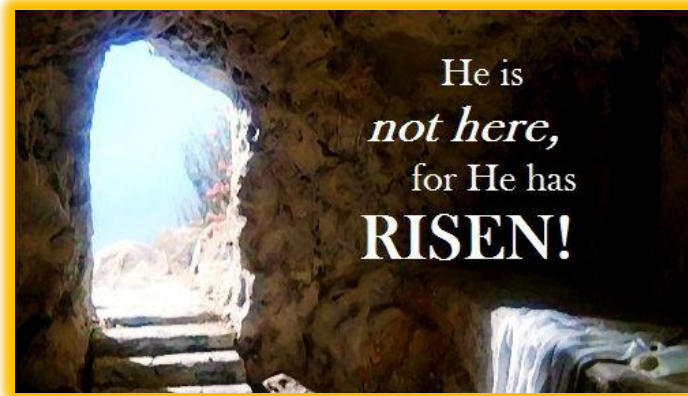


**St. Laurence Catholic Parish**  
**Elementary Children's Faith Formation (CCE)**  
**Week 19 Lesson Plan**



***Liturgical Season of Easter Lesson***

**Essential Question ("EQ"):**

***Why and how do Catholic Christians celebrate the Season of Easter?***

**CATECHIST PREPARATION**

***To prepare for this week's lesson:***

- Prepare your adult heart and mind ahead of the lesson by watching [BISHOP BARRON'S EASTER HOMILY](#), [UNDERSTANDING THE SUNDAY MASS READINGS DURING EASTER](#) or [BISHOP BARRON ON THE MEANING OF EASTER](#) and, reading [WHAT IS EASTER?](#)

As Catholics, we cannot underestimate the importance of the Easter story to the world at large, but more particularly in our own lives. As Bishop Robert Barron mentions in his homily referenced above, Easter was then, *and should remain now*, the literal earthquake that shakes the foundations of the world. Knocking its unsuspecting witnesses off their feet over 2000 years ago, the edgy message left by this miraculous event which occurred in human history has the power to still rock the world today, if we allow it to. Treated by some as a bland spiritual statement that no longer has relevance or fails to 'make tyrants tremble in its wake,' we who have *encountered the Risen Lord in our own lives* should see this as a 'grab everyone by the lapel' moment. Like the first disciples who actually ate and drank with the Risen Lord after his Resurrection and went to their deaths defending the truth of it, we should feel compelled to share this story with all who will listen. While some may dispel the truth of the Paschal Mystery, [WE HAVE EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE IN THE RESURRECTION.](#)

After that first Easter morning, Jesus' disciples were downcast and frightened. How could they go on? They thought that Jesus was gone forever and feared for their own lives. During the Easter Season, we recall the appearances of the resurrected Christ to his disciples as recounted in the Bible. Through Jesus' appearances, we come to a deeper realization that Christ is still alive and present to us as well. We, too, can

recognize Jesus just as the disciples recognized him on the [Road to Emmaus](#) Jesus is, of course, present in the Scriptures and the Seven Sacraments of the Catholic Church, but most especially in the Holy Eucharist at each Mass. Jesus comes to us each and every day not only in the people that we encounter, but also in our reflection and prayer. We are the Easter people who believe that the cross transformed all suffering and pain, and the Resurrection secured the promise of eternal life. It is this Paschal Mystery, this Easter faith, that we are called to live each day. We do not live by fear, but rather by faith. Jesus' death is not the end of our story. As Pope Saint John Paul II said,

“Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song.” [John Paul II ANGELUS](#) (Nov 30, 1986) [REFLECTION](#)

**For some other resources on how Jesus is present in our lives, go to:**

[IMAGINATIVE PRAYER: A MEETING ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS](#)

[3 MINUTE RETREAT: IN THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD](#)

[THE PASCAL MYSTERY IN EVERYDAY LIFE](#)

[WE ARE AN EASTER PEOPLE REFLECTION](#)

[WE ARE AN EASTER PEOPLE](#) (video)

