

Dear Padre,

I was baptized as a baby, but I never really went to church. Lately, I’ve been attending Mass. Are there steps I should take before I receive Communion?

The first step is to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation (confession). This is a wonderful opportunity to be officially welcomed back into full practice with the Church. After such a long absence, it is important to examine your conscience and celebrate the forgiveness of the Lord before you receive holy Communion.

I would also recommend that you “beef up” your understanding of what it means to be a practicing Catholic. You might do this by participating in your parish’s process for the Christian Initiation of Adults (called OCIA or sometimes RCIA). The Liguori Publications program, *Journey of Faith*, is one resource used by many parish communities. Another possibility is to use some of the resources offered online, such as Bishop Robert Barron’s *Word on Fire* website, which has a fine reputation.

I am happy you have responded to the stirrings of the Holy Spirit within you and answered the call to deepen your spiritual practice and journey. The Church needs you. The people of God welcome you. You are beloved among us, and your response in faith is a powerful witness, a reminder to those who may be tempted to take for granted the gift of faith. Thank you. ●



A candidate and his sponsor sit for a photo after an Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) class. LOS ANGELES TIMES VIA GETTY IMAGES

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
April 21	April 22	April 23	April 24	April 25	April 26	April 27
Octave of Easter	Octave of Easter	Octave of Easter	Octave of Easter	Octave of Easter	Octave of Easter	Second Sunday of Easter / Sunday of Divine Mercy
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	Acts 5:12-16
Mt 28:8-15	Jn 20:11-18	Lk 24:13-35	Lk 24:35-48	Jn 21:1-14	Mk 16:9-15	Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19
						Jn 20:19-31

**Do you have a question for the Padre?**  
Go to [DearPadre.org](#) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

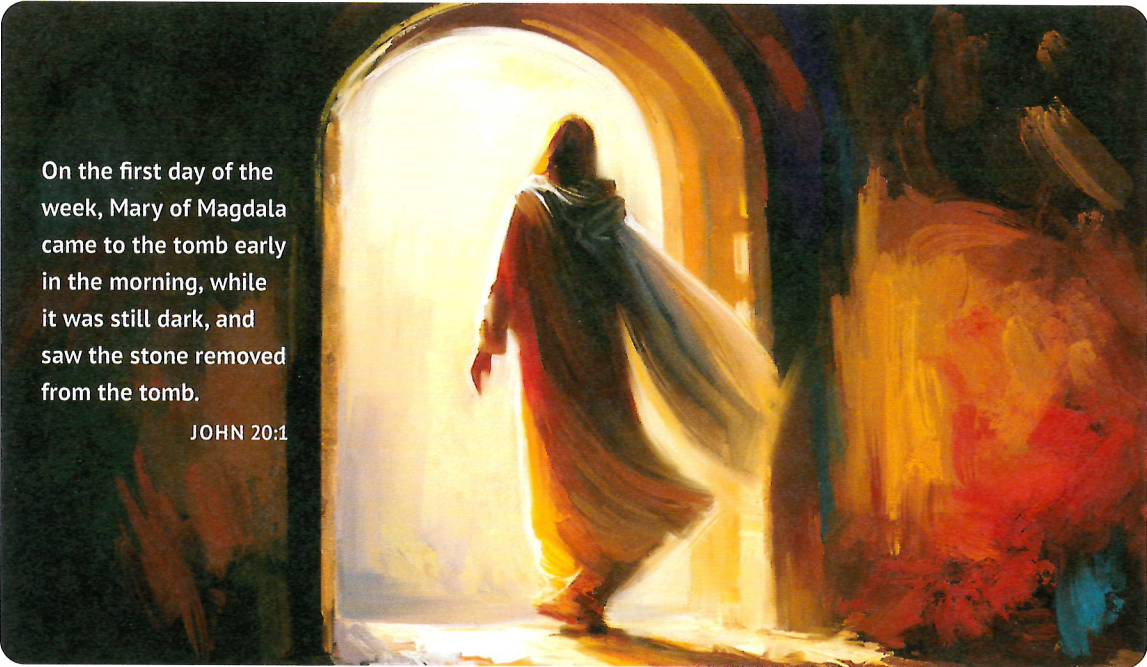
We welcome the Easter message: “Peace be with you!” Brothers and sisters, let us allow the peace of Christ to enter our lives, our homes, our countries!... Let there be a decision for peace.... Please, please, let us not get used to war!... May the leaders of nations hear people’s plea for peace.

URBI ET ORBI MESSAGE, ROME, APRIL 17, 2022

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Our Parish COMMUNITY

April 20, 2025  
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord (C)  
Acts 10:34a, 37-43 / Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8 / Jn 20:1-9



On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb.

