Mass on Thursday

Weekly Thursday Mass – 10:30 a.m., Adoration at 9:00 a.m.

Rosary first Sunday of the month at 9:00 a.m. before Mass.

Website: www.stjudeparishgobles.com Office: (269) 628-2219

Pastor: Fr. Alan Jorgensen Office: (269) 657-4459

Pastoral Administrator: Deacon Jim Bauer Office: (269) 628-2219
P.O. Box 102, 13809 M-40 Cell: (269) 655-6510
Gobles, MI 49055
Email: deaconjimbauer@gmail.com

For pastoral emergencies, contact Deacon Jim on his cell phone.

St. Jude Parish Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Office Email: st.judeparishgobles@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant-Bookkeeper: Lauren Gilbert (269) 628-2219
Choir Director: Laura Woods (269) 628-4866
Religious Ed Coordinator: Jennifer Price (269) 377-6734
Safe Environment Coordinator: Jennifer Rossell (269) 744-2582
Janitorial Staff Dave & Neola Secondi

Mass Intention for today: March 31, 2024 – The People of St. Jude Parish

NEXT SUNDAY, April 7, 2024

READER: CCD Students

ALTAR SERVERS: Daisy, Bo, Alanah, Rocky

Mass intention for Thurs., April 4, 2024: No Mass or Adoration

Mass intention for Sun., April 7, 2024: Emily & Herbert Perry by Laine Reisch

Weekly Collection Information

Collections:	Target	Received	Over-(under)	Attendance
Mar. 24, 2024:	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 2,499.00	\$ 799.00	103
Year to Date:	\$ 71,500.00	\$ 71,653.81	\$ 153.81	4342

The Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ-A Truly Amazing Story

This Easter, we can see and believe, saying yes to the celebration of this sacred mystery. Saint Peter begins his address by telling his listeners: We, too, know the story of Jesus's resurrection. Most of us have heard it many times and have become somewhat unmoved by what we are here to celebrate. But for many at the Easter Vigil, it was their first-time experiencing Jesus's resurrection as they received Baptism, Confirmation, and First Communion.

A man put to death by hanging on a tree was raised on the third day. The disciples ate and drank with a man who rose from the dead. How truly amazing! But let us take a step back in the story where we hear in John's Gospel wherein Mary Magdala, Peter, and John, the beloved disciple, encounter the empty tomb. **These friends of Jesus had heard Him talk about His death. Jesus told them that He would rise after three days. Like us, they had heard. But they did not yet understand.** If our hearts are not moved by the story of the Resurrection, it could be that we, like these friends of Jesus, have yet to understand. We may not understand how the death of someone 2000 years ago has any bearing on our lives now. **We do not realize or understand that the love which our hearts long for, is stronger than death. We fail to understand what the resurrection means, that there is nothing that can separate us from God's presence and help.** And yet, like the beloved disciple, today we can see and believe. We can say yes to the celebration of something we do not completely understand.

How do we go about saying "Yes"?

First, these questions cannot be understood in a single day or in isolation. Perhaps we need to seek the wisdom of others. This could mean looking at our parish resources to reach out to a family member, neighbor, or member of the clergy. It could look like setting up a regular time with a friend to talk or pray over questions together. When we take a concrete step to move from simple wondering into active seeking the help of others, the living Christ will bring His light.

Secondly, in the particular graced moments when the Eucharist is consecrated and given in Communion, we can talk to Jesus; **HE IS AIVE! HE IS HERE!** Take that moment when you receive Jesus in the Eucharist what HE wants to give us in this Easter season. **Let us bring our needs, our hurts, our questions, and our joys to the living Christ.**

Today, we celebrate in a particular way the risen Christ's presence. Not even death could keep him from us. So mighty is HIS love for us that HE transformed the evil of the cross into a blessing through which HE can eternally unite us to God.

HE IS NOT HERE! HE IS RISEN! HE IS ALIVE! HE IS HERE! ALLELUIA!

Let us congratulate Madison, Mackenzie, and Maxwell,
our newest brother and sisters,
who received their full Christian initiation
into the Catholic faith at the Easter Vigil.