- Review the appropriate grade-level learning targets from the *Catechetical Framework for Lifelong Faith Formation* (CFLFF) posted on the Catechist website at <https://stlaurence.org/the-catechist> for your age group. Keep these targets in mind as you prepare for and progress through the weekly lesson, making discussion points based upon these specific age-appropriate targets.
- Reflect upon a favorite Bible passage that you would like to share with your children about how the first disciples encountered the Risen Lord after that first Easter, and why it resonates with you; or consider any one of the following:  
[LUKE 24: 13-35](#), [LUKE 24: 36-48](#), [JOHN 20: 11-18](#), [JOHN 20: 19-23](#), [JOHN 20: 24-29](#),  
[JOHN 21: 1-14](#), [MATTHEW 28: 16-20](#),
- Create a [Prayer Table](#) (or check out [How to Make a Prayer Table for Kids](#)) in a special corner of the classroom. Keep a Bible reverently displayed there to be used for readings in your lessons. When proclaiming *The Word* to children, it is more impactful to read directly from the Bible and not just from their workbooks. This gives them the sense that this is not just any book.
- Establish a comfortable learning space in your classroom for your session.

**Supplies you may want to have on hand before beginning the Lesson:**

- A *Catholic* family or children's Bible (go to [USCCB](#) for approved Bible translations); on campus, we use the [ST. MARY'S PRESS CHILDREN'S BIBLE](#), a classroom set of which is located in the "CCE" storage cabinet.
- An electronic device with reliable internet access (i.e., an in-class mounted TV or TV cart if a video will be watched as part of the lesson)
- Sticky notes
- Art or any unlined paper
- Crayons, markers and pencils as needed (located in the "CCE" storage and your class bin)
- (*Optional*): Materials necessary for any of the craft ideas selected during the EXTEND segment of the lesson



## **OPENING PRAYER**

Begin your discovery session today with your learners in prayer. Gather together in your dedicated prayer space and ask the children to quiet their minds and hearts as you pray together. Begin with the [SIGN OF THE CROSS](#) and then recite a favorite prayer, choose one of the [COMMON PRAYERS BY GRADE](#), pray the [EASTER PRAYER](#) or the [LORD'S PRAYER](#), or sing the [ONE TWO THREE JESUS IS ALIVE](#) song or the [KIDS EASTER MEDLEY](#) together as a class. Conclude by praying the [SIGN OF THE CROSS](#).

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## **ENGAGE**

### **(Mental warm-up)**

Say, "Today, we are going to learn about Easter, which is *the most important* time of the year for Christians. It is so important, in fact, that the Church joyfully celebrates Easter for *50 days*. I want to begin today by sharing with you one of my favorite scripture passages from the Bible about how Jesus appeared to his friends, or disciples, following his Resurrection from the dead on that first Easter ... (*Read your favorite passage from the Bible and explain WHY it is important to you or your favorite passage*) You know, Jesus' Death on the Cross and his Resurrection after three days shows us that death is not the end of our story. Jesus is ALIVE and has conquered death for us. This is the very foundation for our faith as Catholic Christians."

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## **EXPLORE**

### **(Pre-assessment of faith concepts)**

**Ask/Discuss**, "What do you know about the *Liturgical Season of Easter* and why/how it is celebrated by the Catholic Church?"

- ❖ As the children share their ideas, have them jot a few down on a sticky note (with their name) and then place them on the wall in your discovery space. (For younger children, you may act as the 'scribe'). Retain the sticky notes to have an understanding of what your child or children already know or don't know. This will be helpful as you move along in your lessons.
  - ❖ To facilitate thinking and discussion use some of the following questions: When does the Church celebrate Easter? Why do we celebrate Easter? What day of the week do we celebrate Easter on? Why? When was the very first Easter? Who was there and what happened? How did those who were present at the first Easter feel about what happened? Why is Easter so important to the Christian faith? What is another name for what we remember during the season of Easter? What is the *Resurrection*? Did Jesus *really* rise from the dead? How do we know this to be true? How long is Easter celebrated in the Church? What stories about Jesus and his disciples do we hear at Mass during the Easter season? What other special days fall within the Easter season? Can you name them? Why do you think celebrating these special days is such an important part of the Easter story? *Plus, any others you can think of...*
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## **EQ “Essential Question”**

(This question serves as a cognitive bookend for the children – i.e., it is the targeted “so what” or “take-away” of the lesson being presented. If your learners can articulate a relevant answer to this question by the end of the session, you have done your job. 😊)

