

# Dear Padre,

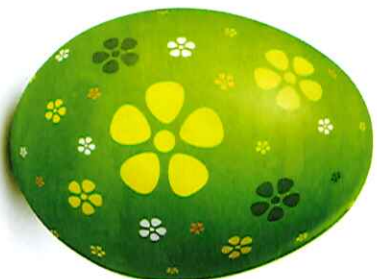
What's the origin of the word *Easter*? It's not mentioned in the Bible. Wouldn't a better name be Resurrection Sunday?

Experts trace Easter back to Old-English meanings associated with Eostre, the goddess of spring and fertility. Others point to the German word for east, which is derived from the Latin word for dawn. Regardless, Christianity found new meaning in the ancient celebration of nature's rebirth during the spring equinox. This resurrection of new life over the dead of winter also pointed to Christ's resurrection from the dead at dawn.

Likewise, early Christians gave new meaning to ancient symbols of fertility, such as rabbits and eggs. For example, a hatching chick represented the risen Christ emerging from the shell of a tomb, and the Roman proverb *Omne vivum ex ovo* ("All life comes from an egg") symbolized the resurrection. Eggs, prohibited during the Lenten fast, were reintroduced at the Easter meal and 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 it in thankfulness to thee, on account of the resurrection of the Lord."

"Each week, on the day called the Lord's Day, [the Church] commemorates the Resurrection of the Lord, which she also celebrates once a year in the great Paschal Solemnity" (*The Roman Missal*, "Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the Calendar," 1). Thus, every Sunday—even those in Lent—is a Resurrection Sunday in celebration of Christ's triumph over death, which will include our own!

—Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR  
Sundaybulletin@liguori.org



PAVEL HLYSTOV/SHUTTERSTOCK



## WORD FROM Pope Francis

Today however we see that our journey is not in vain. ... Why do you think that everything is hopeless, that no one can take away your own tombstones? Why do you give in to resignation and failure? Easter is the feast of tombstones taken away, rocks rolled aside.

—EASTER VIGIL HOMILY, APRIL 20, 2019

## Calendar

**Monday**  
APRIL 13  
Octave of Easter  
Acts 2:14, 22–33  
Mt 28:8–15

**Tuesday**  
APRIL 14  
Octave of Easter  
Acts 2:36–41  
Jn 20:11–18

**Wednesday**  
APRIL 15  
Octave of Easter  
Acts 3:1–10  
Lk 24:13–35

**Thursday**  
APRIL 16  
Octave of Easter  
Acts 3:11–26  
Lk 24:35–48

**Friday**  
APRIL 17  
Octave of Easter  
Acts 4:1–12  
Jn 21:1–14

**Saturday**  
APRIL 18  
Octave of Easter  
Acts 4:13–21  
Mk 16:9–15

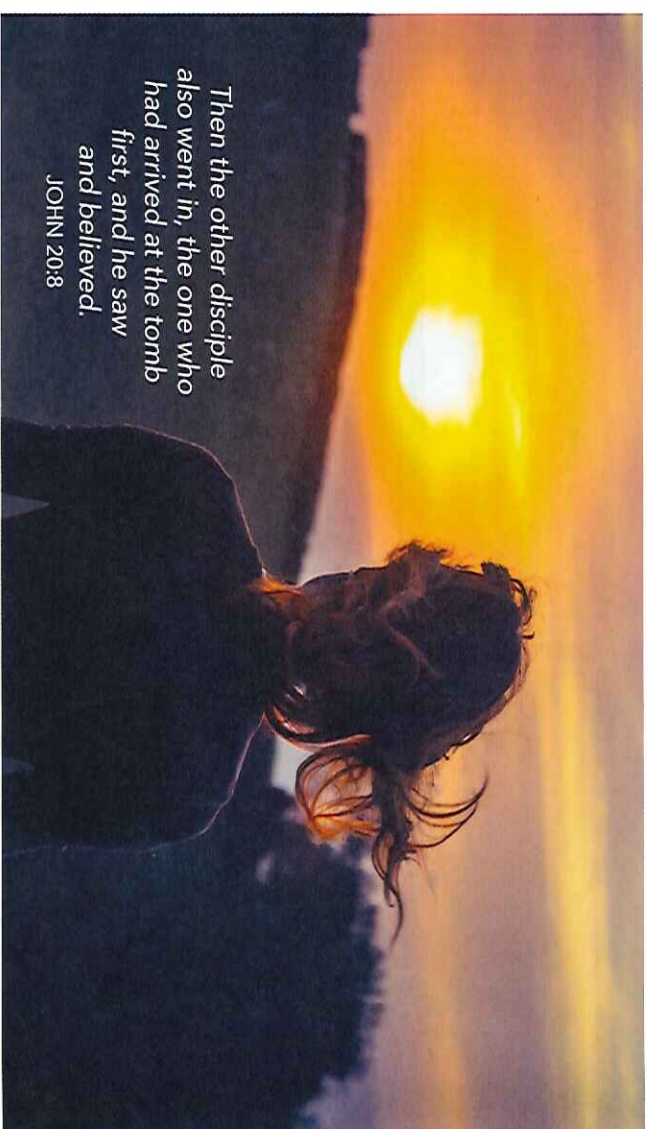
**Sunday**  
APRIL 19  
Second Sunday  
of Easter  
(Sunday of Divine Mercy)  
Acts 2:42–47  
1 Pt 1:3–9  
Jn 20:19–31