THE ST. JUDE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM MON., 4/1/24 THROUGH FRIDAY 4/5/24.

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL: Pete Percival, Steve Klein, Garry Adams, Joan Rumery, David Vana, Phil Boyer, Margie Burris, Lillian B. Wheeler, Frances Parsons, Sonny and Mary Laughlin, Donna Murphy, Jack Secondi, Mary Heinz, Vicki Clark, Vivian Polomcak, and all those on our Prayer Chain.

HAPPY EASTER! As our CRS Rice Bowl journey comes to an end, may the Eucharist continue to transform our lives and help us respond to God's call to serve our global family. Let us commit to sharing the joy of the Resurrection with people in our local community and around the world. CRS Rice Bowls are due back today or donate online at crsricebowl.org/donate (please indicate your Diocese).

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE - That first Easter morning was confusing. Jesus was missing, and Mary Magdalene, Peter, and John "did not know" what to do. In family life, there are confusing moments when "we don't know" what to do. Like the apostles, we are Easter people when we believe and trust in each other, even when all seems lost.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR APRIL – facial tissues, mustard, packages of taco seasoning, chili mix, over-the-counter products for allergies, pain relief, acid reducer. If someone is 60 years of age and over, and their monthly income is \$1580 a month for one person, they can apply to receive CSFP/Senior Commodities each month. If you have any questions, feel free to call 269-501-0224.

ORDINATIONS

Please pray for all the men who will be ordained in the coming weeks:

April 13th – Please pray for the 13 men preparing to be ordained by Bishop Lohse as permanent deacons. The Ordination Mass will take place at St. Augustine Cathedral, Kalamazoo.

May 18 – Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate, 10 a.m., St. Augustine Cathedral, Kalamazoo.

June 1 – Ordination to the Priesthood, 10 a.m., St. Augustine Cathedral, Kalamazoo. Ordinations will be live streamed on the diocesan Facebook and YouTube channels.

THERE IS A PENANCE SERVICE at St. Mary's in Paw Paw on Sunday, April 7th, at 3 p.m.

BRING IN YOUR OLD PALMS through Divine Mercy Sunday (4/7/24). We'll make sure that they are disposed of properly. There is a basket in the hallway for drop off. Thanks!

FROM THE DIOCESE

RETURN OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD THIS JUNE –

Bishop Lohse has announced that the regular distribution of the Precious Blood at Mass will return to Parishes across the diocese on June 23rd. Parishes will participate in three Sundays (June 9, 16, 23) of catechesis prior to the return. More information will be available on the diocesan website.

DIOCESE SEEKS SUPERINTENDENT OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS - The Diocese of Kalamazoo is seeking a dynamic, driven education professional for its role of Superintendent of Schools. This position oversees all aspects of governance for the 21 Catholic schools of the Diocese of Kalamazoo. The Superintendent ensures a Catholic learning environment that provides and fosters quality academic programs. Qualified candidates should possess a State of Michigan teaching certificate and a minimum of a master's degree in educational administration or a similar area. PhD preferred. Visit diokzoo.org/employment for the full job description. Send cover letter and resume to Tammi Wachterhauser, HR Director, twachterhauser@diokzoo.org

RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY – SPACE LIMITED! YOUNG ADULT PILGRIMAGE TO EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS - The Diocese of Kalamazoo is opening up 26 spots to take a young adult group to the congress from Friday, July 19 – Sunday, July 21. The price per person is \$130 and includes: - Ticket to the National Eucharist Congress for July 19-21, Friday - Sunday - Transportation to and at the Congress - Overnight stay If you would like to reserve your spot or have any questions regarding the event, contact Santiago Banda, Young Adult Coordinator, sbanda@diokzoo.org

BISHOP LOHSE TO LEAD PILGRIMAGE TO ROME IN MARCH 2025 – Bishop Lohse and Father Bob Creagan will lead a jubilee pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi March 19-27, 2025. The early bird registration discount is extended to April 1, 2024. More details and information available at www.diokzoo.org

THE DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO has and will continue to cooperate with the Michigan Attorney General's investigation and encourages anyone with information related to misconduct to call the reporting number set up by the Michigan Attorney General's office at: (844) 324-3374.