Share and post the physical representation of the lesson’s EQ in your classroom  
(Note: Each classroom is equipped with a set of *EQ posters* corresponding to those posted on the weekly *Lesson Schedule*):

***Why and how do Catholic Christians celebrate the Liturgical Season Easter?***

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## **EXPLAIN**

(Either as a class guided with your assistance, or working independently - or in groups - have the children review their relevant grade-level material listed below and complete the workbook activities, where applicable):

***Special Note to Catechists of Lower Elementary Children:*** You may wish to supplement your lesson for Easter with the following video produced by *Our Sunday Visitor*:

### **THE ALLELU SHOW: EASTER EDITION**

- Grade 1:** \* *Alive in Christ*, pages 37-40 (*He is Risen*)  
**Grade 2:** *Alive in Christ*, pages 43-46 (*We Rejoice*)  
**Grade 3:** *Alive in Christ*, pages 39-44 (*Holy, Holy, Holy*)  
**Grade 4:** *Alive in Christ*, pages 37-42 (*He Lives*)  
**Grade 5:** *Alive in Christ*, pages 33-38 (*He Lives*)

**\*NOTE:** We are aware that some of our lower Elementary learners have been delayed and are not all reading ready. As the Catechist or class facilitator, your role is to help your learners understand or connect with the *content* of the weekly lesson. You can convey the assigned weekly content from the *Alive in Christ* textbook in a variety of creative ways that are appropriate and effective for your learners and does not involve the class taking turns reading from the student text. Review the content *beforehand*, and feel free to introduce other methods of conveying it or more specifically adapting it to your learners. Some suggested ideas can include the use of any of the following, many of which are available on campus. Just ask a staff member. These are:

- *Story Books*
- *Felt Board Creation Figures* to tell the stories
- *Role-playing/Skits*
- *Manipulatives*
- *Costumes/Dress-up*
- *Puppets*

If you have any questions or need suggestions, be sure to reach out to a staff member. Be sure to also check out the supplemental resources at the end of this Lesson Plan outline for additional ideas.

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## **EXTEND**

(Gather back together and invite children to share, in turn, what they learned about the season of Easter and how the Risen Lord continues to be alive in their lives. Affirm positive answers and interject grade-level learning targets into the discussion, where applicable. As a class (or in groups), come up with a list of *at least three new things* that the children learned, were surprised by or think others should know about how or why the Catholic Church celebrates the season of Easter. Then, *extend the lesson together by completing at least one of the activities* provided below).

### **Lower Elementary (K-2)**

- **Video:** Watch [THE STORY OF EASTER FOR TODDLERS](#) or [THE EASTER STORY](#), or sing the [ON THAT FIRST EASTER DAY](#) song together
- **Craft/Activity:**
  - Make an [EMPTY TOMB PICTURE](#), [EASTER EGG CROSS CRAFT](#), [HE IS RISEN CROSS](#), or [DOUBLE-SIDED EGG](#) craft
  - Complete the [EASTER CONNECT THE DOTS](#) or color one of the [EASTER COLORING PAGES](#)

### **Upper Elementary (3-5)**

- **Video:** Watch [THE EMPTY TOMB](#) or [THE STORY OF EASTER](#)
- **Craft/Activity:**
  - Make a [HE IS RISEN CROSS](#) or [EASTER STORY WREATH](#) (or make it into a mobile)
  - Complete the [JESUS AFTER HIS RESURRECTION WORKSHEET](#) or do the [CROSS SHAPE BOOK](#) activity
  - As a class, prepare and perform the [EMMAUS PLAY](#) together
  - Divide learners up into smaller groups of 3-4 and have each team ‘produce’ and present a ‘special news report’ sharing the remarkable events of and true meaning of Easter with their audience

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## **EVALUATE/REFLECT**

Restate today’s Essential Question (EQ) – *Why and how do Catholic Christians celebrate the Liturgical Season of Easter?*

- **Summarize what’s been learned during this lesson, emphasizing those concepts which may have been missed or misunderstood in the EXPLORE step above.**

**Say,** “Easter is *THE most joyful season of the entire Church year for Christians*. The Catholic Church around the world joyfully celebrates the *Resurrection of the Lord* which is the central mystery and foundation of our faith. On Easter Sunday, which is *THE* holiest day of the Church year, the Church celebrates Jesus being raised from the dead, or his *Resurrection*.”