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# Our Parish COMMUNITY

April 12, 2020  
Easter (A)  
Acts 10:34a, 37–43  
Col 3:1–4 or 1 Cor 5:6b–8  
Jn 20:1–9 or Mt 28:1–10



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Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed.  
JOHN 20:8

## With Mouths Wide Open

We normally speak of "eyes wide open," an experience of seeing and understanding. However, Easter is a time of total astonishment, of standing before mystery with our mouths wide open and not understanding. Even the closest followers of Jesus were dumbfounded. Mary Magdalene didn't expect to find an empty tomb. Upon seeing it, she presumed that the body had been stolen. The Gospel says that "they did not yet understand" (John 20:9). How could they? The magnitude of the mystery was overwhelming.

When did they finally understand? Actually, it's more a question of believing than understanding. The Gospel tells us that they came to believe. They came to believe in him—not that he would conquer death by not

dying, but that he would conquer it by dying and then being transformed into a new kind of life, a kind of living that isn't subject to death. They came to believe this through an experience of him.

We might envy the early followers who had Easter experiences of Jesus. But if we look carefully we will see that they experienced him in their everyday lives—in community gatherings, in the breaking of the bread. These are the very places where we can experience him in our own lives. The good news of Jesus' resurrection isn't just that we shall die and go home with him, but that he is risen and comes home with us.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

## FOR Reflection

- ★ Be astonished today at how much God loves you.
- ★ Think of the ways this is evident in your life.
- ★ He is not dead. He is with us. Where in your life are you touched by this mystery?



# ST. LAWRENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH

South Wilmington, IL



## MASS INTENTIONS:

All Mass intentions that were scheduled will be re-scheduled when we begin celebrating Mass again in our parish.

### *Holy Father's Intention for the month of April:*

*General Intention:* Freedom from Addiction. That those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied.

**REMEMBER in PRAYER** our deceased relatives and friends, the ill of our parish and community, nursing home residents, the homeless, hungry and unemployed, those living alone and our own special intentions we hold deep in our hearts. Keep in prayer all men and women serving our country, the injured and those being held prisoners. Let us not forget all men and women who gave up their lives so we may live in freedom and in peace!

### COVID-19: A Prayer of Solidarity

For all who have contracted coronavirus, We pray for care and healing. For those who are particularly vulnerable. We pray for safety and protection. For all who experience fear or anxiety, We pray for peace of mind and spirit. For affected families who are facing difficult decisions between food on the table or public safety. We pray for policies that recognize their plight. For those who do not have adequate health insurance. We pray that no family will face financial burdens alone. For those who are afraid to access care due to immigration status, We pray for recognition of the God-given dignity of all. For our brothers and sisters around the world, We pray for shared solidarity. For public officials and decision makers, We pray for wisdom and guidance. Father, during this time may your Church be a sign of hope, comfort and love to all. Grant peace. Grant comfort. Grant healing. Be with us, Lord. Amen.

**Parish Staff:**  
 Father Stanley Dremniak, *Pastor*  
 Linette Hopwood, *Secretary*  
 Email: [slawrencestlwn@yahoo.com](mailto:slawrencestlwn@yahoo.com)  
 Web Page: [swkr Catholics.org](http://swkr Catholics.org)  
 Anne Simms & Tiffany Skrab *CCD Directors*

**Office Hours: 9-1 Monday - Friday**  
 St. Lawrence Rectory (815) 237-2230  
 St. Lawrence Fax (815) 237-2201  
 Maria Hakey, *Bulletin* (815) 237-8268

**Hall Rentals - Call the Office**

**Mass Schedule:**  
 Sat. - 4:00pm  
 Sun. - 10:00am  
 Tues. 6:30pm  
 Wed. & Thurs. - 7:30am

**Reconciliation:**  
 Saturday 3:30pm - 4:00pm.

**SACRAMENT of BAPTISM** - Baptisms are celebrated during the 10:00 am Mass. Please call the Rectory to make arrangements.