JOHN 20:1

Bit by Bit

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Looking for proof of the resurrection is like looking for proof of love. Sometimes, we realize only gradually—bit by bit—that we are loved. John’s Gospel abounds with images of light and darkness. So when this Sunday’s Easter Gospel recounts Mary of Magdala going to the tomb early in the morning while it was still dark, the gospel is not simply marking the time of day. It’s noting that what was taking place was before they believed in the resurrection, when they were still in the dark. All sorts of hints about the resurrection begin to occur: Mary sees the stone rolled away, Peter and the other disciple go to the tomb and find the burial cloths. They see the cloth that had covered his head rolled up and set aside. No apparition of Jesus, no men in white garments, no angels. Only hints that with the resurrection of Jesus,

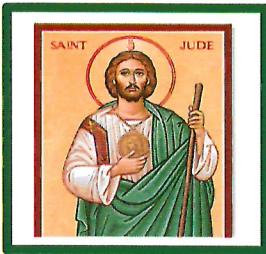
God has made all life new and destined for resurrection. What, then, might one do who is plagued by doubts? Look for hints of resurrection, of life coming about where one expects only death (as if to symbolically enter the tomb). What types of hints? Going for counseling, as frightening as that may be, and finding peace. Talking through a problem in marriage. Finding that empty-nesting gives way to new life. Discovering retirement’s gifts. Making a dreaded move to a new city or school. The resurrection of Jesus means God makes all life new. We only need to see it and discover that, bit by bit, it leads to faith. ●

Reflect

What are the hints of resurrection surrounding me? Have I missed any?



April 20, 2025 – Easter-Resurrection of Our Risen Lord



**ST. JUDE PARISH**

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**For Pastoral Emergencies, Contact Deacon Jim on his cell phone.**

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** Mon.-Thurs., 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Weds. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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Choir Director:	Laura Woods	(269) 628-4886

**WEEKLY MASS CALENDAR:** *Confession: Thursday Mornings after Mass* **CELEBRANT:**

Sunday	Apr. 20, 2025	9:30 a.m.	Easter Sunday Mass	Fr. Schmidt
Thursday	Apr. 24, 2025	9:00/10:30 a.m.	Adoration/Mass	Fr. Creagan
Sunday	Apr. 27, 2025	9:30 a.m.	Easter Mass	Fr. Creagan
Thursday	May 1, 2025	9:00/10:30 a.m.	Adoration/Mass	Fr. Creagan

**WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS:**

Sunday	Apr. 20, 2025	The People of St. Jude Parish	By: Pro populo
Thursday	Apr 24, 2025	Rose Christoff	By: Marie Keller
Sunday	Apr. 27, 2025	Rose Marie Patricio	By: Sadie Payne
Thursday	May 1, 2025	Howard & Giannina Lounsbury	By: M/M Jake Van Dam

**TODAY: SUNDAY, 4-20-2025**

**NEXT SUNDAY: 4-27-2025**

Reader	Jennifer Price	Reader	Luke Sage
EO Ministers	D. Herschleb & D. Hanchak	EO Mins.	Dan & Lorie Wahmhoff
Servers	Bella, Carlena, Alanah, Emma, Sadie	Servers	Bo, Bella, Carlena, Ryan

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION**

Sunday	Apr. 06 2025	Target	\$ 2,200	Offered	\$ 2,085	\$ 115.00
Year to Date		Target	\$ 77,100		\$ 80,250.20	\$ 3,150.20
Attendance		93	Year To Date Attendance			4704

*See Something, Say Something*

The phrase “See something, say something” has worked its way into our vocabulary. Originally, it was meant to encourage anyone to speak immediately if they saw something out of the ordinary—something that could harm others or be a threat. “See something, say something” was a way of promoting everyone’s safety and acknowledging that each of us has a role in safeguarding one another. For the good of all, if you see something, say something.

In the first reading, we hear Peter speaking to the gathered people. He begins to recount the life, ministry, passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Peter, along with the other Apostles, has been a witness to much of this, and in the light of the astounding news of Christ’s resurrection, he is compelled to say something about what he has seen – or, more appropriately, to say something about who he has seen. He has, in fact, seen Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

He and the other Apostles have seen the miracles that Jesus worked; they have shared in table fellowship with him; they have encountered him risen from the dead; and Jesus has told them that as they have seen something – the reality of Jesus’ healing ministry, the power of his preaching, his death and resurrection – so they are to say something about it to others. They are to proclaim this reality so that others may be drawn to Jesus Christ, the Lord of both the living and the dead, the very source of forgiveness from sin, the one who offers us eternal life.