The Easter season is a special time of joy and gladness in the Church. Easter is so important to our faith that the Church takes *50 days* to celebrate this season. The season is celebrated all together as one big feast! In fact, Easter is called the “feasts of

feasts” or the “great Sunday.” The 50-day period from Easter (beginning at the Easter Vigil) to *Pentecost* includes other celebrations in the Catholic Church, such as *Divine Mercy Sunday* (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter) and the *Ascension of the Lord* (the 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter).

During the season of Easter, churches are filled with flowers and plants as signs of new life. The paschal (or Easter) candle burns brightly on the altar and we sing both the Alleluias and joyful music that we did not sing during the season of Lent. The priest wears white vestments signifying hope, and we are reminded of our own baptisms into new life by being sprinkled with holy water and renewing our baptismal vows on Easter Sunday.

In the Easter season, we listen to readings at Mass from the *Acts of the Apostles* in the Bible. Many of the stories we hear recount Jesus’ appearances to his disciples after his Resurrection and reminds us of what Jesus taught his disciples while he lived on earth. At Mass, we experience the *Risen Christ* in both the *Liturgy of the Word* and the *Liturgy of the Eucharist*. We watch as the Body is broken and the Blood is poured out for us just like it was on the Cross at the time of Jesus’ death.

Every Sunday during the Church year, we celebrate a “little Easter” because Sunday is the day that Jesus rose from the dead. When Jesus was raised from the dead on the third day, he conquered sin and death. Jesus’ Death on the Cross and his Resurrection shows us that death is not the end of our story. This is called the *Paschal Mystery* of our faith. Through the *Paschal Mystery*, Jesus triumphed over the selfishness that leads people away from God – he gave each of us new life. He turned the darkness of sin into the light of love. That is why Jesus is called the *Light of the World*.

Especially during the Easter Season, Catholic Christians come to better understand that Jesus is *truly* risen – he is ALIVE and present among us even today. This is the *Good News* that should have us bursting with joy and ready to share it all those who will listen. Just as Jesus encountered his disciples after the *Resurrection* that first Easter morning on the [Road to Emmaus](#) (Luke 24: 13-35) and their eyes were finally allowed to recognize him in the breaking of the bread at their meal together, we too recognize Jesus’ presence not only in the Scriptures (Bible) and the Seven Sacraments of the Catholic Church, but most especially in the Eucharist when we receive *the actual living Christ* at Mass in this special way. Jesus is always present with us in our lives and we welcome him with great joy and gratitude. We continue to meet him every day in the people that we encounter and also through prayer.

Jesus showed us that by surrendering to God’s will, new life can come from suffering and death. In life, each of us will encounter difficult times when people, things, or circumstances we care about may become lost or even die. Our Christian hope, which comes from Jesus’ *Paschal Mystery*, means that if we focus on Jesus Christ and offer our own sufferings up to the Lord, we will change, grow, and rise up to new ways of living as God intends. As Christians, we believe that the *Cross of Jesus Christ* has given new meaning to all suffering and pain. Through Christ’s *Resurrection* each of us has secured the promise of eternal life. In His power and wisdom, God can make all things new and bring new life out of death, sadness and pain.

It is this *Paschal Mystery*, this Easter faith, that we are called to live by each and every day. In fact, Saint Pope John Paul II was quoted as saying, “We are an Easter people, and hallelujah is our song!” As Catholic Christians, we do not live by fear, but rather by joy with faith and trust in the Lord.

- **Say**, “Think back to the passage that I read from the Bible at the beginning of our lesson today. What does it tell you about the promises Jesus made to all of his disciples, including each of us? (*Discuss together, affirming and reinforcing appropriate answers/teaching points*).”
- **Separately reflect on these questions:** Think about that first Easter Sunday morning, way back over 2000 years ago. ***If you had been one of the first disciples who heard that the stone had been removed from Jesus’ tomb, and that Jesus’ body was no longer there, what would you think? Why do you think that the disciples were so afraid? What did they not immediately understand that we now know to be true? How can you and your family share Jesus’ story and the joy of Easter with others?*** (*After some reflection time, have the children turn and share their answers with a partner or the class*).

