



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?

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF CYCLONE—MARAK

St. Joseph, Cyclone & Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Marak

Pastor: Rev. RanJan Cletus

Mailing address: 20120 FM 485, Burlington, TX 76519.....**Phone** 254-985-2280

Email: cyclone.marak@gmail.com

Website: marakchurch.org

Masses: Cyclone: Saturday 5:30PM & Sunday 8:15AM; Weekdays: Tues., Thurs & Friday: 7AM

Marak: Sundays: 10:15AM and Wednesday 5:30PM(unless otherwise stated)

The Sacraments:

Baptism: On Sundays after Mass. Please contact the pastor to schedule a meeting with him; a preparation program may be needed. Parents must be registered parishioners of St. Joseph, Cyclone or Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Marak.

Confessions: Before Mass on the weekend and anytime by appointment.

Marriage: Couples planning to be married should contact the pastor at least six months in advance before you set the date of the wedding. Completion of required paperwork and a preparation program needed.

APRIL 20, 2025—EASTER SUNDAY

The tomb was empty. In the early morning darkness of that first Easter, there was only confusion for Mary Magdalene and the other disciples. But as the daylight spread, they saw the dawning of a new creation.

At first they didn't understand the Scripture, today's Gospel tells us. We don't know which precise Scripture texts they were supposed to understand. Perhaps it was the sign of Jonah, who rose from the belly of the great fish after three days (see Jonah 1:17). Or maybe Hosea's prophecy of Israel's restoration from exile (see Hosea 6:2). Perhaps it was the psalmist who rejoiced that God had not abandoned him to the netherworld (see Psalm 16:9-10).

Whichever Scripture it was, as the disciples bent down into the tomb, they saw and they believed. What did they see? Burial shrouds in an empty tomb. The stone removed from the tomb. Seven times in nine verses we hear that word—"tomb."

What did they believe? That God had done what Jesus said He would do—raised Him up on the third day (see Mark 9:31; 10:34).

What they saw and believed they bore witness to, as today's First Reading tells us. Peter's speech is a summary of the gospels—from Jesus' baptism in the Jordan to His hanging on a tree (see Deuteronomy 21:22-23), to His rising from the dead.

We are children of the apostles, born into the new world of their witness. Our lives are now "hidden with Christ in God," as today's Epistle says. Like them, we gather in the morning on the first day of the week—to celebrate the Eucharist, the feast of the empty tomb.



4-13: Sunday Offering: \$1,535.00 4-13: Children's Offering: \$3.00 4-13: Building Fund: \$160.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Bulletin Information: MARAK: Anna Givens (512-809-9889) marakchurch@yahoo.com

CYCLONE: Nancy Posvar (254-913-2696)

Bulletin deadline : Please call or e-mail info by Tuesday before the weekend!

MINISTRIES FOR APRIL 27, 2025, DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Rosary: Liz Jungmann

Lector: Brad Vaculin

Ushers: Raymond Tomek and Mike Marek

Money Counters: Cecilia Marak and Andy Littlejohn

Eucharistic Minister: Misty Green

Offertory: Patsy Gaines and Bernice Vrazel

Servers: Brady, Hampton, Julianna

Sanctuary Light: April 21st-27th, 2025:

Edward and Kay Moraw's 60th Wedding Anniversary by the Moraw Family

Jerry and Mary Ann Plachy by Robert and Vickie Plachy



Prayer Chain... Please pray for Anton Vrazel, Martha Hubnik, Brandon Lewis (Cousin to the Tomek Family), Dorothy Vansa, Kay and Ed Moraw, Thomas Motyka, and Thomas Vaculin as well as those in need in the Book of Prayers. Prayers are powerful as we pray daily for those in need. To be added to the prayer chain: **Please contact Merlene Slavik—254-697-1247 or email—Slavik@farm-market.net**