In the Gospel, we hear that Simon Peter and the other disciple, whom we assume is John, have heard Mary of Magdala’s astounding news of the Lord’s empty tomb. They race to the tomb to see for themselves. Both Peter and the other disciple see the empty tomb, as well as the burial cloths. They see the evidence of the Lord’s resurrection, and they begin to understand. In the days that follow, their understanding of this mystery will grow; as their understanding expands, they start sharing what they have seen with one another and with so many “others” they meet – the crowds to whom they will eventually minister as Apostles.

They see something, and they say something. Through the ministry of the Apostles, others see the reality of the resurrection and say something, and so on, down the line, to our own time.

How have we seen the goodness of Christ in our lives? When have we experienced his mercy and healing? How have his words offered us hope, given us direction, and changed our lives? This is what we “see” – and like Peter, John, and the other disciples, we are encouraged to say something about it to others. We are encouraged to give witness, as we are able – to be leaven or to help lift others up in the power of Christ’s resurrection.



### A Reflection from Holy Saturday's Readings

#### Abundant life is found in union with the resurrected Jesus.

When the women arrive at Jesus' empty tomb, the men in dazzling garments ask them, "Why do you seek the living one among the dead?" Jesus, the resurrected Lord, calls us to the fullness of life in union with Him. Like the women in today's Gospel, let us leave the empty tomb to seek the living where life is to be found – in Jesus Christ

#### FROM THE DRE

No class April 20 -- Happy Easter

No class May 4 -- Confirmation Celebration

No class May 11 -- Happy Mother's Day

May 18 -- Final Class/Clean-up Day

Please pray for Daisy, Alexa, and Isabella  
as they finish their final preparations for Confirmation on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### **\*\*\*\*\* ATTENTION\*\*\*\*\***

**Due to the Narthex (Hallway) being remodeled next week, the office will be closed.**

**We will have Mass and Adoration on Thursday, April 24 at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.**

**PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:** Fr. Jorgensen, Brian and Sonny Laughlin, Rosemary Wood, Julie Haley, Steve Klein, Barb Percival, Joan Rumery, Margie Burris, Lillian B. Wheeler, David Vana, Donna Murphy, Jack Secondi, Mary Heinz, Vicki Clark, and those on our prayer chain.

**ST. JUDE'S IS SPONSORING CARING NETWORK'S PARISH PLAYPEN DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH/APRIL.** The Diocese of Kalamazoo's pro-life agency serves pregnant women of all ages, faiths, and marital status who need support in their life-affirming decisions! The following items are currently in low supply in the Caring Closet: boys' and girls' pajamas (sizes 12-24 mos., 3T-4T); girls' tops (sizes 12 and 18 mos.); girls pants 3T-4T; boys tops 18 mos. and 3T; boys pants 18-24 mos., 3T-4T; Diapers sizes 4, 5 and 6; socks for 1-5-year-olds; onesies 6mos and up; baby wash and baby lotion. **All donations are due by April 30th.**

**CRS RICE BOWLS** – If you haven't already done so, please turn in your Rice Bowls as soon as possible. Thanks!

#### Divine Mercy Sunday

On April 30, 2000, Pope John Paul II declared that the second Sunday of Easter is to be celebrated as Divine Mercy Sunday, the same day as he canonized Sr. Faustina. Christ appeared to Sr. Faustina around 1930 and asked her to spread the message of His Divine Mercy to the world. That message made it to our country in 1941.

**St. Mary's in Paw Paw will have a Divine Mercy Service, with the reciting of the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 2:30 p.m. and the Sacrament of Reconciliation beginning at 3:00 p.m.**

*A special indulgence is granted to those who venerate the image of the Divine Mercy, go to communion the day of the Feast, and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation within twenty days before the Feast.*

*Let us open our hearts and ears to Christ's call of Mercy.*

#### FROM THE DIOCESE

**2025 NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC PILGRIMAGE - DREXEL ROUTE.** As the three-year National Eucharistic Revival in the United States draws to a close on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, all are invited to pray before the Blessed Sacrament along the St. Katharine Drexel Route from Indianapolis to Los Angeles.

The 2025 Drexel Route opens with a Mass of Thanksgiving in Indianapolis on **Sunday, May 18th**, before spending traveling through the **Diocese of Joliet** [Joliet, IL] on **May 18-19**. The team will travel with the Blessed Sacrament through parts of the Midwest before heading to Texas and along the states of the Southwestern United States.

This year's pilgrimage route will include numerous opportunities to encounter Jesus, including daily Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Eucharistic Processions, witness talks, and fellowship meals with the Perpetual Pilgrims. Registration and a full listing of event details and locations in each participating diocese can be found at [2025 National Eucharistic Pilgrimage - Drexel Route](#)

**BISHOP LOHSE HAS PLEDGED** to provide professional counseling or therapy to victims of clergy sex abuse in the Diocese. Victims can receive 24-hour care via the crisis hotline set with Catholic Charities at 800-873-8336.