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## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Gather together in your dedicated prayer space and ask your learners to quiet their minds and hearts as you pray together. Begin with the [SIGN OF THE CROSS](#) and recite a favorite prayer, choose one from the [COMMON PRAYERS BY GRADE](#), sing the [MERCY IS FALLING SONG](#) together as a class, or ask the children to offer up their [INTERCESSORY INTENTIONS](#). Conclude by praying the [SIGN OF THE CROSS](#).



## **BONUS (optional)**

- **Saint of the Season:** ***Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska (Saint “Faustina”)*** is a modern-day Saint born in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century in the European country of Poland. Through her, the Lord Jesus communicated a great message of God’s mercy and revealed the ideal path to Christian holiness - one based on trust in God and on an attitude of mercy toward one’s neighbors.

Find out more about Saint Faustina’s life and Jesus’ message by watching one of the videos noted below, or by performing a safe internet search with the help of your parents, and then reflect upon and answer the questions that follow:

[THE STORY OF SAINT FAUSTINA](#), [SAINT FAUSTINA: PROPHET OF MERCY](#), [MY CATHOLIC FAMILY: SAINT FAUSTINA](#), [SAINT FAUSTINA KOWALSKA](#)

- What is *Divine Mercy* and how did the devotion to *Divine Mercy* begin?
- Describe the *Divine Mercy* image that Jesus communicated to Saint Faustina. What did Saint Faustina do with that image?
- Why do you think that Jesus appeared to Faustina, an uneducated nun who lived a simple life?
- How might you be inspired by Saint Faustina as you journey on your own path towards holiness?

- **What We Pray: The Divine Mercy Chaplet**

People of faith sometimes receive extraordinary experiences of the Risen Lord Jesus in prayer. These people of faith are called “mystics.” Sometimes Jesus communicates with them directly because He has a special message for a certain time in history. He uses his special connection with these believers to share a particular message. This was what happened to a young Polish nun, Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska, who recorded her visions of Jesus and His message of *Divine Mercy* in her personal diary.

Find out more about the Catholic prayer devotional which was inspired by Jesus’ communications with Saint Faustina by watching the [DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET EXPLAINED](#) video.

Then, learn how to pray the [DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET](#) or make the [DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET PRAYER RING CRAFT](#) as a guide to learning how to pray this devotional.

Share what you have learned about this special devotional with your family. Practice it by making it a part of your regular prayer life together using either the [DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET](#) or [DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET IN SONG](#) videos to help you recite the prayers.

Reflect on the questions that follow:

- What is the message of *Divine Mercy*?
- How do you pray the *Chaplet of Divine Mercy*?
- Why is 3 o’clock so important for practicing a devotion to *Divine Mercy*?
- When does the Universal Church celebrate a special day of devotion to *Divine Mercy*?

***Want to extend your lesson in class or at home about this topic? Check out these additional resources which can be used at the Catechist’s discretion, if desired:***