**MARRIAGES** -Diocesan policy require at least a six month preparation process. Couples who are planning to marry should speak directly with the pastor before setting a date. No weddings are scheduled on Sundays.

**HOSPITALIZED PARISHIONERS** - Due to a change in the privacy law, Father cannot go to the hospital and ask for a list of parishioners for him to visit. As a patient, you must ask the hospital to notify the Rectory that you are requesting a visit. For our homebound parishioners, if you would like Father to visit, please call the Rectory and Father will be more than happy to come and visit you. Thank you!

**Funeral Dinner Co-Chairs for April**  
 Debbie Wollgast 237-8900  
 Denise Scheuber 237-2639

## FROM AROUND THE PARISH

## News & Upcoming Events



### Happy Easter!

My dear brothers and sisters, I know, because of our present conditions it sounds strange; however, what happened at the time when Jesus rose from the death felt exactly as strange. We are now, like the disciples of Jesus who at the time were overwhelmingly distressed, terrified and lost. They were locked behind the doors in the Upper Room. Do you remember two of them on the road to Emmaus? They did not even recognize the Lord. Well, at the end of that day they invited Jesus to stay with them. And after this, everything changed! With great joy they returned to Jerusalem and proclaimed: Christ is risen!

So, let us do the same. We have to invite the Risen Lord to stay with us! Before this will happen let us ask Him first to teach us few things:

- that the Cross is a way to Resurrection;
- that Good Friday is a road to the Passion of the light;
- that God never forgets to forgive our sins and embrace us with his mercy; and
- that we will not lose hope asking Him to forgive us and to believe in His mercy.

May the Risen Lord be with you always! Alleluia!  
 Fr. Stanley

**Religious Education** - We hope all are families are practicing safe distancing during these uncertain times. We are asking our families to please complete weekly family Religious Education Lessons posted on our website [swkr-catholics.org](http://swkr-catholics.org). Please know that we are praying for all of you and hope to see everyone soon.

**Confirmation Students**— We have a CD with Confirmation pictures for each of you. Please come to the Parish Office in South Wilmington to pick up your CD. Office hours are limited at this time, so please call first before you come and we will place outside for you. Thank you!

**Recipe for an Egg-cellent Easter**  
 1 1/2 Cups family time, 1 Cup jelly beans, 3/4 Cup Love, 1 dozen colored eggs, 1 bouquet of special wishes, 1 Easter basket. Add all ingredients together in the basket. Sprinkle in lots of fun and plenty of family time. Mix together and enjoy!

**Monday, April 20 at 4pm Catholic Charities' and Northern Illinois Food Bank Mobile Food Pantry** will be distributing food in South Wilmington at St. Lawrence Church parking lot (rain or shine). **Participants are asked to remain in their cars.** The Mobile Food Pantry will use a "drive thru" method to distribute pre-packaged groceries to ensure that all participants are safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. You do not have to be Catholic to participate. Catholic Charities helps people of all faiths and beliefs. This Mobile Food Truck is sponsored by **GSW HS Youth Philanthropy**. If you are comfortable volunteering, please arrive by 2:30pm. Thank you!

**What is spiritual Communion?** Spiritual Communion is the practice of desiring union with Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. It is used primarily by individuals who cannot receive holy Communion, such as the ill, the divorced and remarried, and those who have not yet been received into full communion with the Church. St. Thomas Aquinas described it as "an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the most holy sacrament and lovingly embrace him" at a time or in circumstances when we cannot receive him in sacramental Communion.

**Act of spiritual Communion**  
 My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

**Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord Sunday, 12 April 2020 Mass during the Day**  
 Acts 10:34a, 37-43. Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23. Colossians 3:1-4. OR 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8. Sequence — **Christians, to the Paschal Victim.** John 20:1-9. OR Luke 24:13-35.

**Acts of the Apostles.** All during Easter Time, we read and hear the Acts of the Apostles. Those many acts are not mere history. They launch us into Church life today. This Risen Lord, present among us, is so astounding, we cannot remain our old selves. We, too, are new — because of Baptism, because of this new Easter Day, because Christ is within and around us. We, too, act in new ways.

- How will I shine new life into another's life today?
- How will I bear witness to Christ among us by some word or deed?
- How will I rejoice?



In this difficult time we count on your help. Until we are able to resume normal functions we ask you to support our parishes by sending your Sunday envelopes and donations by mail to our office: **PO BOX 190, South Wilmington, IL 60474** or drop into our new drop box at the parish office door in South Wilmington. (165 Rice Rd.) Once received we will distribute the funds accordingly. We are also working to establish an option to donate online through Give Central. We are extremely grateful for any and all support.