MARAK MASSES—April 20th—27th 2025

Date	Time	Mass Intentions
Today—4/20	10:15 am	†Henry Hubnik, Senior by Katherine Hubnik Family †John and Mary Hubnik by Katherine Hubnik Family †Eugene Marak by Donnie and Janice Reinders †Ethel Marak by Robert and Debbie Vansa
4/23—Wednesday	5:30 pm	†Stanley Hubnik by Bernice and Alfred Vrazel †Joe and Stefina Vansa by Robert and Debbie Vansa †Reba Loretta Winkler by Randy and Mary Faust †Steve Vansa by Junior and Patsy Vrazel
4/27-Sunday	10:15 am	†Reba Loretta Winkler by Randy and Mary Faust †Jerry Wade by George and Linda Dohnalik †Jerry Sipula, Junior by Lester and Glenda Hays †Jennifer Pelzel by Rebecca Barton

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

- EASTER EGG HUNT:** The Knights of Columbus Council No. 10186 and KJZT Juniors will be hosting their Annual Easter Egg Hunt after mass today. Please bring your Easter Basket.
- SPECIAL PRESENTATION:** On April 23rd at 6:30 PM in the Parish Hall, Raymond Tomek will deliver a presentation discussing Saint Bernadette of Lourdes. All parishioners are welcome to attend.
- PATRIOTISM SCHOLARSHIP:** High School Seniors—pick up an application for the Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Area Assembly Patriotism Scholarship. Each scholarship is \$500 and applications are due April 30th.
- ST. ANNE'S ALTAR SOCIETY 2025 SCHOLARSHIP:** Applications for the St. Anne's Altar Society 2025 Scholarship are available on the table at the Church entrance. Applications are due no later than May 4, 2025.
- PLACE OF HOPE:** 13th Anniversary-Baby Blooms on Friday, April 25th at 5:30 PM. Catered Dinner at the Milam County Cowboy Church, 2300 US HWY 77, Rockdale. Live and Silent Auction, Heads or Tails Game, and more. For tickets (\$50), please contact Patsy Gaines at 254—482—0570.
- ST. MONICA'S:** St. Monica's Ladies Society Festival will be held on Sunday, April 27th beginning at 11AM. Barbecue Chicken plates will be available: dine-in or drive-through (\$15). The festival includes Silent Auction, Sweet Shop, Cake Wheel, and Face Painting.
- PET VACCINATION:** April 28th at St. Joseph's Parish Hall from 5PM to 7PM. CYO will have hamburgers to purchase.
- PICNIC RAFFLE DONATIONS:** Thank you to everyone who donated to the Church picnic raffle last year. It was a huge success! If you are interested in donating a prize for our upcoming 2025 church picnic raffle, please contact Kelly Laurence at 254—931—5992 or Julie Motyka at 254—722—0394.
- EIM COMPLIANCE:** Visit austindiocese.org/eim-instructions to learn how to create an account, sign up for a workshop (new applicants only) or update compliance. Contact eim@austindiocese.org for further assistance. For general information about Ethics & Integrity in Ministry, visit <https://www.austindiocese.org/EIM>. St. Monica's in Cameron will hold classes on Thursday, May 8th from 1-4 PM and again from 5-8 PM. Register through your online VIRTUS.org account or contact Linda Kamenicky at (512)-796-1904.
- CONGRATULATIONS:** Congratulations to all receiving the Sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation this Easter Weekend.

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. ●



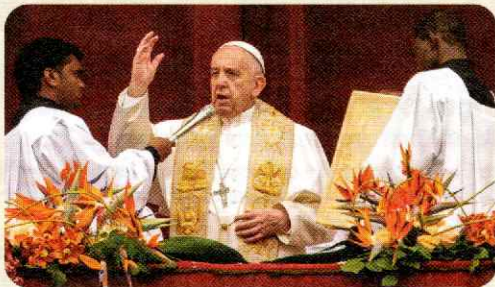
A candidate and his sponsor sit for a photo after an Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) class. LOS ANGELES TIMES VIA GETTY IMAGES

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 /
Acts 2:14, 22-35	Acts 2:36-41	Acts 3:1-10	Acts 3:11-26	Acts 4:1-12	Acts 4:13-21	of Easter /
Mt 28:8-15	Jn 20:11-18	Lk 24:13-35	Lk 24:35-48	Jn 21:1-14	Mk 16:9-15	Sunday of Divine Mercy
						Acts 5:12-16
						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