- ***Catechist Preparation Videos/Resources:*** [BISHOP BARRON ON THE MEANING OF EASTER](#) (13:20), [UNDERSTANDING THE SUNDAY MASS READINGS DURING EASTER](#) (7:54), [WE HAVE EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE IN THE RESURRECTION](#) (3:04), [BISHOP BARRON ON THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS](#) (8:11), [THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY](#) (5:19), [BISHOP BARRON'S EASTER HOMILY](#) (11:56), [THE ROAD TO EMMAUS](#) (9:24), [DOUBTING THOMAS AND THE ACTIVITY OF THE EARLY APOSTOLIC CHURCH](#) (10:12), [BEING CATHOLIC: THE JOY OF EASTER](#) (1:44), [DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET EXPLAINED](#) (2:53), [HOW WE PARTICIPATE IN DIVINE MERCY](#) (8:53)
- ***Lesson Plans:*** [THE WAY OF LIGHT STORY BAG](#), [CATHOLIC FAMILY EASTER SEASON RESOURCES](#), [CELEBRATING THE ENTIRE EASTER SEASON WITH KIDS](#), [EASTER RESOURCES LOYOLA PRESS](#), [EASTER LESSON PLAN GRADES 1-3](#), [EASTER LESSON PLAN GRADES 4-6](#), [DIVINE MERCY LESSON PLAN](#), [DIVINE MERCY WORKSHEETS](#), [DIVINE MERCY LESSON ACTIVITIES](#)
- ***Videos:*** [THE EMPTY TOMB](#) (5:12), [GOD'S STORY: EASTER](#) (4:36), [THE STORY OF EASTER \(JESUS' SACRIFICE\)](#) (5:21), [CATHOLIC KIDS MEDIA: EASTER SUNDAY](#) (2:21), [CATHOLIC KIDS MEDIA: EASTER SUNDAY!](#) (5:54), [THE EASTER STORY](#) (5:13), [ONE TWO THREE JESUS IS ALIVE SONG](#) (2:47), [EASTER ACCORDING TO KIDS](#) (2:57), [JESUS IS ALIVE! EASTER MESSAGE FOR KIDS](#) (5:58), [THE REAL MEANING OF EASTER: JESUS IS ALIVE!](#) (3:36), [ON THAT FIRST EASTER DAY SONG](#) (2:43), [HE IS RISEN](#) (5:21), [THE BEGINNER'S BIBLE: THE STORY OF EASTER](#) (3:41), [BIBLE STORIES FOR TODDLERS: THE STORY OF EASTER](#) (1:39), [CATHOLIC KIDS MEDIA: DOUBTING THOMAS AND DIVINE MERCY!](#) (7:13), [MERCY IS](#)

[FALLING SONG](#) (3:52), [ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS](#) (7:36), [THE ORIGINS OF DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY](#) (3:30), [JESUS ASKING SAINT FAUSTINA TO PROCLAIM HIS DIVINE MERCY](#) (3:16)

- **At FORMED.org** (refer to the [FORMED ACCESS INSTRUCTIONS](#) to watch these videos under the St. Laurence parish subscription free of charge):
  - **Brother Francis:** *He is Risen! The Power of the Resurrection* (29:43)
  - **Symbolon:** *The Catholic Faith Explained, Episode 6* (The Paschal Mystery: Jesus' Death & Resurrection) (34:26)
- **Games/Activities:** [BIBLICAL TIMELINE](#), [EASTER SKITS](#), [YOU'VE BEEN EGGED GAME](#), [DIVINE MERCY ACTIVITIES](#), [BUILD A LEGO RESURRECTION GARDEN](#), [CATHOLIC EASTER ACTIVITIES](#), [EMMAUS PLAY](#), [THE DAYS FOLLOWING EASTER](#), [THE MESSAGE OF EASTER WORKSHEET](#), [JESUS AFTER HIS RESURRECTION WORKSHEET](#), [CONNECT THE DOTS EASTER WORKSHEET](#), [DIVINE MERCY COLORING PAGE](#), [CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY IN MOTION FOR KIDS](#), [EASTER STORY COOKIES](#), [EASTER ROLLS](#), [EASTER SNACKS](#), [THE FINAL BEGINNING: ASCENSION & PENTECOST](#)
- **Skits:** [EASTER FACT OR FICTION](#), [AN EASTER STORY](#), [THE EMPTY TOMB](#), [SCRIPTURE PUPPET SHOW](#)
- **Crafts:** [THE GOSPEL IN AN EGG SHELL](#) or [RESURRECTION EGGS](#), [DOUBLE-SIDED EGG CRAFT](#), [RESURRECTION GARDEN](#), [KIDS RESURRECTION GARDEN](#), [DIY DOLLAR TREE RESURRECTION GARDEN](#), [EASTER STORY WREATH](#), [DIY STATIONS OF THE CROSS](#), [TRIDUUM PLATE CRAFT](#), [CLOTHES PIN CRUCIFIX](#), [EASTER CRAFTS](#), [HOLY WEEK IN HANDPRINTS](#), [CRUCIFIXION CROSS](#), [FOIL CROSSES](#), [RESURRECTION COOKIE DISPLAY](#), [EASTER EGG & CROSS CRAFT](#), [RESURRECTION CRAFT](#), [MAKE A DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET](#), [DIVINE MERCY JESUS CRAFT](#), [DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET PRAYER RING](#), [RAYS OF MERCY CRAFT](#)



